

Top items this week

25 NOVEMBER 2022



Building safety levy moves a step closer



Call for evidence on Afghan resettlement closes soon



Migration to UK rises to record 504,000



East Midlands Chamber launches Business Manifesto for Growth

Planning News



Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill vote faces delay

The Government has delayed a vote this week on an important piece of legislation for devolution, combined authorities and for dealing with regional inequalities following a threatened rebellion by Tory MPs. Some 47 Conservative MPs have signed an amendment to the Levelling Up Bill, which would ban mandatory housing targets in England. The Levelling Up Bill is a piece of legislation intended to deal with regional inequalities, but also contains a number of planning measures. The bill, which is at the report stage, was debated in the House of Commons earlier this week and a further debate was due to take place on Monday.

This was expected to be followed by a vote on amendments. But a spokesperson for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities said that “the vote due on Monday has been delayed; a new date will be set depending on parliamentary time”.

In addition to banning mandatory housing targets, the amendment to the bill would also scrap the current system under which local councils have to maintain a rolling five-year stock of land for future development. Other amendments tabled by rebels would create stricter time-limits for developers granted planning permission to start building.

More information about the bill can be found here: bills.parliament.uk/bills/3155

Building safety levy moves a step closer

Proposals for how developers would pay to fix unsafe buildings have been set out this week by the government as it moves a step closer to imposing its new Building Safety Levy.

The government has now begun consulting developers and other interested parties on the plans, which will see an estimated £3 billion collected over the next 10 years.

Under the proposals drawn by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, developers of residential buildings, regardless of their height, will have to pay the levy contribution as part of the building control process.

This will mean that unless the levy is paid, a developer could not move on to the next stage of the building process, which could lead to project delays and impact future revenues.

The consultation seeks views on the delivery of the Levy, including how it will work, what the rates will be, who must pay, what sanctions and enforcement will apply, and who is responsible for collecting the levy.

The consultation will be open for 10 working weeks from 22 November 2022 and seeks the views of all interested parties, especially developers of all sizes, building control professionals and local authorities.

Find out more and submit your response: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-building-safety-levy-consultation

National News

Autumn Finance Bill 2022 published

The Autumn Finance Bill 2022 was published earlier this week, legislating for tax changes announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, as part of last week's Autumn Statement.

The Autumn Finance Bill 2022 had its first reading on Tuesday and will follow the normal legislative path through Parliament.

The main Spring Finance Bill 2023 will follow the spring Budget in the usual way, for remaining tax measures ahead of April 2023.

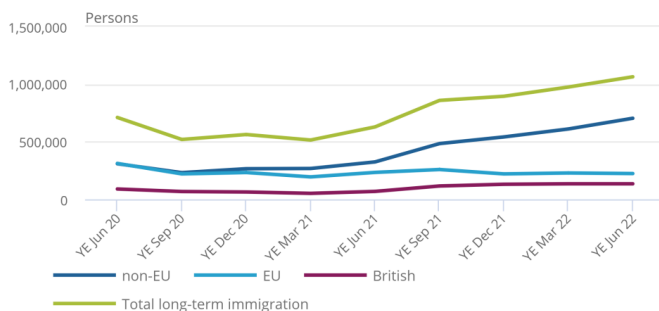
Find out more: www.gov.uk/government/news/autumn-finance-bill-2022-published

MIGRATION NEWS

Migration to UK rises to record 504,000 with Ukraine and Hong Kong schemes

Figure 1: Long-term immigration in the year ending June 2022 was largely driven by non-EU nationals

Number of non-EU, EU and British nationals immigrating into the UK, between the year ending June 2020 and the year ending June 2022



The end of lockdown restrictions in the UK, the first full period following transition from the EU, and world events including the war in Ukraine, the new visa route for Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) and resettlement of Afghans have all contributed to record levels of immigration.

Yesterday, the Office for National Statistics released data on Long-term international migration, showing record levels of international immigration in the year to June 2022 with 504,000 more people arriving into the UK than departing in the past year.

