

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

Top items this week

3 MARCH 2023



**HKBN(O) Year three
funding announcement**



**Plan to speed up
delivery of major
infrastructure projects**



**Rough sleeping
snapshot in England:
autumn 2022**



**New Memorandum of
Understanding for local
audit**

HKBN(O) Year three funding announcement

This week, the Government announced a further year of funding for the Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Programme for 2023/24 to support those coming to live in the UK under the BN(O) visa.

The announcement includes:

- An invitation for bids from voluntary, community and social enterprise ('VCSE') organisations for £2.6 million of funding for UK-wide and regional projects.
- Continuing funding for the network of 12 Welcome Hubs across the UK, helping BN(O)s understand and connect to services in their local area.
- Further funding for On Your Side, the reporting and support service for BN(O)s and all other East and Southeast Asian communities in the UK who experience or witness racism or any other form of hate.
- Further funding for English language classes, and destitution (homelessness) support if needed, provided through local authorities in England.
- Continuing to update the dedicated GOV.UK page, including the Welcome Pack, available in English and Cantonese

East Midlands Councils is one of the 12 Welcome Hubs across the UK and works to improve the integration this new community throughout the region.

More information on local support available for HKBN(O) visa holders can be found on the East Midlands Welcome Hub website.

**HKBNO
WELCOME HUB** 



The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available. This month, Employment Law expert Darren Newman looks at the risks of age discrimination in an interesting case relating to the timing of a restructure prior to the claimant reaching 55 and being able to access their pension.

Also in the February's Bulletin:-

- National Pay Update 2023
- Details of Local Government Apprentice of the Year
- EMC Councillor Development Offer

HR BULLETIN 

Full Asylum Dispersal: The East Midlands Model

Over the last year, the Home Office has been consulting with authorities across the region and East Midlands Councils' Strategic Migration Partnership to prepare a regional model for asylum dispersal.

The Full Asylum Dispersal Model is a way to fairly distribute asylum seekers across Great Britain and reduce and end the use of hotels by allowing the Home Office to procure dispersal properties within the private rental sector.

This event will provide an overview of this model and offer practical advice and examples of regional best practices in asylum dispersal.

BOOK NOW >

Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding scheme launched

This week, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) announced that households across England, Scotland and Wales will benefit from the government's £400 help with energy bills, as an online application portal opens today.

Households without a direct relationship to an electricity supplier, such as those living in park homes and care homes, can now apply via a secure online portal to receive the support as a one-off, non-repayable lump sum under the 'alternative funding' route of the government's Energy Bills Support Scheme.

DESNZ has made resources available to help councils with their local communications which can be found linked below.

READ MORE >

RESOURCES >

Cross-Government plan to speed up delivery of major infrastructure projects

Last week, the government announced that major infrastructure projects such as new transport links, offshore wind farms and wastewater management facilities will be delivered more quickly.

Measures set out in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) action plan will streamline the planning process for large-scale infrastructure projects.

NSIPs are large-scale projects related to energy, transport, water, and waste, which are of national importance. A new fast track process will be piloted, with powers for the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to set shorter timelines for certain projects.

DLUHC is hosting a webinar on 7 March on the newly published action plan. The webinar is open to anyone interested in the reforms and may be of particular interest to councils and communities where NSIPs are proposed.

READ MORE >

Rough sleeping snapshot in England: autumn 2022

Earlier this week, DLUHC published the annual rough sleeping snapshot that provides information about the estimated number of people sleeping rough on a single night between 1 October and 30 November each year.

The number of people estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night in autumn 2022 is 3,069, which after four years of decreases has risen for the first time since the peak in 2017.

Councils in England take an annual autumn snapshot of rough sleeping which is collated by outreach workers, local charities and community groups and is independently verified by Homeless Link, a national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England. Alongside the official snapshot statistics, DLUHC has published additional data on the support available for rough sleepers.



