

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

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Edition

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## Regional Asylum & Refugee Summit, Wednesday 14 Sep 2022

East Midlands Councils and Lord Harrington, Minister for Refugees, are hosting a Regional Asylum & Refugee Summit at Leicester City Hall for members and officers to gain a greater understanding of asylum and resettlement responsibilities and pressures facing councils in the East Midlands, and how these challenges may be addressed.

The summit will include:

- An overview of the national response to global resettlement with the Minister for Refugees, Lord Harrington.
- An introduction to the new Full Asylum Dispersal Model for the East Midlands and the government's future plans for the equitable dispersal of asylum seekers across the UK.
- A local authority perspective on coordinating the Homes for Ukraine scheme with Lincolnshire County Council sharing unique challenges and learning opportunities as part of a two-tier authority coordinating the scheme across seven districts.
- An introduction to East Midlands Councils' pilot programme to assist Hong Kong BNOs to access career opportunities in the NHS including support in preparing for the Operational English Test exam required to become a nurse.
- Innovative strategies to support local authorities and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children through the National Transfer Scheme.

The event will be chaired by Cllr Sarah Russell, Deputy Mayor of Leicester City Council and Vice Chair of the Regional Migration Board.

### Summit information

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 1000 - 1500

Venue: Attenborough Room, Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ.

The deadline to book a place is Monday 5 September, for more information and to book a place, please visit [here](#).

The EMC Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery Summit is a fully subsidised event by East Midlands Councils and therefore free to attend.

## East Midlands Combined Authority

£1.14bn devolution deal for a new Mayoral Combined County Authority, to include a new elected regional mayor, was agreed in principle on 30 August 2022 by all four city and county council leaders in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby, and Nottingham and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Greg Clark MP. The full deal text is available [here](#).

The councils will work on the details of the deal and each council will take a report to approve a more detailed proposal for a consultation later this year.

The devolution deal is a 'level 3' deal, which offers the most local powers and funding. If approved locally and nationally, the deal will lead to the creation of the first-ever Mayoral Combined County Authority. The four councils will now work on the details of the deal, with a local consultation to take place later this year.

The deal is reported to provide the area with a guaranteed income stream of £38m a year over 30 years, as well as an additional £16m for new homes on brownfield land, and control over a range of budgets including the adult education budget.

These proposals are dependent upon the devolution measures in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill passing through Parliament. The first election for a regional mayor for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire, would then be in May 2024.

This is a significant devolution deal and is the first deal to be achieved in the East Midlands. Proposals continue to be developed by councils in the Greater Lincolnshire area and in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

**Upcoming EMC board meetings -**

**Regional Migration Board** - 7 September 2022

**Regional Employers' Board and Regional Joint Council** - 8 September 2022

**EMC Executive Board** - 23 September 2022

**EMC Support Activity**

**East Midlands Scrutiny Network, 30 September 2022** - The next East Midlands Scrutiny network meeting will take place on 30 September, 10:00 – 12:30. The theme for this network meeting will be on **performance scrutiny**. This network meeting will be hosted by Rutland County Council. For information contact [Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

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**Infrastructure, Planning & Housing**

**Drivers to benefit from £20 million EV chargepoint boost** - More than 1,000 new electric vehicle chargepoints to be installed in a new pilot, as part of a wider £450 million scheme. Chargepoints will be built across 9 local authorities across England. Through the innovative Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme, local authorities and industry will work together to create new, commercial EV charging infrastructure for residents, from faster on-street chargepoints to larger petrol station-style charging hubs. Nearly £20 million from government and industry funding for pilot winners and further £10 million for existing chargepoint scheme [details [here](#)].

The winners of the pilot fund include from the East Midlands:

- Midlands Connect (with Lincolnshire as a lead authority) - details [here](#).
- Nottinghamshire - details [here](#).

**Midlands Connect Newsletter, August Edition** - the latest edition can be found [here](#), this includes;

- A new tool will help Midlands councils plan EV chargepoint infrastructure
- The cost of HGV delays in the Midlands

**Fast-track planning route to speed up major infrastructure projects** - Major infrastructure projects such road improvements and offshore wind farms will be delivered more quickly through a new fast-track planning route. The government will make the changes to the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) process through amendments to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

More than £750,000 has also been awarded to 10 council-led projects to support innovation in ensuring the needs of local communities are reflected in the process [details [here](#)].

Innovation and capacity building for local authorities affected by NSIPs, includes **Hinkley and Bosworth Borough Council** in the East Midlands. For more information visit [here](#).

