

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

Top items this week

25 JUNE 2021



Hitting the Ground Running, a workshop for newly elected Councillors



HS2 Executive Board



East Midlands Councils AGM



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

HS2 Executive Board

The HS2 Executive Board met on the 24 June to discuss latest intelligence on the Government's forthcoming Integrated Rail Plan and to review progress on development proposals in and around the Hub Station at Toton, including the Development Corporation Interim Body, and at Chesterfield/Staveley. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Ben Bradley MP, Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council, who is taking a prominent role in making case for HS2 investment direct to Ministers.

Cllr Bradley MP and Cllr James Lewis the Leader of Leeds City Council have also written a joint letter on behalf of the wider HS2 East partnership in support of the Eastern Leg of HS2.

EMC News

East Midlands Scrutiny Network - The East Midlands Scrutiny Network met on Friday 25 June, the network meeting included a presentation from Rutland County Council and Chesterfield Borough Council on recent Scrutiny reviews, sharing information on the scrutiny approach taken and outcomes of the reviews. For more information on the network contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk or visit [here](#). The network provides Councillors and Officers with the opportunity to share knowledge, work programmes and information, as well as providing an opportunity to explore national developments concerning scrutiny.

EMC Boards Activity

East Midlands Councils AGM - EMC's AGM is scheduled for 10.00am on Friday 9 July and will be held virtually via MS Teams. For further information on how to access the meeting please contact lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Support Activity

Planners Low Cost CPD webinar - Nearly 100 Planning Officers attended a webinar last week as part of our subscribed series of Low Cost CPD Planners events. The webinar was around the theme of Use Classes and PDR Rights and delegates heard extremely knowledgeable presentations from Hugh Richards, No 5 Chambers who gave a legal aspect and Dr Daniel Slade, TCPA who talked about TCPA's Healthy Homes Act.

If you would like to find out more about these series of events or to find out if your authority subscribes please email lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

Hitting the Ground Running, a workshop for newly elected Councillors, Friday 2 July, 15:00 - 17:00 - East Midlands Councils and the Local Government Association are hosting a virtual workshop on 2 July for newly elected members from across the East Midlands elected in May 2021. The event is to give you a wider perspective on your role, enable you to meet newly elected councillors from other local authorities, and learn about the support available from the EMC and colleagues from the LGA so as to help you hit the ground running in your role.

The programme will enable you to do this through exploring what your role means, hearing from experienced councillors on their top tips and unrivalled insights to help equip you in your role for the months ahead.

To book a free place visit [here](#).

Virtual Communication Skills for Councillors, 23 Sep 2021- EMC is offering a one-hour virtual communication session for Councillors. This one-hour session offers an interactive introduction to online communication skills [details [here](#)]. The outcomes will include: enhanced awareness of positive virtual communications, how to improve personal communication skills, reputation and transferability of skills to the real world.

The focused session explore the following all set within the virtual environment; Awareness of online communication skills; Engagement, perception and impact; Warmth; Gestures; and Behaviour and reputation

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



£20m bid submitted for Levelling Up in Lincolnshire – The county council's bid to the government's Levelling Up Fund has now been submitted for road improvements in the south east of the county.

The bid is being boosted with letters of support from business leaders, local MPs and all councils across Greater Lincolnshire.

Every highways authority in England can submit one project from their area to the Levelling Up Fund by 18 June. The council's submission aims to reduce congestion in Boston and along the A16 corridor- a key route for the agri-food industry [details [here](#)].

Keeping our Supply Chains Competitive, Major focus of latest report from Observatory - Challenges and opportunities for Midlands Engine supply chain resilience and global competitiveness are explored in-depth in a new report commissioned by our **Observatory**. **Leveraging Supply Chains to Create Competitive Advantage for the Midlands Region: A Systematic Review** is a unique piece of research [details [here](#)].

Climate Change and Sustainable Development



Committee examines how local government can deliver net zero targets - The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee holds the opening session of its new inquiry into local government and the path to net zero on Monday 21 June when it takes evidence from representatives of the Local Government Association, Royal Institute of British Architects, the Green Alliance and UK 100 [details [here](#)].

