

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

Top items this week

25 FEBRUARY 2022



Regional Pay Briefing, 7
March 2022



Welcome Hub website for
HKBN(O)



Levelling-Up White Paper
Information



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

Regional Pay Briefing

EMC are pleased to confirm a pay briefing meeting which will enable senior officers and senior elected members of councils in the region to meet with National Employers to discuss the challenges being faced in future pay negotiations within the context of forecast increases to the National Living Wage. The briefing will be held via MS Teams on Monday 7th March 2022 from 10.00 – 12.00 and the National Employers are particularly keen to engage with Senior Elected Members, Chief Executives and Directors of HR and Directors of Finance. If you wish to book a place please register [here](#).



EMC News

Welcome Hub website for HKBN(O) - EMC is proud to announce the launch of our Welcome Hub website for HKBN(O) in the East Midlands: www.hkbno.emcouncils.gov.uk

East Midlands Councils is one of 12 Strategic Migration Partnerships who have received a welcome funding package to support those who have entered the UK by this route and will be working with statutory and voluntary partners to improve the integration of this new community.

East Midlands Councils HKBN(O) Visa Programme is funded by DLUHC to provide a welcome hub to HKBN(O)

If you are a Hong Kong BN(O) Visa holder or organisation working with this community and need advice or would like to help develop this support, please contact us at HKBNO@emcouncils.gov.uk

Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



Home Housing Immigration and Visa Education Employment English Language
Events Community Contact Us



EMC Boards Activity

- **Regional Migration Board** - 9 March 2022
- **Regional Employers' Board/Joint Council** - 16 March 2022
- **Transport for the East Midlands** - 21 March 2022
- **EMC Executive Board** - 1 April 2022

EMC Support Activity

EMC Learning and Development Network, 3 March 2022 - EMC will host a Learning and Development Network meeting on 3 March, 9:30. The focus for this session will be on **Leading Hybrid Teams**. For more information on this network meeting contact Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

East Midlands Scrutiny Network, 11 March 2022 - The next East Midlands Scrutiny network meeting will take place on 11 March, 10:00 – 11:30. The theme for this network meeting will be on **public involvement in scrutiny**. For more information on this network meeting contact Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

The East Midlands Councils Scrutiny network is a local authority network for Councillors and Officers involved with Scrutiny. The network provides Councillors and Officers with the opportunity to share knowledge, work programmes and information, as well as providing an opportunity to explore national developments concerning scrutiny.

Infrastructure, Planning and Housing

A46 New Bypass Preferred Route Announcement - Between December 2020 and February 2021, National Highways held a public consultation on two options for improving the A46 between the Farndon and Winthorpe junctions. EMC has, for a significant period of time, identified that improvements to the A46 Newark Bypass is a priority regional infrastructure scheme. In working with National Highways, it is now confirmed that the preferred route for the A46 Newark Bypass scheme consists of:

- Widening the A46 to a dual carriageway to provide two lanes in each direction between the Farndon and Winthorpe junctions
- A new bridge over the A1 to the north of the existing bridge
- A flyover junction at Cattle Market with the A46 elevated to pass over the roundabout
- Adding traffic lights to Farndon junction to improve traffic flows during peak hours

A brochure explaining the reasons for this selection and further details of the preferred route including technical reports relating to the selection process are available here www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a46-newark-bypass

Midlands Connect

Major improvement plan published for A50/500 corridor - This week (23rd February) regional transport body Midlands Connect has released a major report outlining a series of improvements to A50/A500 corridor. The upgrades are targeted at reducing congestion, supporting local businesses and promoting greener transport use – including the take up of electric vehicles [details [here](#)].

The report, called Levelling-up Stoke, Staffordshire, Derby & Derbyshire: The road to success outlines a series of strategic recommendations for long-awaited upgrades, badly needed to alleviate bottlenecks along the 90km long A50/A500 corridor, which links Derby, Nottingham and Leicester to Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire and the North-West.

Migration, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

Government calls on landlords to help national effort to house Afghan families - The government is calling on landlords with suitable properties to submit offers through a relaunched [housing portal](#).

Landlords are being urged to offer homes for families evacuated from Afghanistan to help the national effort to get them settled in the UK. The portal allows private landlords to put forward offers of accommodation so councils can match them to families [details [here](#)].

Housing support and modern slavery, Thursday 3 March 2022, 2.00pm - with huge demand for temporary and permanent accommodation, housing for victims of modern slavery has proved to be a challenging issue for victims, councils and organisations working within the modern slavery sector. This LGA webinar will provide an introduction to modern slavery and the role that housing authorities can play in supporting victims.