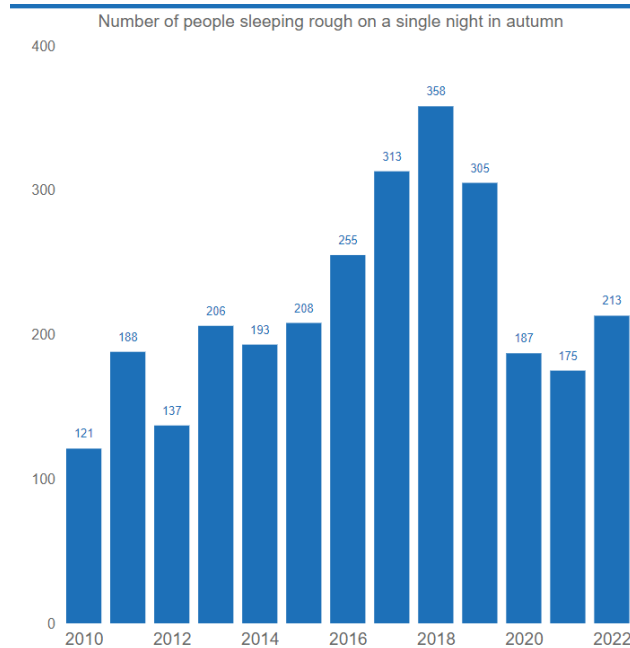
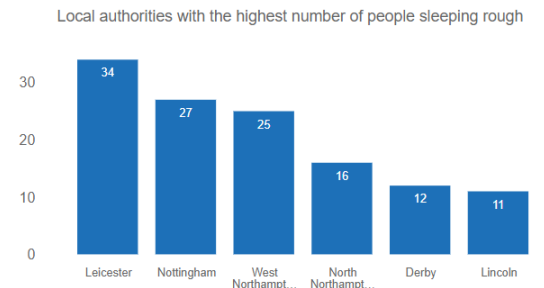
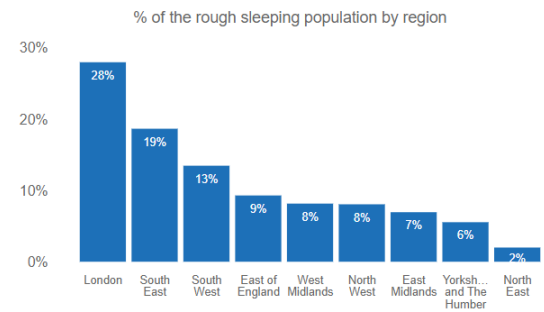
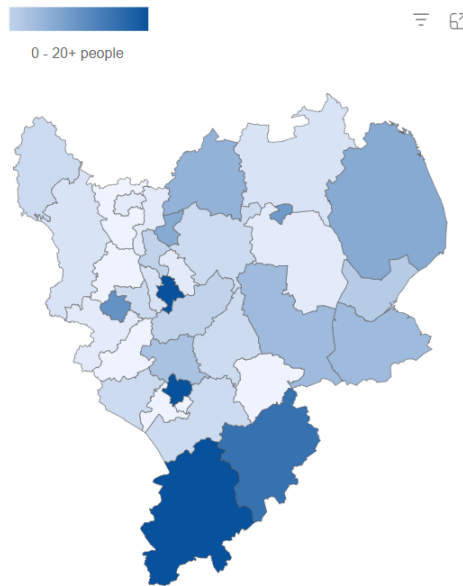
Year
2022

Region
East Midlands

Local authority
All

Reset filters

213
People sleeping rough on a single night



Explore the data in your area here

**DATA IN
YOUR AREA**

READ MORE



REMINDER: Sharing personal data survey for Councils

DLUHC, as part of the Better Outcomes through Linked Data programme, is conducting a survey to better understand the views and experiences of council professionals on sharing personal data related to homelessness and rough sleeping with external parties, particularly with DLUHC.

Council data protection or governance staff or others with insights on this topic are encouraged to respond.

The closing date for the survey is 8 March.

SURVEY

New Memorandum of Understanding for local audit

DLUHC has announced that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been jointly agreed with the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

The MoU sets out the new responsibilities the FRC will have as shadow system leader for local audit. The MoU is part of the reforms agreed by the government following the Redmond Review.

This independent review, led by Sir Tony Redmond at the invitation of DLUHC (formerly the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government), considered the effectiveness of external audit and transparency of financial reporting in local authorities.

The final report recommended the establishment of a system leader for local audit.

The FRC will take on its new role later in the year.

READ MORE >

Midlands Connect Annual Conference

Earlier this week we attended the Midlands Connect Annual Conference. Andrew Pritchard, Director of Policy & Infrastructure at East Midlands Councils chaired a panel on the key challenges and opportunities for MC in 2023.

The event was well attended by key regional and national stakeholders including Richard Holden, Roads and Local Transport Minister.

If you missed the event, the full recording is available on the Midlands Connect website.

WATCH NOW >

UPCOMING EVENTS

East Midlands Infrastructure Partnership Seminar

This seminar brings together key stakeholders from the National Infrastructure Commission, ADEPT and the transport, water and energy sectors to discuss how to improve cross-sector infrastructure planning and prioritisation so that ultimately, every person in the East Midlands has access to the infrastructure they need to survive and thrive.

The session includes case studies covering UK Fusion Reactor, the Newark Northern Bypass, Digital Twins and the Boston Barrier.

SIGN UP >

RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2023.

East Midlands LPA's are being encouraged to submit their entries to this year's RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2023.

There is less than a month left until the 21 March 2023 deadline, and the awards are free to enter.

FIND OUT MORE >

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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