

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

Top items this week

12 NOVEMBER 2021



EMC Low-Cost CPD  
Programme for  
Environmental Health



East Midlands Challenge 2021  
- The Results



Midlands Engine Update



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

## East Midlands LA Challenge - The Results!

On Wednesday 10 November East Midlands Councils held the East Midlands Local Authority Challenge, this year the event was held virtually. Teams from across the East Midlands took part in the challenge and competed for the coveted prize of the Local Authority Challenge East Midlands Winner.

We are pleased to announce the results below, but congratulations go to all teams involved on the day.

**South Kesteven District Council were announced winners of the 2021 Local Authority Challenge East Midlands. This is the third time that South Kesteven District Council has won this coveted prize.**

Teams on the day faced a range of tasks including presentations to Overview and Scrutiny boards of their fictional local authority, challenging media interviews and collaborating in a virtual environment. Teams had to develop relationships with their leader and manage increasingly challenging situations that arose throughout the day.

Congratulations go to all teams and all those who made the day possible.

**East Midlands LA Challenge Winner** – South Kesteven District Council

**East Midlands LA Challenge Runners Up** – Harborough District Council

**Winner Best Presentation** – South Kesteven District Council

**Winner Best Media Interaction** – Joint winners Leicester City Council and Derby City Council

Finalists – Leicester City Council, Derby City Council and South Kesteven District Council

**Winner Best Residents Magazine** – Derby City Council

**Winner Best Stakeholder Management** – South Kesteven District Council

Finalists – Ashfield District Council, Leicester City Council and South Kesteven District Council

**Winner Best Chief Executive** – Claire Moses, South Kesteven District Council

Finalists – Ashfield District Council, Leicester City Council and South Kesteven District Council

East Midlands Councils would also like to thank all those on the day who played the crucial roles of Council Leaders, Partners and Media representatives.

It was a great day and we look forward welcoming teams to the next Challenge!

## EMC News

### EMC Support Activity

**East Midlands Councils Low-Cost CPD Programme for Environmental Health 2021/22** – EMC

held a virtual conference for over 200 people, the UK Health Security Agency Update on Thursday 11 November 2021. This virtual event is part of the East Midlands Councils Low-Cost CPD Programme for Environmental Health. The programme for the event included presentations on;

- UK Health Security Agency – the future for health protection after Public Health England
- Shiga Toxin E coli – a changing pattern of STEC in the UK?
- Salmonella and reformed chicken products – have we cracked it?
- The Microbiology of Tattoo Ink, Water and Green Soap
- Listeria monocytogenes and ready-to-eat foods
- Environmental Investigations for Sars-CoV-2; Can swabbing assist in COVID-19 Management?

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



### **New measures in Bill to assist commercial landlords and tenants in resolving rent debts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic**

The Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy, and the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities has this week announced the introduction of the [Commercial Rent \(Coronavirus\) Bill](#) into Parliament alongside a new [code of practice](#).

The Bill will introduce a ringfence for rent debts built up as a result of mandated business closures during the pandemic whilst establishing a new binding arbitration process aimed at finding a proportionate solution which protects jobs, prevents further damage to the economy and enables a return to normal commercial relations [details [here](#)].

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## Climate Change & Sustainable Development



**Climate Change Survey 2021** - The LGA is currently seeking responses to its 2021 Climate Change Survey of local authorities, the results from which will be used to celebrate the climate change actions of councils and to better support these actions in the future. Each local authority is invited to provide a collective response, and has been assigned its own unique link to the survey. These links have been emailed to relevant climate change contacts in each authority; if your council has not received its unique link, please contact [James.Harman@local.gov.uk](mailto:James.Harman@local.gov.uk) to receive it. The deadline for taking part is 5pm on Friday 19 November. Many thanks in advance for participating in this important project.

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## Midlands Engine News

**Social Enterprises thrive across Midlands** - 78% of Midlands social enterprises made a profit or broke even last year compared to a UK average of 74% – according to latest figures from the Midlands Engine Observatory released to mark Social Enterprise Day on 11 November.

