

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

Top items this week

4 MARCH 2022



East Midlands Scrutiny
Network



EMC HR Bulletin, February
2022 Edition



East Midlands Freeport News



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

EMC HR Bulletin, February 2022 Edition

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is available from [here](#). In this month's edition, Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article advises on two cases due to be heard in March relating to transrights and discrimination based on religion and belief. The February Bulletin also includes:-

- Regional Pay Meeting
- Pay Negotiations
- Coaching Network – Showcasing the benefits with current network members
- Local Government Apprentice of the Year Event
- T Levels - support for councils
- Apprenticeship News



Pay Agreement Reached for Local Government Services Employees (Green Book) - This week the pay agreement for Local Government Services Employees (Green Book) has been reached. The Pay Circular is available from [here](#).

Further support for Ukrainians fleeing Russia invasion

British nationals and people settled in the UK will be able to bring extended family members to the UK and sponsored humanitarian visa route will be established.

Thousands more Ukrainians will be welcomed to the UK as the Government continues its support for Ukraine in their fight against the Russian invasion. On 1st March the Prime Minister announced an expansion to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Route, which will increase the number of people from Ukraine who are eligible to come to the UK to be reunited with their families. As well as immediate family members, British nationals and people of any nationality settled in the UK will now be supported to bring parents, grandparents, adult children and siblings to the UK.

People in the region who are eligible under this route are encouraged to call the helpline on **0300 3032785** and to go to a Visa Application Centre in a neighbouring country to enrol biometrics once they have submitted an application. The Prime Minister also announced plans for a new scheme for Ukrainians with no ties to the UK to come here. An uncapped sponsored humanitarian visa route will allow sponsors, such as communities, private sponsors or local authorities, to bring people to the UK. They will be able to work and the sponsor would provide housing and integration support.

For full details on this announcement please see [here](#). If you are an organisation or charity who are interesting in becoming a community sponsor, please contact Brein Fisher, Regional Migration Manager at brein.fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC News

The Role of the Civic Head, 31 May 2022 - EMC is hosting a one day workshop for incoming Civic Heads. The intended audience for this event will be this coming into civic office at their Annual Meetings at the end of May, their deputies and their support staff.

This interactive workshop will explore;

- Expectations from a range of perspectives, including; yours as incoming Mayor/Chair, the public's and the council's
- Measures of success for your terms of office
- Skills and Qualities of a great civic head
- Short introductory sessions touching upon; Chairing Full Council, Public Speaking and Social Media

How to book – visit [here](#)

EMC News Continued

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 Learning and Development Network, 3 March 2022 - EMC held a virtual Learning and Development Network meeting this week. The meeting included a presentation from the University of Birmingham on Chartered Town Planner Degree Apprenticeships, further information is available from [here](#). The session also explored support for managers in Leading Hybrid Teams. For more information on this network meeting contact Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk or visit

East Midlands Scrutiny Network, 11 March 2022 - The next East Midlands Scrutiny network meeting will take place on 11 March, 10:00 – 11:30. The theme for this network meeting will be on **public involvement in scrutiny**. For more information on this network meeting contact Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

East Midlands Freeport secures go-ahead to deliver new incentives for business growth - East Midlands Freeport has secured formal Government approval for its plans to offer businesses locating in the Freeport special incentives.

The 'East Midlands Freeport' is the UK's only inland freeport and proposals set out plans to deliver over 61,000 jobs for the East Midlands and an extra £8.9bn for the local economy over the next 30 years. More details on this announcement are available [here](#).

Over £150 million provided to safeguard local transport services - Funding will help local bus and light rail services across the country as millions of passengers return to the network [details [here](#)].

RTPI EXPLORE Work Placement Project - RTPI needs hosts to offer week-long placements for students aged 16-18, as part of RTPI's EXPLORE programme, in June 2022.

EXPLORE is a work experience pilot that aims to encourage young people from underrepresented groups to become planners. It gives them the opportunity to explore the many rewarding roles and opportunities that the planning profession can provide. Email rtpi@cleveregg.co.uk to register

Social housing, Levelling Up Committee hears from local authority & housing organisations - On Wednesday 9 March, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee will hold the latest oral evidence session for its inquiry into the regulation of social housing in England. The LUHC Committee will hear from witnesses representing tenants, finance sectors, and housing organisations. Full witness details included below.

