

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

Top items this week

15 OCTOBER 2021



Decarbonisation of Transport and Electric Vehicles Workshop for Councillors



Transport for the East Midlands



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Ministerial responsibilities at Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

It's time to level up Transport funding in the East Midlands, says Transport for the East Midlands

Council Leaders, MPs and business leaders are calling on the Chancellor to use his forthcoming spending review (27 October 2021) to level-up transport funding, create jobs and boost trade [full press release [here](#)].

- The Treasury's own figures have consistently shown the East Midlands to be lowest funded region per head for transport of any UK region/nation.
- The latest data published in July 2021 confirmed that funding has declined over the last 20 years to just 58% of the UK average.
- If the East Midlands was funded at same level as the UK average, the region would have an extra £1billion to spend on transport every year.

The Spending Review submission made by Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) highlights 'shovel ready' schemes that could be delivered quickly if funding was released by the Chancellor and longer-term projects that require a commitment now from the Chancellor to progress.

'Shovel Ready' Schemes

- A46 Newark Northern Bypass
- Chesterfield-Steveley Regeneration Route
- Nottingham-Lincoln Line Speed Improvements
- Transport 'Levelling Up Fund' Bids: Leicester Rail Station; South Derby Growth Zone: A16 (Boston-Spalding) & Robin Hood Line Extension

Investment Commitments

- Eastern Leg of HS2 via the East Midlands
- Access to Toton Phase 1
- Completing Midland Mainline Electrification
- M1 Junction 25/A52
- Nottingham-Coventry-Leicester Rail Enhancement
- A1 (Peterborough to Blyth)
- Leicester Rail Capacity Enhancement

EMC News

Councillor Development Session on Climate Change - Decarbonisation of Transport and Electric Vehicles - EMC, the LGA and Midlands Energy Hub, working in partnership are offering a series of virtual interactive workshops for Councillors on Climate Change. The fourth workshop in this 2021 series of events for Councillors on Climate Change will focus on Decarbonisation of Transport and Electric Vehicles. The programme for the event will include;

Overview of Decarbonisation of Transport and East Midlands Landscape - **Steven Scarott**, Midlands Connect to provide an overview of decarbonation of transport agenda, what this looks like and means in an East Midlands context and how Midlands Connect and Councils in the region are working in partnership on this.

The role and impact of local authorities in decarbonisation of transport - **Fiona Appleton**, Energy Savings Trust will explore the role councils and councillors can play in decarbonising transport, the common challenges LA's face, good practice case studies from local authorities on transport decarbonisation initiatives and support available from the EST.

Spotlight: Electric Vehicles Infrastructure - **Bharat Pathania**, Midlands Connect will explore the role of Electric Vehicles in decarbonising public and private transport, the role of local authorities in the provision of this infrastructure, activity in the Midlands around this agenda and how to access support.

Date - 2 November 2021, 14:00 - 16:00 This is a fully subsidised event and is free. The workshop will take place virtually via Zoom. To book a place visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Thousands of new homes to be built and derelict land transformed -

- £57.8 million allocated to councils to develop brownfield land into good quality housing while transforming derelict local areas.
- New homes will help hardworking people get on the property ladder and boost local communities, levelling up the country.
- Funding includes support for self and custom build projects to help make it more affordable for people to build their own homes.

Almost £58 million from the £75 million Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF) has been allocated to 53 councils [details [here](#)]. In the East Midlands;

- Derby City Council, £825,000
- Newark and Sherwood District Council, £284,000
- Leicester City Council, £443,400
- Nottingham City Council, £222,000

Mind the gap: The role of HS2's Eastern Leg in bridging England's east-west divide - In this report, HS2 East outlines the economic and social disparities between communities on the Western and Eastern Legs of HS2, demonstrating that a pervasive East – West divide provides the clinching case for why the Eastern Leg of HS2 Phase 2b must be built in its entirety. To access the report visit [here](#).