A report into the [State of Social Enterprises](#) within our region also found that 82% have or plan to embed tackling the climate emergency into their constitution, compared to two thirds nationally.

A larger proportion of our region's social enterprises also believe that the social and environmental friendliness of a product is as or more important than cost.

For more information visit [here](#).

**New research estimates financial value of natural assets in Midlands, At least £330 Billion** - Latest research from the [Midlands Engine Observatory](#) estimates that our region's air and 1,500km of rivers and canals, landscapes, forestry and minerals are worth at least £330 billion.

The figure announced this week at the Campaign for COP26 event in Nottingham, comes from the Observatory's new [Natural Capital Monitor](#) which places – for the first time – a monetary value on our region's natural assets.

For more information visit [here](#).

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## Health & Social Care



**Government to introduce COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of deployment for all frontline health and social care workers** - Health and social care providers in England will be required to ensure workers are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they are exempt, under plans announced by the Health and Social Care Secretary [details [here](#)].

- Health and social care workers, including volunteers who have face-to-face contact with service users, will need to provide evidence they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to be deployed, under new measures announced today
- Measure aims to ensure patients and staff are protected against infection
- Deadline for care home workers to be double jabbed is Thursday 11 November
- Almost 90% of NHS staff are already double jabbed

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## Employers' Information



**National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP)** - applications have now opened to candidates for the 24th cohort of the NGDP, which provides local government with a diverse and passionate pipeline of talent. The programme is ranked number 50 on 'The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers' for 2021/21. Organisations have until the end of March 2022 to sign up for next year's intake. [Find out more](#) or email [ngdp@local.gov.uk](mailto:ngdp@local.gov.uk) with any enquiries.

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## Local Government News



**E-learning platform for councillors** - the LGAs new platform provides an up-to-date learning experience and enables councillors to create a bespoke learning programme by choosing the modules most relevant to their needs – from deepening their knowledge of local government to further developing the leadership skills needed to work effectively with communities. Councillors can [register on the new platform](#) quickly and easily for a more accessible learning experience.

Modules include:

- Biodiversity for councils
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Supporting your constituents with complex issues

**Millions awarded for new projects to keep women safe** - The Safety of Women at Night Fund will award up to £5 million to 22 organisations focused on improving the safety of women and girls at night.

The 22 successful bids are from civil society organisations, local authorities and police and crime commissioners across England and Wales [details [here](#)].

**EMC upcoming network meetings** - EMC host a number of virtual practitioner network, upcoming dates for the meetings are;

- **Cyber Security Network** - 17 November 2021 [details [here](#)]
- **Democratic Service Officer Network**, held jointly with the Association for Democratic Service Officer - 19 November
- **East Midlands Scrutiny Network** - 10 December 2021 [details [here](#)]

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## EMC Events



**Afghanistan Refugee Resettlement training and support, 24 Nov 2021** - East Midlands Councils have organised a 2 hour virtual Afghanistan Information Session on Wednesday 24 November and Thursday 25 November 2021.

This two-day session on Afghanistan will look at the background and experiences of Afghan communities and how this can potentially impact their expectations of life in the UK. By covering some key topics, participants will have an opportunity to explore opportunities to adapt support services for effective integration assistance. Topics covered over the course of the two-part session include a brief history of modern-day Afghanistan as well as its geography and demographics, health and education infrastructure, cultural diversity and traditions, as well as the recent conflict and its impact. To facilitate enhanced learning, this session will be participatory and rely heavily on participant engagement through activities and discussion. We therefore highly encourage participants to prepare to take an active part, and attend both days to receive the full suite of information [details [here](#)].

**East Midlands Councils Low-Cost CPD Programme for Planners 2021/22** – EMC is hosting a virtual workshop on ‘Major Growth Proposals in the East Midlands’ on Thursday 25 November 2021. This virtual workshop forms part of the East Midlands Councils Low-Cost CPD Programme for Planners. the programme for this event will include;

- Ox-Cam Arc Spatial Framework, Head of the Spatial Framework, MHCLG
- Update on East Midlands Development Corporation
- Update on Nottingham’s Island Quarter

Further information about the programme is available from [here](#).

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## 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  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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