

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

Top items this week

1 APRIL 2021



Planning News



EMC HR Bulletin, March
2021 Edition



EMC Summary of COVID-19
Guidance & Information for HR



EMC Events for Councillors and
Officers

EMC HR Bulletin, March 2021 Edition

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from [here](#). In this month's edition, Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article considers mandatory testing.

The March Bulletin includes:-

- Employment Law Update event – 28th April 2021
- East Midlands Exchange: Future & Agile Working Arrangements – 12th May 2021

Learning & Development

- National Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2021 – 22nd April 2021
- Leadership Development Programme for Senior & Middle Managers in the Public Sector – 22nd April 2021
- Coaching for Transitions – 18 June 2021

Round-up of National Developments

- Pay Negotiations
- Apprenticeships – Public Sector Target for 2021/22
- LGA Apprenticeship Newsletter, March 2021

SGI News - SGI Europe's newsletters provide an update on recent developments at European level on workforce matters and the most recent newsletter is available from [here](#).

EMC Fortnightly Summary of COVID-19 Guidance & Information for HR Colleagues - EMC continues to provide a weekly summary to HR colleagues in the East Midlands updating developments relating to COVID-19, along with information on the frequently asked questions we have received and responded, this information can be found [here](#).



EMC News

East Midlands Roadmap Planning Workshop - On Monday 29th March East Midlands Councils in partnership with the Department for Health and Social Care, the Joint Biosecurity Centre and LGA hosted a workshop to support senior colleagues from partners across the region to jointly consider associated risks and opportunities, and how to frame effective responses, as we progress through the four-step roadmap of easing restrictions across England. The workshop was chaired by Anthony May, Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council and opened by Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, Deputy Chief Medical Officer who offered to raise any concerns and high level challenges that came out of the breakout sessions with Cabinet and the relevant departments. The workshop proved very successful and joint working will continue over the next few months.

Business Support Officer Role at EMC - EMC has a vacancy for a Business Support Officer role, the role offers variety and involves administration, diary management, co-ordinating and supporting meetings, events and projects. For further details and to access the application form, please visit our website [here](#). The closing date for applications is midnight of Thursday 15th April 2021. Interviews are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 27th April.

Local Government News

Northamptonshire - From 1st April 2021 there are now two new unitary councils for Northamptonshire; North and West.

- **North Northamptonshire Council** - Covering the local areas of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough [new website [here](#)].
- **West Northamptonshire Council** - Covering the local areas of Daventry, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire [new website [here](#)].

Improving families' lives: annual report of the Troubled Families Programme 2020 to 2021 - This fifth annual report of the Troubled Families Programme provides an update on progress made during 2020 to 2021 [details [here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick announces package of planning measures - New rules allowing commercial premises to be converted into homes come into force this week [details [here](#)].

- New planning law enables unused commercial buildings to be changed into homes
- Will provide much-needed new homes across England and attract footfall to high streets
- New planning rules allowing for the speedy extension, of valued public buildings including schools, colleges, universities and hospitals
- Part of a wider package of government measures introduced to help high streets and town centres recover after lockdown and create the most small business friendly planning regime in the world.
- Support the hundreds of jobs that depend on housing and construction

The new rules, will help support the creation of much-needed homes while also giving high streets a new lease of life – removing eyesores, transforming unused buildings and making the most of brownfield land. The package also introduces a new fast track for extending public service buildings.

Multi-million pound scheme for zero-emission buses across England launched - Government announces extra funding for zero-emission buses in England [details [here](#)].

- new scheme worth up to £120 million launched to help local transport authorities introduce zero-emission buses
- move will reduce carbon emissions from local public transport, improving air quality in areas across England
- support follows national bus strategy announcement, which set out how buses will be greener, cheaper, more frequent and more reliable

Up to £120 million is being made available through the Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme, which will allow local transport authorities to: bid for funding to purchase zero-emission buses, reduce the carbon emissions from their local public transport and improve air quality in towns and cities across England.

Health & Social Care

Covid-19 rapid home testing - From Sunday 28th March the government has made rapid home testing available for all businesses with over 10 employees who cannot offer on-site testing. Businesses must register interest by 12 April to access free tests. Over 60,000 businesses across the country have already registered their interest to provide rapid tests to key workers. From April 6th, the workplace testing programme will supply home test kits to companies with over 10 workers where it is not possible to set up testing on-site, due to a lack of space or because companies operate across multiple sites. Businesses across the country will be eligible to order the home test kits online to distribute to their employees. For more information visit [here](#).

UK Health Security Agency - Transforming the public health system: reforming the public health system for the challenges of our times [details [here](#)].

Improving families' lives: annual report of the Troubled Families Programme 2020 to 2021- This fifth annual report of the Troubled Families Programme provides an update on progress made during 2020 to 2021 [details [here](#)].

New Office for Health Promotion to drive improvement of nation's health - The new Office for Health Promotion will lead national efforts to improve and level up the health of the nation by tackling obesity, improving mental health and promoting physical activity [details [here](#)].

Taking place-based action to reduce health inequalities and build back better and fairer - PHE has developed a programme of work on the role and opportunities for Public Health in building inclusive and sustainable economies. They have developed a [community of practice knowledge hub to share learning and develop the evidence](#), and hosted a series of webinars bringing experts to the table on this agenda [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

EMC Employment Law Update with Darren Newman, 28 April 2021 - EMC are holding an Employment Law Update, with Darren Newman virtually from 9.30 am to 11.45 am. Darren will be providing his usual overview of the key developments in employment law and caselaw. In addition, the event will include a focused Q&A session to cover questions that you would find most useful. To book places please visit our website [here](#)

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