

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

Top items this week

21 JANUARY 2022



Apprentice of the Year 2022



EMC General Meeting



Housing News



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

EMC General Meeting

Invitation for all councillors to attend EMC's General Meeting, scheduled for 10.00am on Friday 11 February 2022, to be held virtually via MS Teams. For further information about the meeting please contact Lisa Hopkins via email on lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk. The papers for the meeting will be available in due course.

EMC News

Apprentice of the Year 2022, Save the date Wednesday 25 May 2022 - The Local

Government Apprentice of the Year 2022 event will be taking place virtually on 25 May 2022

all day, with a one-hour awards ceremony the following morning to celebrate all the successes from the day. Save the dates in your diaries to ensure your council doesn't miss out! Further information available from [here](#).

Learning and Development Network - On Thursday 27 January EMC will host a virtual network meeting for those involved with Learning and Development. The meeting will provide an opportunity for colleagues from across the region to share current priorities and future areas of work. If you are interested in attending this free virtual network contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Democratic Services Network - EMC and Association of Democratic Service Officers (ADSO) colleagues in the region are hosting a virtual networking session for Democratic Service colleagues. The meeting will take place on 28 January. For more information visit [here](#).

EMC Boards Activity

Upcoming Board meeting dates;

- **Regional Migration Board** - 9 March 2022
- **Regional Employers' Board/Joint Council** - 16 March 2022
- **EMC Executive Board** - 1 April 2022

EMC Events

Support for the delivery of national Afghan resettlement programmes

IOM UK Afghanistan: Geography, History, Experiences in Conflict (and Displacement) and Services, 8 Feb 2022, 14:00 - This session's content will focus primarily on the geography and history of Afghanistan, as well as Afghan's experiences in conflict [details [here](#)].

IOM UK Afghanistan: Cultural Norms, Family and Social Life, 9 Feb 2022, 14:00 - This session's content will focus primarily on Afghan cultural norms, practices, family and social life [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information



Recruiting Overseas Social Care Workers, Free Webinars - Following the government's announcement on 24 December that Social care workers will be added to the Health and Care Visa and Shortage Occupation List, Home Office, DHSC and Skills for Care are hosting two webinars – Social Care: Recruiting an overseas social care worker under the Points Based System.

These 90 minute webinars will provide an overview of the points-based immigration system for the social care sector, what the recent announcement means for international recruitment, how to ensure ethical international recruitment and examples of best practice from the social care sector.

For information and to book a place on the webinar on 25 January (15:30 – 17:00) please visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Standards in social housing

- Review of staff training and qualifications to improve social housing services and ensure residents' complaints are dealt with effectively
- Residents encouraged to come forward and have their say on future of social housing
- Social Housing White Paper will make sure tenants are safe, listened to and live in good quality homes

The Social Housing White Paper Professionalisation Review will explore the qualifications currently available for staff, with landlords, residents and trade bodies putting forward recommendations to the government. It will also consider if additional training is required to improve the service to residents [details [here](#)].

Building safety funding inquiry launched - The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee has this week launched a new inquiry into building safety and issues relating to funding and remediation. The Committee's inquiry will examine the announcements made by Secretary of State Michael Gove in his statement to the House of Commons on [10 January](#). The Committee welcomes evidence submissions on the terms of reference [available from [here](#)]. The final closing date for submissions is Wednesday 16 February 2022.

In particular, the inquiry seeks answers to the following questions:

- What is your assessment of the Government's announcements on 10 January 2022 regarding building safety?
- Do the announcements go far enough, and what, if anything, is missing?
- What are the potential impacts of the announcements? In the case of negative impacts, how can they be addressed?
- How might the announcements affect the wider objectives of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, including the building of affordable housing?
- What would you like to see in the funding arrangement to be agreed with industry?

Further information available from [here](#).

Technical consultation on consequential changes to permitted development rights - This government response sets out the government's approach to consequential changes to national permitted development rights following the reform of use classes. Individual rights have been updated and the opportunity taken to simplify and rationalise certain rights where possible [details [here](#)].

New online service to track remediation of high risk buildings - Under the Leaseholder and Resident Service, those living in tower blocks will have access to updates on the status of their building's application to the government's Building Safety Fund [details [here](#)].

