

A weekly round up of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by East Midlands Councils

Top items this week

11 FEBRUARY 2022



The Role of the Civic Head, 31 May 2022



EMC General Meeting



Health and social care integration



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## EMC General Meeting

The EMC General meeting took place today, 11 February. The meeting chaired by Cllr Martin Hill OBE, Chair of East Midlands Councils and Leader of Lincolnshire County Council, was attended by Councillors from across the East Midlands. The meeting included;

- The presentation of the Member Development Charter Award to Charnwood Borough Council
- A presentation on the implications of the Environment Act 2021 for Local Authorities, given by Hugh Richards, Regulatory Law Barrister, Number 5 Barristers' Chambers. The Environment Act 2021 was passed to address environmental protection and the delivery of the Government's 25-year Environment Plan; with an objective to clean up the country's air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity, reduce waste and make better use of our resources. It has a number of significant implications for LAs and his presentation is available to read [here](#), and the segment of his MS Teams presentation will be made available to members please email [Lisa.Hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk) should you require access to this.
- The implications of the Integrated Rail Plan for the region and the work of Transport for the East Midlands.
- Current workforce support for the sector provided through the Regional Employers' Board.
- Consideration of the recently published Levelling Up White Paper.

The meeting paper are available [here](#).

## EMC News

### EMC Boards Activity

- **Regional Migration Board** - 9 March 2022
- **Regional Employers' Board/Joint Council** - 16 March 2022
- **Transport for the East Midlands** - 21 March 2022
- **EMC Executive Board** - 1 April 2022

### EMC Support Activity

EMC hosts a variety of practitioner network, designed to bring colleagues from across the East Midlands together and provide an opportunity to share, learn and explore areas of collective interest. Upcoming network meetings include;

- **Learning and Development Network** - 3 March
- **East Midlands Scrutiny Network** - 11 March
- **Cyber Security Network** - 16 March
- **Performance Management Network** - 18 March

In the coming weeks EMC will be launching a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion network, for more information about this network contact [Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC Councillor Events

**The Role of the Civic Head, 31 May 2022** - The workshop will explore the role of the Civic Head and the expectations of the role from a range of perspectives, including the expectations of the incoming mayor, and those of the public and the council. It will include short introductory sessions on Chairing Full Council, Public Speaking and Social Media [details available from [here](#)]. The intended audience for this workshop is newly appointed Mayors and deputy Mayors.

---

## Employers' Information

**Pay Agreement Reached for Chief Officers** - Agreement has been reached on the pay award for local authority Chief Officers, covering the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The attached circular sets out the detail [details [here](#)].

---

## Homelessness

**£174 million to provide homes for 2,900 rough sleepers** - Rough sleepers across England will be supported off the streets and into long-term homes with £174 million funding boost [details [here](#)].

The funding, which forms part of the government's Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme, will create over 2,900 move-on homes between 2021 and 2024 as part of the £433 million programme.

- £174 million for councils to provide 2,900 homes for rough sleepers
- Available through the government's Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme
- Teams of specialist staff offering mental health and substance misuse treatment will help rough sleepers recover and move on
- Councils across England are invited to bid for the funding available for long-term homes

Councils across England are invited to bid for funding for the remainder of the programme as part of a total investment of £433 million in safe, long-term, stable and supported housing for rough sleepers.

Areas benefitting from the funding include in the East Midlands:

- **Nottingham:** 35 homes available for rough sleepers across a number of schemes, including the purchase and repair of 15 homes close to the city centre and local amenities.
  - **West Lindsey:** The council will purchase 6 homes in the towns of Gainsborough and Market Rasen, with rough sleepers supported by trained staff to sustain their tenancies and live as independently as possible.
- 

## Local Government News

**Councils in England will have access to a share of £54.1 billion in funding for the coming financial year including more than £1 billion of additional money for social care.** Further information available from [here](#).

