

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

## Top items this week

1 JULY 2022



EMC Annual General Meeting (AGM), 15 July 2022

EMC HR Bulletin, July 2022 Edition

Midlands councils in £1million electric vehicle charging point bid

EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## EMC HR Bulletin, June 2022 Edition

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from [here](#). This month, Employment Law expert Darren Newman looks at sickness absence in relation to disability discrimination – covering issues such as triggers.

### Also in the June Bulletin:-

- National Pay
- Sickness Absence Survey - 2021-22
- Learning & Development News
- Budget Pressures Arising from Inflation & National Living Wage Policy
- Pay Claims for Green Book employees, Chief Executives and Chief Officers
- Apprenticeship Newsletter – June 2022

**National Living Wage Policy** - The Regional Employers' Board of EMC has written to all East Midlands MPs to draw their attention to the funding concerns arising from the forecasts of increases in the National Living Wage (NLW) in 2023 and 2024. While initiatives to address low pay are supported, EMC wants to raise awareness of the implications of the NLW policy. A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** - The next virtual meeting of the EMC Equality, Diversity and Inclusion network will be on 12 July 2022 – 10:00 – 11:30, where the approach for the network and its future work programme will be agreed. If you are interested in joining the EDI Network contact [kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## EMC News

**EMC Annual General Meeting (AGM), 15 July 2022** - The East Midlands Councils AGM will take place on the afternoon of 15 July at Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall. The invitation is extended to all councillors and chief executives of councils in the East Midlands. Cllr James Jamieson, Chairman of the Local Government Association will be attending. The papers for this meeting will be available in due course.

### EMC Support Activity

**High Impact Leadership, ILM Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management, An accredited Leadership Development Programme** - EMC is launching an ILM Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management starting in September 2022. The course will take place with a combination of face to face workshops and interactive virtual workshops. The programme information booklet can be accessed from here [Programme Information - September 2022](#)

### EMC Councillor 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. Outcomes from the workshop;

- Awareness of effective techniques for chairing hybrid meetings
- Development and embedding key skills
- The important of body language
- Control and engagement
- Handling various styles of challenge

**Audience** - this workshop is open to both Councillors and Officers, those involved with chairing meetings. For more information and to book a place visit [here](#).

---

## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

### **Government asks Devco to develop new strategy to make the most of multi-billion rail investment in East Midlands**

- A new strategy to make the most of the arrival of HS2 in the East Midlands is being developed.

Government has given the region £1m to come up with detailed plans aimed at maximising the potential of high-speed rail, with trains coming to a new HS2 station at East Midlands Parkway and going on to Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield.

Rail Minister Andrew Stephenson has requested that the work should be managed by the East Midlands Development Company (EM DevCo), which has been set up by five local authorities to plan three major development zones – including the area around Parkway.

Announcing the decision, the Minister said: “I’m delighted to announce £1m of grant funding in this financial year for the East Midlands’ HS2 Growth Strategy.

“This work will be vital in ensuring that the East Midlands maximises the benefits the region receives from HS2 and the Integrated Rail Plan.” For further information visit [here](#).

**£1 billion technology investment to bring railway into 21st century** - More than £1 billion of government funding will be used to replace outdated Victorian infrastructure with cutting edge digital signalling technology. One-third of the nation’s population live within 20 minutes of a station on the East Coast Main Line and, together, produce more than 40% of the UK’s GDP, making it one of the UK’s busiest rail routes while also playing a vital role in the prosperity of the nation’s economy.

The technology, which will be rolled out across the entire southern section of the line – from London’s King’s Cross to Stoke Tunnels, just south of Grantham – will mean faster, safer and more regular trains for millions of people [details [here](#)].

**Minister questioned on Government’s National Bus Strategy** - The Government’s National Bus Strategy for improved bus services in England outside London puts a premium on greater cooperation between bus operators and local councils to use new and existing funding to improve services for passengers [details [here](#)].

**Understanding local authorities’ views on a national road user charging system** - The LGA commissioned independent research to gather local government views, insights and priorities around a national road pricing system [details [here](#)].

**Government launches country’s first ever investigation branch focused on road safety** - The Road Safety Investigation Branch (RSIB) will make independent safety recommendations and shape future road safety policy [details [here](#)].

**Building the new Aurora Fleet: Documentary provides insight into the ongoing project to bring new trains to region** - East Midlands Railway (EMR) has released a documentary which showcases the ongoing project to build its new Aurora Intercity Fleet.

The filmmakers go behind the scenes at Hitachi Rail’s factory at Newton Aycliffe to show how its new Intercity fleet of 33 five-carriage trains are being built.

