

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

## Top items this week

16 OCTOBER 2020



**EUSS: Updated local authority toolkit**



**Scrutiny: Rest and Recovery Virtual Workshop**



**Midlands Engine Economic Impact of Covid-19**



**EMC Events for Councillors and Officers**

## Scrutiny: Reset and Recovery, 10 Nov 2020

EMC is offering Councillor and Officers involved with Scrutiny the opportunity to join an interactive virtual workshop 'Scrutiny: Rest and Recovery'. This virtual workshop has been designed to focus on the role of scrutiny in the 'reset and recovery' period. For details of the workshop visit [here](#).

Local government has changed significantly in order to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Functions, finances and political management arrangements have been re-shaped since March 2020. Scrutiny has also been impacted by COVID. This virtual workshop has been designed to focus on the role of scrutiny in the 'reset and recovery' period.

It will examine a range of related issues:

- reviewing the impact on scrutiny functions across the region, including how scrutiny members and officers have responded
- highlighting best practice in working remotely and through virtual platforms
- identifying learning from scrutiny reviews of council responses to COVID-19
- considering the role that scrutiny can play in the recovery planning period
- outside of COVID-19, identifying emerging and re-emergent priority topics for scrutiny to examine, for example, scrutiny of climate change and scrutiny of re-organisation

In particular, the workshop will focus on how the recovery stage is developing and how scrutiny needs to play a part in debates over growing financial and budgetary pressures and fundamental re-prioritisation processes.

## EMC News

EMC held its AGM on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October. The meeting was attended by Rt Hon Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State, MHCLG who responded to a range of questions including the response to Covid-19, devolution and structural reform, the Planning White Paper proposals and delivery pressures of the sector.

Subsequent discussion focused on economic growth and investment, and the renewed efforts to secure better infrastructure and to maximise opportunities from the levelling up agenda. Members also agreed that EMC should respond on behalf of the region to the Planning White Paper proposals. A draft will be shared with Members in advance of formally responding to the consultation.

Cllr Martin Hill (Leader, Lincolnshire County Council), Cllr David Mellen (Leader, Nottingham City Council) and Cllr Jonathan Morgan (Leader, Charnwood Borough Council) were confirmed as Chairs and Vice-Chairs respectively for the coming year. Cllr Ivan Ould was also thanked by the membership for his contributions over a number of years, most latterly as Chair of the Regional Migration Board.



## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

### Midlands Engine Economic Impact of Covid-19, Edition 9:14 September (Skills deep dive summary) -

This report is produced by the Midlands Engine Economic Observatory which is a partnership commissioned by the Midlands Engine including Black Country Consortium's Economic Intelligence Unit, Nottingham Trent University and WM REDI. This monitor pulls together information across regional partners to understand the impacts of Covid19 on the economy – at a sub national level, across the Midlands Engine geography. Where possible it will utilise all forms of quantitative and qualitative intelligence. However we urge caution in the use of the contents as this is an emerging situation. The information is drawn from a wide range of sources including the Midlands Engine Business Forum Members, Growth Hubs, Chambers, LEP's, ONS and others. The Midlands Engine gratefully acknowledges the input of many partners who have directly contributed data to inform this report. Summary [here](#) and full report [here](#).

**HS2 6 monthly report to Parliament** - Review of High Speed 2 including overview, programme update, schedule, community and environment impact [details [here](#)].

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## Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

**EUSS: Updated local authority toolkit and Grant Funded Network Launch** - The Home Office has produced and published new resources for the [local authority toolkit](#) to promote the EU Settlement Scheme. These resources include a factsheet and leaflet for with key information for EEA Nationals.

New £4.5 million grant funding has been awarded to 72 organisations including local authorities, local government associations and voluntary and community sector organisations – list of organisations is available to view [here](#).

Reminder that the deadline for applying to EUSS is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 for those who were resident in the UK by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. So far over 4 million people have applied.

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## Employers' Information

**Exit Pay Cap Update** - The legislation to implement the £95k cap on exit payments in the public sector has completed the Parliamentary process and was signed into law last night meaning the regulations, and therefore the cap, come into force on 4 November 2020. As yet neither the Guidance nor Directions to accompany the regulations have been published. This means there is no further information regarding the waiver process or provision for current exits in progress. MHCLG's consultation on changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme rules required to accommodate the £95k cap is ongoing and will not conclude before the cap comes into effect. With colleagues at the LGA, EMC are raising our concerns about the implementation of this legislation, including the treatment of exits currently in process, with MHCLG and HM Treasury. EMC will provide you with any further updates when more information is known.

**Kickstart Scheme, Expressions of Interest** - As part of the Government's Plan for Jobs, the Kickstart Scheme provides funding to employers to create new 6-month job placements for young people. To access the scheme, an employer must provide 30 placements which is likely to be a challenge for many local authorities.

To overcome this potential barrier, EMC are looking to co-ordinate Kickstart applications on behalf of Authorities in the East Midlands and become a representative organisation for the Scheme. Therefore, we are collecting expressions of interest from any Authority that would like to participate in the Scheme and become part of this group so that the 30 placements can be provided through our collective offer. Contact [suzanne.boulty@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.boulty@emcouncils.gov.uk) The closing date for expressions is **Friday 16 October**.

**Craftworkers' Pay Agreement 2020-21** - Agreement has now been reached between the National Employers and the JNC Trade Union Side on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2020 [details [here](#)].

**CEEP News** - CEEP UK's newsletters provide an update on recent developments at European level on workforce matters and the most recent newsletter is available from [here](#).

**European Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, Social Europe Newsletter** - available [here](#).

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## Local Government News

**Statement from Cllr Kay Cutts MBE, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council** - The Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council has issued a statement announcing her retirement from politics. It follows the announcement on 10<sup>th</sup> October that she will not contest her seat at the next County Council Elections in 2021 [full statement [here](#)].

**Rough sleepers to be helped to keep safe this winter** - Support will give local areas the tools and funding they need to protect people from life-threatening cold weather and the risks posed by coronavirus [details [here](#)]. The announcement includes:

- A new £10 million Cold Weather Fund to support councils get rough sleepers off the streets during the winter
  - An additional £2 million for faith and community groups to help them provide secure accommodation
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## EMC Events

**Taking your Training Remote - How to deliver excellent training remotely, 1 Dec 2020** - EMC is offering a regional programme of 'Taking your Training Remote', which will help you learn how to deliver online workshops that are interactive, fun and highly effective. The programme covers both the technical and training design dimensions. For more information about the programme, split over two dates visit [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 Alan Rhodes  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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