The full report can be found here: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity

Call for evidence: An inspection of the Home Office's Afghan resettlement schemes – closes soon

Earlier this month the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) commenced an inspection of the Home Office's Afghan resettlement schemes.

The inspection will examine the effectiveness, efficiency and consistency of the Home Office's processing of applications to Afghan resettlement schemes.

The Independent Chief Inspector invites anyone with knowledge or experience of applying to the schemes to submit evidence to inform this inspection and welcomes views on what is working well and what could be improved. He would be particularly interested to hear from those with first-hand experience of applying to the schemes. The call for evidence closes on 27 November.

Find out more and submit your evidence here: www.smartsurvey.co.uk

Jenrick vows to improve relationship with sector on asylum

Immigration minister Robert Jenrick has told the sector the Home Office is 'very keen to improve the relationship' with local government amid the asylum crisis.

Speaking at a webinar on accommodation for asylum seekers, Mr Jenrick admitted hotels had been booked 'without the kind of engagement I would expect' and said he hoped things would improve.

He conceded a number of councils had 'legitimate concerns' about the use of hotels but explained the Home Office's hands had been tied by the 'emergency situation'.

He pledged councils would be given 24 hours' notice about the use of hotels and said there would be 'proper engagement with local authorities to select the right locations' in future.

Mr Jenrick told council leaders and chief executives: 'We haven't got this right in every case so far.

'The Home Office is very keen to improve the relationship [with councils].'

EMC News

Employment event

East Midlands Councils welcomed over 70 delegates from across the region to our Employment Law update, earlier this month.

Our expert speaker, Darren Newman, provided an outline of the key developments in employment law that was tailored to local authorities.

To find out more about our upcoming training opportunities, and development programmes, visit: emcouncils.gov.uk/All-EMC-Events

Planning CPD

Yesterday, 24 November, EMC hosted an engaging webinar for our Planners Continuing Professional Development Programme - this time exploring planning with less resources.

To find out more about our CPD programmes, visit emcouncils.gov.uk/Low-Cost-CPD-Programme-Events

Transport News

Train strikes

New train strikes have been announced over December and January, and will be held across four 48-hour periods on 13 to 14 and 16 to 17 December and 3 to 4 and 6 to 7 January.

RMT members at Network Rail and 14 train companies voted last week in favour of further industrial action.

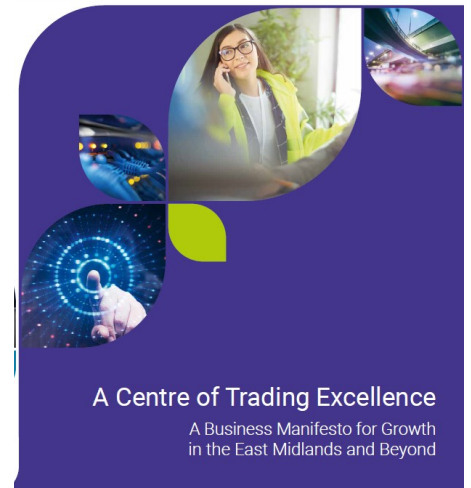
East Midlands Chamber launches Business Manifesto for Growth to develop region as a 'Centre of Trading Excellence'

Yesterday, East Midlands Chamber launched 'A Centre of Trading Excellence: A Business Manifesto for Growth in the East Midlands and Beyond' in Westminster.

This manifesto illustrates how Government can establish a formula that will help deliver on key goals to level up, reboot the economy and boost post-Brexit growth in global trade.

Supporting East Midlands businesses and communities will spur more trade that adds to national GDP, create jobs locally, and improve people's life outcomes.

Find out more: www.emc-dnl.co.uk/manifesto



Upcoming EMC Board meeting dates

- Regional Employers' Board and Regional Joint Council - 30 November 2022
- EMC Executive Board - 16 December 2022
- Transport for the East Midlands – 19 December 2022

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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