It features interviews with Hitachi engineers as they talk through the process of welding, assembling and painting the Class 810 units, as well as what working on such a prestigious project means to them [details [here](#)].

---

## Midlands Connect

**Midlands councils in £1million electric vehicle charging point bid** - A partnership of five local authorities across the Midlands region, alongside Sub-National Transport Body Midlands Connect have submitted a bid for almost £1million in funding, as part of Government’s Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Pilot.

If successful, the money - which totals £935,355 - will be distributed between **Lincolnshire, Leicestershire**, Herefordshire, **Rutland** and Stoke-on-Trent Councils. It is expected that this support from Government will attract an additional £2.1million in private sector investment, with the cumulative funds being used to install a total of 322 standard and 27 rapid public electric vehicle (EV) chargers [details [here](#)].

**Midlands Connect Newsletter** - this month’s Midlands Connect newsletter [available [here](#)] includes;

- £100,000 awarded to develop EV charging and car sharing platform
- Plans for direct rail services between Coventry, Leicester and Nottingham gain further momentum
- How the A46 could boost the economy by £7.1 billion over the next 60 years

---

## Health & Social Care

**Better mental health support for people in crisis** - A £150 million investment over the next 3 years will bolster NHS mental health services, better support people in crisis outside of A&E and enhance patient safety in mental health units. These were all recommendations from Professor Sir Simon Wessely’s independent review of the Mental Health Act which will now be implemented to improve patient care [details [here](#)].

---

---

## Housing

**Committee questions Levelling UP and DWP Ministers for exempt accommodation inquiry** - On Monday 4 July from 4pm, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee concludes the public evidence sessions for its inquiry into exempt accommodation - a type of supported housing that is exempt from Housing Benefit rule that cap the rents paid to private sector providers - with questions to Ministers from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Department for Work and Pensions [details [here](#)].

**Government launches review into short-term tourist accommodation** - A review into the effect of short-term holiday lets will seek to improve the holiday letting market for those living in popular tourism destinations [[here](#)].

- Open call for evidence aims to understand impact of increase in short-term holiday lets in England following the rise in use of rental booking websites and apps
- Review will look at the market and the opportunities and challenges presented for consumers and tourism communities

**CIH Housing 2022 conference: Housing Minister's speech** - Speech by the Housing Minister, the Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP, at the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) 2022 conference [details [here](#)].

**Many leaseholders will for the first time be legally protected from unfair bills to make their homes safe as measures in the Building Safety Act 2022 come into force.** Stronger measures in the act include new powers for the Secretary of State to restrict irresponsible developers' ability to build new homes, an extension of the Building Safety levy worth an estimated £3 billion and improving building owners' rights to launch legal action against developers [details [here](#)].

---

## Local Government News

**Census 2021 first results** - Phase one began when the Office for National Statistics published the first results on Tuesday 28 June 2022. These are estimates of the number of people and households in England and Wales. They show the number of people by sex and age at local authority level, rounded to the nearest 100.

The East Midlands population has increased by 7.7% since the last Census, and useful interactive available [here](#). The largest population increases in the East Midlands have been seen in Harborough and West Northamptonshire, where the populations have grown by 14.3% and 13.5%, respectively. At the other end of the scale, Chesterfield has seen a fall of 0.2%. For more information visit [here](#).

**Government Levelling Up funds & grants data published by Levelling-Up Committee** - The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee has published data from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities relating to a series of grants and funding pots connected with the levelling-up agenda.

The data provided by the Department of Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities covers a range of levelling-up related funds including, but not limited to, the Coastal Community Fund, Community Ownership Fund, Future High Streets Fund, Towns Fund, and the Levelling-Up Fund [details [here](#)].

**Signals of the future - horizon scanning for local government** - Ahead of the LGA's 2022 Annual Conference, Ipsos was commissioned by the LGA to conduct a horizon scan and driver analysis of key issues in UK society, to provide insights into what the leading drivers of change are in the country today, and how these might play out over the coming five years [details [here](#)].

**Debate Not Hate: The impact of abuse on local democracy** - This LGA report sets out the findings and recommendations for the future of local democracy [details [here](#)].

**Local Government Association annual conference 2022: Secretary of State's speech** - Speech by Secretary of State Michael Gove MP at the Local Government Association's annual conference 2022 [details [here](#)].

**LGA's Culture and Local Government Commission's call for case studies** – launched in March, this LGA commission is calling for councils and their local cultural partners to share examples of their work in using culture to support recovery and levelling up. Case studies should be submitted using the LGA [case study template](#) and should be emailed to [Jessica.Craig@local.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.Craig@local.gov.uk) by 29 July. More information can be found on the [commission's website](#).

---

## 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.

