

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

Top items this week

29 JANUARY 2021



EMC General Meeting



EMC HR Bulletin, January  
2021 edition



Community Champions to  
give COVID-19 vaccine advice



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

## EMC HR Bulletin, January 2021 Edition

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available [here](#). The January Bulletin includes:-

- Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article, this month he looks at vaccinations and testing
- Kickstart in the East Midlands
- Regional Pay Consultation
- COVID: Guidance on Vaccinations for Employees, Testing in Schools and Verification of Shielding Advice
- LGPS bulletin 204 – December 2020
- LGA Apprenticeship Newsletter, January 2021



## Learning & Development

- Action Learning to support managers appointed during the pandemic and remote working
- Leading through turbulent times – Leadership Development Programme

## EMC News

**Eastern Leg of HS2** - Cllr Kay Cutts MBE and Cllr Judith Blake CBE (Leader of Leeds City Council) met with HS2 Minister Andrew Stephenson MP and Treasury Minister Jesse Norman MP on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January to press for the delivery of the Eastern Leg of HS2 in full, including the Hub Station at Toton, HS2 connectivity for Chesterfield and the Infrastructure Maintenance Depot at Staveley. A further meeting with the Prime Minister's Transport Advisor Andrew Gilligan took place on the same day. Earlier in the House of Commons, Pauline Latham MP (Mid Derbyshire) also made the case for HS2 investment during Prime Minister's Question Time.



**Remote Council Meetings** - You'll be aware that there's no option under the Coronavirus Act 2020 to extend the current regulations allowing councils to meet remotely or in hybrid form, as the regulations contain a limitation date of 7th May 2021. Any extension would therefore require primary legislation (and the case for primary legislation is the subject of active consideration in Government).

We have been asked to feedback to MHCLG on the efficacy of these regulations, e.g. how have remote council meetings helped local authorities to redeploy resources to deal with the pandemic, continue to make business critical decisions in a democratic way, and any savings or efficiency benefits (also via email to [LGrelationships@communities.gov.uk](mailto:LGrelationships@communities.gov.uk))

**Performance Management & Monitoring Officer** – EMC/Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) are offering a secondment opportunity for the post of Performance Management and Monitoring Officer. We are looking for a technically skilled individual to support TfEM's Head of Rail improvement to research and assess information and data to evidence the case for improvements to rail services across the East Midlands.

Details of the Secondment Opportunity can be found [here](#) or we are looking for responses to our invitation to tender, details [here](#).

**Exiting national restrictions** - The Government's Covid-19 Taskforce is currently working on the short to medium term strategy for exiting national restrictions. The following two questions will help to focus our contribution to this work.

- What are the lessons from previous times we have released restrictions? What worked well or could be improved
- What are the priorities for you / your stakeholders in opening up?

Chief Executives have been clear that advance notification and certainty of timings are key to the effective easing of restrictions to allow arrangements to be put in place in good time. If you have any reflections on the above 2 questions, or any other comments relating to exiting national restrictions, please email [LGrelationships@communities.gov.uk](mailto:LGrelationships@communities.gov.uk), cc [stuart.young@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.young@emcouncils.gov.uk).

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## EMC Boards Activity

**EMC General Meeting** - EMC's General Meeting is scheduled for 10.00am on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and will be held virtually via MS Teams. For further information please contact [lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC Support Activity

**Democratic Services Network** - EMC and Association of Democratic Service Officers (ADSO) colleagues in the region are hosting a virtual networking session, to provide Democratic Service colleagues with an opportunity to come together to share experiences. The meeting will take place on 12 February 2021. For more information visit [here](#).

## EMC Councillor Events

**EMC, the LGA and Midlands Energy Hub Series of Virtual Workshops for Councillors on Climate Change** - East Midlands Councils, the LGA and the Midlands Energy Hub working in partnership are offering a series of virtual interactive workshops for Councillors on Climate Change. The first event in the series took place early in January, exploring climate change and community engagement. The next event in the programme will explore Housing and Energy, the date is to be confirmed shortly.

The workshops will include both keynote presentations and small group working, providing space for discussion, sharing and exploring 'what does this mean for me and my community?' and 'what role can I play?'. The workshop themes will explore: Transport, Energy / Housing, Green Economic Recovery and Behaviour Change

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

**Restoring Your Railway Fund** - The Transport Secretary has called on local authorities, MPs and community groups to submit bids for a share of the [third and final round of the Department for Transport's Ideas Fund](#), designed to encourage proposals to reopen railway lines, services and stations.

The Department for Transport (DfT) is inviting MPs, local councils and community groups across England and Wales to propose how they could use funding to reinstate axed local services and restore closed stations [details [here](#)].

**The charter for social housing residents: social housing white paper** - Sets out the actions the government will take to ensure that residents in social housing are safe, are listened to, live in good quality homes, and have access to redress when things go wrong [details [here](#)].

**New standard tenancy agreement to help renters with well behaved pets** - Responsible tenants in England with well-behaved pets will be able to secure leases more easily through a new standard tenancy agreement [details [here](#)].

