

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

Top items this week

29 JULY 2022

Midlands Connect July News letter

Levels of Public Investment in the East Midlands

Asylum and Refugee Resettlement Conference for Councillors - 14 September

EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Levels of Public Investment in the East Midlands – A summary Analysis by East Midlands Councils and the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce.

East Midlands Councils and the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce have undertaken analysis of the levels of Government investment into the East Midlands, from the HM Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis for 2021, published on 21 July 2022.

The summary analysis details trends in public investment into transport and other services over recent years and how the East Midlands as a region fares against other parts of England and the devolved nations.

Transport investment in the East Midlands

Transport investment is a key driver of productivity and economic growth. Transport spend per head has been significantly below the UK average level for all of the last 20 years. The additional financial support resulting from Covid has smoothed some of the disparities, but even so the transport spending in the East Midlands was just 64.7% of UK average for 2020/21, the joint lowest level of any UK region or nation. If the region was funded at a level equivalent to the UK average, a not unrealistic target, the East Midlands would have an **extra £1.26bn a year** to spend on transport.

Other public investment in the East Midlands

The trend for transport investment is reflected in other forms of public investment in the East Midlands. The most recent HM Treasury [report](#) confirms that the region also has:

- The 2nd lowest level of public expenditure on 'economic affairs', £ per head.
- The lowest level of public expenditure on services, £ per head.

The East Midlands has consistently received at or near the lowest levels of public funding in the country, across a range of different services and with a particular deficit in Transport-related spending. While the Government spending response to coronavirus has impacted this data, there is little in the most recent Treasury figures to suggest the trend is changing.

This analysis is important context for the work currently being led by partners in delivering growth and investment, and meeting the challenges of levelling up. With the focus upon, and opportunities presented by, the Government's Levelling Up programme, this analysis' sole focus is not to identify where investment in this region falls below levels that may be reasonably expected, but it is to identify where, with greater levels of investment, we could deliver so much more. After all, it is against this backdrop of lower public investment levels that the region's businesses continue to perform well and provide strong contributions to the country's overall GDP growth relative to investment. This emphasises the underlying strength of the region's economy and its untapped potential – and will be used to make the case for greater investment in the region to maximise national economic growth.

The 'Levels of Public Investment in the East Midlands' summary analysis can be accessed from [here](#).

EMC Training and Development

Effective Chairing of Hybrid Meetings - 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](#).

Cyber Security workshop for Councillors in the East Midlands, 20 September - EMC, working collaboratively with the East Midlands Special Operations Unit is hosting a free webinar for Councillors on cyber security.

Cyber Security is the protection of your hardware, software and data from unauthorised access and cyber-attacks. We recognise the value and responsibility you bring to our communities as a councillor, with this in mind we want to ensure that you have strong cyber security protection available to you. With the current news around global conflicts, we are seeing a real increase in targeted cybercrime, to combat this, we will cover topics around securing your digital footprint, securing your social media, how to work in public using technology and practical tips [details [here](#)].

Local Government News

Fire at Nottinghamshire County Council - Yesterday Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue were called upon to deal with a fire at County Hall, West Bridgford.

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Midlands Connect July Newsletter – the July edition of the Midlands Connect Newsletter is now available [[here](#)]. This month it includes;

- A survey will allow businesses to shape the future of rail in their region
 - Huge support for upgrades to the A1-A52 junction in Grantham
 - Local authorities bidding for £1m funding for electric vehicle charging points
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Health and Social Care

Health and wellbeing in the Integrated Care System: LGA political leadership masterclass (in person) Wednesday 7 September 2022, 10.00am - there is significant and complex change across health and social care. Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs and elected members with roles in the new Integrated Care System will explore the leadership challenges presented in this development session [details [here](#)].

Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

Asylum and Refugee Resettlement Conference for Councillors - 14 September 2022 - EMC is hosting a one day conference for Councillors on migration, chaired by Cllr Sarah Russell, Deputy Mayor, Leicester City Council, the programme for the conference will include:

- Global Resettlement schemes and National Response
- Homes for Ukraine
- Introduction to Full Asylum Dispersal model

Conference information

Wednesday 14th September 2022, 10:00 - 15:00

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

The Asylum & Refugee Resettlement Conference is a fully subsidised event by East Midlands Councils and therefore free to attend.

Continued support for Hong Kong British National (Overseas) status holders in the UK - The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has announced that Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders arriving in the UK will continue to receive support after the government confirmed the next phase of the Welcome Programme.

The package will help individuals and their families on the BN(O) visa to come and settle in the UK. Since its launch at the start of 2021, over 123,000 eligible Hong Kongers and their family members have chosen to take up this offer and applied for the BN(O) visa. Councils across England, which are already playing a key role to ensure BN(O) status holders are welcomed and supported, will continue to provide targeted English language and destitution support where the help is needed [further information available from [here](#)].

Homes for Ukraine, latest regional data - The latest regional data on Homes for Ukraine. This data shows that over 4,400 people have arrived in the East Midlands. Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority - available from [here](#).

Regional position as at 26/07/22 (increase over previous week/fortnight position reflected in parentheses)

- Visa applications: **6,544** (+70/+182)
- Visas issued: **5,908** (+114/+219)
- Arrivals: **4,417** (+139/+253)

National position can be viewed [here](#). Ukrainian arrivals to the UK have now passed 100,000.

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

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