

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

Top items this week

1 OCTOBER 2021



East Midlands LA Challenge,
10 November 2021

EMC HR Bulletin,
September 2021 Edition



Government launches £500m
support for vulnerable house-
holds over winter



EMC Events for Councilors
and Officers

EMC HR Bulletin, September 2021 Edition

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from [here](#).

In this month's edition, Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article looks at flexible working in the context of case law and the government consultation on flexibility as a default.

The September's Bulletin includes:-

- New Pay and Rewards Network – 1st October 2021
- Results of Survey on HGV Driver Shortages
- An update from the Regional Employers Board & Regional Joint Council

Learning & Development

- EMC Leadership Development Programme - second cohort, starting in October
- Learning & Organisational Development Network
- East Midlands Challenge - 10 November 2021
- Kickstart Scheme – Update and Support Available



Afghan Resettlement Assistance Scheme (ARAP)

The Government announced in June 2021 that it would rapidly accelerate applications through the Afghan resettlement programme. The ARAP scheme was first introduced to help vulnerable Afghans, who risked their lives supporting British troops, to relocate to the UK and start new lives.

Due to the crisis situation in Afghanistan, the evacuation of all eligible applicants was fast-tracked with over 8000 arriving into the UK between the 13th August and 28th August 2021. As Afghanistan was on the Governments travel red list, applicants were accommodated in Managed Quarantine Hotels for 10 days prior to moving into permanent accommodation or bridging accommodation.

East Midlands Councils, Local Authorities and the Home Office have been working at pace to identify suitable properties across the region and provide families with support, care and accommodation. The response from Local Authorities has been immense with over 100 pledges of accommodation being offered alongside the assurance that all families will be provided with support for integration.

The East Midlands has a long history of supporting vulnerable refugees and continues to play a key role in future resettlement schemes including the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). Further details of the ACRS will be published in due course Should you have any questions relating to the ARAP or ACRS, please contact Hannah Smith, Resettlement Policy Office (Hannah.smith@emcouncils.gov.uk) or Brein Fisher, Regional Migration Manager (brein.fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk)



East Midlands LA Challenge, 10 November 2021, deadline for team registration 5 October -

East Midlands Councils will once again host a regional Challenge event but this time with a virtual twist! The 2021 Challenge will include all the key elements of the previous versions but will take place using an exciting new virtual format. The Challenge will take place on 10 November 2021, with 12 team places available. The deadline to register a team for this virtual event is next week.

The event takes place throughout the day with a high intensity simulation exercise that gives a rare opportunity for aspiring managers to gain exposure to issues outside of their normal working lives and give them a taste of what senior management is like. It is also a brilliant way to hone those team working skills [details [here](#)].

EMC Support Activity

Kickstart Scheme, Update and Support Available - EMC's work is well underway as a gateway organisation for the Kickstart Scheme. EMC can also provide the employability training that is a feature of the scheme, and which is also fully funded. Development is structured throughout the placement, so that participants understand what employers look for in effective employees to maximise the time at work and develop key skills such as teamworking and communication. Tailored training and coaching can also be provided if required. The development is provided through virtual or in-person sessions, depending on the preference of the councils. The employability training can also be provided to organisations that have not accessed Kickstart through EMC as the gateway. For further information, contact Suzanne at Suzanne.boulby@emcouncils.gov.uk or visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Give Parliament and public ways to measure transport levelling up 'infrastructure revolution' - The Government's 'levelling up' concept needs to move beyond rhetoric and on to delivery, requiring targets and metrics to enable Parliament and public to identify success, says a new report from the Transport Select Committee, Major transport infrastructure projects.

The Committee calls on Government to prioritise projects which support connectivity, growth and productivity. It recommends a new framework for assessing individual projects, replacing benefit-cost ratios with a 'benefit-cost plus' system to ensure value for money for the taxpayer while according due weight to geographic, environmental and social factors [details [here](#)].

Companies bidding for major government contracts face green rules - All companies bidding for government contracts worth more than £5million a year must commit to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050 [details [here](#)].

- The UK is the first country in the world to put such a measure in place
- New requirements come ahead of COP26 where officials hope other countries will follow suit

LGA Housing Advisers Programme 2021/22 - the LGA has launched [this Programme for 2021/22](#). It is designed to support councils seeking to innovate in meeting the housing needs of their communities. Councils can apply for up to £20,000 from the programme for their housing projects with the purpose of securing expert advice in transforming how a service or partnership meets the housing need of communities. Applications close at 5pm on 15 November.

