

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

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27 NOVEMBER 2020



EMC and LGA Workshop Series for Councillors: Climate Change



Spending Review 2020



Modern Slavery & Child Trafficking Summit, 11 and 14 December 2020



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## Spending Review 2020/21

The Chancellor of Exchequer announced a one-year spending review:

- £7.1 billion National Home Building Fund to build more affordable, sustainable and beautiful homes across England
- Funding to level up and strengthen communities, including new £4 billion Levelling Up Fund
- More money for councils, with access to an additional £2.2 billion to deliver services and £3 billion to help tackle the pandemic
- An extra £254 million to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping next year
- More than £70 million to implement our ambitious package of new laws to improve building safety

Information from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government [here](#).

The Chancellor of the Exchequer presented his 'Spending Review 2020' to Parliament on Wednesday 25 November 2020, further details from the Treasury [here](#).

Spending Review 2020: On the Day Briefing from the LGA available from [here](#).

## Infrastructure Funding in the East Midlands

Following this week's CSR2020 the Government has announced that the North Hykeham Relief Road (Lincolnshire) has received 'programme entry' status, which will make available £110m of Government funding to deliver the new road subject to final sign off of the business case. The scheme has been previously prioritised by both Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) and Midlands Connect.

The Department for Transport (DfT) also announced that the Maid Marion Line (Nottinghamshire) will receive feasibility funding from the Restoring Our Railways fund.

Transport for the East Midlands will meet next on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec, it will consider the CSR2020, National Infrastructure Strategy, EMR plans for new rolling stock, and a presentation from the Energy Saving Trust on transport decarbonisation.

## EMC News

**EMC and LGA Workshop Series for Councillors: Climate Change** - East Midlands Councils and the LGA, working in partnership are offering a series of virtual interactive workshops for Councillors on Climate Change.



The interactive virtual workshops will provide Councillors from across the East Midlands with the opportunity to hear from both Councillors and Officers on innovative approaches to climate change reduction plans and initiatives.

The workshops will include both keynote presentations and small group working, providing space for discussion, sharing and exploring 'what does this mean for me and my community?' and 'what role can I play?'

A series of four workshops will be held across the winter and spring 2020/2021, starting with a virtual workshop on Community engagement and behavioural change on 19 January 2021, 10:30-12:00. Series themes are:

- Community engagement and behavioural change: 19 January 2021
- Energy / Housing April 2021
- Transport March 2021
- Green Economic Recovery May 2021

Further information on the first workshop will be available shortly, to pre register to attend please visit [here](#).

**EMC Councillor Events**

**Additional Date for 'Scrutiny Reset and Recovery' workshop** - Following demand in the first date for this workshop which will take place next week, EMC has provided an additional date of 2 December [\[here\]](#).

Local government has changed significantly in order to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Functions, finances and political management arrangements have been re-shaped since March 2020. Scrutiny has also been impacted by COVID. This virtual workshop has been designed to focus on the role of scrutiny in the 'reset and recovery' period.

**EMC Boards Activity**

**Regional Employers' Board (REB) and East Midlands Regional Joint Council (EMRJC)** - The Regional Employers' Board (REB) and East Midlands Regional Joint Council (EMRJC) met on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The Employers' Board meeting focused on latest developments with the exit pay cap, COVID related workforce issues, and local government reform in Northamptonshire. Sickness absence rates across the region and the potential impact of new ways of working were also discussed. An update was provided on EMC's regional Councillor Development offering, shaped by councillors and the regional Councillor Development network. The programme will continue to run virtually, through a mix of skill development sessions, networking opportunities and webinars on topical issues, such as climate change, planning, health inequalities.

EMRJC received a presentation on the latest developments with COVID-19 testing within the workplace and on the regional approach to Kickstart being offered by EMC to enable councils to collaborate and access funding for work placements for unemployed young people. Information was shared on initiatives being taken by councils to support employee wellbeing. EMRJC agreed to issue a joint statement regarding public sector pay in light of the pay freeze announced by the Chancellor.

**EMC Support Activity**

**New Technologies for Testing Webinar – 25 November 2020** - The Department of Health and Social Care and East Midlands Councils held a 'New Technologies for Testing Webinar' yesterday. Over 45 delegates attended from Upper Tier authorities, Public Health England, DHSC and CCGs to hear from a range of excellent speakers on different models of testing for Covid-19. Presentations covered Lateral Flow and the testing of University students, LAMP testing, LamPORE Testing and the blending of new technologies to create a mass testing solution. The webinar was well received and provided a platform for engaging and sharing.

