

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

Top items this week

18 SEPTEMBER 2020



East Midlands Scrutiny
Network



274 councils set to
receive housing support for
vulnerable people



Virtual Assessment Centre



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

274 councils set to receive housing support for vulnerable people (32 in the East Midlands)

The funding will provide interim accommodation and support as part of the government's commitment to end rough sleeping.

- £91.5 million allocated to 274 councils in England to help vulnerable people housed during the pandemic
- £13.5 million fund to tackle new and emerging challenges
- Bids have also been submitted for £161 million support to help secure 3,300 longer-term homes

274 local councils will share £91.5 million of government funding to ensure interim accommodation and support for the most vulnerable people, including by helping people into the private rented sector, secure interim accommodation such as supported housing, and assess the wider support these people need in order to rebuild their lives. An additional £13.5 million fund will be used to enable local authorities to tackle new or emerging challenges.

Separately, applications are now being considered for a further £161 million fund intended to provide over 3,300 additional supported homes this year for those sleeping rough or currently housed in emergency accommodation. The bidding has now closed and details on successful bids will be announced in due course. This is part of broader support to provide 6,000 such homes over four years.

The [Next Steps Accommodation Programme](#) makes available the resources needed to support local authorities and their partners to ensure that the current provision that has been set up to safeguard people who were taken safely from the streets is able to continue for an appropriate length of time. Organisations who have put in successful bids have clearly demonstrated in their proposal how the funding will be used to rapidly support those in COVID-19 emergency accommodation. The funding is for use during 2020/21 only. For full information visit [here](#).

Regional allocations of Next Steps Accommodation Programme:

Amount of funding for region - East Midlands; £2,035,534.00

EMC News

EMC Boards Activity

- **HS2 Executive Board** - 24 September
- **EMC Executive Board** - 25 September

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

EMC Support Activity

Virtual Recruitment Assessment Centre - This week EMC staff have supported the delivery of a virtual assessment centre for a local authority in the East Midlands. The virtual assessment centre is part of the recruitment and selection for a graduate trainee programme. Designed and delivered by EMC, using MS Teams activities included a presentation and group exercise for 37 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

East Midlands Scrutiny Network - The East Midlands Scrutiny network will meet virtually on 25 September at 10am. The agenda for the meeting This includes an update from Ed Hammond from the Centre for Public Scrutiny and John Austin from the Association for Democratic Service Officers. The agenda includes an opportunity to share progress setting the work programme for the coming year and what topics are looked at by councils. For more information on the network visit [here](#) and to register to join the free network meeting contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Transport Secretary announces plans to tackle graffiti on Britain's roads and railways - [In a letter to the rail industry](#), the Transport Secretary has called for long-term plans to tackle the issue. These proposals should build on action already taken, including a review of response times to graffiti vandalism so any instances are dealt with quickly, helping to prevent more serious crimes and passengers to feel safe when returning to the railway [details [here](#)].

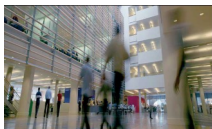
Locking in positive behaviours and the co-benefits of green recovery Friday 2 October 2020, 10.30am – 12.00pm - this LGA webinar will explore how councils can maintain some of the positive 'green' behaviours seen amongst communities during the pandemic. It will take this unique opportunity in history to give councils the tools and techniques to both embed and change behaviours which benefit the environment [details [here](#)].

Government extends support to stop business evictions this year - Commercial tenants will be protected from the risk of eviction until the end of 2020 helping businesses to protect jobs [details [here](#)].

Launch of Midlands Engine All-Party Parliamentary Group - Midlands Engine Chairman, Sir John Peace, has this week addressed the launch meeting of the Midlands Engine All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). The group's purpose is to champion the Midlands Engine in the UK Parliament, ensure that investment in the Midlands is prioritised by the UK Government and work to level up the Midlands economy in order to improve quality of life for communities in every part of the region.

The work of the APPG will be underpinned by regional research, data and analysis from Midlands Engine Observatory. The Observatory's work is crucial in evidencing the barriers to growth which the region faces and in highlighting scope for powerful interventions. The regular reports provided by the Observatory – including the Covid Monitor, LEP profiles and Quarterly Economic Commentaries, in addition to set piece research – together constitute a huge and unparalleled data resource focused on the Midlands Engine region [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care



Healthy and productive ageing: ensuring a good later life - This LGA Webinar will take place on Thursday 17 September 2020, 10.00am – 11.30am. It will consider where we go next in supporting healthy and positive ageing. Councils, through their work, hold a unique position in being able to support healthy and productive ageing and to improve people's wellbeing throughout their later life. The webinar will hear from Professor Sir Muir Gray, an internationally renowned authority on healthcare systems and is free to all councillors and officers who are interested in this topic [details [here](#)].