Economic Development

LGA Improvement Projects - The LGA's policy team has just have just commissioned the following Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities improvement projects, whereby we are looking for interested or interesting councils who would like to engage with these. If you are interested, please contact kamal.panchal@local.gov.uk:

Future high streets resilience – the pandemic has accelerated existing trends in in our high streets and town centres; we want to learn and share good practice as to how councils are looking to the future and helping their high streets and town centres become more resilient and sustainable.

Business support and engagement post pandemic - the LGA would like to understand and share good and emerging practice in how councils intend to engage with local businesses over the coming years as the economy recovers from the worst of the COVID pandemic

Public/ private partnerships (joint ventures etc) for driving growth - in the financial context of huge financial pressures as a result of the pandemic and reduced budgets and, the short-termism of many funding streams, it is important that councils have the right financial mechanisms to align private sector investment with place-based needs and growth over the long-term through thriving public-private partnerships. This piece of work seeks to support councils to deliver public-private partnerships to boost economic growth and offer practical steps to ensure the success of such partnerships.

Midlands Engine

Leicester "Leads the way" on new national space strategy, following publication of the UK Government's new National Space Strategy -The approach has been formed with input from space scientists and experts based at the University of Leicester and Space Park Leicester, plus other key players in the UK space sector, to create a 10-point plan for the UK's contribution in space. Leicester research and innovation in space plays a major role in the UK space sector, with Space Park Leicester expected to boost the regional economy by £750m a year and create 2,500 jobs while supporting many of these new national objectives. Further information on the Midlands Engine website [here](#).

Mental Health and Productivity Pilot praised for latest campaign - Midlands pilot scheme has been heralded as a positive regional approach to tackling the stigma around mental health in the workplace by the head of a major national charity. Paul Farmer, Chief Executive of mental health charity Mind, has praised the work of the **Mental Health and Productivity Pilot (MHPP)** following the launch of its **"Bridge the Gap, Start a Chat"** campaign aimed at improving the support available for mental health at work [details [here](#)].

MHPP, funded by Midlands Engine, is a collaboration of Midlands universities, local authorities and experts from Mind and was launched to support employers to understand the important link between staff mental health and wellbeing, and business productivity.

Climate Change & Sustainable Development

Delivering, managing and enforcing Workplace Parking Levy and clean air schemes, Thursday 21 October 2021-

Nottingham City Council is hosting an event showcasing their workplace parking levy and clean air schemes. The day will feature:

- A focus on Nottingham's Workplace Parking Levy - how it works, policy aims, lessons learned and its lasting impact.
- An overview of other WPL schemes that are planned
- A review of Clean Air Zone and other air quality management schemes around the UK
- A look at the role of anti-engine idling actions, Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and School Streets in enhancing urban air quality.

Local authorities can attend free, *limited to 2 free places per council, further details [here](#).*

Carbon Literacy in Leicestershire - A Leicestershire-based community group is inviting more local residents to engage in a days' worth of learning about the climate crisis and the ways in which individuals and communities can tackle it, after running successful Carbon Literacy courses earlier this year.

Transition Loughborough has is running further online Carbon Literacy courses in October and November. The courses are funded by a SHIRE Environment Grant from Leicestershire County Council and are accredited by the national Carbon Literacy Project.

Carbon Literacy is defined as "An awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis." The course covers topics such as climate change science, the ways in which the climate crisis is already impacting us, both locally and globally, and what we can do to act as individuals, communities and organisations.

Anyone living, working and/or studying in Leicestershire is welcome to sign up [here](#).

Local Government News

Government launches £500m support for vulnerable households over winter - Vulnerable households across the country will be able to access a new £500m support fund to help them with essentials over the coming months as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic [details [here](#)].

- £500m support available to help those most in need as we enter the final stages of recovery
- Money available to councils in October 2021
- Bolsters support already in place to help vulnerable households and individuals

Domestic Abuse Act 2021 commencement schedule - This sets out the commencement dates of the provisions of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 [details [here](#)].

Health and Social Care

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](#)].

Employers' Information

Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development (CIPD) Awards 2021- This week the CIPD has hosted their 'People Management Awards 2021'. Shortlisted for an award were North Kesteven District Council for the Best Health and Wellbeing initiative—public sector [for more information and for details of the winners and those shortlisted visit [here](#)].

COVID-19 Workforce Survey, week ending 6 August 2021- This 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. An online survey was emailed to heads of human resources, or a nominated contact, in councils from England on the second Wednesday of the month. The data requested related to the week ending the preceding Friday [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: Cllr Rob Parker
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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