

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

Top items this week

13 NOVEMBER 2020



'Scrutiny Reset and Recovery' workshop



Modern Slavery & Child Trafficking Summit



HS2 East Research into levelling-up agenda



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## Modern Slavery & Child Trafficking Summit, 11 and 14 December 2020

To help tackle modern slavery and human trafficking, East Midlands Councils are holding a region-wide virtual summit for Local Authority councillors, senior officers, the voluntary sector and wider private and public sector partners.

Spread across two dates, this virtual summit will give those attending the opportunity to explore the causes and impact of Modern Slavery globally, nationally and within the East Midlands, help identify the impact on victims and communities, as well as show what more can be done in support of partners in the statutory, non-statutory and business sector in making the East Midlands a hostile environment for the perpetrators of this crime whilst supporting potential victims.

Join us at this event on Friday 11th December and Monday 14th December from 10am to discover how we can develop strong partnerships across government, criminal justice agencies, civil society and the third sector sharing knowledge to help eradicate Modern Slavery in the East Midlands.

### 11 December (10:00 - 12:30):

- Dame Sara Thornton (Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner)
- Jenny Spyridi (Home Office/Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship)
- Hayley Barnett (Derbyshire Police)

### 14 December (10:00 - 12:30):

- Survivors Alliance Leader (Survivors Alliance)
- Professor Dave Walsh (Professor in Criminal Investigation at De Montfort University)
- Juliana Semione (The Right's Lab)
- Shayne Tyler (Fresca Group)

To book a place at this free virtual event please visit [here](#) and book online, for further information contact Hannah Smith at East Midlands Councils [Hannah.Smith@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.Smith@emcouncils.gov.uk). The Summit will held using MS Teams.

## EMC News

**New Technologies for Testing Webinar, 25 November 2020 (12noon-2pm)** - Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and East Midlands Councils have arranged a free webinar via MS Teams on New Technologies for Testing. We have secured some excellent speakers, the programme is available from here. To book a place please book via our website [here](#).



## EMC Support Activity

**Virtual Action Learning Sets** – This week EMC colleagues have facilitated a virtual Action Learning Set for a local authority, with the aim of supporting managers new to role. To read our Action Learning case study visit [here](#). For more information contact [Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC Councillor Events

**Additional Date for 'Scrutiny Reset and Recovery' workshop** - Following demand in the first date for this workshop which will take place next week, EMC has provided an additional date of 2 December [details [here](#)].

Local government has changed significantly in order to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Functions, finances and political management arrangements have been re-shaped since March 2020. Scrutiny has also been impacted by COVID. This virtual workshop has been designed to focus on the role of scrutiny in the 'reset and recovery' period.

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**East Midlands communities lose faith in the levelling up agenda** - New research from the HS2 East partnership has revealed a lack of public confidence in the levelling-up agenda. A poll of over 2,000 people from the Midlands and the North revealed that just 18 per cent of people in the East Midlands were confident Government is doing enough to level up the UK economy.

- **Just 18 per cent of people in the East Midlands think Government is doing enough to level up**
- **Seven in ten think COVID has stalled efforts to tackle climate change**
- **59 per cent worried pandemic will widen social and economic inequalities**
- **Calls for commitment to HS2's Eastern Leg connecting Birmingham, East Midlands, and North of England**

The study also revealed concerns about the longer-term impacts of COVID-19 and the associated strain it has put on public finances. 59 per cent of people in the East Midlands were worried the pandemic would widen social and economic inequalities, while 46 per cent of those questioned thought it may stop Government investing in infrastructure, welfare and affordable housing.

Seven out of ten people also thought that the short-term pressures of COVID-19 had shifted focus away from climate change and stalled efforts to decarbonise.

It comes as leaders from across the East Midlands and North call for Government to commit to delivering the Eastern Leg of HS2. A recent [report](#) showed that communities surrounding the Eastern Leg suffered from lower productivity, received a lower transport spend and were home to a greater number of social mobility cold spots than their counterparts on HS2's Western Leg, as well as compared to the UK average.

Crucially, these social mobility cold spots; where educational and employment outcomes were poor, were highly correlated with areas experiencing transport poverty.

**Evidence session on planning reform with construction sector and local authority representatives** - The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee continued its inquiry into the planning system in England on Monday 9 November as part of its inquiry into the future of the planning system in England [details [here](#)].

**£175 million more for cycling and walking as research shows public support** - Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has today (13 November 2020) given councils across England a further £175 million to create safe space for cycling and walking as surveys and independent polls show strong public support for high-quality schemes [details [here](#)].

Reallocating road space in response to COVID-19: statutory guidance for local authorities - Guidance for local authorities on managing their road networks in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak [details [here](#)].