- Levelling Up Secretary confirms £54.1 billion package of funding for councils
- £3.7 billion available to councils, including access to more than £1 billion for social care
- Provides a one-off 2022/23 Services Grant to councils to spend on vital frontline services, worth £822 million

The final finance settlement includes:

- **More funding for Social Care:** The government is making more than £1 billion of additional funding available for social care, ensuring councils can improve conditions for carers and those in need. In addition, £162 million will be allocated to help councils and the social care sector prepare for adult social care reform.
- **Protecting taxpayers from excessive Council Tax rises:** Residents will continue to have the final say over excessive council tax increases. From next year, the amount council tax can be increased without a vote has been reduced to 2%, plus 1% for councils with adult social care responsibilities, with additional flexibilities for some authorities.
- **New Homes Bonus:** £556 million has been allocated to English councils in 2022/23. This brings the total amount of funding awarded under the New Homes Bonus to £10 billion, which has seen 2.3 million additional homes being built, of which 560,000 are affordable homes.
- **Lower Tier Services Grant:** Providing £111 million to councils with responsibility for services such as homelessness, planning, recycling and refuse collection and leisure services.
- **Continued support for rural areas:** The government recognises that there are often additional cost pressures of serving dispersed populations in rural areas.
- **Business Rates Retention pilots:** Continuing the 100% Business Rates Retention pilots in Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Liverpool, West Midlands and West of England and 67% Business Rates Retention for London councils.
- **Revenue Support Grant:** An uplift to the Revenue Support Grant in line with inflation, worth over £72 million.

**Landscapes review** - On 15 January, the [Government published a response](#) to the [2019 Landscapes Review](#). Having reflected on the review's findings, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), have published a response setting out that they believe that our National Parks and Areas of Natural Beauty (AONB) should have an even larger role in four key areas of today's society: nature, climate, people and place. The response is accompanied by a [consultation that will run for 12 weeks](#) until Saturday 9 April.

During this period, Defra are keen to hear the views of councillors as to how the proposals would affect their local authority and constituents, particularly those members who sit on National Parks Authorities. There are 12 places available at a Ministerial roundtable chaired by Lord Benyon to discuss these issues at 10-11am on 23 February. Please email [ian.leete@local.gov.uk](mailto:ian.leete@local.gov.uk) at the LGA by 16 February if you would like a Councillor to represent your authority. Due to the limited number of places, the LGA may need to select delegates to ensure cross-party and geographical balance.

---

---

## Health & Social Care

**Health and social care integration: joining up care for people, places and populations** - This white paper sets out measures to make integrated health and social care a universal reality for everyone across England regardless of their condition and of where they live [[details here](#)].

The white paper sets out some of the ways health and care systems will draw on the resources and skills across the NHS and local government to better meet the needs of communities, reduce waiting lists and help level up healthcare across the country.

This includes:

- **better transparency and choice** – if local authorities and the NHS share data and are more transparent about their performance, the local population will be able to see how their areas' health and care services are performing and make decisions about their own care
- **more personalised care** – linking GPs with wider forms of community support, such as social prescribing, could allow care to be more personalised which would help reduce the need for people to have more expensive, invasive medical treatment
- **earlier intervention** – integration will help people to access to the right services at the right time, including specialist services, which could mean earlier intervention that could prevent diseases from progressing and reduce the need for invasive and expensive interventions late in the day
- **clear communication** – integration will mean patients having a single digital care record so they can book appointments, order prescriptions, and communicate with their care providers on one platform while those involved in delivering health and care services can access the patient's latest information – not only will this save time, it will help ensure a patient does not have to repeat themselves so many times, and professionals will have the information they need to make care plans that work for the patient
- **improved access to social care services through NHS data sharing** – currently local authorities cannot access all NHS data to make decisions about access to social care services – an integrated system would allow the NHS to notify a local authority straight away if a person requires social care support
- **better treatment** – managing diseases in the community through better join up between primary, community and hospital services means better treatment for patients
- **better NHS support to care homes** – integration between hospitals and social care would mean more specialist support so care home residents could be treated before they get unwell and avoid having to go to hospital
- **co-ordinated services** – better integration across health and care will reduce the burden on people to have to coordinate between different hospital specialists, GPs, social care and local authority services themselves
- **more flexible services** – aligning financial incentives and pooling budgets will mean that the NHS and local authorities can use their resources more flexibly to benefit patients
- **better value for money** – reducing duplication and waste will mean that NHS investment can be spent in ways that benefit patients and deliver savings for social care, ensuring value for the taxpayer

This white paper is part of a wider set of mutually reinforcing reforms: the [adult social care reform white paper](#)

- the Health and Care Bill and reforms to the health and care system
  - It sets out measures needed to make integrated health and social care a universal reality for everyone across England regardless of their condition and to level up regardless of where they live.
- 

## EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE  
Vice Chair: Cllr David Mellen  
Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan  
Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney  
Labour Group: Cllr Rob Parker  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

## East Midlands Councils

First Floor Offices, South Annexe  
Pera Business Park  
Nottingham Road  
Melton Mowbray  
Leicestershire  
LE13 0PB

Click on our [Twitter](#) & [YouTube](#) accounts for further information.