Homelessness

Ministers ask businesses to play their part in drive to end rough sleeping - Ministers called on business and charity leaders to be more generous in offering employment opportunities to former homeless people.

At a meeting this week (22 February 2022), ministers called on business and charity leaders to be more generous in offering employment opportunities to former homeless people, challenging the stigma around giving jobs to people who have been living on the streets [details [here](#)].

Levelling-Up White Paper Information

Levelling up: What are the Government's proposals? House of Commons Library Research Briefing - The Government published its Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper on 2nd February 2022. It's an extensive document, providing history and analysis of the causes of economic and social disparities across the UK. Plans to address and narrow these differences are introduced, covering numerous areas of government structures and public policy. Some elements are new, while others are existing policies. The White Paper also sets out areas on which further policies will be announced.

The White Paper argues that a "fundamental rewiring" of the system of decision-making, locally and nationally, is required to address geographical disparities. To do that, the Government is introducing a new approach based on five "pillars". This includes medium-term "missions", reforming central and local government decision making, and improving local data. The research briefing, available [here](#), provides an informative summary of these proposals.

Minister questioned on Government's Levelling-Up White Paper - The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee session is likely to focus questions on the objectives, missions and policies included in the Government's recently published [White Paper](#). The session on Monday 28 February 2022 is likely to cover issues such as devolution and the powers and resources available to local councils, examining questions around the devolution framework, the prospects for fiscal devolution, devolution of health services, and targets and associated metrics for levelling-up across the country [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information

NGDP: building a pipeline of talent - This year, the National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP) has attracted applications from over 4000 graduates keen to embark on a career in local government. The scheme is continually looking for new councils to sign up and take part. As a host authority, organisations are expected to offer a minimum of three placements over the course of a 2 year contract, and in return are able to develop the potential public sector managers of the future and unlock exciting new talent for their organisation and for the sector. Participants on the programme also undertake a full learning and development programme, through which they gain the ILM Level 7. The scheme has been running for over 20 years and has worked with hundreds of councils and graduates and is highly valued by the sector. It is easy and cost effective for councils to sign up, and **councils have until 31st March 2022** to do so for an autumn intake. To find out more visit: www.local.gov.uk/ngdp or email ngdp@local.gov.uk for a 'no strings' chat.

PPMA Excellence in People Management Awards 2022 - the shortlisted entries have been announced for the PPMA Excellence in People Management Awards 2022. The award winners will be announced on 28 April.

Shortlisted entries in the East Midlands include;

- Best Workforce Transformation/ Change Initiative – **Leicestershire County Council**
- Best Partnership / Collaboration – **Northamptonshire Children's Trust** in partnership with Opus People Solutions

For details of all those who have been shortlisted visit [here](#).

Local Government News

Government Cyber Security Strategy: 2022 to 2030 - This strategy sets out the government's approach to building a cyber resilient public sector. The Cyber Security Strategy explains how the government will ensure that all public sector organisations will be resilient to cyber threats. The strategy's vision is to ensure that core government functions are resilient to cyber attack, strengthening the UK as a sovereign nation and cementing its authority as a democratic and responsible cyber power [details [here](#)].

The LGA Cyber 360 – 20 new places available for councils to explore their cyber security culture - from now until March, the LGA is piloting a new four-day fully-funded cyber security programme – [The LGA Cyber 360](#) – to encourage councils to explore their cyber security culture. Councils undertaking this can gain advice, support, and a fresh perspective on cyber security – from experts and fellow council officers – in a safe, friendly and constructive environment. You are invited to get involved in the programme as either a participating council or a volunteer officer: [Apply to take part in an LGA Cyber 360 as a participating council](#) [Apply to take part in an LGA Cyber 360 as a volunteer officer](#).

More support for domestic abuse victims to rebuild their lives - [£125 million will be handed to councils across England](#) to make sure safe accommodation spaces, such as refuges and shelters, can provide victims with vital support services including healthcare, social workers and benefits [details [here](#)].

Interpreters, immigration advice, drug or alcohol support and other specialist services will also be funded and made available so that anyone who flees their home gets the help they need.

The funding will be issued as an un-ringfenced grant to local councils who will then be responsible for making decisions on how the funding is spent to benefit those in need.

- A [consultation launched](#) will consider removing Local Connection Tests for abuse victims, which can stop victims from applying for social housing if they do not have a connection to a local area.
- A [second consultation](#) will consider whether and how to change current rules that make it difficult for victims to remove their perpetrators from joint tenancies, which can mean victims either feel forced to stay in their home or are at risk of being made homeless by their abuser.

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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