

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

Top items this week

11 DECEMBER 2020



EMCs new Leadership Development Programme



Modern Slavery & Child Trafficking Summit



Transport for the East Midlands, Job Opportunity



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

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

To help tackle modern slavery and human trafficking, East Midlands Councils has today held the first of the two webinars that will make up the Modern Slavery and Child Trafficking Summit, the second webinar will take place on 14 December. Today over 100 delegates joined the virtual event from across the East Midlands [information can be found [here](#)]. Speakers today included;

- **Cllr Alex Dale**, Cabinet Member for Young People, Derbyshire County Council and Chair of the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership
- **Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM**, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
- **Cllr Sarah Russell**, Deputy City Mayor - Social Care and Anti-Poverty, Leicester City Council
- **Jenny Spyridi**, Modern Slavery Unit, Home Office on the National Referral Mechanism and Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship Service
- **Harry Dick**, Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Coordinator, East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU) on Policing Operations and Emerging Strategies
- **Daxa Pancholi**, Head of Community Safety & Protection, Leicester City Council on Leicester's Response to Labour Abuse in the Textile Sector

The second part of the Summit will take place on Monday 14 December, speakers will include;

- **Professor Dave Walsh**, Professor in Criminal Investigation, De Montfort University on Labour exploitation: some current challenges to industry
- **Jenny** from the Survivors Alliance

EMC News

Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM), Job Opportunity - TfEM is working in collaboration with the Department for Transport to provide local input into the management of the East Midlands Railway Franchise which started in August 2019 and will run for eight years with the option of a two-year extension. We are now looking to recruit to the new role 'Monitoring and Performance Officer (Rail)'. For more information about this role visit, [here](#) the deadline for applications is 16 December.



EMC Board Activity

East Midlands Councils Executive Board - Last Friday the East Midlands Councils Executive Board met, chaired by Cllr Martin Hill OBE, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council and Chair of East Midlands Councils. For more information on the Board and to access the papers visit [here](#).

EMC Support Activity

Virtual Information Exchange for HR, 16 December, 14:00 - the next virtual information exchange will focus on the area of wellbeing and will take place on 16 December 2020 via MS Teams. The exchange is an interactive way for HR colleagues to discuss and share information, ideas and practice. To attend email mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

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, starting with a focused working exploring **community engagement and behaviour change on 19 January 2021**.

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.

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

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Newark Northern Bypass Consultation - Highways England have launched an 8 week public consultation on 2 options for the Newark Northern Bypass - TfEMs top strategic road network investment priority. Both options involve the duelling of the route and a flyover the A1, the main differences being at the 'Cattle Market Roundabout' with the A616/617 - where Option 1 proposes a 'hamburger' junction prioritising A46 traffic and Option 2 a flyover. The closing date for comments is the 2 February 2021. Further information [here](#).

New playbook launched to step up construction sector productivity and innovation - New plans on how government will work with the construction sector to make sure public sector works are delivered faster, better and greener have been launched [details [here](#)].

Climate Change & Sustainable Development



Road to Zero in sight as green number plates introduced on UK roads - Green number plates introduced, raising awareness of cleaner vehicles [[details here](#)].

- green number plates get the green light as the UK accelerates towards a zero-emission future
- initiative could unlock cheaper parking and free entry into zero-emission zones, helping pave the way for cleaner air in our towns and cities
- plates will be identifiable by a green flash on the left-hand side, raising awareness of cleaner vehicles on our roads

Asylum Support, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

'Modern slavery in local government supply chains' webinar from the LGA, 16 December 2020, 2.00pm - in response to the Home Office's announcement that changes to the Modern Slavery Act will include local authorities in the supply chain provisions, this LGA webinar is dedicated to helping councils mitigate the risks of modern slavery in local government supply chains. This webinar will provide an update on the latest changes to legislation and how they affect the sector, as well as updates on the key high-risk areas – construction, IT and social care. It will also include practical sessions on due diligence, supplier risk assessment showcasing all the latest mitigation practices and it will direct attendees to the online tools, support and resources that are available [[details here](#)].

Employers' Information



EMC Fortnightly Summary of COVID-19 Guidance & Information for HR Colleagues - EMC continues to provide a weekly summary to HR colleagues in the East Midlands updating developments relating to COVID-19, along with information on the frequently asked questions we have received and responded, this information can be found [here](#).