Private Rented Sector Enforcement and Compliance Competition now open - Following the success of the Private Rented Sector enforcement pilot study, BEIS is partnering with the Midlands Energy Hub to administer a compliance and enforcement competition, which is expected to distribute over c.£2 million of grants to a range of LAs in England and Wales with viable proposals to develop or expand effective compliance and enforcement activity in relation to the domestic Regulations. The funding will therefore support local authorities, providing a funding opportunity of up to £100k per local authority application within England and Wales to either initiate or enhance their enforcement procedures in association with the MEES regulations. Local authorities will have some time for mobilisation before delivering a minimum of six months enforcing MEES activities within the private rental sector, providing clear evidence of the funding's impact and replicability. The successful authorities will need to complete their proposal by 31st March 2022.

The guidance and application is available from [here](#). The competition will close at 23:00hrs on 2 July 2021 (Successful submissions will be announced from 26 July 2021). For information about the competition, please use this email address: PRSenforcement@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Homelessness

Rough sleeping, building on success of Everyone In - Speaking with council and charity leaders this week, Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick set out government plans to build on the hugely successful 'Everyone In' programme through a renewed focus on cross-agency cooperation involving local NHS trusts, Public Health England and councils to tackle the complex root causes of rough sleeping.

Joined-up support services, bringing together central government, councils, charities and welfare groups, will work side-by-side to tackle the underlying issues of rough sleeping, such as healthcare and substance misuse [details [here](#)].

Coronavirus (COVID-19): landlord right to rent checks - Advice for landlords carrying out right to rent checks during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This update replaces previous guidance issued on 12 May 2021. As a result of the government's announcement on 14 June 2021 to extend the date for the easing of lockdown restrictions and social distancing measures, the temporary COVID-19 adjusted right to rent checks will now end on 31 August 2021. From 1 September 2021, landlords and letting agents will revert to face-to-face and physical document checks as set out in legislation and guidance. This will ensure landlords and letting agents have sufficient notice to put measures in place to enable face-to-face document checks [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information



Right to work checks: an employer's guide - How to carry out right to work checks, why you need to do them, and which documents you can use [details [here](#)].

This guidance explains what employers must do to prevent illegal working in the UK by carrying out document checks on people before employing them to make sure they are allowed to work.

Social Europe e-newsletter - Latest Social Europe Newsletter is available from [here](#).

Local Government News



South Holland District Council announces intention to enter new strategic partnership - South Holland District Council intends to enter into a new strategic partnership arrangement with Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council, subject to formal agreement by Members.

This comes after ongoing discussions over potential options for partnership arrangements with other councils in Lincolnshire following South Holland's separation with Breckland Council in May.

Any potential arrangement is subject to a formal agreement by Members of Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland District Council.

Currently, East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council work together through a Strategic Alliance. Should all three councils formally approve any potential new partnership arrangement, it could create the largest council partnership in the country with a workforce of 1,000 staff details [here](#)].

A guide to the emergency insourcing of leisure services - This guide has been written to help councils in an emergency position mobilise their leisure service. It is not intended to instruct or encourage councils to bring leisure services back in-house but instead provides appropriate tools and considerations to support the process. Councils are advised to take their own due diligence to evaluate their individual options. The guide is correct as of June 2021 [details [here](#)].

Using Scrutiny to tackle gambling harms: Centre for Governance and Scrutiny case study - the Following case study collection presents the approaches that local authorities have taken through scrutiny, and highlights both a commitment to implementing the National Strategy to Reduce Gambling Harms and real progress towards supporting those who are most vulnerable to negative impacts of gambling [details [here](#)]. This document includes a case study from Leicester City Council.

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



Report Writing, 27 September - EMC is hosting a 3 hour virtual workshops on report writing. The virtual workshop will be highly interactive [full details [here](#)]. The course will explore;

- What are the expectations with regards written reports in your role?
- What should we think about before writing the report? Exploring: the audience and their expectations, language, tone, length.

The virtual workshop will use both plenary and breakout time to ensure maximum delegate participation, making the session interactive for those taking part.

IOM UK Kurdish Cultural Orientation Session, 13 Jul 2021 - East Midlands Councils have organised a hour virtual Kurdish Information Session over Tuesday 13th July and Thursday 15th July. This virtual training session will be hosted by IOM UK. *This two day session will cover the history and background of the Kurds, Kurdish cultural norms and practices, the services Kurds may be used to and their expectations around accessing those services, and the conditions Kurdish refugees may face in the region before coming to the UK* [details [here](#)].

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE
Vice Chair: Cllr David Mellen
Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan
Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney
Labour Group: to be confirmed
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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