**New homes will be better protected from flooding following changes to planning guidance, the government has announced** - Updated planning guidance published will help councils make sure developments meet strict criteria in locations at risk of flooding before they are approved, to ensure local communities aren't negatively impacted as a result [details [here](#)].

**EMRs parent company Abellio UK is subject to management buy-out.** Abellio UK's Dutch state-owned parent company has decided to withdraw from the UK market to concentrate its domestic business and rail services to and from the Netherlands. The move will require regulatory approval from the DfT and Office of Road and Rail (ORR) but it likely to come into effect by the end of the 2022. Rail services delivered by EMR will be unaffected. Further information at: [Key rail and bus services to return to UK-ownership | Abellio](#)

**National Highways has named the contractor (Skanska)** that will design and construct the A46 Newark Northern Bypass – TfEM's top road investment priority. The scheme remains subject to funding approvals and the necessary Development Consent Order but is planned to be open to traffic by 2028 [A46 Newark Bypass - National Highways](#)

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**Housing**

**Rent cap on social housing consultation** - A [consultation](#) has been launched this week to invite views from social housing tenants and landlords on a proposed rent cap to understand how best to support households with the cost of living [details [here](#)].

**Competition opens to deliver new training and support programme for social housing residents** - Social housing residents will be able to get training and support to speak up and raise issues with their landlord. £500,000 government grant will provide training for social housing residents to speak up and raise issues with their landlord. For more information visit [here](#).

**New standards for rented homes under consideration** - The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities has this week launched a consultation on introducing a Decent Homes Standard to the rented sector. The consultation asks whether privately rented homes should be required to be kept in a good state of repair with efficient heating, suitable facilities, and free from serious hazards like major damp or fire risks. The consultation seeks views on whether such new standards should be introduced and on how they should be enforced [details [here](#)].

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## EMC HR Bulletin, August 2022 Edition

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available [here](#). This month, Employment Law expert Darren Newman gives his take on the implications when employees who are subject to disciplinary proceedings resign.

### Also in the August Bulletin:-

- Joint Working to Progress Equality Diversity & Inclusion
- Apprenticeship Newsletter – August 2022
- National Pay Offers
- LGPS Bulletin July 2022
- HMRC Mileage Rates

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## Local Government News

**Levelling Up Committee to scrutinise Government's elections policy** - Following the publication of the Government's "[Draft Electoral Commission Strategy and Policy Statement](#)" in August, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee will commence scrutiny of this in September [details [here](#)].

**DLUHC Select Committee initial assessment of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill** - The DLUHC Select Committee has published an initial assessment of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB), available [here](#).

**Councillor workbook: Finance for non-finance portfolio holders / cabinet members** - This LGA workbook has been designed to enable councillors holding a non-finance portfolio to better understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to the financial aspects of their role [details [here](#)].

**Government launches climate change consultation for pension scheme** - The consultation proposes more effective governance, strategy, risk management and targets for the assessment and management of climate related risks and opportunities for the Local Government Pension Scheme [details [here](#)].

**National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in England 2022 toolkit** - This LGA toolkit has been developed to support councils to set objectives in relation to their maturity levels in each of the key areas of the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in England 2022, and to assess their progress against those objectives [details [here](#)].

**Working in partnership: creating an effective rough sleeper strategy** - On 19 May over 30 councils attended a morning roundtable to discuss their priorities for the new rough sleeping strategy, due to be released later in the year. The roundtable was broken up into three workshops to look at what central government, local government and the third sector can do to help end rough sleeping [details [here](#)].

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## EMC Events

**Effective Chairing of Hybrid Meetings, 20 September** - EMC is hosting a virtual training session on 'Effective Chairing of Hybrid Meetings'. The workshop will provide training for chairs to maximise opportunities within hybrid meetings. This workshop is open to both Councillors and Officers, those involved with chairing meetings. Details [here](#).

**Introduction to Neurodiversity for Councillors, 27 September-** In this introductory session we will be introducing you to the idea of neurodiversity and what the common conditions are that people experience. People are described as neurodiverse when their thought patterns, behaviours, or learning styles fall outside of what is considered "normal," or neurotypical. We will also look at ways in which you can make simple adjustments to better support people and enable them to be their most effective selves. At the end of the session you should have an increased knowledge about neurodiverse conditions and the ways to best support someone. This session is suitable for anyone throughout your organisation, but is particularly useful for those working in elected roles where communication skills are essential. For more information visit [here](#).

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## EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE  
Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell  
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

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