

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

Top items this week

18 FEBRUARY 2022



Environmental Health CPD



Government mandates
UASC NTS



The Role of the Civic Head, 31
May 2022



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

Government Mandates all Local Authorities to participate in UASC Transfer System

The National Transfer Scheme becomes mandatory for all local authorities with children's services. The Home Office has stepped up efforts to help UASC, by directing all local authorities with children's services to provide care placements for them, as part of the New Plan for Immigration. In December, the government directed 177 local authorities to take part in the mandatory scheme, meaning they received legal notices setting out that they would now be required to accept transfers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

On Tuesday, Minister for Safe and Legal Migration Kevin Foster wrote to the final group of 29 local authorities and directed them to take part. Details relating to this announcement can be found [here](#).

Should you wish to discuss the National Transfer Scheme or UASC related enquiries, please contact Matthew Clarke, Senior UASC Policy Advisor at matthew.clarke@emcouncils.gov.uk.

Freeports

Government committed to create up to ten freeports around the UK, including the East Midlands and the Humber Freeport. Freeports are intended to be national hubs for global trade and investment across the UK. They also aim to promote regeneration and job creation as part of the Government's policy to level up communities. Finally, the Government sees them as hotbeds for innovation.

Freeports will benefit from incentives relating to customs, tax, planning, regeneration, infrastructure and innovation. The successful bidders in England will be able to access a share of £200 million of seed capital funding, depending on the submission of an outline business case. The House of Commons Library recently published a research briefing on freeports, available [here](#). This briefing looks at the background to the UK Government's freeports policy and provides a useful summary of the issues relating to freeports.

EMC News

Environmental Health Continuing Professional Development Programme - This week EMC hosted the final event in the 2021-22 low cost CPD programme attended by 140 environmental health officers in the East Midlands. The virtual workshop focused on Health and Safety, it included presentations on; The British Frozen Food Federation - providing insights from a trade association; Lincolnshire Local Resilience Forum's plan for managing events and Health and Wellbeing.

EMC Councillor Events

The Role of the Civic Head, 31 May 2022 - The workshop will explore the role of the Civic Head and the expectations of the role from a range of perspectives, including the expectations of the incoming mayor, and those of the public and the council. It will include short introductory sessions on Chairing Full Council, Public Speaking and Social Media [details available from [here](#)]. The intended audience for this workshop is newly appointed Mayors and deputy Mayors.

Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

Community projects awarded government funding to help Hong Kongers settle into life in the UK - A total of 47 national and regional projects are being allocated the funding to offer a range of support.

- 47 national and regional projects allocated funding, including UK-wide helpline provided by Barnardo's [\[here\]](#).
- Support includes education resources, access to mental health services, and help to find jobs
- The support is part of up to £43 million for this financial year to help British National (Overseas) families settle successfully into life in the UK

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Planning guidance: letters to chief planning officers - Guidance on various aspects of the planning system has been provided to chief planning officers of local planning authorities. The department regularly writes to chief planning officers of local planning authorities in England, providing guidance about various aspects of the planning system [details [here](#)].

Call for transport leaders to help 'super-charge' skills and build future workforce - Consultation launched to better understand the skills needed to boost diversity, plug the skills gap and promote careers in the transport sector.

A 12-week consultation will help to better understand the future skills needed to boost diversity, plug the skills gap and promote careers across the industry, with participants able to post their views and ideas [details [here](#)].

Government clamps down on rogue parking firms with new Code of Practice - A new package of measures will protect millions of drivers from unfair and extortionate charges, with a new Code of Practice to help keep cowboy private parking firms in check. The government's Parking Code of Practice will see parking fines cut by up to 50% in the majority of cases, saving motorists millions of pounds each year [details [here](#)].

Local Government News

Elections Bill 2021: Summary factsheet - This document provides a summary of the measures in the Elections Bill 2021 - Final local government finance report 2022 to 2023 - This report sets out the aspects of the settlement which will require specific approval by the House of Commons, including the amount and basis of distribution of the revenue support grant in 2022 to 2023 [details [here](#)].

Government funds Windrush Day 2022 celebrations - Community groups can bid for funds to celebrate the Windrush Generation and their contribution to British society.

The annual Windrush Day Grant Scheme provides up to £50,000 to individual projects to mark the fifth annual Windrush Day 2022 on 22 June through events and activities [details [here](#)].

Levelling-UP White Paper: briefing on governance, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny - A briefing setting out the governance considerations for local and combined authorities arising from the Government's Levelling-up White Paper [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information

EMC hosts a variety of practitioner network, designed to bring colleagues from across the East Midlands together and provide an opportunity to share, learn and explore areas of collective interest. Upcoming network meetings include a Learning and Development Network on 3 March. For more information contact Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

In the coming weeks EMC will be launching a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion network, for more information about this network contact Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Mediation Support - Mediation is one of the services that EMC provides which councils find particularly valuable, given our independence. This week EMC colleagues have supported several authorities through our mediation offer. EMC colleagues have been able to develop our mediation support offer, so that our qualified and experienced mediators can support authorities virtually as well as face to face. We are already working with authorities in this way and for more information on mediation and how this might work for you please contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

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

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