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**Infrastructure, Planning & Housing**

**National Infrastructure Strategy** - The National Infrastructure sets out Government plans to transform UK infrastructure as part of its levelling up agenda and meeting the UK's net zero emissions target by 2050. This will be enabled by support for private investment and through reforms to the way infrastructure is delivered [\[details here\]](#).

**Reconnecting the railways: communities awarded funding to restore Beeching rail links and forgotten stations** - Funding announced for restoring rail links lost under the Beeching cuts [\[details here\]](#).

- 15 rail schemes awarded up to £50,000 to accelerate plans that could restore lines and stations to communities, including those closed during the Beeching cuts
- government investing £32 million to develop and construct new stations in England and Wales
- part of wider £500 million [Restoring Your Railway Fund](#) to develop proposals that level up transport links across the country

**Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution for 250,000 jobs** - Prime Minister Boris Johnson outlines his Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution for 250,000 jobs [\[details here\]](#).

To support this acceleration, the Prime Minister has announced:

- £1.3 billion to accelerate the rollout of chargepoints for electric vehicles in homes, streets and on motorways across England, so people can more easily and conveniently charge their cars.
  - £582 million in grants for those buying zero or ultra-low emission vehicles to make them cheaper to buy and incentivise more people to make the transition.
  - Nearly £500 million to be spent in the next four years for the development and mass-scale production of electric vehicle batteries, as part of our commitment to provide up to £1 billion, boosting international investment into our strong manufacturing bases including in the Midlands and North East.
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## Local Government News

**CLlr Awards 2020** - The Local Government Information Units 2020 Cllr Awards award winners have been announced. The full details are [here](#), East Midlands Councils would like to congratulate both Cllr Salma Mumtaz and Cllr Tom Beattie both from the East Midlands and announced as winners, details of their awards below.

- **Covid-19 Hero** - Cllr Salma Mumtaz – Nottingham City Council – Winner
- **Leader of the Year** - Cllr Tom Beattie – Corby Borough Council – Winner

**Rough Sleeping Peer Support, next steps accommodation programme from the LGA, 1 December 2020, 2.00pm - 3.50pm** - The Next Steps Accommodation Programme is providing additional government funding to support councils and their partners with the next stage of the COVID-19 rough sleeping response. This webinar will provide further information on the Rough Sleeping Peer Support offer which is being designed to provide a safe space, framework and process for council lead officers to come together [details [here](#)].

**Financing Green Ambition LGA webinar, 2 December 2020, 10.30am – 12.00pm** – Delegates will hear from councils and sector experts offering their expertise and learning on financing climate projects. Identifying and securing the right funding source for an array of projects is key to delivering real change, in what is otherwise a difficult economic climate for local authorities [details [here](#)].

**Civility in Public Life workshops** - Improving **Digital citizenship** is a key part of the LGA's civility in public life work; online abuse is a major challenge to local democracy. The LGA is running a webinar and two workshops in December aimed at giving councillors and officers the opportunity to share their experience of online abuse and intimidation and to shape the outputs of the new digital citizenship project. Details of the first session can be found here:

- **Civility in public life: improving digital citizenship - an introduction to the project** Friday 4 December 2020, 10:00

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## EMC Events

**Modern Slavery & Child Trafficking Summit, 11 and 14 December 2020** - To help tackle modern slavery and human trafficking, East Midlands Councils are holding a region-wide virtual summit for Local Authority councillors, senior officers, the voluntary sector and wider private and public sector partners.



Spread across two dates, this virtual summit will give those attending the opportunity to explore the causes and impact of Modern Slavery globally, nationally and within the East Midlands, help identify the impact on victims and communities, as well as show what more can be done in support of partners in the statutory, non-statutory and business sector in making the East Midlands a hostile environment for the perpetrators of this crime whilst supporting potential victims.

Join us at this event on Friday 11th December and Monday 14th December from 10am to discover how we can develop strong partnerships across government, criminal justice agencies, civil society and the third sector sharing knowledge to help eradicate Modern Slavery in the East Midlands. To book a place at this free virtual event visit [here](#).

**Report Writing** - EMC is hosting two 3 hour virtual workshops on report writing. These virtual workshops 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. During the breakout sessions delegates will be grouped to work with people writing similar types of reports.

Dates; Tuesday 19 January 9:30 – 12:3; Thursday 28 January 13:30 – 16:30

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

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