Employers' Information

COVID Workforce Update, Issue 35 - The latest COVID workforce update from the Regional Employers' Organisations and the LGA [available [here](#)]. This edition includes: COVID-19 General Update, COVID-19 certification Update, Workplace Ventilation Guidance, Fuel crisis / HGV driver shortage and more.

Local Government News

Ministerial responsibilities at Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - Ministerial Responsibilities at Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have been confirmed as follows:

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP - Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations

- Strategic oversight of the Department's business
- Cross-cutting responsibility for Levelling Up.

Minister for Intergovernmental Relations

As Minister for Intergovernmental Relations, the role holder leads coordination with the devolved administrations on the Prime Minister's behalf, working closely with the Territorial Offices, to make sure that across government work is being done on behalf of the entire United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Kemi Badenoch MP – Minister of State (Minister for Levelling Up Communities) and Minister of State (Minister for Equalities)

- Elections policy (including leading on the Bill in the Commons)
- Local government policy, finance and improvement in England
- Supporting Families programme
- Integrated communities (including Faith engagement, English Language)
- Holocaust Memorial

The Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP - Minister of State (Minister for Housing)

- Home ownership programmes (Help to Buy, Right to Buy etc)
- Housing strategy
- Housing delivery (including Regenerate UK and Ox-Cam)
- Homes England stewardship
- Affordable Housing Programme
- Planning reform (including Planning Bill & Project Speed)
- Design and Building Better
- Homebuying and selling process
- Planning casework (Leading on the Building Safety Bill in the Commons)

Lord Stephen Greenhalgh - Minister of State (Minister for Building Safety and Fire)

- Building safety programme
 - Grenfell recovery and rehousing
 - Grenfell public inquiry
 - Tackling leasehold and freehold abuses
 - Local resilience and emergencies (including winter preparedness (Transition, Covid, HGVs))
 - Planning casework
 - Lords Minister for the department's work
-

Eddie Hughes MP – Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing)

- Homelessness and rough sleeping
- Supported housing (including domestic abuse)
- Social housing white paper implementation and regulation
- Private rented sector
- New Homes Ombudsman and redress
- Climate change and Net Zero
- Energy efficiency (building regulations)
- Departmental statutory instruments minister
- Planning casework
- Corporate matters

Neil O'Brien MP - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Levelling Up, The Union and Constitution)

- The Union and Constitution, and local government engagement in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Levelling up white paper
- Delivery of freeports, and oversight of funds in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- County deals - devolution
- Mayoral combined authorities / pan-regional growth bodies
- High streets, towns, commercial property and community assets in England

Victoria Atkins MP - Minister of State and Minister for Afghan Resettlement

The minister works to ensure Afghans arriving in the UK receive the vital support they need to rebuild their lives, find work, pursue education and integration into their local communities.

Household Resilience Study: Wave 3 - The Household Resilience Study is a follow up survey to the 2019-20 English Housing Survey. It examines how household and housing circumstances have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The third and final wave of the survey was run in April-May 2021 [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care

Funding adult social care, leading voices from the sector and local government to be questioned by HCLG

Committee about Government's plans - On Monday 18 October from 4pm the Housing Communities and Local Government (HCLG) Committee will hold the first evidence session of its inquiry into long-term funding of adult social care.

In the first panel, representatives from local government – which commissions and pays for social care services – will be asked for their views on how far the Government's new Health and Social Care Plan addresses adult social care funding pressures. They will also be asked about the integration of health and social care, and for views on what should be included in the Government's upcoming social care white paper.

The second panel, made up of industry representatives from the adult social care sector, will also be asked for their views on the Plan and upcoming white paper, as well as about pressures on the workforce and how the adult social care market can be stabilised [details [here](#)].

COVID-19 Vaccination data

- Available from this link [Vaccinations in East Midlands | Coronavirus in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](#)
- Available from this link [Interactive map of vaccinations | Coronavirus in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](#)

COVID-19 case data - Available from this link [Cases in East Midlands | Coronavirus in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](#)

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

East Midlands Councils

First Floor Offices, South Annexe

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB



Click on our [Twitter](#) & [YouTube](#) accounts for further information.