- New service will allow leaseholders to track Building Safety Fund applications
- Online updates will expose building owners who are failing to take action to fix their properties
- Measures are part of government action to protect leaseholders and force developers to make their buildings safe

Midlands Connect



Nottingham to Lincoln rail route: Businesses urged to have their say on upgrade plans - Regional transport body Midlands Connect has launched an [online consultation](#) to get business' views on improvements to the rail route between Nottingham, Newark and Lincoln. The survey asks firms to give their views on current rail connectivity and to outline how improving them would impact their trade, productivity and access to skilled workers.

Midlands Connect is urging as many businesses as possible to get involved and make their views heard.

The potential improvement plans would see the number of hourly train services between Nottingham, Newark and Lincoln double from one, to two trains every hour. As well as this, improvements to signalling and track would improve journey times, reducing end to end trips from 55 minutes to 45 minutes.

Line speed work is expected to be completed between 2022 and 2026, while Midlands Connect is examining ways to improve service frequency in the medium term.

The consultation is being supported by MPs Karl McCartney and Lilian Greenwood, local councils including Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council as well the Lincolnshire Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Small Business. The survey is open until Friday 11th February at 5pm and can be accessed [here](#).

Midlands Engine

Midlands Engine partners call for great investment in regional connectivity – One Tuesday [18 January], Midlands Engine convened expert regional partners for its Digital Conference with the aim to level up regional digital connectivity in support of economic prosperity across the whole of the Midlands [details [here](#)].

Local Government News and wider

Public-Private Partnerships: Driving Growth, Building Resilience - The LGA has commissioned Partnering Regeneration Development and Newbridge Advisors to produce this good practice guide. It aims to support councils to plan and establish more effective public-private partnerships, which can deliver the investment, development and services that are essential to boosting economic growth and recovery [details [here](#)].

New plans to boost veterans employment launched - Veterans' Strategy Action Plan launches, including more than 60 commitments to help veterans with employment and healthcare [details [here](#)].

Final recommendations for Amber Valley published - The Boundary Commission is carrying out an electoral review of Amber Valley Borough Council. The aim of the electoral review is to recommend ward boundaries that mean each councillor represents approximately the same number of voters. The Boundary Commission is proposing that Amber Valley Borough Council should have **42** councillors. Those councillors should represent, 6 three-councillor wards and 12 two councillor wards, across the borough. They are also proposing that the boundaries of most wards should change. Further information available from [here](#).

Climate Change

Applying behaviour change techniques to the climate emergency, sustainable travel and health inequalities, 22 February 2022 – This LGA webinar will look at how we can use behavioural change techniques in our council services to work with communities and change their behaviour. It will feature councils who have used behavioural change techniques to tackle the biggest challenges of our day – climate emergency and health inequalities and will also look at how the LGA is taking a regional approach in supporting councils to run behaviour change projects to combat these challenges. Funded by Government, the webinar is open to all sectors to boost the adoption of behaviour change for local government [details [here](#)].

Leadership Essentials: Climate Emergency for Elected Members - This LGA programme will help leaders and portfolio holders to explore the crucial local leadership role in responding to the climate emergency. During the course, you will commit to two carbon reducing actions. These actions will be evaluated by the Carbon Literacy Project for you to be certified as Carbon Literate, enabling you to train others in your area of work [details [here](#)].

Fee: The cost of attending this programme is fully subsidised. This includes course materials and tuition.

Where: It will take place virtually on Zoom.

Migration

EU Settlement Scheme Update - According to the first EUSS statistics of 2022, published on Thursday 13th January 2022, show over 6.39 million applications have been made to the EU Settlement Scheme.

The latest figures show that:

- 6.39 million applications were received by 31 December 2021, of which 333,200 were received after 30 June 2021
- 6.06 million applications were concluded by 31 December 2021, of which 613,400 were concluded after 30 June 2021.
- By the end of December 2021, 3.1 million (52% of concluded applications) were granted settled status and 2.5 million (41%) were granted pre-settled status, totalling 5.6 million grants of status.
- Of the remaining applications, 112,200 (2%) received a withdrawn or void outcome, 105,400 (2%) were invalid and 205,400 (3%) were refused

Help and support remains available to eligible EUSS applicants who may need help applying to the scheme. Funding for the Home Office's network of 72 grant funded organisations and local authorities across the UK has been extended.

To find organisations that offer support in your area please click here: www.gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme

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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