

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

Top items this week

20 NOVEMBER 2020



Transport for the East Midlands, Job Opportunity



Regional Employers' Board and Regional Joint Council



Shortlist for the 2020 LGIU & CCLA Cllr Awards



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Regional Employers' Board and Regional Joint Council

The Regional Employers' Board and Regional Joint Council will meet virtually on Wednesday 25 November. The Regional Employers' Board will look Sickness Absence & Impact of Working from Home and EMCs Councillor Development Programme for 2020-21.

The Regional Joint Council brings together the Employers with representatives of the joint trades unions at regional level. The Joint Council meeting on will include;

- a presentation on COVID-19 Testing by the Head of East Midlands Hub – Testing
- an update on the Kick Start Scheme
- Councils' approaches to Supporting Employees' Mental Health

For details on the Regional Employers' Board [\[here\]](#) and Regional Joint Council [\[here\]](#).



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](#).

NJC Circular, Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday 2022 – The Government has announced that there will be an additional bank holiday to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The late May bank holiday will be moved to Thursday 2 June 2022 and an additional Jubilee bank holiday will be on Friday 3 June 2022. The NJC has issued a circular available from [here](#).

Virtual Information Exchange for HR, 16 December 14:00 – 15:30 - the next virtual information exchange will focus on the area of wellbeing and will take place on Wednesday 16 December 2020 via MS Teams.

The exchange is an interactive way for HR colleagues to discuss and share information, ideas and practice. Joining the session will be a key contributor to the area of wellbeing and resilience, Julie Hickton, Julie is an experienced coach, mentor and author in this field and a regular colleague of EMC. If you would like to be part of this information exchange on 16 December contact Mila Pereira mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC News

Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM), Job Opportunity - TfEM is working in collaboration with the Department for Transport to provide local input into the management of the East Midlands Railway Franchise which started in August 2019 and will run for eight years with the option of a two-year extension. We are now looking to recruit to the new role 'Monitoring and Performance Officer (Rail)'. This new role will be based in the attractive Leicestershire town of Melton Mowbray, with opportunities for home and mobile working. For more information about this role visit [here](#).



EMC Support Activity

Virtual Learning and Development Network - A virtual meeting of the Learning and Development network will take place on 26 November, 9:30 using MS Teams. The focus of the network meeting will be the sharing of Leadership Development plans and Equality and Diversity training. For more information contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

Additional Date for 'Scrutiny Reset and Recovery' workshop - Following demand in the first date for this workshop which will take place next week, EMC has provided an additional date of 2 December [details [here](#)].

Local government has changed significantly in order to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Functions, finances and political management arrangements have been re-shaped since March 2020. Scrutiny has also been impacted by COVID. This virtual workshop has been designed to focus on the role of scrutiny in the 'reset and recovery' period.

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Landmark reforms to improve social housing and give residents a greater voice - Charter for social housing residents sets out reforms that will speed up complaints procedure for residents and make landlords more accountable.

- New Charter gives social housing residents a greater voice
- Tougher housing regulator to ensure high standards from landlords
- Strengthened Housing Ombudsman to speed up the handling of complaints

Major reforms to support housing tenants in England and ensure landlords raise standards where needed have been announced this week by the Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick.

The social housing white paper – ‘The Charter for Social Housing Residents’, sets out reforms that will speed up the complaints procedure for residents by improving access to the Housing Ombudsman, reducing decision times and ensuring effective resolution [details [here](#)].

LGA’s innovative Housing Advisers Programme – in its fourth year, this programme helps councils overcome housing challenges in their local areas, with a focus this year on projects tackling the impact of COVID-19. The programme funds the provision of independent expertise for councils undertaking specific projects to tackle the effects of the housing crisis in local communities – including on housing delivery, planning for homes, and reducing homelessness. The programme will award up to £20,000 to each project to secure expert advice in transforming how a service or partnership meets communities’ housing needs. The best practice and lessons learned from each project will be shared with councils and embedded into the LGA’s sector-led improvement offer. For further information visit [here](#) or email housingadvisers@local.gov.uk.

Travelling less and the role of online opportunities webinar, Tuesday 24 November 2020 - This webinar forms part of the Decarbonising Transport series, accompanied by a toolkit of seven evidence-based policy briefings prepared for the Local Government Association by the Decarbon8 Research Network and the Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions [details [here](#)].

Training academy for politicians on adaptation - The Third general Political Training Academy on Climate Adaptation, an action of the Climate Adaptation Partnership of the EU Urban Agenda will take place on 4 December 11-12:30 (virtually). It is targeted at politicians (mayors, vice mayors, councillors) and their advisers on climate issues. This academy, led by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) in cooperation with other partners, is one of the actions within the [EU Urban Agenda partnership on climate adaptation](#). You can find more information visit [here](#) and book a place [here](#).

