

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

## Top items this week

Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Civic Welcome Event

Regional Asylum and Refugee Summit Meeting

EMC Boards 2022-23

12 AUGUST 2022

EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Civic Welcome event

Hongkongers from across the East Midlands have been welcomed to the region at an event held by East Midlands Councils.

The event, which was held at Nottingham Council House, was attended by members of the Hong Kong community from across the East Midlands as well as local MPs and councillors.

Guest speakers included Cllr Tracey Taylor, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services at Nottinghamshire County Council, The Sheriff of Nottingham, Cllr Nicola Heaton, and Cllr David Mellen, The Leader of Nottingham City Council.

The event was attended by 150 guests overall with music provided by Teddy and Toby from Hong Kong Notts Community Interest Company.

For more information about the Hong Kong BNO Welcome Hub, please contact Maria Brambles — [maria.brambles@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:maria.brambles@emcouncils.gov.uk)

**Regional Asylum & Refugee Summit Meeting - 14 September 2022 (10:00-15:00)** - EMC is hosting a free one day summit on migration at Leicester City Council, chaired by Cllr Sarah Russell, Deputy Mayor, Leicester City Council. You will have the opportunity to hear about key work areas such as Refugee Resettlement, Homes for Ukraine, Hong Kong B(NO), Asylum Dispersal and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. The event is aimed at Chief Officers, Leaders and Councillors. To book a place please visit our website [here](#).

**Homes for Ukraine, latest regional data** - The latest regional data on Homes for Ukraine. This data shows that over **4,600** people have arrived in the East Midlands. Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority - available from [here](#).

**Regional position as at 02/08/22 (increase over previous week/fortnight position reflected in parentheses)**

- Visa applications: **6,654** (+110/+180)
- Visas issued: **6,011** (+103/+217)
- Arrivals: **4,605** (+188/+327)

National position can be viewed [here](#).

## EMC News

### EMC Board 2022-23

Confirmation of EMC Board Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2022-23.

### Regional Migration Board

Chair: Cllr Alex Dale, Derbyshire County Council

Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell, Leicester City Council

### Regional Employers' Board

Chair: Cllr Kate Foale, Nottinghamshire County Council

Vice Chairs: Cllr Gale Waller, Rutland County Council and Cllr Mick Barker, Derby City Council



## Housing

**Supply of accessible homes to receive vital boost** - New homes will be more accessible for older and disabled people as the government confirms plans to raise the accessibility standard following full consultation of proposals. The raising accessibility standards for new homes [consultation](#) proposed staying with the existing framework for accessible housing, reconsidering the way existing standards are used or raising the minimum standard [details [here](#)].

**New expert panel launched to help social housing landlords tackle anti-social behaviour** - Social housing landlords will be given support to tackle anti-social behaviour through a new advisory group launching today, as the government marks Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness week. Housing Minister Eddie Hughes has announced a new panel of experts to advise on the best approach for dealing with anti-social behaviour from tenants who suffer from mental health issues, or drug and alcohol dependency.

The panel will bring together organisations from across the sector to identify how landlords and local support services work together and provide early intervention for vulnerable perpetrators - helping to reduce the 1.5 million incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded and cut reoffending [details [here](#)].

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

### Great British Railways (GBR): Derby needs your vote by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August!

Derby is one of 6 locations to be shortlisted from 42 expressions of interest to be the HQ location for the new organisation created to deliver a simpler, better railway for everyone in Britain. The closing date to vote for Derby is **Monday 15th August**. If you have not already done so, you can vote for Derby online [here](#).

**A1 Upgrade: Nearly three quarters support upgrading A1/A52 in Grantham** - Residents in Lincolnshire and Newark have given plans for an upgrade to the A1/A52 their overwhelming support. The research, done by YouGov for Midlands Connect, shows that nearly three quarters (72%) support the plans to upgrade the A1/ A52 junction, with 55% of those surveyed saying they 'strongly support' the upgrades. Over 40% think the project will reduce journey times for them and their families, once they are completed.

- 72% of adults surveyed support the plans to upgrade the A1/ A52 junction
- 74% of adults surveyed believe the upgrades would reduce congestion and traffic in residential areas

Lincolnshire County Council, Transport for the East Midlands and Midlands Connect have proposed upgrades to Government. In the recent Strategic Transport Plan, Midlands Connect highlighted the scheme as one of its key projects for investment in the next 10-15 years. The research builds on a recent roundtable Midlands Connect and Lincolnshire County Council held with key stakeholders in the region. For more information visit [here](#).

**Leasehold Protections Checker** - A new online [Leaseholder Protections Checker](#) will help leaseholders understand if they qualify for financial protections under the Building Safety Act, whilst legislation that is now fully operational means leaseholders can prove legally for the first time that they are protected from historical building safety costs [details [here](#)].

- £4.5 billion Building Safety Fund reopens for new applications
- Leaseholders now able to prove that they qualify for legal protections against unfair bills under the Building Safety Act
- New online Leaseholder Protections Checker to empower homeowners with the information they need to hold building owners to account on costs

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## Local Government News

**Councillor engagement in resilience work, case studies** – The LGA is commissioning a series of case studies highlighting good practice in relation to councillor engagement in emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities. Please email [ellie.greenwood@local.gov.uk](mailto:ellie.greenwood@local.gov.uk) if you have examples you would be happy to share. They are also looking for examples of good practice from councils in response to the cost of living crisis. Please email [lusi.manukyan@local.gov.uk](mailto:lusi.manukyan@local.gov.uk) to share these with us.

**“Docking in”: changing the way we act on local governance** - This Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) paper has been funded by a grant from JRSST Charitable Trust, as part of a project on post pandemic governance. It forms part of work that CfGS is undertaking through 2021 and into 2022 on governance innovation, painting a positive vision for how we can think differently about the way that councils (and other public sector bodies) do business. It takes as its foundation the idea that we are at a period of profound change, that the pandemic has accelerated that change, and that our current assumptions about how local government, and local governance “works” mean that we are ill-equipped for a more complex and demanding future. To access visit [here](#).

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## EMC Events

**Effective Chairing of Hybrid Meetings** - EMC is hosting a virtual training session on ‘Effective Chairing of Hybrid Meetings’. The workshop will provide training for chairs to maximise opportunities within hybrid meetings. This workshop is open to both Councillors and Officers, those involved with chairing meetings. Details [here](#).

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## 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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