

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

Top items this week

21 AUGUST 2020



EMC HR Information Exchange



Virtual Councillor Workshop on Chairing and Effective Meetings



Local Government Scrutiny



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## Virtual Councillor Workshop on Chairing and Effective Meetings

EMC is hosting a 3-hour virtual workshop on Chairing and Effective meetings, which is suitable for both new and continuing chairs. This session will be interactive, drawing on people's experience and insights from the tutor with some group work. It covers formal roles such as chairing full council or a planning committee, as well as less formal approaches to chairing eg. for scrutiny activity and public meetings. There are two dates and times to select from. Dates are: 16 Sep 2020 17:30 and 18 Sep 2020 13:30. Information available from [here](#).

## EMC News

**EMC Wellbeing Conversations Development for Managers** - EMC has commissioned the development of two workshops for managers in local authorities. These two-hour interactive workshops will be held virtually, and will offer a practical opportunity for managers to explore and develop skills in effective Wellbeing conversations with staff. The two workshops are;

- **Wellbeing Conversations Development for Managers – Workshop 1**
- **Develop skills for effective Wellbeing Conversations – Workshop 2**

Further details on these practical workshops and information on how to book are [here](#).

## Employers' Information

**EMC HR Information Exchange** - The first Exchange was held yesterday, providing a space for HR colleagues from across the East Midlands to share information and approaches. Feedback from participants was extremely positive. Over 20 councils took part in the session which was focused on current workforce issues related to COVID, including Casual and relief workers, staff returning from shielding and working from home arrangements, with topics being led by Derbyshire County Council and Newark & Sherwood to present their approach and experience.

**EMC Fortnightly Summary of COVID-19 Guidance & Information for HR Colleagues** - EMC is providing HR colleagues in the East Midlands with a fortnightly summary of workforce-related Covid-19 developments, including advice on FAQ's we have received [the latest update can be found [here](#)].

**European Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, Social Europe Newsletter** - available [here](#).

## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

**Transport Secretary launches new Acceleration Unit to speed up transport infrastructure projects and build back better from COVID-19** - The unit is set to be in place next month and will be directly accountable to the Transport Secretary. It will be led by Darren Shirley, currently Chief Executive of the Campaign for Better Transport and formerly of Which? Magazine.

- 'Acceleration Unit' launched to speed up delivery of transport projects as the government announces new wave of funding to level up parts of UK
- launch coincides with around £360 million of investment to build back better from COVID-19

For more information visit [here](#).

**HS2 Events for Business** - East Midlands Chamber of Commerce is working in partnership with Leicestershire County Council and the Leicester and Leicestershire Business Gateway Growth Hub to deliver a series of practical webinars to support all businesses to be "Fit4HS2". The aim is to raise awareness of the opportunities available and highlight that these do not just apply to the engineering and construction sectors, but across a wide and diverse portfolio of sectors and sizes of business. The series of practical sessions will support businesses to not only be "Fit4HS2" but also for other public sector contracts. **For more information visit [here](#).**

---

## Climate Change and Sustainability

**LGA Report on 'Charging up the green recovery'** - This LGA guide seeks to address how electric charging infrastructure can help us access this green dividend. Many councils have been looking at investing in charging infrastructure and transitions to their vehicle fleet [details [here](#)].

---

## Local Government News

**'COVID-19 and English council funding: how are budgets being hit in 2020–21?'** - Institute of Fiscal Studies report available [here](#).

---

## Local Government Scrutiny

**East Midlands Scrutiny Network** - The East Midlands Scrutiny network will meet next virtually on 25 September at 10am using MS Teams. This network meeting will provide an opportunity for both Councillors and Officers involved with Scrutiny to network and share scrutiny activity. For more information on the network please contact [Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

**Improving the scrutiny of integrated care systems and sustainability and transformation partnerships** - This Centre for Public Scrutiny guide has been produced in partnership with the NHS Confederation. The guidance is designed for scrutiny leads and communications and engagement directors within integrated care systems (ICSs) and sustainability transformation partnerships (STPs). Its purpose is to help them understand how they might work more effectively together to produce a relationship that works in the best interests of local partnerships and communities [\[here\]](#).

**Watch the Centre for Public Scrutiny's recorded webinar: Finance Scrutiny** - available [here](#).

**Centre for Public Scrutiny Webinar & workshop: scrutinising climate action, 18 September** - This is a free online webinar and workshop organised by the Centre for Public Scrutiny and the Local Government Association.

It is directed at scrutiny members, scrutiny officers, climate change/environment portfolio holders and council leaders. Drawing on their upcoming publication '10 questions to ask if you are scrutinising climate change', this event will outline a practical approach for scrutineers to understand and seek oversight on climate action in their localities. For more on this event visit [here](#).

**Scrutiny, Counter-extremism and the Prevent duty** - This guidance focuses on the role of local authorities, and those with whom they work directly. This publication, produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) and the Local Government Association (LGA), is intended to help scrutiny practitioners (councillors who sit on overview and scrutiny committees or equivalents, and the officers who support them) to understand some of the key features of national and local policy on extremism and terrorism, and how they can support local efforts to combat these threats through their non-executive role [details [here](#)].

---

## Health & Social Care

**Public Health England Chief Executive Duncan Selbie message** - Duncan Selbie addresses the creation of the National Institute for Health Protection [available [here](#)].

**Social care and obesity** - Obesity places high demands on social care and exerts significant pressures on costs and resources, yet it is often overlooked. This LGA Report on the issue is available [here](#).

**Data for local outbreak planning: now and looking ahead Tuesday 25 August 2020** - This LGA webinar focuses on data provision to local authorities and how this can support local systems in responding to local outbreaks. It will provide an overview, exploring the different sources, uses and quality of the available data. Information on this LGA event can be found [here](#).

---

## Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

**East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Events** - The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership are hosting 2 virtual training sessions on **Female Genital Mutilation** delivered by Bal Kaur Howard at BKH Training. The sessions will raise awareness, identification and support processes of FGM to multi-agency practitioners, enabling them to safeguard and identify children at risk of FGM more confidently. Click [here](#) to find out more info or to book.

---

## 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

---

## 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.

