

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

Top items this week

24 SEPTEMBER 2021



Leading Hybrid Working

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

East Midlands Virtual Challenge, 10 November 2021

EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will become the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as the Government.

The change comes as former Bank of England Chief Economist Andy Haldane has been appointed as the new Head of the Levelling Up Taskforce.

The taskforce has been jointly established by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Michael Gove MP.

The Secretary of State will have responsibility for United Kingdom governance and elections. He will therefore also take on the additional title of Minister for Intergovernmental Relations, working closely with the Territorial Offices and leading coordination with the devolved administrations on the Prime Minister's behalf.

He will be supported in the department by new Minister of State Kemi Badenoch MP and Neil O'Brien MP, who has been appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.

Reappointed to the department are Ministers of State the Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP and Lord Greenhalgh, and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Eddie Hughes MP.

Andy Haldane will join as a permanent secretary in the Cabinet Office on secondment from the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) for 6 months. He will head up the Levelling Up Taskforce that will report jointly to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities [further details from [here](#)].

East Midlands Virtual Challenge, 10 November 2021

East Midlands Councils will once again host a regional Challenge event but this time with a virtual twist! The 2021 Challenge will include all the key elements of the previous versions but will take place using an exciting new virtual format. The Challenge will take place on 10 November 2021, with 12 team places available.



The event takes place throughout the day with a high intensity simulation exercise that gives a rare opportunity for aspiring managers to gain exposure to issues outside of their normal working lives and give them a taste of what senior management is like. It is also a brilliant way to hone those team working skills. For more information and how to book a team please visit our website [here](#).

EMC News

Leading Hybrid Working – Next week EMC colleagues will be supporting an authority in the region with a programme of development to support managers and team leaders in their role of successfully implementing flexible hybrid working within their respective teams.

The programme will provide an opportunity for managers and team leaders to further understand what it means to be leading hybrid teams and the most effective behaviours to achieve this. For further information on the support EMC can provide contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

Climate Change: Behavioural change through Carbon Literacy, a workshop for Councillors, 1 October 2021 - EMC, the LGA and Midlands Energy Hub, working in partnership are offering a series of virtual interactive workshops for Councillors on Climate Change. The third workshop in this 2021 series of events for Councillors on Climate Change will focus on behaviour change through carbon literacy.

Workshop details - 1 October 2021, 14:00 - 16:00, This is a fully subsidised event and is free. To book a place please use the online booking form available from [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



'Infrastructure, Towns and Regeneration' Report - The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) have published a report on 'Infrastructure, Towns and Regeneration'. The report argues that Government should pivot away from a reliance on centrally controlled pots of money for which councils must compete. The report calls for a new partnership between 'Whitehall and Town Hall' to level up the country, with county and unitary authorities receiving devolved five year infrastructure budgets to support their own economic growth strategies for the towns in their area. EMC participated in a workshop to inform the study. Further details at: [NIC-Infrastructure-Towns-and-Regeneration-Report.pdf](#)

Forecasting and Warning System - The Midlands Engine Investment Fund and Foresight Williams Technology will invest £1.75m into Leicestershire-based Previsico Limited, developers of an accurate flood forecasting and warning system, it has been announced.

The will enable the Loughborough University spin-out to further develop the Previsico platform, allowing it to be used in more cities, and support the creation of over 50 new jobs in Loughborough [details [here](#)].

Midlands leaders meet to mobilise urgent action and accelerate green growth across the region - On 21 September this week, environmental, academic and public and private sector leaders assembled for the first Midlands Engine Green Growth Board meeting – an important milestone as we work together to shape a cleaner, greener, better future for our region.

The Midlands Engine Green Growth Board will co-ordinate the delivery of the **Ten Point Plan for Green Growth in the Midlands Engine** as well as overseeing and tracking our region's progress in the shift to low carbon [details [here](#)].

Surge in public charging points needed to boost Midlands EV network - New analysis by Midlands Connect suggests that urgent action is needed to speed up the installation of electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs) across the Midlands region. 'Supercharging the Midlands', a report authored by the sub-national transport body, suggests that EV use will increase by over 3,000% by the end of the decade, and that installation of public EV charging points must be six times as fast to support growing demand [details [here](#)].

