

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

Top items this week

11 MARCH 2022



Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2022



UK Support for Ukrainian Refugees



The Role of the Civic Head, 31 May 2022



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

UK Support for Ukrainian Refugees

You will all have seen the rapidly unfolding crisis of refugees from the war in Ukraine. Councils in this region have already come forward wishing to assist.

EMC held a meeting earlier this week with CXs and senior officers from across the region to discuss the unfolding refugee crisis.

The UK support programme for Ukrainian refugees, in effect, comprises 2 elements:

- Under the Ukrainian Family Scheme (UFS), British nationals and people of any nationality settled in the UK will now be supported to bring parents, grandparents, adult children, siblings, and wider family members, to the UK ([Guidance](#) and [application information](#)).
- A new sponsored humanitarian visa route will also be established to allow communities, private sponsors or local authorities to bring people to the UK from Ukraine (for those that have no existing family ties).

We are continuing to work with Home Office and DLUHC colleagues to inform the development of the sponsorship scheme, and we anticipate the formal announcement of the scheme early next week.

In the meantime, we are now exploring options to put in place arrangements for the roll-out of these support schemes. We will provide regular updates to councils and ask that any local information is shared with our migration support team at EMC via the following email address Ukraine-Programme@emcouncils.gov.uk

In addition in preparing to support arrivals from Ukraine, we continue to work with councils on matters relating to asylum dispersal and Afghan resettlement.

EMC News

Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2022 - This is a national event with participants across the country competing to become the Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2022. All Councils in England are encouraged to send one apprentice or more, to take part in the event, to make this a truly National celebration of our apprenticeship talent. The event will take place on 25 May (08:30 – 16:30), with colleagues returning on the morning on 26 May (10:00 – 11:00) to celebrate the successes of the day and crown our Local Government Apprentice of the Year.

EMC colleagues will be supporting the delivery of the event and hope to see many apprentices from across the East Midlands take part. This national event is open to all level 2 and level 3 apprentices in local government across England (current apprentices or recently qualified within last 12 months). Further information and to book a place [here](#).

EMC Boards Activity

- **Regional Employers' Board/Joint Council** - 16 March 2022
- **Transport for the East Midlands** - 21 March 2022
- **EMC Executive Board** - 1 April 2022

EMC Councillor Events

The Role of the Civic Head, 31 May 2022 - EMC is hosting a one day workshop for incoming Civic Heads. The intended audience for this event will be this coming into civic office at their Annual Meetings at the end of May, their deputies and their support staff. **How to book** – visit [here](#). This interactive workshop will explore;

- Expectations from a range of perspectives, including; yours as incoming Mayor/Chair, the public's and the council's
- Measures of success for your terms of office
- Skills and Qualities of a great civic head
- Short introductory sessions touching upon; Chairing Full Council, Public Speaking and Social Media

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Nottingham to Lincoln rail route: Businesses show overwhelming support for improvements - A survey of firms employing nearly 8,000 people has delivered an 'overwhelming' message that rail improvements are needed on the Nottingham, Newark to Lincoln line.

- Business that employ nearly 8,000 people believe rail improvements could help their firms
- 97% of companies stated that investment in train routes between Nottingham and Lincoln should form part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda

The survey organised by transport body Midlands Connect showed that over half of businesses (51%) thought if the rail route was improved it would be used more by their employees [details [here](#)].

Social housing conditions, Levelling Up Committee hears from tenants and Daniel Hewitt, ITV News - On Monday 14 March, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee will hold the latest oral evidence session for its inquiry into the regulation of social housing in England.

The LUHC's inquiry is examining concerns about the quality of social housing, with a focus on the ability of the Regulator of Social Housing and the Housing Ombudsman to identify and address problems. The inquiry is also focussing on the proposals in the Government's social housing White Paper aimed at improving the regulatory regime [details [here](#)].

New inquiry: National bus strategy: one year on - One year after the publication of the Government's national bus strategy, Bus Back Better, the Transport Select Committee is launching an inquiry to investigate the progress of delivery and implementation of the policy [details [here](#)].

The Transport Select Committee is calling for written evidence that addresses:

- The challenges facing the sector as it recovers from the pandemic and the effectiveness of steps taken by both Government and stakeholders in response
- Progress against the ambitions and targets set out in the national bus strategy including the effectiveness, pace and priority of the strategy's implementation
- Innovation in the sector, including examples of new methods that have been trialled successfully
- Bus funding over the short and long term
- Decarbonisation of the sector and modal shift from other forms of transport.

The closing date for written evidence is Friday 1 April 2022.

Bikeability receives record £20 million government investment to improve access to cycle training - Funding aims to promote active travel and provide cycle training to half a million children and their families [details [here](#)].