Homelessness

Lessons learnt from councils' response to rough sleeping during the COVID-19 pandemic - Local Partnerships were commissioned by the Local Government Association (LGA) to investigate lessons learnt from the Everyone In response to the COVID-19 crisis in dealing with rough sleeping and those at risk of it and how this can inform future policy and practice, including planning for winter [detail [here](#)]. Case studies include ones from Derbyshire

Health & Social Care

Government leads national drive to protect victims of child abuse - New campaign to protect children launched as tougher restrictions come into effect [details [here](#)].

Alcohol dependence and mental health - There are an estimated 589,000 people who are dependent on alcohol in England and about a quarter of them are likely to be receiving mental health medication. This Public Health England blog looks at alcohol dependence and mental health in detail [available from [here](#)].

Midlands Engine

Midlands Engine partners share bold ambitions to tackle climate change and biodiversity crisis in our region - In November, Midlands Engine partners came together in a virtual workshop to share ambitions for how our region can lead the way in tackling the climate and biodiversity emergencies [details [here](#)].

Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

EU Settlement Scheme applications exceed 4.2 million - Over **4.2 million applications** have been made to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) according to the latest [monthly statistics](#), with seven months to go before the 30 June 2021 deadline.

The figures show that, up to the end of October 2020:

- 4.26 million applications were received
- 4.07 million applications were processed
- Across the UK, 3,870,600 million applications were received from England, 214,700 applications from Scotland, 70,800 applications from Wales and 69,300 received from Northern Ireland

New social media assets for you to share - A new social media graphic is available to download and use available from [here](#).

Local Government News



Lessons from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council: Building cyber resilience in local government, 4 December, 14:00-15.30

- This virtual meeting will explore the protect, response and recovery elements of cyber security, with reflections from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council following the cyber attack they experienced earlier this year.

This Local Government Association and SOLACE hosted virtual meeting is an opportunity for Chief Executives, Deputy Chief Executives and 151 Officers to understand the cyber threat to local government and the actions that should be taken to help mitigate against and prepare for a cyber incident. Speakers will include colleagues from the National Cyber Security Centre and the Cabinet Office, as well as the Managing Director of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and team who will be reflecting on some of the lessons identified from the incident [details [here](#)].

Faith, Race and Hate Crime Grants scheme announces £1.8 million in project support - The Faith, Race and Hate Crime Grants scheme invited established community groups and civil society organisations across England to apply for funding for projects that champion the government's commitment to building a diverse and tolerant society for all faiths and races. This week the Faith Minister has announced the projects which will receive funding [details [here](#)].

Cllr Awards - The Local Government Information Units 2020 Cllr Awards shortlist of award winners has been announced. The winners will be announced at the Awards on the 26th November (England). For 2020, there are 9 categories for the Cllr Awards in England, including two new categories for collaborative working and community leadership during the coronavirus health crisis.

Shortlist for the 2020 LGIU & CCLA Cllr Awards - with details of those shortlisted from the East Midlands listed below;

- Leader of the Year - Cllr Tom Beattie – Corby Borough Council (shortlisted)
 - Covid-19 Hero - Cllr Salma Mumtaz – Nottingham City Council (shortlisted)
 - Finance & Economic Development - Cllr Huw Williams – Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (shortlisted)
- EMC would like to congratulate those from the East Midlands for being shortlisted and wish them luck for the results.

The full list of those who have been shortlisted can be found [here](#).

Digital Showcase Virtual Meeting, 24 November 2020 - this virtual meeting being held by the LGA will showcase some of the excellent and innovative digital work councils are doing to redesign and improve their services and ways of working particularly in light of COVID-19 challenges [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

New Technologies for Testing Webinar, 25 November 2020 (12noon-2pm) - Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and East Midlands Councils have arranged a free webinar via MS Teams on New Technologies for Testing. We have secured some excellent speakers, the programme is available from [here](#). To book a place please book via our website [here](#).



Modern Slavery & Child Trafficking Summit, 11 and 14 December 2020 - To help tackle modern slavery and human trafficking, East Midlands Councils are holding a region-wide virtual summit for Local Authority councillors, senior officers, the voluntary sector and wider private and public sector partners.

Spread across two dates, this virtual summit will give those attending the opportunity to explore the causes and impact of Modern Slavery globally, nationally and within the East Midlands, help identify the impact on victims and communities, as well as show what more can be done in support of partners in the statutory, non-statutory and business sector in making the East Midlands a hostile environment for the perpetrators of this crime whilst supporting potential victims.

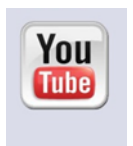
Join us at this event on Friday 11th December and Monday 14th December from 10am to discover how we can develop strong partnerships across government, criminal justice agencies, civil society and the third sector sharing knowledge to help eradicate Modern Slavery in the East Midlands. To book a place at this free virtual event 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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