

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

## Top items this week

14 MAY 2021



The Queen's Speech



Local Election Results  
across the East Midlands



Pay Negotiations Update



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

## Local Election Results across the East Midlands - A Summary

Local elections were held across a number of local authorities in the East Midlands on 6 May 2021, in this week's Policy Brief a summary is provided of results across the East Midlands.

### County Councils

- **Derbyshire County Council** - CON HOLD (Con 45, Lab 14, Lib Dem 4, Green 1)
- **Leicestershire County Council** - CON HOLD (Con 42, Lib Dem 9, Lab 4)
- **Lincolnshire County Council** - CON HOLD (Con 54, Independent 5, Lab 4, Lib Dem 3, South Holland Independents 3)
- **Nottinghamshire County Council** - CON GAIN from No overall control (Con 37, Lab 15, Ashfield Independents 10, Independents 3, Lib Dem 1). Cllr Ben Bailey has been elected new Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council [press release [here](#)].

### Elections by thirds

- **Derby City Council** - no overall control, the Conservatives are still the largest party on the council. (Conservatives 21 seats; Labour 13; Liberal Democrats 8; Reform Derby 6 and independents 3). (23 seats contested on 6 May; Lab 10, Con 9, Lid Dem 2, Reform Derby Reform UK 2)
- **Amber Valley** - CON Gain from Lab (Con 28, Lab 16, Green 1) – (16 seats contested on 6 May; Con 13, Lab 3)
- **Lincoln City** - LAB Hold (Lab 26, Con 12, Lib Dem 1) (16 Seats contested on 6 May; Lab 5, Con 5, Lib Dem 1)

### Two new Unitary Authorities in Northamptonshire

- **North Northamptonshire Council** - CON (Con 60, Lab 14, Green 3, Independent 1). Cllr Jason Smithers was elected as Leader of North Northamptonshire Council
- **West Northamptonshire Council** - CON (Con 66, Lab 17, Lid Dems 5, Lab and Co-operative Party 3, independent 2). Cllr Jonathan Nunn was selected to be Leader of West Northamptonshire Council [press release [here](#)].

### Elections for Police and Crime Commissioners have also been held for

- **Derbyshire**, Angelique Foster, Conservative (previously held by Hardyal Shindsa, Labour)
- **Leicestershire**, Rupert Matthews, Conservative (previously held by Willy Bach, Labour)
- **Lincolnshire**, Marc Jones, Conservative (previously held by Marc Jones)
- **Nottinghamshire**, Caroline Henry, Conservative (Previously held by Paddy Tipping, Labour)
- **Northamptonshire**, Stephen Mold, Conservative (previously held by Stephen Mold)

EMC would like to thank all councillors, and in particular its Members, that have either stood down or lost their seat at the recent elections – we are very grateful for their support and wish them all the best in the future.

## EMC News

**East Midlands Councils (EMC) Nomination Process** - EMC will shortly be inviting nominations for membership. All local authority member authorities are allocated one place on EMC, which is usually the Leader of the Council unless otherwise specified. In addition to this there are another 40 added places which are allocated based on the political balance of the region. For more information on EMC Representation and Nomination visit [here](#).

## EMC Councillor Events

**Chairing and effective meetings, Friday 18 June, 10:00 - 13:00** - It covers formal roles such as chairing full council or a planning committee, as well as less formal approaches to chairing eg. for scrutiny activity and public meetings. The focus is guided by delegates and can include problem solving around challenges chairs might face [details [here](#)].

**Audience** - The workshop is suitable for new and continuing chairs. **Costs** - £75 per person (plus VAT).

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## EMC Councillor Events

**Workshop for Chairs and Vice chairs of overview and scrutiny, Thursday 24 June, 10:00 – 13:00** - This workshop will cover the principles behind scrutiny and the different ways of working, as well as skills for the roles. It will look at the formal roles such as O&S committee meetings, less formal approaches to scrutiny such as task and finish groups and inquiry days and the importance of all parts of the system collaborating constructively through scrutiny. [details [here](#)]. **Audience** - for new and experienced non-executive councillors and co-optees involved in O&S activity. **Costs** - £75 per person (plus VAT).

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## The Queen's Speech

The Queen's Speech on Tuesday 11 May 2021, set out the Government's agenda for the next Parliamentary session. Below is a summary of Bills of relevance for local government colleagues.

**Planning Bill** - The main elements of the Bill are:

- Changing local plans so that they provide more certainty over the type, scale and design of development permitted on different categories of land.
- Significantly decrease the time it takes for developments to go through the planning system.
- Replacing the existing systems for funding affordable housing and infrastructure from development with a new more predictable and more transparent levy.
- Reforming the framework for locally led development corporations to ensure local areas have access to appropriate delivery vehicles to support growth and regeneration.

**Building Safety Bill** - The elements of the Bill include:

- Create the Building Safety Regulator, with a duty on council regulators and fire and rescue authorities to cooperate with it.
- Establishing a new homes ombudsman and simplifying the process to log complaints to the Housing Ombudsman for social housing tenants.

