

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

Top items this week

12 MARCH 2021



Regional Pay Briefing



Housing and Energy
Efficiency Councillor
Workshop



EMC Leadership Development
Programme



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

Housing and Energy Efficiency - Councillor Development Session on Climate Change

East Midlands Councils, the LGA and Midlands Energy Hub working in partnership are offering a series of virtual interactive workshops for Councillors on Climate Change. The second workshop in the series will explore Housing and Energy Efficiency. The workshop will take place on Thursday 18 March 2021. The programme for the event is available from [here](#).

Programme Information

Chaired by Cllr Richard Wright, Leader of North Kesteven District Council the event will include presentations from;

- **Hilary Tanner**, Senior LGA Policy Adviser on Climate Change to provide an overview of the national policy context around housing and energy efficiency.
- **Cllr Richard Wright, Leader North Kesteven District Council** - North Kesteven DC's approach taken on zero carbon in housing, covering the Council's aspirations, actions to date, and challenges, linked to the Council's wider Climate Emergency strategy and action plan.

Case Study Workshops

The virtual event will include case study workshops, the three workshops will be repeated, enabling delegates to attend two out of the three workshops.

- **Retrofit case study - project involving local authority owned housing stock** - Presentation by **Ian Hutchcroft**, Market Development Team at Energiesprong on their approach to upgrading homes as part of Nottingham City Homes.
- **Community scheme case study - project involving privately owned accommodation** - Presentation from **Helen Chadwick**, Environment Coordinator at Harborough District Council on measures to introduce energy efficiency measures for residents and address fuel poverty.
- **New build case study - project driving sustainability in new homes** - Presentation by **Neil Hodgkin** from Saffron Lane Neighbourhood Council on their passivehaus development.

Event Information - 18 March, 14:00 - 16:00 (this will be a two hour workshop hosted on Zoom, we advise that you sign in a few minutes early). The event is free to attend, there are a small number of places still available, if you would like to book one of these please visit [here](#).

EMC News

Regional Pay Briefing - EMC is hosting a Regional Pay Briefing on 15 March 2021, the meeting is for HR Leads, Leading Members and is not a joint meeting of officers/union representatives.

The meeting will be attended by Members of the National Employers' Side of the NJC, including Cllr Sian Timoney (Luton) Chair of the National Employers' and Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE (Stevenage), Naomi Cooke, Head of Workforce at the LGA and Harry Honnor, Senior Advisor (Workforce & Negotiations). If you wish to attend, please contact mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk



EMC Boards Activity

- **Transport for the East Midlands** - 15 March 2021
- **EMC Executive Board** - 19 March 2021
- **Regional Employers' Board/ Regional Joint Council** - 26 March 2021

EMC Support Activity

EMC Cyber Security Network - Next week EMC colleagues will host the latest meeting of the Cyber Security Network for the East Midlands. The network brings together Cyber Security professionals from across local authorities in the East Midlands and provides an opportunity to share and learn together. For more information on this network visit [here](#) or contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

'Union Connectivity Review' - Sir Peter Hendy published an interim report into the 'Union Connectivity Review' on Wednesday 10th March available [here](#).

The Interim Report recommends the establishment of 'UK Strategic Transport Network' and sets out a number of potential priorities. The Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) Board made a submission to the Review in December 2020 highlighting the strategic importance of the HS2/ECML, the A1 and the A50/500. The Interim Report will be discussed at the TfEM Board chaired by Sir Peter Soulsby on Monday 15 March.

Ban on commercial evictions extended to 30 June and bailiff enforced eviction ban extended to 31 May to protect residential tenants - further information [here](#).

Climate Change & Sustainable Development

Green Recovery Challenge Fund round 2 - The second round of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund supports nature projects across England with funding worth up to £40m. The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is open for applications at two grant levels:

- £50,000 to £250,000. Deadline 12noon 14 April 2021
- £250,000 to £2m. Deadline for Expressions of Interest 12noon 22 March 2021

You must contribute at least 5% of your project costs in cash (partnership funding) for all grants over £250,000.

Projects must deliver against at least one of the fund's three themes:

1. Nature conservation and restoration, including ecosystem restoration and species recovery;
2. Nature-based solutions, particularly for climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
3. Connecting people with nature.

The fund has been developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies, including Natural England, the Forestry Commission, and the Environment Agency. The National Lottery Heritage Fund is distributing and monitoring this government money. Further information is available [here](#).

Webinars - two webinars to answer application questions on; [11 March, 5-6pm](#); [12 March, 11am-12noon](#)

Greener Living: What impact has the pandemic had on local climate action?, 16 March 2021 - Solace and the LGA are pleased to be delivering this exploratory webinar where we will discuss the impact that COVID-19 has had on local climate change reduction action plans. Details [here](#).

Employers' Information

Leadership Development for Senior/Middle Managers in times of Change - EMC has developed a leadership development programme that helps managers lead people through change and uncertainty. The first programme will start on 22 April 2021, details available [here](#).

