

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

Top items this week

20 JANUARY 2023



**Levelling Up Fund
Round Two in the East
Midlands**



**Updated Guidance on
Homes for Ukraine
scheme**



**£60 million brownfield
development fund
announced**



**East Midlands
Councils News &
Events**

Levelling Up Fund—Round Two

This week, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced the new areas which will be awarded funding from round two of the Levelling Up Fund.

In the East Midlands, 11 projects have received a total of £176,870,348, which is 8.5 per cent of the £2.1 billion fund.

These include:

Ashfield District Council	Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium	£3,100,000
Bassetlaw District Council	Levelling Up Worksop Town Centre	£17,968,565
Boston Borough Council	The Rosegarth Square Masterplan	£14,846,596
Broxtowe Borough Council	Kimberley Means Business	£16,539,214
City of Lincoln Council	Lincoln Western Growth Corridor (WGC) - East-ern Transport Access Scheme	£20,000,000
Derby City Council	Assemble (Learning Theatre)	£20,000,000
Derbyshire Dales District Council	Ashbourne Reborn	£13,373,509
East Lindsey District Council	Lincolnshire Wolds Culture and Heritage Programme	£8,091,774
Mansfield District Council	Mansfield Connect	£20,000,000
Rutland County Council	Rural Innovation in Place	£22,950,690
South Holland District Council	The South Holland Health and Wellbeing Hub	£20,000,000

This announcement follows the allocation of £1.7 billion to 105 projects across the UK from round one of the Levelling Up Fund in 2021.

[Read about Levelling Up Round Two](#)

[Read about Levelling Up Round One in the East Midlands](#)

[View interactive map of Levelling Up projects across the UK](#)

Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Ukraine updated guidance

This week, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities published updated guidance for the Homes for Ukraine scheme to reflect recent announcements and changes.

The guidance has specific sections for three audiences:

- [Guests \(also available in Ukrainian and Russian\)](#)
- [Sponsors](#)
- [Councils](#)

DLUHC will be writing to council chief executives, sponsors and guests shortly with the updated information.

Ministers questioned over refugee funding cuts

The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee this week questioned ministers over what assessments had been made before reducing the funding for Ukrainian refugees from £10,500 per person to £5,900.

Despite the cuts to the tariff, the Government has provided a one-off pot worth £150m to tackle homelessness and a £500m fund to provide up to 4,000 homes by 2024, including housing for Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

The committee heard that homes would pass to general housing stock after refugees have returned to Ukraine.

Housing minister, Felicity Buchan, also confirmed the Government was no longer looking at aligning the Homes for Ukraine and family visa schemes.

[Watch the full session.](#)

Local communities to get £750,000 for Windrush 75th anniversary celebrations

Applications for the Windrush Day Grant Scheme are now open. Community groups, charities and councils will now be able to bid for their share of the £750,000 pot of funding to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush community in their local areas.

Each area can bid for up to £50,000 to fund celebratory parades, educational resources, arts and sporting projects, providing they are focused on the contribution of the Windrush generation and their descendants.

[Read more and apply.](#)

Transport and Growth

New plan for smart electric vehicle (EV) charging could save consumers up to £1000 a year

This week, the department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy published its 'Electric Vehicle Smart Charging Action Plan', which sets out steps being taken to seize on the significant potential of smart charging and make it the preferred method of long duration charging by 2025.

Smart charging harnesses the potential of energy use data and the latest energy innovations to deliver significant benefits for consumers. This includes allowing motorists to charge electric vehicles when electricity is cheaper or cleaner, allowing consumers to power their home using electricity stored in their electric vehicle, or even sell it back to the grid for profit.

It is expected high mileage motorists could save up to £1,000 a year through smarter charging.

[Read more.](#)

£60 million brownfield development fund announced

Disused brownfield sites across England will be regenerated to deliver thousands of new homes and jobs, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced this week.

Councils across England will now be able to bid for a share of £60 million from the Brownfield Land Release Fund 2, which will help to bring neglected urban areas back into use, support regeneration projects and boost local economies.

The funding is set to deliver 5,800 new homes by March 2027, create around 18,000 new jobs in the housing and construction sector, while helping thousands of first-time buyers into homeownership.

The full brownfield fund will deliver 17,600 new homes and 56,000 skilled new jobs over the next 4 years, helping to transform communities and level up the country.

[Read more.](#)

EMC NEWS

Hundreds attend HKBNO Welcome event in West Northamptonshire

East Midlands Councils was pleased to assist West Northamptonshire Council host a Civic Welcome Event for the new community of Hong Kong BN(O) in the local area last weekend.

More than 300 people attended the event, which included a variety of cultural games and activities hosted by local group, Northamptonshire Hongkongers.

This event is part of EMC's wider collaboration with West Northamptonshire Council within its role as the regional strategic migration partnership, which also includes working with colleagues across the region on wider asylum dispersal and formal resettlement schemes.

[More information about East Midlands SMP](#)

EMC seeks proposals for the production of technical evidence for the Promotion of Rail Priorities in the East Midlands

Transport for the East Midlands is seeking proposals for the provision of technical advice, analysis and support to promote three strategic rail improvement opportunities in the East Midlands Region.

In brief, these priorities are:

- Product 1 - HS2 AND IRP
- Product 2 - MML ELECTRIFICATION
- Product 3 – ENHANCED REGIONAL SERVICES

Bids should be submitted to Kyle.Butterworth@emcouncils.gov.uk by 09.00am Monday 6th February 2023.

[Find out more.](#)

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell

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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