EMC Event on Salary Sacrifice Shared Cost AVC Schemes, Monday 11 January 2021 - EMC has arranged for AVC Wise to provide a dedicated event for local government colleagues within the region on **11 January 2021 at 10.30am** to outline how the schemes work.

Established by PSTAX, the largest providers of public sector tax advice in the UK, AVC Wise Ltd. facilitate the launch and on-going management of salary sacrifice Shared Cost AVC schemes within Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) organisations. During a one-hour virtual session, the team from AVC Wise will cover:-

- How the scheme can help you generate significant savings for your organisation during these very trying times
- How running the scheme can help your employees with their financial health and wellbeing
- Demonstrate how they can make the scheme easy for you to run and maximise your savings

If you would like to book a place, please email Mila at mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk

LGA Research Report Covid-19 Workforce Survey, 13 November 2020 - This report relates to the survey sent out on 18 November 2020 and covers the week ending 13 November 2020. The overall response rate was 57 per cent and covered around a third of the total workforce [[details here](#)]. The summary includes;

- Some 34 per cent of councils reported recruiting additional staff (of any type including casual, agency, contingent, etc) in the week ending 13 November 2020. In total 1,337 additional staff had been recruited in responding authorities: the median number of staff per authority was five and the mean was 18.
- More than half of respondent councils (124) have recorded deaths in service since lockdown. A total of 383 deaths in service were reported by respondents since the start of lockdown (cause not specified).
- Twenty-five per cent of councils reported that they had furloughed at least one member of staff. In total, responding authorities reported there were 4,907 staff furloughed in the week ending 13 November 2020, which was 0.9 per cent of the current workforce.

CEEP News - CEEP UK's newsletters provide an update on recent developments at European level on workforce matters and the most recent newsletter is available from [here](#).

Local Government News



New surrender scheme starts to keep dangerous weapons off the streets - Measures to keep dangerous weapons off the streets are a step closer today with the opening of a surrender scheme, under prohibitions introduced in the Offensive Weapons Act [details [here](#)].

A scrutiny team's perspective on the impact of lockdown and experiences of restarting - In the latest from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, their series of articles from scrutiny practitioners reflecting on their experiences during the pandemic [details [here](#)].

Preparing local government for 1 January 2021- Guidance to help local councils get ready for 1 January 2021 [details [here](#)].

Business evictions ban extended until March - Business owners affected by the pandemic will be protected from eviction until the end of March 2021 [details [here](#)].

'Communicating with diverse communities' a LGA event, 18 December, 2.30– LGA will be hosting a webinar with The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and LGComms, looking at lessons learned and practical guidance for communicating with, and engaging, our diverse communities. The event is free to all member councils and government departments [details [here](#)].

'Tackling Diversity and Sharing Good Practice' webinar from the LGA, 16 December 2020, 10.00am - this is part of a series of LGA webinars to help councils tackle equality, diversity and inclusion issues in the wake of the pandemic and heightened interest in the Black Lives Matter movement [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care

Information from the Department of Health and Social Care on Covid-19 vaccines - information and Questions and answers for stakeholders on Covid-19 vaccines, the information document is available from [here](#).

A glass half-full: 10 years on review by the LGA - The asset-based approach sees citizens and communities as co-producers of health and wellbeing; promotes community networks, relationships and friendships as a way of providing mutual help and support; and, most importantly, empowers communities to control their futures and create tangible resources for themselves. To access the report visit [here](#).

£600 million to upgrade and refurbish NHS hospitals - NHS trusts to receive share of £600 million to help eradicate the maintenance backlog in NHS hospitals [details [here](#)].

The projects include: £15.9 million for a new critical care centre at Northampton General Hospital

Launch of £46 million 'Changing Futures' scheme to support vulnerable people - New scheme to help adults across England facing multiple disadvantages like homelessness and mental health issues [details [here](#)].

COVID-19 wellbeing and resilience: supporting childcare providers, practitioners and families ,14 December 2020, 2.00pm - this LGA webinar will consider the resilience and wellbeing of children and families in COVID-19 – what is happening now and how can we help. It will support recognition of the signs of pressure and stress in ourselves and others (including colleagues and the early years and childcare workforce) and identify pressure points, risk assessment and interventions [details [here](#)].

EMC Events



Leadership Development Programme - EMC has launched its new Leadership Development programme for Senior and Middle Managers. The programme 'Leading in turbulent times' is set in the context of the unique challenges posed by Covid-19 including change, complexity, ambiguity and uncertainty.

The aim of this 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 which address key issues and provide practical tools to support managers. For more information please contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk or 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

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