



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

## Top items this week

1 SEPTEMBER 2023

### Mediation and Conflict Resolution Training



Regional Mediation  
and Conflict  
Resolution Training



Language and  
employment courses  
for Ukrainians



Government  
announces plan to  
deliver more homes



Upcoming EMC  
Migration Training

## EMC HR BULLETIN

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available. This month the bulletin covers:

- Employment Law Update – 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023
- **Free Event:** Managing Complex Absence Cases and Getting the Best out of Occupational Health
- EMC Mediation and Conflict Resolution Training Offer
- Learning and development update, covering councillor workshop on equality, diversity and inclusion and the launch of our blended ILM 5 Leadership Programme
- An article from Darren Newman, Employment Law expert provides a reminder of the importance of being clear on the true reason for dismissal to defend a Tribunal claim
- An update on national developments

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## REGIONAL MEDIATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TRAINING

Conflict at work has been on the increase, and East Midlands Councils has been supporting councils in managing grievances and harassment/bullying complaints and our mediation service is particularly popular.

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

1. Conflict Resolution Skills for Managers – 1 day on 30 November 2023.
2. Workplace Mediation Skills – 2 days on 9 & 10 January 2024.
3. The Interpersonal Mediation Practitioner's Certificate (IMPC) – 5 days on 15 – 19 January 2024
4. Mediation Development Day (Refresher) – 1 day on 30 January 2024.

To explain about the courses, we have arranged a Webinar on Thursday 21 September 2023 at 11.00am. This is to assist interested people in deciding which course would best meet their individual and /or organisational needs. This will be an informal session, providing the opportunity to hear about what is being offered and to ask questions. To attend the Webinar, please email Mark Pinchen – [mark.pinchen@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:mark.pinchen@emcouncils.gov.uk).

For further detailed information on the courses and to book, please click on the following link:

[READ MORE >](#)

## ANALYSIS OF UKRAINIAN NATIONALS ENTERING EMPLOYMENT IN THE UK

Last week, the government published data about Ukrainian nationals in employment by age, gender and region in UK.

Tables include data relating to Ukrainian nationals who had registered for a National Insurance number on or after 4 March 2022 and were subsequently paid through PAYE. This predominantly captures those entering the UK through humanitarian visa schemes: Homes for Ukraine, Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Extension Scheme.

In the **East Midlands**, as of June 2023 the number of Ukrainian nationals in employment is 2,950.

In the UK as a whole there are 48,000 Ukrainians in employment.

This is an ad-hoc release of management information and does not constitute an Official Statistics or National Statistics release.

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## LANGUAGE AND EMPLOYMENT COURSES FOR UKRAINIANS

Last week, DLUHC announced an £11.5 million support package to provide free English lessons and help to improve up to 10,000 Ukrainians' job prospects.

The intensive language programme will include nearly 20 hours of online English learning a week over a period of 10 weeks.

Additional employment support over 12 weeks will include advice on how to find jobs, CV writing and application support, as well as one-to-one interview practice.

Following feedback from Ukrainian guests, the courses are online so that people with young children, caring responsibilities, or shift workers, can take part from anywhere in the UK.

Charity World Jewish Relief in partnership with the British Council, has been chosen to run the 'STEP Ukraine' courses and tailored employment support sessions. They are aiming to train up to 10,000 Ukrainians within a year – making it easier for them to live independent lives in the UK.

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## FUNDING FOR COUNCILS TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Earlier last month (4 August), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that councils across England can now apply for a share of £6 million of government funding to deliver projects to improve air quality.

The annual Air Quality Grant helps councils develop and implement measures to benefit schools, businesses and communities and reduce the impact of air pollution on people's health.

Since 2010, more than £53 million has been awarded across more than 500 projects through the scheme.

Funding will be prioritised towards projects which

- tackle particulate matter
- improve public awareness of the impacts of air pollution
- and help councils to bring down levels of nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and other pollutants to below legal limits.

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The application window is now open and closes on 29 September at 12pm. Councils can apply for funding [here](#).

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## GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PLAN TO DELIVER MORE HOMES

This week, DLUHC announced an amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill to facilitate the delivery of new homes.

The current regulations have required Natural England to issue guidance to 62 council areas that new development must be 'nutrient neutral' in their area which is stated to have caused delays.

The amendment will remove this requirement, with the aim of allowing Natural England more freedom to develop specific solutions to the causes of nutrient pollution.

Alongside this, the government has announced new environmental measures, including increasing funding for the Nutrient Mitigation Scheme run by Natural England.

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## LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUM INNOVATION FUND 2023 TO 2024: PROSPECTUS

Last week, DLUHC published a prospectus that sets out how Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) can bid for a portion of the 2023 to 2024 Innovation Fund.

The LRF Innovation Fund is a £1.35 million fund (£450,000 per annum over the period 2022-23 to 2024-25) designed to allow LRFs in England to develop and test new and innovative ways of working which partners would not have been able to progress otherwise.

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## UPCOMING ASYLUM AND RESETTLEMENT TRAINING

### IOM UK Afghanistan: Geography, History, Experiences in Conflict (and Displacement) and Services

*Tuesday 5 September 2023—10am to 12pm (Online)*

[BOOK NOW >](#)

### IOM UK Afghanistan: Cultural Norms, Family and Social Life

*Wednesday 6 September 2023—10am to 12pm (Online)*

[BOOK NOW >](#)

### IOM UK Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Information Session

*Wednesday 13 September 2023—10am to 12:30pm (Online)*

[BOOK NOW >](#)

### Preventing Vicarious Trauma

*Wednesday 27 September 2023—9am to 12pm (Online)*

[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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