

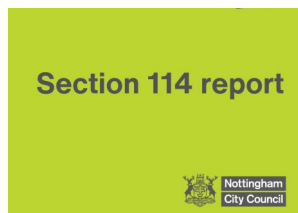
A weekly round up of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by
East Midlands Councils

Top items this week

1 DECEMBER 2023



East Midlands Freeport to
fund zero carbon
innovation centre



Section 114 Report issued
for Nottingham City
Council



The East Midlands
Challenge is back in 2024!

MEDIATION AND CONFLICT
RESOLUTION TRAINING



Regional Mediation and
Conflict Resolution
Training

EAST MIDLANDS FREEPORT TO FUND ZERO CARBON INNOVATION CENTRE

Plans for a multi-million pound East Midlands zero carbon innovation centre - aiming to transform green research into commercial products - have been unveiled by East Midlands Freeport.

The innovation centre will be delivered by the University of Nottingham and Loughborough University, who will be matching the East Midlands Freeport's investment. As part of the University of Nottingham's carbon reduction target to reach net zero by 2040, the innovation centre will provide the necessary technology and laboratories to progress research in electrification, hydrogen propulsion systems, and advanced manufacturing – for industry use.

The Freeport has also given the green light to undertake a strategic transport assessment to increase investment and make improvements in and around junction 24 of the M1 in partnership with Midlands Connect.

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SECTION 114 REPORT ISSUED FOR NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Nottingham City Council has issued a section 114 notice after failing to deliver a balanced budget for the current financial year.

The council is forecasting an overspend of £23m for 2023-24, resulting from an increased demand for social care services, rising levels of homelessness and inflation.

Measures such as the use of reserves and spending controls have only partially been able to offset its financial pressures.

A statement released by Nottingham said 'past issues relating to financial governance' and an overspend on last year's budget had 'impacted on the council's financial resilience and ability to draw on reserves'.

Nottingham must meet within 21 days to consider and respond to the s114 report, issued by Ross Brown, Nottingham's corporate director of finance and section 151 officer.

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EMC FUNDED ESOL PROVISION: A CELEBRATION FOR GRADUATES

On Monday, East Midlands Councils held an event in Nottingham to celebrate the achievements of those who have completed qualifications in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

Funded by East Midlands Councils via national Government funding, the programme support access to training and certification in TESOL for beneficiaries of managed migration and visa programmes in the region.



Find out more about the programme, and read about some of our graduates here:

[READ MORE >](#)

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP FUND UPDATE

This week, DLUHC confirmed that the next application window for the Community Ownership Fund (Round 3) will open on 6 December and will close on 31 January 2024. The government is providing funding over four years to support community groups in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to take ownership of assets and amenities at risk of being lost, such as community centres, parks, pubs and post office buildings. Applicants can register for support webinars via the My Community website.

[READ MORE >](#)

LEASEHOLD AND FREEHOLD REFORM BILL INTRODUCED TO PARLIAMENT

On Monday, DLUHC announced that homeowners in England and Wales will be given greater rights and protections over their homes.

- Make it easier and cheaper for leaseholders to buy their freehold
- Increase standard lease extension terms to 990 years for houses and flats
- Provide greater transparency over service charges
- Rebalance the legal costs regime and remove barriers for leaseholders to challenge their landlords' unreasonable charges at Tribunal
- Help more leaseholders take over the management of their property if they wish to and make this process cheaper for leaseholders

The government will also bring forward further reforms which will extend access to redress schemes and make it easier and cheaper to get the information needed to sell a leasehold home.

[READ MORE >](#)

EM HR BULLETIN—NOVEMBER EDITION

EMC has published the November edition of the HR Bulletin. This month's bulletin covers:

- 2024-2025 Xperthr Regional Deal
- Mediation and Conflict Resolution Training
- Feedback from the Equality Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Network Event
- An article from our Employment Law expert looks at a new right to request predictable working hours.

READ MORE >

THE EAST MIDLANDS CHALLENGE IS BACK IN 2024!

The East Midlands Challenge is returning in April 2024!

Teams of six aspiring leaders from councils across the region will get the opportunity to gain exposure to issues outside of their normal work, balancing priorities and politically sensitive issues while maintaining a customer focus and determining how to provide the public with the best service possible—despite limited resource!

READ MORE >

UPCOMING REGIONAL MEDIATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TRAINING

EMC has developed a range of courses to help councils become more self-sufficient in the provision of Mediation and Conflict Resolution.

1. Workplace Mediation Skills – 9 & 10 January 2024
2. The Interpersonal Mediation Practitioner's Certificate (IMPC) – 15 – 19 January 2024
3. Mediation Development Day (Refresher) – 30 January 2024
4. Conflict Resolution Skills for Managers – 19 March 2024

READ MORE >

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

10AM—1PM, FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2023, 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 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. To book a place please email lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk

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Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell
Vice Chair: Cllr Tricia Gilby
Conservative Group: Cllr Phil King
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East Midlands Councils

Pera Business Park
Nottingham Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 0PB

