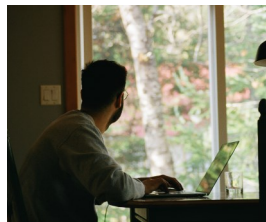


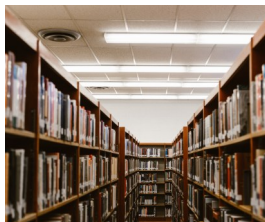
A weekly round up of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by
East Midlands Councils

Top items this week

24 MARCH 2023



NJC Guidance on
Remote and Hybrid
Working



Beneficiaries of the
Cultural Investment
Fund announced



Consultation on the
Infrastructure Levy
launched



NGDP:
Deadline fast
approaching

DERBY NAMED AS NEW HOME FOR GREAT BRITISH RAILWAYS



This week, the Rt Hon Mark Harper MP announced that Derby City has been chosen as the home of Great British Railways.

Six places with historic links to the rail sector were shortlisted to host the new body - which will oversee rail infrastructure, ticket prices and timetables – with Derby ultimately coming out on top with over 200 years of rail heritage and an overwhelming level of public support from across the historically underfunded East Midlands.

CLlr Martin Hill OBE, Chair of East Midlands Councils, said: “This is fantastic news for the whole of the East Midlands, providing an unparalleled opportunity for rail across the region, including the exciting potential for overseas investment.”

Sir Peter Soulsby, Chair of Transport for the East Midlands, said: “This announcement will help reinforce the transport priorities of the region and strengthen the local economy throughout the East Midlands.”

CLlr Chris Poulter, Leader of Derby City Council and East Midlands Councils Executive board member, said: “We're absolutely thrilled that Derby has been selected to become the new home of Great British railways. This result is a testament to the hard work of our team, alongside our key rail and city partners based across Derby - we couldn't have done it without them.

“Thank you again to everyone who took the time to back Derby's bid, it was brilliant to have support from 22 MPs and all 40 local authorities from across the East Midlands.”

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NJC GUIDANCE ON REMOTE AND HYBRID WORKING

For the last 3 years, EMC has been supporting councils on successfully working in new ways through virtual information exchanges, in-house action learning and development.

The Regional Joint Council has agreed that this remains a priority area to ensure that good practice is identified and key principles for consideration are identified.

This has now been addressed through a national joint circular which was issued today and circulated by EMC.

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BENEFICIARIES OF THE CULTURAL INVESTMENT FUND ANNOUNCED

This week, the government announced £58.8 million funding to help more than 70 cultural organisations to improve people's access to arts, support local economic growth through culture and safeguard vital local collections for future generations.

They will share a pot of £58.8 million which will see arts venues transformed, upgraded and created as part of the government's plans to make sure everyone, no matter where they live, can access culture.

In the region:

- East Lindsey District Council has been awarded £5m to transform the cultural assets on Skegness foreshore as part of a project dubbed "Cultural Revival: The Midlands Coast."
- Leicester, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's Inspire Libraries have all been awarded funding for a wide-ranging library improvements. (£135,000, £124,355, and £50,586, respectively).
- Wollaton Hall, Papplewick Pumping Station, and The West Shed Museum in Ripley have all received funding from the Government's £86.6m Museum Estate and Development Fund. (£469,992, £518,000, and £68,000, respectively).

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FUNDING TO HELP COUNCILS RECRUIT AND DEVELOP SKILLED PLANNERS

This week, DLUHC gave social enterprise Public Practice £1 million of government funding to help councils recruit and develop skilled planners.

Public Practice will use the money to help councils recruit skilled planning professionals, increase awareness about careers in local government and share best practice around improving communities in the public sector.

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CONSULTATION ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY LAUNCHED

Last week, DLUHC published a consultation on the design of a new infrastructure levy to be paid by developers to fund affordable housing and local infrastructure such as GP surgeries, transport links and schools.

The levy is a reform to the existing system of developer contributions – Section 106 planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy – in England.

The consultation will inform the design of the levy and of regulations that will set out its operation in detail. A further consultation on the drafting of those regulations will be published in due course.

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EMERGENCY ALERTS SYSTEM LAUNCHED

Last weekend, the Cabinet Office officially launched its Emergency Alerts system, providing a means to swiftly raise urgent messages to nearly 90 per cent of mobile phones in a defined area.

The alerts, which will only ever be issued by Government or Emergency Services, will be used very rarely - only being sent where there is an immediate risk to people's lives - so people may not receive an alert for months, or even years.

A UK-wide alerts test will take place in the early evening of Sunday 23 April which will see people receive a test message on their mobile phones.

The service has already been used successfully in a number of other countries, including the US, Canada, the Netherlands and Japan, where it has been widely credited with saving lives, for example, during severe weather events.

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UK HOUSE PRICE INDEX FOR JANUARY 2023

Earlier this week, HM Land Registry published the UK House Price Index (UK HPI) for January 2023. The UK HPI shows house price changes for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

January data shows:

- On average, house prices have fallen by 1.1% since December 2022
- There has been an annual price rise of 6.3% which makes the average property in the UK valued at £289,818

In the East Midlands, the Average House Price is currently £251,177, a decrease of 1.7 per cent month-on-month.

View the House Price Statistics in your area:

[READ MORE >](#)

NOMINATE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CORONATION CHAMPIONS AWARDS

Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) has launched the Coronation Champions Awards. The awards will recognise a diverse group of volunteers from different backgrounds and communities across the UK from a range of causes.

Councils can help celebrate the contributions volunteers have made by nominating a volunteer. The RVS is calling for nominations over the age of 14 who may have overcome adversity, or discovered creative ways to support their local communities, within the last five years in one of the following categories:

- Supporting older people
- Supporting young people and children
- Crisis and welfare
- Community
- Sports, culture and heritage
- Health and care
- Sustainability and the environment
- Animal welfare

Nominations close on 2 April.

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NATIONAL GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Deadline for Councils fast approaching

The National Graduate Development Programme, ran by the LGA, places high calibre recent graduates into councils across the country.

The programme provides support to the councils that host graduates to identify placements, along with a structured development and training programme for the graduates.

This is a great opportunity to build capacity, diversity and resilience in your organisation.

Applications to host a graduate are closing shortly, so we encourage you to contact the LGA today to discuss what options are available as soon as you can.



Ashfield Councils, which has participated in the NGDP twice, said: *“Since the NGDP is the only national graduate scheme specifically for local government, we wanted to be involved and tap into the national network and wide talent pool.*

“The process to sign up, recruit and appoint a graduate was quick and simple, and the LGA team were flexible and accommodating.

“Ashfield has participated on the scheme through two cohorts so far and the standard of applicants has been very high both times – in fact, all candidates that we interviewed were appointable.

“Applicants are passionate about working in local government, show great potential and have good insight and understanding of the challenges we are working to address.

“Ashfield Council would definitely recommend the programme to other councils. It offers great value for money and a high quality, well-structured programme that takes the hard work out of offering a graduate scheme”.

For more information about the scheme, please contact Nasik Mian:

[CONTACT >](#)

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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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