

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

Top items this week

9 DECEMBER 2022



**Levelling Up and  
Regeneration Bill**



**Hong Kong BNO  
Visa expanded**



**Census 2021—How has  
the East Midlands**



**UK Shared Prosperity  
Fund Update**

## TRANSPORT & GROWTH

### Midlands Rail Hub—Outline Business Case Submitted

Midlands Connect has announced plans for £1.5bn worth of new and improved infrastructure with the Midlands Rail Hub.

Proposals would reduce journey times, increase rail journeys and boost the economy by bringing the East and West Midlands closer together.

Part of the Midlands Rail Hub proposals aims to address poor rail connectivity between Leicester and Birmingham, which currently suffers from slow and infrequent services. It will also provide improved connectivity, frequency and journey opportunity to Leicester via additional capacity at Moor Street, in addition to the services currently running to New Street.

Sir Peter Soulsby, Chair of Transport for the East Midlands & City Mayor of Leicester, said: “The Midlands Rail Hub will double the rail service between Leicester and Birmingham and ensure the city is connected to both New Street and Moor Street stations. This will provide onward connectivity to Wales and the South West, as well as easy access to HS2 Services at Curzon Street.

“We expect that that HS2 East will transform connectivity between Birmingham, Derby and Nottingham by the 2040s. In the meantime, the Midlands Rail Hub will preserve onward connectivity for existing services from Birmingham New Street to the West Midlands, Wales and the West Country.

[Read ‘Going for Growth’.](#)



## EMC Training and events

More than 160 officers attended this week’s Housing Webinar as part of our development programme for Environmental Health.

This week’s guest speakers included University of the West of England, Bristol, RHE Global, Leicester City Council and Blaby District Council.

[View our training and development opportunities.](#)

## DLUHC UPDATES

### Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill update

This week, DLUHC announced new measures as part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which are said to hand new planning powers to councils and could see the introduction of penalties for developers who are failing to deliver housing despite having planning approval.

In the announcement, DLUHC stated that the new measures would 'strengthen the government's commitment to building enough of the right homes in the right places with the right infrastructure, ensuring the environment is protected and giving local people a greater say on where and where not to place new development.'

[Read the full update.](#)

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The Government has approved plans to invest in a new £2.6 billion local development fund. People across the country will benefit from investment in skills, improved high streets, support for local business and more green spaces.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which succeeds EU structural funding, will be used by councils for initiatives to boost business and skills, regenerate high streets and improve local pride.

[Find out more](#)

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## MIGRATION NEWS

### HKBNO Visa expanded

The Home Office has announced that eligible Hongkongers who were born on or after 1 July 1997 can now apply for the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa independently of their BN(O) parents.

[Find out more.](#)

East Midlands Councils hosts the regional welcome hub for HKBNOs in the region.

[Visit our welcome hub.](#)



### Guidance on celebrating Christmas for Ukrainian hosts

The Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain has released guidance for hosts on celebrating Christmas. This is the first Christmas that displaced Ukrainians will be experiencing in the UK, many separated from their families and friends.

While some Ukrainians observe Christmas day on 25th December, in many regions of Ukraine, the tradition is to celebrate Christmas according to the Julian calendar, which means that many Ukrainians will be celebrating Christmas Day on 7 January.

[Find out more about Ukrainian Christmas traditions.](#)

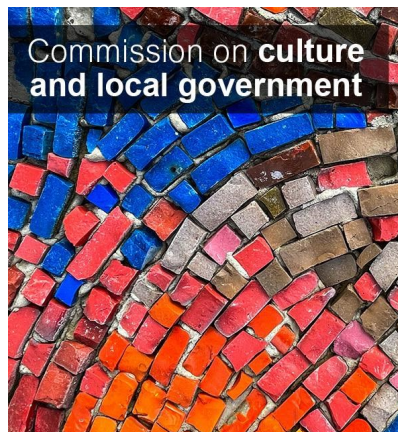
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## Upcoming EMC Board meeting dates

- EMC Executive Board - 16 December 2022
- Transport for the East Midlands – 19 December 2022
- HS2 Executive Board - 21 December 2022

## LGA NEWS

### Cornerstones of Culture: The Commission on Culture and Local Government final report



Yesterday, Thursday 8 December 2022, the LGA released the final report on its Commission on Culture and Local Government—Cornerstones of Culture.

The report draws together evidence of the ways in which local culture contributes to:

- resilient places
- inclusive economic recovery
- social mobility
- addressing health inequalities.

[Read the full report.](#)

## REGIONAL NEWS

### Census 2021—How has the East Midlands changed

Over the last 10 years:

- The population of the East Midlands has increased by 7.7%
- The Median age has remained around 41 years
- Across the East Midlands, the percentage of residents who described themselves as having "No religion" increased from 27.5% to 40.0%.



[Read about changes in median age, working hours, ethnic group, religion and more in your local authority.](#)

### Regional success at APSE Performance Networks Awards 2022

APSE Performance Networks held its annual Performance Networks Awards last weekend, where many councils in the region were rewarded for their effective performance management over the past year:

- Best Catering service—Derbyshire County Council
- Best refuse collection—West Lindsey District Council
- Best Sports and Leisure Facility Management—North Lincolnshire Council - Riddings Pool
- Most improved Sports and Leisure Facility Management- North Lincolnshire Council - Ancholme Leisure Centre
- Most Improved Street Cleansing—West Lindsey District Council

Congratulations to all of the nominees and winners!

[View all of the 2022 nominees and winners](#)

## EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell

Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan

Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney

Labour Group: Cllr Rob Parker

Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE

Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny

Executive Director: Stuart Young



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