

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

Top items this week

FRIDAY 18 JUNE 2021



East Midlands Councils AGM



Hitting the Ground Running, a workshop for newly elected Councillors



Transport for the East Midlands



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Transport for the East Midlands

The Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) Board met on the 14 June 2021 chaired by Sir Peter Soulsby. The Board considered the implications of the Government's Rail White Paper on the East Midlands, and a presentation from Highways England on the process for determining investment priorities for RIS3 (2025-30). The Board also discussed the reasons behind the recent drop in performance in EMR regional service following the introduction of the May timetable, and proposals by EMR to introduce a temporary regional timetable from 19 June to give time for the problems to be fixed. EMR Inter-City and electric Connect services from Corby will be unaffected. For further information on TfEM visit [here](#).

HS2 Executive Board - The HS2 Executive Board will meet for the first after the May elections on the 24 of June to consider an update on work to influence the Government's forthcoming Integrated Rail Plan.

EMC News

Professional Support Lawyer- Immigration (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Refugees), job opportunity

East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership (EMSMP) - This is an exciting opportunity to provide leadership and support to legal advisers and social workers across the nine upper tier local authorities in the East Midlands in their management of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC), care leavers, looked after children and individuals subject to a NRP condition.

The closing date for applications is **2.00 pm, Monday 21st June 2021**. For details please visit [here](#).

EMC Boards Activity

East Midlands Councils AGM - EMC's AGM is scheduled for 10.00am on Friday 9 July and will be held virtually via MS Teams. For further information on how to access the meeting please contact lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk

East Midlands Strategic Migration Board - The Regional Migration Board considered the current situation along the south coast with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) crossing the Channel in small boats, and the national request for assistance for local authorities most affected. The government's recent announcement of the launch of the new UASC National Transfer Scheme was also discussed.

EMC Support Activity

Virtual Recruitment Assessment Centre - This week EMC staff have supported the delivery of a virtual assessment centre for Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC). The virtual assessment centre is part of the recruitment and selection for a graduate trainee programme. Designed and delivered by EMC in conjunction with NCC, using MS Teams activities included a presentation and group exercise for 35 candidates across 2 days. For more information about the support EMC can provide for recruitment and selection, including the design and delivery of both face to face and virtual assessment centres please contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

Hitting the Ground Running, a workshop for newly elected Councillors, Friday 2 July, 15:00 - 17:00 - East Midlands Councils and the Local Government Association are hosting a virtual workshop on 2 July for newly elected members from across the East Midlands elected in May 2021. The event is to give you a wider perspective on your role, enable you to meet newly elected councillors from other local authorities, and learn about the support available from the Local LGA and EMC so as to help you hit the ground running in your role.

The programme will enable you to do this through exploring what your role means, hearing from experienced councillors on their top tips and unrivalled insights to help equip you in your role for the months ahead.

To book a free place visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Engineers and transport planners questioned on smart motorways - The Transport Committee questions engineers, transport planners and other experts about the decisions which shaped the rollout of smart motorways, particularly all-lane running, and the progress that has been made since the Transport Committee last reported in 2016 [here](#).

Minister for Housing questioned on Permitted Development Rights - The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee held the final session of its inquiry into Permitted Development Rights and hears from Minister for Housing, Christopher Pincher MP [details [here](#)].

HS2: How can East Midlands businesses get involved? - Join this interactive webinar hosted by HS2 Minister Andrew Stephenson to find out how East Midlands businesses can get involved with HS2. Tuesday 22 June, 3-4pm, Hosted by HS2 Minister, Andrew Stephenson. More information and to register [here](#).

Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

EU Settlement Scheme applications exceed 5.6 million - Over 5.6 million applications have been made to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) according to the latest monthly statistics, with 20 days to go before the 30 June 2021 deadline.

The figures show that, up to the end of May 2021:

- 5.61 million applications were received.
- 5.27 million applications were concluded.
- Across the UK, more than 5 million applications were received from England, 276,600 applications from Scotland, 92,700 applications from Wales and 92,000 received from Northern Ireland.
- 2.75 million (52%) were granted settled status and 2.27 million (43%) were granted pre-settled status, totalling more than 5 million grants of status.
- Of the remaining applications, 72,100 (1%) received a withdrawn or void outcome, 74,900 (1%) were invalid and 94,000 (2%) were refused.

Digital Status - From 1 July 2021, EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme will need to evidence their rights in the UK with their digital immigration status, rather than their passport or ID card. For example, they may need to do this when applying for a job or when renting a property. The Home Office have published [guide for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens on viewing and proving their immigration status](#) for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens on viewing and proving their immigration status (eVisa). The guide explains how people can view and prove their immigration status, update their details, what they should expect when crossing the UK border and how to get help accessing their immigration status.

