



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

Top items this week

10 NOVEMBER 2023



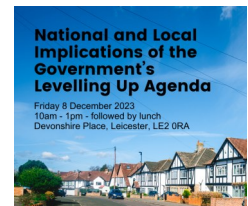
The King's Speech : What  
to look out for in  
2023/24



Homes for Ukraine: Public  
Accounts Committee  
Inquiry



Equality Diversity &  
Inclusion (EDI) Network  
Event



National and Local  
implications of the  
Government's Levelling  
Up Agenda

## THE KING'S SPEECH

This week, in his first King's Speech as monarch, and likely the last before the next UK general election, King Charles outlined the 21 laws that ministers intend to pass in the next year-long session of Parliament. These included:

- A Leasehold and Freehold Bill will ban leaseholds for new houses, but not new flats, and increase the standard lease extension period to 990 years
- The existing Renters (Reform) Bill will deliver a long-promised ban on "no-fault" evictions in England but this will only come into force after reforms to the court system
- An Automated Vehicles Bill will set a legal framework in Great Britain for self-driving cars
- A Tobacco and Vapes Bill will deliver plans for a phased ban on smoking, and introduce restrictions on the packaging and marketing of vapes
- A Rail Reform Bill creating a new body to oversee the railway in Great Britain is included, but only in draft form

## HOMES FOR UKRAINE: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE INQUIRY

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme was set up in March 2022, seeing 131,000 Ukrainians successfully supported to arrive in the UK with £2.1bn in funding.

A National Audit Office (NAO) report on the scheme found that, while Government gave early consideration to the risks of the scheme and put in place structures to manage them, there are still challenges to overcome, including the risk of homelessness. The report further found that the visas for the first Ukrainians to arrive under the scheme will expire in Spring 2025, and that it is unclear whether Government intends to extend existing three-year visas.

Based on the NAO report, the Public Accounts Committee is taking evidence on the number of applicants and sponsors, the funding provided and the challenges until Sunday 12 November 2023.

The Oral evidence session will take place on 23 November.

[READ MORE >](#)

## EQUALITY DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (EDI) NETWORK EVENT

TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2023, 10AM—3PM

DEVONSHIRE PLACE, 78 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0RA

We are holding an in-person EDI Network Event on Tuesday 28 November, 10.00am-3.00pm. The event will be opportunity to hear from guest speakers on topical issues, influence the network going forward and network informally with colleagues from across the region.

The event is being held at Devonshire Place, which is only a few minutes' walk from Leicester train station but also has parking facilities on site.

One free place per authority is provided for EDI network members and additional places are available at £45.00 each.

To book a place at the event, please contact Suzanne at [suzanne.boulty@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.boulty@emcouncils.gov.uk)

**BOOK NOW** >

## NATIONAL AND LOCAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S LEVELLING UP AGENDA

FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2023, 10AM—1PM

DEVONSHIRE PLACE, 78 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 0RA

In line with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) receiving Royal Assent, East Midlands Councils will be hosting a free event in December which will cover the political and legal aspects of the LURB, as well as an opportunity to hear directly about the emerging proposals for the new Mayoral County Combined Authorities in the East Midlands. This event is primarily aimed at councillors and senior officers, and it forms part of EMCs broader Member Development offer.

Hear from:

- Andrew Pritchard, Director of Policy & Infrastructure, East Midlands Councils on the 12 Levelling Up Missions and the current position in the East Midlands.
- Howard Leithead and Odette Chalaby - No5 Chambers on the legislative landscape of the Levelling Up and Reform Bill
- Mark Rogers, Interim Chief Officer – East Midlands Devolution Programme
- Justin Brown, Assistant Director, Growth, Lincolnshire County Council on emerging proposals for Mayoral County Combined Authorities in the East Midlands

For more information or to book your place at this session:

**BOOK NOW** >

### EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE  
Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell  
Vice Chair: Cllr Tricia Gilby  
Conservative Group: Cllr Phil King  
Labour Group: Cllr Jewel Miah  
Liberal Democrat Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Cllr Matthew Relf  
Executive Director: Stuart Young



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