**Environment Bill** - The main elements of the Bill are:

- Extended producer responsibility, product labelling powers, introducing a consistent approach to recycling across local authorities in England, introducing a deposit return scheme for drinks containers, providing for more effective litter enforcement and provide the powers to introduce charges for single use plastic items.
- Improving air quality.
- Managing water sustainably.
- Protecting nature by mandating 'biodiversity net gain' in the planning system and through Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Putting forward amendments to reduce the harm from storm overflows to our rivers, waterways and coastlines and new duties on the Government to publish a plan to reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows.

**Skills and Post-16 Education Bill** - Legislation will support a lifetime skills guarantee to enable flexible access to high quality education and training throughout people's lives.

**Health and Care Bill** - Legislation to empower the NHS to innovate and embrace technology. Patients will receive more tailored and preventative care, closer to home.

**Procurement Bill** - *Laws intended to simplify procurement in the public sector.*

## White Papers, Green Papers and policy measures

- Levelling Up White Paper
- Adult social care reform - *Proposals on social care reform will be brought forward.*
- New Plan for Immigration Legislation - *This supports the delivery of the New Plan for Immigration with a range of measures that include a new system of asylum support and accommodation.*
- The Electoral Integrity Bill - *Legislations will be introduced to ensure the integrity of elections.*
- Education recovery plan
- Mental Health Act Reform
- Bus Reform
- Climate Change, Net Zero and COP26
- Skills: COVID-19 Recovery and the Skills for Jobs White Paper - *Incentivising new apprenticeship hires.*
- UK Community Renewal Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - *The £220 million UK-wide Community Renewal Fund will provide funding for local areas across the UK in 2021-22 to help them prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, in addition to the continued high level of funding from EU structural funds.*

To read the full Queen's Speech visit [here](#) and for the LGA's on the Day Briefing visit [here](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

**Chair sought for newly formed Board of East Midlands Global Gateway Freeport** - A Freeport bid has been approved by the Government and a business case for the Freeport, known as the East Midlands Global Gateway, will be the primary task of a newly formed Freeport Board.

The Freeport comprises sites at and adjacent to East Midlands Airport (the primary customs site), at Ratcliffe-on-Soar and the East Midlands Intermodal Park in South Derbyshire.

The Freeport Board is following Government guidance in having a private-sector majority with the relevant local authorities also represented.

Supported by Leicestershire County Council as the Accountable Body, the Board will oversee the coordination of the different strands of activity within the setup phase (e.g. business case development, tax/custom authorisation) that will be required to achieve formal designation as a Freeport.

Applications are now sought for an Independent Chair of the Freeport Board to act on an interim basis. For more information visit [here](#).

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## Employers' Information

**Pay Negotiations Update** - National Employers have today made a pay offer to Local Government Services employees (those covered by the Green Book). The offer is for an across-the-board increase of 1.5%. EMC will keep councils informed of any further developments with national pay negotiations as they arise. Further details [here](#).

**LGA/NARE COVID Workforce Update Issue 30 10th May 2021** - Issue 30 of the COVID Workforce Update put together and co-ordinated by the regional employer organisations, including EMC, and the LGA [available [here](#)]. Highlights in this edition include:-

- General COVID Update
- Encouraging vaccine take-up Government UK Campaign
- Applying behavioural insights to improve COVID vaccination uptake
- Surge testing – Sharing Learning
- COVID-status certification update

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## Climate Change and Sustainable Development

**New Resources Free for Local Authorities: Elected Members Carbon Literacy Toolkit, and Leadership and Management Carbon Literacy Toolkit** - The Carbon Literacy Project has released two new training Toolkits for Local Authorities, enabling councils to engage and train 1: elected members and 2: council leaders and managers in a day's worth of action-based learning, to prepare them for their responsibilities in addressing the climate emergency [ [here](#)].

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## Health & Social Care

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK** - The official UK government website for data and insights on coronavirus (COVID-19). Including data on Testing, cases and vaccinations. With case information by region and local authorities [ [here](#)].

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## EMC Events

**Barnardo's Child Trafficking and NRM session, 17 Jun 2021** - This 2 hour briefing session will give an overview of what Child Trafficking is, how to spot some of the signs and indicators and what to do next. It will include an introduction to the Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship (ICTG) service and how we can support you [ [here](#)].

**Report Writing, 30 June** - EMC is hosting a 3 hour virtual workshops on report writing. The virtual workshop will be highly interactive [full details [here](#)]. The course will explore;

- **What are the expectations with regards written reports in your role?**
- **What should we think about before writing the report?** Exploring: the audience and their expectations, language, tone, length.

The virtual workshop will use both plenary and breakout time to ensure maximum delegate participation, making the session interactive for those taking part.

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## EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE  
Vice Chair: Cllr David Mellen  
Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan  
Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney  
Labour Group: to be confirmed  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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