Local Voting Rights for EU Citizens Living in the UK (Policy Paper) - EU citizens' voting and candidacy rights in local elections need to be updated to reflect our new relationship with the EU. For details of the proposed changes visit [here](#).

Economic Development

DCMS Study on Regional Digital Ecosystems - The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is looking to assess the UK's regional digital ecosystems and their ability to generate economic prosperity and growth. The sector has the ability to increase prosperity in regional economies across the UK, generating higher than average GVA and creating high-earning and resilient jobs. This project aims to help DCMS to build its evidence base on regional digital ecosystems and to explore tailored interventions to promote digital prosperity.

The project is in development and colleagues in Local Government are invited to 'sense check' the initial findings (regional findings are included on the attachment) and provide views on the success and challenges of the digital ecosystem in each region. Your contributions will inform the final report which is due to be published in September 2021. For more information visit [here](#).

Mapping the Architecture of Economic Development Policy and Strategy across the Midlands Engine -As part of a commission from the Midlands Engine Observatory, partners from our region's Research Partnership, including City-REDI/ WMREDI and Nottingham Trent University, have collaborated to produce a new report: 'Mapping the Architecture of Economic Development Policy and Strategy Across the Midlands Engine' available from [here](#).

Eviction protection extended for businesses most in need - Businesses that have had to remain closed during the pandemic and are unable to pay rent on their commercial property will continue to be protected from eviction, giving them the breathing space they need and helping to protect jobs, the government has announced this week [here](#).

Committee examines global approaches to sustaining high streets and town centres - The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee continues its inquiry into supporting our high streets after covid-19 on Thursday 10 June as it examines examples of best practice from across the globe. The session investigated the global outlook for high streets and town centres. It heard examples of best practice in protecting high streets from the health and economic impacts of pandemics, including previous cases such as SARs. The Committee also examined what lessons UK town centres can learn from approaches taken in other countries towards housing, transport and climate change [[here](#)].

Employers' Information

COVID-19 Workforce Survey, week ending 7 May 2021- This LGA report is part of a series of monthly surveys of all councils in England and Wales collecting key workforce data on how the sector is responding to COVID-19 [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care



Everyone working in care homes to be fully vaccinated under new law to protect residents - People working in CQC-registered care homes will need to be fully COVID-19 vaccinated with both doses.

The new legislation means from October – subject to Parliamentary approval and a subsequent 16-week grace period – anyone working in a CQC-registered care home in England for residents requiring nursing or personal care must have 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine unless they have a medical exemption. It will apply to all workers employed directly by the care home or care home provider (on a full-time or part-time basis), those employed by an agency and deployed by the care home, and volunteers deployed in the care home. Those coming into care homes to do other work, for example healthcare workers, tradespeople, hairdressers and beauticians, and CQC inspectors will also have to follow the new regulations, unless they have a medical exemption [details [here](#)].

Public Accounts Committee 'No more broken commitments on care: underfunded, unclear, urgently needs reform' - In its report published this week, the Public Accounts Committee says the pandemic's "devastating impact on the care sector" has emphasised that "care is not properly funded, lacks transparency and urgently needs reform." to access the report visit [here](#).

Support for care leavers, advice for corporate parents, Wednesday 23 June 2021, 10.00am – 11.30am - all councillors are corporate parents to care leavers. This LGA workshop will give practical advice and ideas re how to be a good corporate parent, improve care leavers' lives and ensure they are healthy, happy and fulfil their potential [details [here](#)].

Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK - The official UK government website for data and insights on coronavirus (COVID-19) including data on Testing, cases and vaccinations. With case information by region and local authorities [\[here\]](#).

EMC Events



Report Writing, 30 June - EMC is hosting a 3 hour virtual workshops on report writing. The virtual workshop will be highly interactive [full details [here](#)]. The course will explore;

- What are the expectations with regards written reports in your role?
- What should we think about before writing the report? Exploring: the audience and their expectations, language, tone, length.

The virtual workshop will use both plenary and breakout time to ensure maximum delegate participation, making the session interactive for those taking part.

IOM UK Kurdish Cultural Orientation Session, 13 Jul 2021 - East Midlands Councils have organised a hour virtual Kurdish Information Session over Tuesday 13th July and Thursday 15th July. This virtual training session will be hosted by IOM UK. *This two day session will cover the history and background of the Kurds, Kurdish cultural norms and practices, the services Kurds may be used to and their expectations around accessing those services, and the conditions Kurdish refugees may face in the region before coming to the UK* [details [here](#)].

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE
Vice Chair: Cllr David Mellen
Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan
Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney
Labour Group: to be confirmed
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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