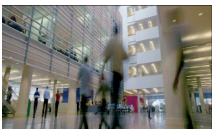
The LUHC's Committee's inquiry is examining concerns about the quality of social housing, with a focus on the ability of the Regulator of Social Housing and the Housing Ombudsman to identify and address problems. The inquiry is also focussing on the proposals in the Government's social housing White Paper aimed at improving the regulatory regime. [details [here](#)].

Climate Change & Sustainable Development

Energy News, the newsletter of the Midlands Energy Hub - In this issue: News, Combatting Energy Price Rises, Funding Update, and information from partners [access [here](#)]. The news letter features a section on - Lowering the carbon footprint of the public sector estate, this includes details of;

- The Cabinet Office has released its Net Zero Estate Playbook. This document provides guidance to support UK Government property professionals as they transition towards net zero. The Playbook has taken best practice from around the UK to create a 'Roadmap to Net Zero' which encourages the use of a common framework across projects to streamline and measure progress. Download the Net Zero Estate Playbook now.
 - To support public sector organisations to lower the carbon footprint of their estate, Energy Systems Catapult have launched Modern Energy Partners (MEP): Public Sector Decarbonisation Guidance. The MEP programme explored how the rapid scale-up of decarbonisation project delivery is required across the public sector, and a host of resources (including tools, templates, and insights) can now be found online. With the aim of helping users to form an end-to-end decarbonisation process, the resources from Energy Systems Catapult set out the steps that might be included in a decarbonisation plan covering the whole estate portfolio.
 - The Midlands Energy Hub has been awarded funding to support public bodies to decarbonise their buildings. If you are interested in benefitting from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
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Local Government News



Levelling-Up Permanent Secretary questioned by LUHC Committee - The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee will question Jeremy Pocklington, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on 7 March on the Department's Annual Report and Accounts for the last financial year.

Questions from the cross-party Committee to the Department's top civil servant are likely to range across the responsibilities of DLUHC. MPs will have the opportunity to ask about the Government's plans on building safety funding and remediation, funding pressures within local government and the process of bidding for levelling up funding [details [here](#)].

LGA 1-to-1 coaching for disabled councillors – as part of the LGAs new programme of leadership development and support for disabled local government councillors in response to the Government's Disability Strategy, the LGA is re-launching its 1-to-1 coaching offer for disabled councillors. The coaching will focus on personal leadership development and is open to councillors from any political group. There is no eligibility criteria – it's for councillors at any stage of their political career – and any councillor who identifies as having a disability can benefit. For more information or to book please contact grace.collins@local.gov.uk

Millions to receive £350 boost to help with rising energy costs - Millions of households will receive £350 of government support to help protect them from rising energy costs, the Chancellor announced this week.

- Millions of households will receive up to £350 to help with the cost of living following a rise in the energy price cap.
- All domestic electricity customers will get £200 off their energy bills from October, with 80% of households receiving a £150 Council Tax rebate from April.
- Chancellor Rishi Sunak announces £9.1 billion Energy Bills Rebate to support families with rising global energy prices.

The Energy Bills Rebate will provide around 28 million households with an upfront discount on their bills worth £200. Energy suppliers will apply the discount to domestic electricity customers from October, with the Government meeting the costs. The discount will then be automatically recovered from people's bills in equal £40 instalments over the next five years. This will begin from 2023, when global wholesale gas prices are expected to come down [details [here](#)].

New, multi-year national communications campaign which says 'Enough' to violence against women and girls -The Home Secretary has this week launched an ambitious new, multi-year national communications campaign which says 'Enough' to violence against women and girls.

This multi-year campaign will also include communications to educate young people about healthy relationships and consent, and ensure victims can recognise abuse and seek support.

Alongside advertising, a new website provides more information on the steps people can take to safely challenge violence against women and girls, guidance for victims of these crimes and advice for perpetrators who recognise their behaviour needs to change [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

East Midlands Coaching Network Showcase - On 16 March 2022, EMC is host an event showcasing the work of the East Midlands Coaching Network. The event will share more information about the network and the support it provides. We'll include an opportunity to hear directly from one of the coaching network member organisations, to be able to hear about how they use the network and the benefits they have seen [details [here](#)].

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

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