

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

Top items this week

30 JULY 2021



East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership announces three new roles

Flood schemes investment and Flood and Coastal Erosion Investment Plan

Pay Negotiations Updates

EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Flood schemes investment and Flood and Coastal Erosion Investment Plan

The Government has published the Flood and Coastal Erosion Investment Plan, this week, which sets out how new flood and coastal schemes will better protect 336,000 properties by 2027.

The funding will be accompanied by a consultation in the autumn, where the Government will look at how to better protect frequently flooded communities, following a call for evidence earlier this year. It will consider how to strengthen the assessment of local circumstances, such as where areas have flooded on multiple occasions, when allocating funding during the six-year plan.

The Government will bring in tighter guidance for planning authorities as part of a package of actions to better protect and prepare communities for flooding. Householders will benefit from changes to the Flood Re Scheme that will allow insurers to pay an additional amount for the installation of property flood resilience measures after a flood - like air brick covers, flood doors and flood resistant plasterboard. Measures to tackle the risks from surface water flooding are also included in the plans.

The announcement includes a raft of improvements to Flood Re, the UK-wide scheme which helps homes at risk of flood secure insurance cover. This will allow insurers to help flooded households to make their homes more resilient to future flooding using products such as air brick covers, flood doors and flood resistant plasterboard - and benefit from discounted insurance premiums if they have these installed.

The Government has committed to publish a Property Flood Resilience Roadmap by the end of next year which will further accelerate take-up of property flood resilience measures by identifying action needed from industry and government. The changes follow a government consultation and an Independent Review of Flood Insurance, led by Amanda Blanc, the response to which the Government has also published [details [here](#)].

EMC News

East Midlands Councils is pleased to announce three exciting new roles, two of which are responsible for the successful delivery of high profile UK Government resettlement schemes within the East Midlands Region and the other for providing vital advice and support to legal advisors and social workers.

East Midlands Councils hosts the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, which is one of 12 Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) within the UK and covers the county areas of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland.

The aim of the EMSMP is to deliver flagship government asylum, refugee and resettlement schemes across the region alongside providing a regional advisory, development, and consultation function for member organisations from the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors - for the co-ordination and provision of advice, support and services for migrants.

Below are the individual job opportunities available with more detailed information available [here](#):

- **Professional Support Lawyer - Immigration (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Refugees) £45,859**
- **Resettlement Policy Officer (Hong Kong British Nationals Overseas) £33,782-£35,745**
- **Resettlement Policy Officer (UK Resettlement Scheme) £33,782-£35,745**

For an informal discussion about any of the job opportunities please contact Brein Fisher, Regional Migration Manager at Brein.fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk

To apply please visit our website at <https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/East-Midlands-Councils-Jobs>

The closing date for applications is **Monday 23rd August 2021 at 9am**. Virtual Interviews are anticipated to take place week commencing 6th September 2021.

EMC Councillor Events

Virtual Communication Skills for Councillors, 23 September 2021 - EMC is offering a one-hour virtual communication session for Councillors. This one-hour session offers an interactive introduction to online communication skills [details [here](#)]. While set in the virtual environment the course content will be applicable to communication in the face to face environment. The focused session explore the following all set within the virtual environment; Awareness of online communication skills; Engagement, perception and impact; Warmth; Gestures; and Behaviour and reputation.

Employers' Information

National Final Offers - Craft, Chief Executives & Chief Officers - On 27 July 2021, the National Employers made final offers in respect of council Chief Executives, Chief Officers and Craftworkers [details [here](#)].

Local Government Services Pay Offer - The National Employers on 27 July 2021 have made an improved, final pay offer to the unions representing employees in local government services (those on Green Book terms and conditions). A copy of the circular can be found [here](#).

Local Government News

Boosting value for money in the council finance system - Plans to strengthen council finances, reduce risk to public funds and ensure councils are delivering value for money for taxpayers published.

- Plans to strengthen council finance and protect public funds published
- New consultation on proposals to strengthen local audit framework in response to Redmond Review
- Plans will support councils across England to level up and ensure that councils can build back better from the pandemic

Also confirmed is a [new consultation](#) on proposals for how the new regulator, the Audit Reporting and Governance Authority (ARGA), should act as the system leader for local audit within a new, simplified local audit framework.

Alongside this consultation, MHCLG has published two responses to previous local audit consultations – [allocating £15 million to local bodies to help with the costs of audit](#), and [changes to regulations that will help to provide greater flexibility in payments for audits](#), both of which show significant support for the government's proposals [details [here](#)].

2021 annual survey of overview and scrutiny in local government - This year's Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) Annual Survey of Overview and Scrutiny in Local Government has been carried out in an environment dominated by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. On account of this, although CfGS has continued to ask many of the same questions about the resourcing and structures of scrutiny, they have refocused to reflect on experiences on governance and scrutiny relating to the pandemic, as well as on pressures relating to local authority finances and commercial activity [details [here](#)].

Polling on resident satisfaction with councils: Round 29, June 2021 - The LGA measures resident satisfaction with councils every three to four months. This report presents the results of the twenty-ninth round of polling conducted in June 2021 [details [here](#)].

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](#).

EMC Events

Report Writing Workshop, 20 September - EMC is hosting a 3 hour virtual workshop on report writing. The virtual workshop will be highly interactive. This Report Writing skills session will look at how to build a logical structure of a report helping participants to communicate their ideas clearly and concisely. In addition, we will look at how to write reports that audiences really want to read. This will include discussing what information to put in and what to leave out, retaining crucial information and leaving out unnecessary detail. The module will also look at the use of correct grammar and punctuation and how to use an appropriate level of language for readers while writing in an appropriate tone of voice [details [here](#)].

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
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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