LGA webinar, Local Outbreaks and Living with COVID-19 - the LGA is hosting a second webinar with the Department of Health and Social Care to continue to share learning and best practice on local outbreaks and living with COVID-19 [details [here](#)]. The webinar will take place on Monday 28 September 2020, 2.30pm – 4.00pm.

LGA webinar, Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of staff in schools – the LGA is passionate about supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools and the wider community. With schools planning to fully reopen in September it has never been more important to look after staff wellbeing as there is likely to be some anxiety and stress around returning to school for the autumn term for both children, parents and staff [details [here](#)]. The webinar will take place on Friday 2 October 2020, 2.00pm - 3.30pm.

Social determinants of health and the role of local government - The examples and case studies detailed in this LGA report express the opportunities for health improvement and what has already been achieved. This LGA report can be obtained from [here](#).

More than £500 million for social care to reduce coronavirus transmission over winter - Care providers will be given an extra £546 million to bolster infection control and help protect residents and staff throughout winter. The Infection Control Fund, set up in May, has now been extended until March 2021, with an extra £546 million to help the care sector restrict the movement of staff between care homes to stop the spread of the virus [details [here](#)].

Supporting weight management and wellbeing approaches during the COVID-19 pandemic - The pandemic has dramatically changed how we live our lives. The impact has been felt across all sectors, including the local weight management, obesity and wellbeing services. Local Authorities (LAs) have had to adapt at fast pace to support their communities.

The [rapid research into weight management services](#) captures innovative local practice and presents insights into how people (adults, children and families) living with overweight and obesity felt during lockdown, plus the support available to them.

The report aims to share learning with LAs across the country, including those which had to stop their behavioural weight management services during lockdown. It forms a set of guiding principles for services, commissioners and service users [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information

EMC Fortnightly Summary of COVID-19 Guidance & Information for HR Colleagues - EMC

continues to provide a weekly summary to HR colleagues in the East Midlands updating developments relating to COVID-19, along with information on the frequently asked questions we have received and responded, this information can be found [here](#).



LGA Paper, React, respond, renew: Responding to the workforce challenges of the COVID-19

pandemic and looking to the future - This paper provides a summary of how COVID-19 initially affected local government from a workforce perspective.

React, Respond, Renew sets the scene for the workforce having to respond, within an extremely short timescale, to a completely new way of working. It provides a narrative to the shared experience of working through the pandemic in 2020 [details [here](#)].

Caretakers' Letting Fees - Increase Agreed by East Midlands Regional Joint Council - The East Midlands Regional Joint Council met on 8th September 2020 and agreed to increase Caretakers' Letting Fees with effect from 1st April 2020. The revised rates can be found [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](#).

Local Government News



Local COVID-19 outbreaks: lessons learnt and good practice - The report of Dame Mary Ney's rapid stocktake of lessons learnt from the Leicester City/Leicestershire experience of responding to a local surge in COVID-19 cases.

The report sets out learning and best practice drawn from Dame Mary Ney's work which included conversations with key players at all 5 local authorities in the Leicester City/Leicestershire area.

The ministerial response welcomes the report and outlines how the learning and good practice that it highlights will be used in the future [details [here](#)].

COVID-19: guidance for those leading a nomadic way of life - Information on coronavirus (COVID-19) for those leading a nomadic way of life [details [here](#)].

Domestic abuse safe accommodation: COVID-19 emergency support fund - This prospectus provides prospective bidders with information on how to apply for funding and how the assessment process will work [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

Develop skills for effective Wellbeing Conversations, Interactive Workshop - The workshop is practical and interactive, giving delegates the opportunity to discuss, explore and practice the following skills: Empathetic listening, Holding back from fixing, Exploring assumptions, Understanding others frame of reference and Being curious through effective questions.



Attendees will be provided with support material and signposted to other resources around these skills.

Dates and times for workshop 2 - there are two options of date and time to select from;

- 22 September 2020 (9:30 – 11:30)
- 23 September 2020 (14:00 – 16:00)

This will be a 2-hour virtual workshop using Zoom as the platform. Please note that places are limited to ensure that the session provides a practical and interactive experience for participants [details [here](#)].

Solving Workplace Problems using Action Learning, 24 Sep 2020 - This autumn EMC will be hosting and facilitating virtual sessions for officers across local government, providing a focused opportunity for individuals who want to make progress, perhaps exploring work challenges where they feel stuck, or need space to be able to refocus and move forward. For more information on the programme and offer from EMC please visit [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: Cllr Alan Rhodes

Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE

Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny

Executive Director: Stuart Young

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