- record £20 million Department for Transport funding commitment ensures more children and families can cycle confidently and safely
- government continues to support vital cycling skills through Bikeability and encourage instructors to join the sector
- funding builds on commitment to decarbonise our transport network and build back greener from COVID-19

First Toyota cars arrive and depart by rail at Toton - DB Cargo UK and Groupe CAT have officially launched a new international car-carrying service for Toyota between the UK and France. Following a series of trials, fully loaded trains are now operating twice a week between Toton, in Nottinghamshire, and Valenciennes, near Lens in northern France. From an article by Rail Magazine available [here](#).

Health & Social Care

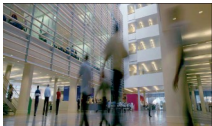
Ombudsman's COVID report highlights how councils and care providers coped - The COVID-19 pandemic placed unprecedented pressure on councils and care providers, and a new report from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman analyses just how those organisations coped.

The Ombudsman investigates complaints about local councils and care providers in England, getting involved when things have gone badly wrong. The report, which analyses its cases over the first 18 months of the pandemic, shows that, by and large, councils and care providers weathered the unprecedented pressures they were under. But, when things did go wrong it had a serious impact on people's lives [details [here](#)].

Health inequalities: the impact of the pandemic on areas of deprivation Tuesday 15 March 2022, 2.00pm - This LGA webinar, the fifth in a series focusing on health inequalities following the publication of the LGA's A Perfect Storm report, will explore the impact of COVID-19 on areas of deprivation [details [here](#)].

COVID-19 Vaccine Equalities: Frontline practice Thursday 17 March 2022, 1.30pm – this COVID-19 Vaccine Equalities Connect and Exchange Hub webinar explores the work of frontline teams to increase COVID-19 vaccination confidence and uptake in equalities groups. Open to NHS, Social Care, Local Authority, public health and voluntary teams involved in the championing and delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations [details [here](#)].

Local Government News



The LGA Cyber 360 - From January to March 2022 the LGA will be piloting this new programme to encourage councils to explore their cyber security culture – sharing fresh perspectives in a safe, friendly and constructive environment. They are seeking expressions of interest from councils and council officers to take part in the programme as participating councils or as members of the Cyber 360 team [details [here](#)].

The LGA is building on their support offer to local authorities by piloting a new programme on cyber security – **the LGA Cyber 360** – which will provide six participating councils with a funded opportunity to gain advice, support, and a fresh perspective, from experts and peers.

The programme will:

- build capabilities within councils by coaching and signposting to advice and guidance
- help councils to better understand what 'good' looks like without dictating specific outcomes or actions to be taken
- improve the cultural elements of cyber security throughout the host council, for example, leadership, governance, and awareness.

Young Midlanders Champion our Region's Green Future - The Midlands Engine Young People's Green Growth Assembly will be taking place on 11 March in Nottingham – unleashing the ambition, innovation and passion of the younger generation in the Midlands to create a greener society where our future generations can prosper.

Find out more about the Assembly and register [here](#). For more information visit [here](#).

COVID-19 Inquiry Terms of Reference -The government has published draft terms of reference for the forthcoming public inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic. This week government has published draft terms of reference for the forthcoming public inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic. This follows consultation with the Inquiry Chair, Baroness Hallett, and close work with ministers in the devolved administrations [details [here](#)].

The terms of reference intend to cover: preparedness, the public health response, the response in the health and care sector and our economic response.

There will now be a period of public engagement and consultation. This process is expected to last for four weeks and will be led by Baroness Hallett to inform further changes to the terms of reference before they are finalised.

Towns and cities: local power is the path to recovery, government response to the House of Lords COVID-19 Committee's report - A response by the government to the House of Lords COVID-19 Committee's report "Towns and Cities: Local Power is the Path to Recovery"

This is the government's response to the House of Lords COVID-19 Committee's report "Towns and Cities: Local Power is the Path to Recovery" on the long-term impact of the pandemic on towns and cities, published 7 December 2021 [details [here](#)].

Data from the Office for National Standards - Data contained in the table are counts of census 2021 responses. They are not final census estimates and have not been adjusted for under coverage in the census.

This table provides counts of Census 2021 responses that classify all usual residents responding to the 2021 Census (threshold 20 and over usual residents) by selected countries of birth based on Census 2021 responses at Local Authority level in England and Wales on census day (21 March 2021). This dataset contains preliminary counts of country of birth by local authority for Ukraine and neighbouring or relevant countries to help local and national emergency response planning [details [here](#)].

Migration, Asylum Support, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

Supporting modern slavery victims: guidance and good practice for council homelessness services - This new Local Government Association (LGA) guidance on modern slavery has been developed specifically for council officers leading and working in homelessness and housing services [details [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 Rob Parker

Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE

Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny

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