

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

Top items this week

22 JULY 2022

Homes for Ukraine, latest regional data

EMC Asylum and Refugee Resettlement Conference for Councillors

The LGC Awards 2022

EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

EMC Asylum and Refugee Resettlement Conference for Councillors - 14 September 2022 - Save the date

EMC is hosting a one day conference for Councillors on asylum and refugee resettlement, the programme for the conference will include:

- Global Resettlement schemes and National Response
- Homes for Ukraine
- Introduction to Full Asylum Dispersal model

With opportunities to;

- Enable us to learn from innovative and effective practice.
- Consider local priorities and responses in the future management of these programmes.
- Understand local capacity and impact on local government in respect of refugee programmes, economic and social impact and modern slavery.

Conference information

Tuesday 14th September 2022, 1000 - 1500

Venue: Attenborough Room, Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ.

The EMC Asylum, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery Summit is a fully subsidised event by East Midlands Councils and therefore free to attend.

Local Government News

Bidding opens again for £4.8 billion levelling up fund - Applications for the second round of the government's Levelling Up Fund now open until 2 August [details [here](#)].

The LGC Awards 2022 - The LGC Award winners were announced on 20 July, the winners can be accessed [here](#). East Midlands Councils would like to congratulate all winners and those shortlisted for this years LGC Awards.

Those successful from the East Midlands;

- **Public/Public Partnership - Winner** : South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, **South Holland District Council, East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council**
- **Technology - Winner** : NottAlone.org.uk - Local mental health advice and help for young people in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire, all in one place, **Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council**

Performance management guide for local authority officers - This LGA guide contains ideas, tools and approaches to help local authority officers to manage performance effectively, in collaboration with councillors [details [here](#)].

Performance management guide for councillors - This LGA guide contains ideas, tools and approaches to help councillors manage performance effectively, in collaboration with local authority officers [details [here](#)].

Housing

Private renters' inquiry launched by Levelling Up Committee - The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee has launched an inquiry into Reforming the Private Rented Sector, examining the Government's proposals set out in its recent White Paper, [A Fairer Private Rented Sector](#).

The inquiry will scrutinise the Government's plans to, among other things: introduce a decent homes standard for the private rented sector; reform the system of tenancies and abolish no-fault evictions; reform the grounds on which landlords can take possession of their properties; and better protect tenants from unfair rent increases [details [here](#)].

Social housing tenants' complaints of 'uninhabitable homes' must be addressed - The condition of some social housing in England has deteriorated so badly as to be unfit for human habitation, and social housing providers must significantly improve their complaint handling process, says the cross-party Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee in a report published this week. The Committee's Regulation of Social Housing report addresses a series of issues relating to the supply, quality and regulation of social housing in England. Social housing is housing rented at below-market rates by housing associations, local authorities and private providers [details [here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Hard to decarbonise social homes - This report, commissioned by the National Housing Federation and the Local Government Association, examines the decarbonisation of social homes and why some are harder to decarbonise than others. The report explores the characteristics and constraints of the hardest to decarbonise homes and examines how policy changes could reduce the risk of homes being disposed of when there is potential for them to be decarbonised [details [here](#)].

Government sets out plan to reduce water pollution - New plans to help safeguard England's precious protected sites by driving down nutrient pollution and allowing for the construction of sustainable new homes for families across the country were announced by the Government this week [details [here](#)].

One Public Estate (OPE) programme has made £180 million of capital grant funding available to English councils through the newly launched [Brownfield Land Release Fund \(BRLRF2\)](#). The funding provides capital grants over a three-year period to remove constraints on council-owned brownfield land, tackling the challenges and complexities that make them unviable, and allowing them to be released for new homes. The first application window is open now until 23.59 on 19 August. For more information visit [here](#).

Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

Homes for Ukraine, latest regional data - The latest regional data on Homes for Ukraine. This data shows that over 4,200 people have arrived in the East Midlands. Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority - available from [here](#). **Regional position as at 19/07/22 (increase over previous week/fortnight position reflected in parentheses):**

- Visa applications: **6,474** (+112/+284)
- Visas issued: **5,794** (+105/+298)
- Arrivals: **4,278** (+114/+280)

National position can be viewed here: [Ukraine Family Scheme, Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme \(Homes for Ukraine\) and Ukraine Extension Scheme visa data - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Support for Ukrainian refugees – Clive Betts, Chair of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee has written to Lord Harrington, Minister for Refugees, regarding the Government's support for Ukrainian refugees and asking for an update on the Government's progress in enabling people to switch from the family scheme to the Homes for Ukraine scheme [details [here](#)].

Piloting devolved decision-making for child victims of modern slavery, 2 August 2022, 2.00pm - the 10 local authority pilots who successfully bid to take over devolved decision making for potential child victims of modern slavery in their areas have now been operational for just over a year. Following positive interim findings including significantly swifter decisions, the Home Office has confirmed that all pilots have been extended to run to 2023. It will also be expanding the pilot to a further 10 sites, with bids expected to be invited in September, and go live in January 2023. Any local authority responsible for children's social care will be eligible to bid as an individual site or as part of a consortium. To support councils interested about the pilot and/or are considering bidding, the LGA is hosting a webinar where delegates will hear from two of the existing pilots about their experience, as well as from the Home Office about the mechanics of applying. To book a place on the webinar visit [here](#) or to find out more email ellie.greenwood@local.gov.uk or louise.smith@local.gov.uk.

EMC Events

Effective Chairing of Hybrid Meetings - EMC is hosting a virtual training session on 'Effective Chairing of Hybrid Meetings'. The workshop will provide training for chairs to maximise opportunities within hybrid meetings. This workshop is open to both Councillors and Officers, those involved with chairing meetings. Details [here](#).

Leading through turbulent times – Leadership Development Programme, October 2022 - Building on the key themes of Self-leadership, Leading the organisation, Leading people and leading teams, the programme will be delivered through a combination of face-to-face workshops and online webinars. For more information visit [here](#).

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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