

EMC POLICY BRIEF

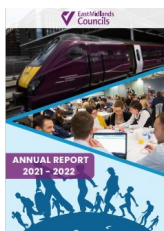
A weekly round up of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by East Midlands Councils

Top items this week

15 JULY 2022



EMC Political Leadership



EMC Annual Report



Signposting Offers for
Ukrainians in the UK



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

EMC Annual General Meeting - EMC Annual Report

Today the EMC Annual General meeting took place at Nottinghamshire County Council, the full papers are available [here](#).

Cllr Martin Hill, Chair of East Midlands Councils and Leader of Lincolnshire County Council presented the East Midlands Councils Annual Report for 2021-22 [available [here](#)]. This Annual Report is a summary of our work over the past 12 months and enables us to account to our membership for what we have done on your behalf in meeting your agreed priorities. It covers the range of EMC's programmes and services, including proposals for greater investment and infrastructure funds, our work on HS2 and the Integrated Rail Plan (IRP), providing focused member and officer development programmes and our role as the Regional Employers' Organisation; as well as taking forward the management of important refugee and asylum resettlement programmes

We're especially pleased that all member councils accessed at least one of these discounted services during 2021/22, with EMC delivering savings on behalf of its member councils estimated to be £562,000.

We remain grateful to EMC staff, councillors and officers across the region for their efforts and on-going engagement. We look forward to continuing to work with colleagues across the East Midlands during 2022/23.



£562,000

Savings delivered for councils



2,593 Places taken on EMC
training & Development programmes



102

Separate requests for HR
advice actioned



53

Separate HR assignments completed



100% of councils benefited from
at least one of EMCs service offers



1514 Vulnerable refugees resettled
in the region



221 Separate pieces of legal
advice completed

EMC Leadership 2022-23

At the EMC AGM the chairs and vice chairs of East Midlands Councils were agreed, along with the political group leaders.

Chair and Vice Chairs

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council

Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell, Deputy City Mayor, Leicester City Council

Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan, Leader of Charnwood Borough Council

Political Group Leaders

Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney, Newark and Sherwood District Council

Labour Group: Cllr Rob Parker, Lincolnshire County Council

Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny, Ashfield District Council

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



EMCs Director of Policy & Infrastructure Andrew Pritchard has been confirmed as the Chair of the Town and County Planning Association (TCPA) for the next 3 years. The TCPA was founded in 1899 to challenge, inspire and support people to create healthy, sustainable and resilient places that are fair for everyone. For further information: [Home - Town and Country Planning Association \(tcpa.org.uk\)](https://tcpa.org.uk)

Levelling-Up Committee examines planning reform concerns - On Monday 18 July, housing, planning and conservation experts will be questioned by the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee on the Government's Levelling Up, Housing and Regeneration Bill.

The LUHC Committee will question representatives from National Housing Federation, British Property Federation, Council for the Protection of Rural England, Natural England, Design Council, and Localis.

The cross-party group of MPs are likely to examine concerns around claims the Bill will lead to a centralisation of the planning system and raise questions concerning the Government's planning proposals and how effective they are likely to be in making progress on the levelling-up agenda [details [here](#)].

Derelict sites to be transformed into new homes as new brownfield fund opens

- Over 17,000 new homes will be created with £180 million new brownfield fund
- Councils will be able to bid for first £40 million from today, further £140 million allocated over next 2 years
- Builds on success of previous £77 million fund to support the regeneration of unused brownfield sites

Councils will be able to apply for a share of the new £180 million Brownfield Land Release Fund 2, which will help to transform disused urban areas into 17,600 new homes and create around 54,000 jobs over the next 4 years.

An initial £40 million is available to support local regeneration projects, releasing council land for around 4,000 new homes (and creating 12,400 jobs). The move will boost local economies and help thousands of young people and families into homeownership. The remaining £140 million of the Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 will be made available to councils over the next 2 years.

Bids will be assessed on a number of gateway criteria including: market failure; deliverability; and value for money.

The prioritisation of bids will comprise an assessment of the strategic case, innovation and consideration of the bid's ability to meet the council's Public Sector Equality Duty, combined with a place-based metric [details [here](#)].

Further information about [applications to the second round of the Brownfield Land Release Fund](#) is available on the Local Government Association website.

One Public Estate: Brownfield Land Release Fund details: July 2022 - Up to £180 million Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 (BLRF2) capital grant funding is available to all English councils over a three-year period to support the release of council-owned brownfield land for housing [details [here](#)].

Midland Connect



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.

Furthermore, nearly three quarters (74%) believe the project will lead to wider benefits including less congestion and reduced traffic in residential areas.

Over one in three respondents also said the plans (35%) would have a 'significant' impact on reducing road accidents/traffic collisions.

Midlands Connect and Lincolnshire County Council have proposed the upgrades to the government. In its recent Strategic Transport Plan Midlands Connect dubbed the scheme one its key projects for investment in the next 10-15 years.

The partnership want Government to award the project support as part of its Road Investment Strategy 3 (RIS3). If successful, this could mean that National Highways is given funding to deliver the improvements as early as 2025.

The research builds on a recent roundtable Midlands Connect and Lincolnshire County Council held with key stakeholders in the region [details [here](#)].

Local Government News

Nottinghamshire County Council chooses new chief executive - Adrian Smith has been selected by the Senior Staffing Committee as the next Chief Executive at Nottinghamshire County Council, subject to approval of the County Council at the Full Council meeting on 22nd September. Adrian, is currently the authority's Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Place, responsible for economic development and the county's highways, transport and communities [details [here](#)].

Public Parks viability and access examined by Levelling Up Committee - The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee will hold an evidence session on the morning of Wednesday 20th July examining a range of issues relating to public parks, including park usage and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on parks, inequality of access to green space, and the funding of public parks and green spaces [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care

School Nursing: Looking after the health and wellbeing of school children - This LGA publication summarises school nurses' important role in the education system and includes case studies from across the country focussed on how they provide an invaluable role to children [details [here](#)].

LGA Must Know: Is your council using the National Child Measurement Programme to promote healthy weight? - The purpose of this LGA 'Must Know' is to understand the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) and how it is used locally to support local planning [details [here](#)].

Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

Homes for Ukraine, latest regional data - The latest regional data on Homes for Ukraine. This data shows that over 4,000 people have arrived in the East Midlands. Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority - available from [here](#).

| Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Upper tier local authority name | Number of visa applications | Number of visas issued | Number of arrivals in the UK by sponsor location |
| Derby | 167 | 138 | 91 |
| Derbyshire | 1,277 | 1,142 | 863 |
| Leicester | 129 | 110 | 72 |
| Leicestershire | 897 | 811 | 593 |
| Lincolnshire | 1,276 | 1,143 | 812 |
| North Northamptonshire | 500 | 455 | 335 |
| Nottingham | 250 | 230 | 170 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1,025 | 904 | 666 |
| Rutland | 126 | 113 | 81 |
| West Northamptonshire | 715 | 643 | 481 |
| TOTALS | 6362 | 5689 | 4164 |

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](#).

Leading through turbulent times – Leadership Development Programme, October 2022 - Building on the key themes of Self-leadership, Leading the organisation, Leading people and leading teams, the programme will be delivered through a combination of face-to-face workshops and online webinars. For more information visit [here](#).

EMC Leadership

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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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