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## Economic Development and Regeneration



**Boost for restaurants, pubs and cafes as Jenrick extends takeaway services** - Restaurants, pubs and cafes will get automatic freedoms to provide takeaway services for another year [details [here](#)].

**Public Accounts Committee "not convinced by rationale" for opaque and "not impartial" Towns Fund selections** - The £3.6 billion Towns Fund was introduced at pace by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in summer 2019. To access the Public Accounts

Committee webpages visit [here](#).

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## Local Governance Scrutiny

**Centre for Governance and Scrutiny Report 'Rethinking governance for the 20s: appendix'** - This is an appendix to the CfGS publication "Rethinking governance for the 20s", which is a new edition of the 2014 CfPS/LGA publication "Rethinking governance", on the subject of governance change in local authorities in England. This appendix sets out as comprehensive as possible a list of examples of English councils changing their governance arrangements, with links and additional detail where possible [access the report [here](#)].

**Planning work, delivering impact** - The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny has produced updated material on work programming and the production of scrutiny annual reports. This replaces earlier guidance produced by CfGS in 2011. It draws on the Government's statutory scrutiny guidance published in 2019 [details [here](#)].

**East Midlands Scrutiny Network** - The East Midlands Scrutiny network will meet virtually on 4 December at 10am. For more information on the network visit [here](#) and to register to join the free network meeting contact

[Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

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## Employers' Information



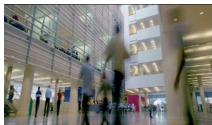
**NJC Circular COVID-19: New National Restrictions (England) - 12 November 2020** - The NJC has issued another COVID-19 circular, this time in relation to working arrangements during the current period of national restrictions in England, for people classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and Clinically Vulnerable [available from [here](#)].

**LGA Research Report, COVID-19 Workforce Survey, 16 October 2020** - This report relates to the survey sent out on 21 October 2020. The overall response rate was 56 per cent and covered over a third of the total workforce. To access the full report please visit [here](#).

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## Local Government News



**Good practice guide: Delivering financial hardship support schemes** - The LGA commissioned report 'Good practice guide: Delivering financial hardship support schemes - Local Government response to economic vulnerability and financial hardship has been published and is available [here](#).

**Local government representatives questioned on the Spending Review** - Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee heard from local government representatives and economic research institutes on the current financial health of councils this week. It looked at the additional challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic and the quality of support provided by central government. It will also examine how local authorities can be better supported to deliver high quality services in the long-term [details [here](#)].

**Leisure under lockdown: how culture and leisure services responded to COVID-19** - An LGA report available from [here](#).

**COVID-19: mitigating impacts on Gypsy and Traveller communities** - Lord Greenhalgh, Communities Minister, has written to local authority chief executives to highlight the support needed by some members of Gypsy and Traveller communities [details [here](#)].

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## Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

**Inspection report published: An inspection of UK Refugee Resettlement Schemes** - The inspection looked at how the various long-running resettlement schemes had performed up to March 2020, and what lessons the Home Office should be taking forward into any new scheme [details [here](#)].

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## Health & Social Care

**Health Matters: Cold Weather and COVID-19** - [The latest edition of Health Matters](#), Public Health England's professional resource, focuses on the effects of cold weather on health, looking at how COVID-19 amplifies cold-related risks and actions that can be taken to prevent harm, particularly to the most vulnerable. This blog provides a summary of the full edition's content [details [here](#)].



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## EMC Events

**Selfcare for Coaches, a CPD session for coaches** - EMC are hosting a virtual workshop for coaches on 9 December, this continuing professional development session for coaches focusing on selfcare [details [here](#)]. The session will cover;

- Exploration around what's happening, what are they dealing with, their challenges, their emotions – sowing the seed of empathy / compassion fatigue
- How do these things impact on what we do as coaches? And what might happen if we don't spend enough time on looking after self?

Along with; Spotting the sign of pressure; Barriers to selfcare; Introduction in to Kristen Neff self-compassion - how do we treat a friend / how do we treat ourselves; Self compassion for caregivers practice.

**Report Writing** - EMC is hosting two 3 hour virtual workshops on report writing. These virtual workshops will be highly interactive [full details [here](#)]. The course will explore;

- **What are the expectations with regards written reports in your role?**
- **What should we think about before writing the report?** Exploring: the audience and their expectations, language, tone, length.

The virtual workshop will use both plenary and breakout time to ensure maximum delegate participation, making the session interactive for those taking part. During the breakout sessions delegates will be grouped to work with people writing similar types of reports.

Dates; Tuesday 19 January 9:30 – 12:30; Thursday 28 January 13:30 – 16:30

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## 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 Alan Rhodes  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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