The overall aim of this unique and focused programme is to provide senior and middle managers with the skills, knowledge, and capability to lead their people through turbulent times. Delivered virtually, this programme provides a flexible approach to learning through short webinars, action learning and a resource library, which address key issues and provide practical tools to support managers.

Developed around four key themes of Self Leadership, Leading the Organisation, Leading People and Leading Teams, this programme will help leaders and managers to:

- Develop self-awareness of their own leadership and resilience during turbulence and change.
- Respond to the challenges a crisis and long-term uncertainty create for organisations, teams, and people.
- Identify ways in which organisations can build their resilience, adapt to change, and engage their people during turbulent times.
- Address key challenges when leading and managing people during change and uncertainty.
- Identify strategies and actions to support performance, engagement, and wellbeing of people during change.

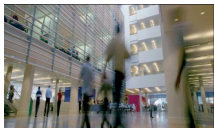
Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2021 Event: 22nd April 2021 - EMC is proud to be supporting a national event to recognise the great apprentices that we have within local government. The event will take place virtually and is being co-ordinated by our counterparts in the East of England on behalf of all regions and we would welcome your engagement and support, to encourage apprentices to sign up for this event.

It will provide apprentices with the opportunity to learn, network and showcase their skills, expertise, and initiative. Working in virtual teams to experience the opportunities, risks, and challenges involved in delivering successful local government services, in a developmental environment, it is set to be a really exciting day. It is open to all level 2 and level 3 apprentices in local government (current apprentices or recently qualified within last 12 months).

Full details and how to book can be found here: [Local Government Apprentice of the Year Awards 2021 - EELGA](#)

COVID-19 Workforce Survey, week ending 5 February 2021 - This report is part of a series of bi-weekly surveys of all councils in England, Wales and Northern Ireland collecting key workforce data on how the sector is responding to COVID-19 [details [here](#)].

Local Government News and wider



Levelling-up Devo: the role of national government in making a success of devolution in England -

The Devolution APPG has this week called on the Government to Level-Up devolution and rethink a culture of centralisation that is leaving local areas behind. The influential All-Party Parliamentary Group for Devolution, chaired by Andrew Lewer MBE MP, has produced a report into English Devolution, having heard evidence from local government leaders, national politicians, academics and businesses. The report found that local government rose to the challenge of Covid-19 and now needs more powers to deliver economic recovery and Level-Up the whole country. It sets out a roadmap for reforming the unequal relationship between national and local government so that as a nation we can come together to strengthen our communities and build back better for the future [details [here](#)].

£130.5 million to tackle serious violence, murder and knife crime - Package includes £30 million for police to surge activity in serious violence hotspots and new money to steer young people away from crime. Including in the East Midlands; Nottinghamshire - £588,000; and Leicestershire - £539,000 [further details [here](#)].

UK Community Renewal Fund: prospectus - The UK government is providing an additional £220 million funding through the UK Community Renewal Fund to help local areas prepare for the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022. This Fund aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK to pilot programmes and new approaches and will invest in skills, community and place, local business, and supporting people into employment. All places across the UK are eligible for pilot funding [details [here](#)].

The governance risk and resilience framework published by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny - The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny have this week published material is designed to support individual council officers and councillors to play their part in understanding, and acting on, risks to good governance [details [here](#)].

Migration, Asylum Support, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

Inspection Report Published: An inspection of the work of Border Force, Immigration Enforcement, and UK Visas and Immigration to identify, investigate, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of modern slavery and human trafficking -

The report makes three recommendations which stress the importance of creating a clearer, more coherent set of roles, responsibilities and objectives for the Home Office Border, Immigration and Citizenship System's response to modern slavery and human trafficking. Full report can be accessed [here](#)

Government launches modern slavery statement registry - Organisations strongly encouraged to share the positive steps taken to tackle and prevent modern slavery.

The Home Office has this week, launched a modern slavery statement registry online, to provide a platform for organisations to share the positive steps they have taken to tackle and prevent modern slavery [details [here](#)].

EMC Events



Solution Focused Brief Coaching, 24 March 2021 - EMC will host a virtual workshop on 24 March exploring Solution Focused Brief Coaching. The session will introduce coaches to solution focused brief coaching and provide an opportunity for coaches to have a go at using the approach in a safe environment.

Coaching is an evidenced-based approach where the coach helps the client to build their own solutions by helping them; Identify clearly what they want; Focus on what is working already; Identify the strengths, qualities and resources they already have; and recognise those small changes that can lead to larger changes at a pace they can handle.

Solution Focused Brief Coaching can often deliver results quicker than conventional approaches because it builds upon what is already working and recognises the limitations of traditional problem solving in resolving complex client issues and avoids it. **Date and time** - 24 March 2021, 9:30 - 12:30. For more information and to book a place please visit

[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 Alan Rhodes
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny
Executive Director: Stuart Young

East Midlands Councils

First Floor Offices, South Annexe
Pera Business Park
Nottingham Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 0PB

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