- EV use in the Midlands projected to increase by over 3000% by the end of 2030
- Exclusive research shows lack of public EV chargers is a concern for over half of motorists
- 77% of motorists with diesel/petrol car are considering buying an EV next
- Speed of public EV charger installations must increase six-fold to meet demand
- Midlands needs 11 new public EV chargers a day, 76 every week or 3,941 every year until the end of the decade
- Londoners have access to over 2x as many public EV chargers than Midlanders, despite being 40% less likely to own a car
- A third of Midlands households don't have access to off-road parking so would rely on public chargers to power their EV

Effective delivery of strategic sites, A toolkit for planning authorities - The LGA has developed a Toolkit designed to assist local planning authorities and their partners in helping to signpost key issues and find mechanisms to navigate such challenges throughout the process. The Toolkit focuses on providing guidance for both those with limited experience of strategic site delivery and those with more experience but finding themselves with specific delivery issues [details [here](#)].

LGA's Housing Advisers Programme - [The LGA's Housing Advisers Programme is open to bids](#) to tackle the housing shortage. This programme's fifth year focuses on strategic housing projects that will support housing delivery, and boosts council capacity. The programme will provide up to £20,000 to each successfully bid project for the purpose of securing 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. Best practice and lessons learned from each project will be shared with councils and embedded into the sector support programme, which is delivered by the LGA and funded by government. For further information, click on the link above or email housingadvisers@local.gov.uk.

LGA and UCL Net Zero Innovation Programme - Councils and universities can apply for a new Net Zero Innovation Programme to address climate challenges at a local level.

The Net Zero Innovation Programme brings together partnerships of researchers and climate change officers from councils across the country, and supports them in tackling the climate emergency. It is now open for applications. Apply now and learn how partnership and co-production skills can help to address climate change and ecological challenges. The partnerships will lead on the creation of a replicable tool, guide or training which can be used by all councils. The deadline for applications is 14 October. Find out more and express interest at www.local.gov.uk/NZIP, further information available [here](#).

Local Government News



Changing Places toilets programme: prospectus - The prospectus for the £30 million Changing Places toilets programme. The government wants to see a step change in the number of Changing Places toilets across the country. This is why at Budget 2021, the Chancellor announced a £30 million Changing Places Fund to accelerate provision in existing buildings in England. This prospectus sets out how district and unitary local authorities can access this fund [details [here](#)].

Faith New Deal Pilot Fund - Guidance on how to apply for the £1 million Faith New Deal Pilot Fund. The £1 million Faith New Deal Pilot Fund will focus on strengthening engagement between national government, local government and faith groups [details [here](#)].

Homelessness

Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping - The Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping was launched in March 2020 and has met four times. In March the Commission discussed consensus about what worked well in the ongoing pandemic response for rough sleepers and what some of the more complex issues might be going ahead. In May the Board discussed the early findings from the evidence gathering stage, which invited organisations to submit their views on what did and didn't work, the challenges, and what needs to be embedded for the future. In July the Board discussed the recommendations to come out of the evidence gathering to inform the Commission's interim report. In September the Board discussed the Commission's final report and recommendations as well as plans for the future to ensure that this work is taken forward.

The Commission's final report *A new way of working: ending rough sleeping together*, has now been published and can be read [here](#).

Health & Social Care

Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK - The official UK government website for data and insights on coronavirus (COVID-19) including data on Testing, cases and vaccinations. With case information by region and local authorities [here](#).



EMC Events

EMC Leadership Development Programme, Leading through turbulent times - EMC launched a new Leadership Development programme in May 2021. We are now offering the opportunity to join the programme, with new dates starting in October 2021 [details available [here](#)].

The overall aim of this unique and focused programme is to provide senior and middle managers with the skills, knowledge, and capability to lead their people through turbulent times. Delivered virtually, this programme provides a flexible approach to learning through short webinars, action learning and a resource library, which address key issues and provide practical tools to support managers.

Developed around four key themes of Self Leadership, Leading the Organisation, Leading People and Leading Teams, this programme will help leaders and managers to:

- Develop self-awareness of their own leadership and resilience during turbulence and change.
 - Respond to the challenges a crisis and long-term uncertainty create for organisations, teams, and people.
 - Identify ways in which organisations can build their resilience, adapt to change, and engage their people during turbulent times.
 - Address key challenges when leading and managing people during change and uncertainty.
 - Identify strategies and actions to support performance, engagement, and wellbeing of people during change.
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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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