

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

Top items this week

14 OCTOBER 2022

Homes for Ukraine, latest regional data

EMC Employment Law Seminar

Midlands Engine Update

EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

EMC News

Planning and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, 11 November

EMC is hosting an event on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) in relation to planning on 11 November. This event is aimed specifically at Councillors and intends to explore the LURB in relation to planning, its journey so far, and how it will impact the devolution and the Levelling Up agenda.

What's the LURB got to do with it? 11 November 2022, City Hall, Leicester - The programme available from [here](#) For more information and to book a place, please visit [here](#).

Date, time and - 11 November 2022, 10:00—13:00, City Hall, Leicester – Attenborough Room. The event is fully subsidised by EMC and free to attend.

EMC Support

Employment Law Seminar with Darren Newman - We are pleased to offer an Employment Law Update Seminar with Darren Newman on Wednesday 9 November 2022. Back by popular demand, the seminar will offer Darren's pragmatic advice and interpretation of the main developments in employment law and implications for councils.

The session will take place via MS Teams and will run from 10.00 to 12.15, including a 15-minute break. To book, please go to our website at the following link [here](#).

Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management programme, starting November 2022- EMC is hosting an ILM Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management starting in November 2022. The course will take place with a combination of face-to-face and interactive virtual workshops. For more information on the programme visit [here](#).

Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

Homes for Ukraine, latest regional data - The latest regional data on Homes for Ukraine. This data shows that over 5,500 people have arrived in the East Midlands. Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority - available from [here](#). Regional picture as at 11/10/22 is set out below and in the attached spreadsheet (weekly/fortnightly increases shown in parentheses):

- Applications: 7,458 (+60/125)
- Visas Issued: 6,918 (+133/144)
- Arrivals: 5,572 (+80/113)

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

East Midlands Councils is one of 12 Strategic Migration Partnerships which has a key role to play in supporting Local Authorities across the region to develop and implement these schemes, in particular the Homes For Ukraine programme [details [here](#)].

Tackling Modern Slavery Tuesday 18 October 2022, 10.00am - This LGA webinar, which will be hosted in partnership with the [Human Trafficking Foundation](#), will provide an overview of the guidance and accompanying maturity index that have been designed to support the work of councils to tackle modern slavery in our communities [details [here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Cash injection to explore upgrades to the A61 South of Chesterfield - It has been announced that Midlands Connect will be awarding £50k of funding to Derbyshire County Council. This award is for the authority to make a business case to the Department for Transport for work to the A61 Corridor (South of Chesterfield). The council will contribute by matching the award, making a pot of £100k.

Midlands Connect will provide the funding to research and develop a business case to submit to government and will also supply support to the local authority. This allows the council to explore all options available to improve the corridor, which may include improved access for pedestrians and cyclists or enhanced public transport provision along the route [details [here](#)].

Midlands Engine

Midlands Engine Team - This week Midlands Engine has confirmed that Roger Mendonça as interim Executive Director to help implement the agreed governance changes and work closely with partners to develop the Midlands Engine new three-year business plan.

Ruth Carver, CEO of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, has been appointed Chair of the Partnership Board following the departure of Anthony May (previously Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council). The first meeting of the Partnership Board will take place in November, where they will be focusing on business planning and reviewing progress against 2022/23 targets.

Local Government News

Levelling Up Committee scrutinises Government's elections policy - On 19 October, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee will conclude the public evidence sessions for its inquiry on the Government's Draft Electoral Commission Strategy and Policy Statement.

The LUHC Committee will question witnesses from the Electoral Commission and Government Minister, Andrew Stephenson MP, on the new guidance and the Draft Electoral Commission Strategy and Policy Statement. The Draft Strategy and Policy Statement sets out the Government's strategic and policy priorities for elections and referendums. It also sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Electoral Commission – the independent body that oversees elections – in meeting those priorities. The Draft Statement, made by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, is a new procedure introduced by the Elections Act 2022.

As a statutory consultee, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee is holding a short inquiry into the Draft Statement and is intending to publish recommendations for the Government in the Autumn [details [here](#)].

Simon Clarke, Levelling-Up Secretary of State, to be quizzed by MPs - Simon Clarke, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, will be questioned on the Government's Levelling-Up plans, including proposals for low-tax investment zones, in an evidence session with the LUHC Committee at 4pm on 24 October. The cross-party group of MPs are likely to ask the new Secretary of State questions on a range of topics across the portfolio, including about the Secretary of State's priorities for the DLUHC and his views on potential savings across the Department [details [here](#)].

UK Commission on Covid Commemoration - The UK Commission on Covid Commemoration has been established to secure a broad consensus from across the whole of the United Kingdom on how we commemorate the COVID-19 pandemic and mark this distinctive period in our history at a national and community level. The Commission is expected to report to the Prime Minister by the end of March 2023.

The Commission members would like to consult widely with stakeholders across the United Kingdom, to obtain a broad range of views from communities affected by Covid-19, and to listen to your suggestions for how we commemorate those who died, as well as discuss how the pandemic should be marked more generally. This will be key to generating a set of proposals to put to the Government. A consultation event is to be held for stakeholders in Leicester on 17 October, further details available from [here](#).

Fuel poverty, cold homes and health inequalities, 18 October 2022, 2.00pm - in this webinar, Professor Michael Marmot will present his recent review 'Fuel Poverty, Cold Homes and Health Inequalities'. The research predicts significant health, social and education detriment for a new generation of children if, as forecast, 55 per cent of households (15 million people), fall into fuel poverty by January 2023 without effective interventions [details [here](#)].

Six months in: a session for newly elected councillors, hosted by the LGA - A great opportunity for all new, and returning, councillors in the region to; explore what their role means; learn about the evolving national policy context and challenges facing councils; hear from experienced councillors; and Network with colleagues from other councils.

Date and venue - Thursday 20th October (10.00 am – 1.00 pm), Radcliffe House, University of Warwick, off Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry CV4 7SH. Please contact Rajpreet.Khera@local.gov.uk to book places.

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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