**Model agreement for a shorthold assured tenancy** - A model tenancy agreement for use in the private rented sector where a shorthold tenancy is being entered into, and accompanying guidance [details [here](#)].

**LGA National construction virtual conference - Part I, 2 February 2021, 10.30am - 12.30pm** - this year's the LGA's construction procurement virtual conference will look back on an unprecedented year for both the construction industry and local government, as well as focusing on future challenges. The event is spread across two webinars, the first of which will include sessions on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the construction industry and modern slavery in the supply chain [details visit [here](#)].

**LGA National construction virtual conference - Part II, 4 February 2021, 10.30am - 12.00pm** - this LGA webinar will look at the Government's Green Paper on procurement and what this will mean for construction procurement professionals after the UK's exit from the European Union. It will also address the role and responsibilities of the construction industry and the part procurement plays in tackling the issues faced by the climate emergency [[here](#)].

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## Midlands Connect

**Midlands Connect Webinars** - Midlands Connect's latest webinar series featuring politicians, business and civic leaders, and industry experts. In February 2021, Midlands Connect is running a series of webinars on topics and themes that will affect future transport policy development.

**Building Back Better webinar, Thursday 4 February 2021** - This webinar focuses on 'Building Back Better' post Covid-19. Details [here](#).

**Levelling Up webinar, Thursday 11 February 2021** - In this panel, the chair will ask the panel to consider how the levelling up agenda can be delivered in the Midlands and what improvements can help increase economic prosperity, boost social mobility and create a more sustainable way of living for future generations. Details [here](#).

**Decarbonisation webinar, Thursday 18 February 2021** - This webinar focuses on decarbonisation and our panel will discuss how the industry can reduce transport emissions on the way to delivering a low-carbon economy. Details [here](#).

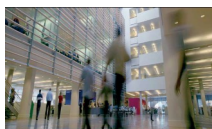
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## Health & Social Care

**Local recruitment initiatives - three webinars, Tuesday 2, Thursday 4 and Friday 5 February 2021, 2.00pm – 3.00pm** - councils and partner organisations have been creative in taking new approaches to attract people to consider social care as a long-term career opportunity. Skills for Care, the Care Provider Alliance, ADASS and the LGA have been working with councils to gather examples of innovative solutions, which they will be sharing. To join, please register via [CHIP@local.gov.uk](mailto:CHIP@local.gov.uk).

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## Local Government News



**Census 2021** - The 2021 Census is due to commence on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The latest statement from the Office for National Statistics is available [here](#).

**Community Champions to give COVID-19 vaccine advice and boost take up** - Over £23 million funding allocated to 60 councils and voluntary groups across England to expand work to support those most at risk from COVID-19 and boost vaccine take up.

- £23.75 million funding for councils and voluntary groups to expand covid communications with at risk groups
- Community Champions will share COVID-19 vaccine advice and information to boost local vaccination take-up
- Funding will support extra school programmes, helplines and phone calls to those in at risk groups

Today's funding is specifically targeted at areas with plans to reach groups such as older people, disabled people, and people from ethnic minority backgrounds who according to the latest evidence are more likely to suffer long-term impacts and poor outcomes from COVID-19. Each of the 60 councils have developed their own plan to improve communications with these groups including helplines, school programmes, workplace engagement, phoning those in at risk groups as well as training sessions to help people provide information and advice [details [here](#)]. In the East Midlands;

• Bassetlaw District Council	169,400	• Mansfield District Council	187,929
• Bolsover District Council	188,833	• Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	85,640
• Boston Borough Council	494,800	• Wellingborough Borough Council	159,244

**Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, Annual scrutiny survey 2020/21** - The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny have launched their annual scrutiny survey, the 2020/21 survey is now open, and can be completed online via this link [here](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CfGS2021survey). <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CfGS2021survey>

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny expect to publish the headline findings of the survey in March with full results shortly thereafter. For the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny news release on the survey visit [here](#).

**COVID-19: Guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms** - This guidance provides the owners and operators of playgrounds and outdoor gyms with information on conducting a COVID-19 risk assessment and examples of measures that may be taken to facilitate their use while minimising COVID-19 transmission risk [\[here\]](#).

### EMC Events



**Leading through turbulent times, EMC Leadership Development Programme** - our Leadership Development programme 'Leading through turbulent times' will start on 25 February, information can be found on our website [here](#), in addition I have attached the programme information booklet and information for managers. Our first programme will start in February, with further later in the year. The programme will run virtually and will take place using MS Teams.

The costs are included in the programme information booklet, we are offering a discount for bookings of over 5 places, please feel to contact me for more information on this. The aim of this programme is to provide senior and middle managers with the skills, knowledge and capability to lead their people through turbulent times. Delivered virtually, this programme provides a flexible approach to learning through short webinars which address key issues and provide practical tools to support managers.

- Key themes of the programme are; **Self-leadership, Leading the organisation, Leading people and Leading teams**, all in the context of the unique challenges posed by Covid-19 including change, complexity, ambiguity and uncertainty.

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

