

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

Top items this week

26 MARCH 2021



East Midlands Development
Corporation



Local Government
Apprentice of the Year 2021
Event



Local authority remote
meetings: call for evidence



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

New vision for future of East Midlands economy post Covid is revealed

A new vision for the long-term future of the East Midlands economy has been revealed this week with images which show how landmark sites could together deliver tens of thousands of new jobs and drive a futuristic recovery from the pandemic.

They show how three massive zones – covering areas around East Midlands Airport, Toton Hub, and Ratcliffe-on-Soar Power Station - might be transformed by major development which would boost growth to levels which drive large-scale job creation and unlock a new era of ‘green’ growth for the regional economy.

The new images have been released as the region takes a decisive step towards setting up the organisation which will help drive the vision’s progress – and just two weeks after Chancellor Rishi Sunak backed the region’s bid to host a trade-boosting inland freepport.

The five councils covered by the three zones have come together to fund an interim body which will begin the work of the planned East Midlands Development Corporation before parliament formally approves what will be a pioneering new model for upping the pace of regional growth.

The five councils are; Broxtowe Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, North West Leicestershire District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council.

The interim body will help masterplan and enable development, working with businesses, investors and universities to help get projects off the ground.

It has just submitted a Business Case to government which outlines what investment in the sites could deliver for the region: 84,000 jobs, more than £4.8bn in added value, and thousands of new homes.

The Business Case will be considered by government, which revealed in the Budget that the East Midlands had been chosen as the site of one of eight new Freeports in England.

The Development Corporation is one of the key projects of the Midlands Engine, the partnership of private and public sector organisations which works to promote investment and growth across the region. To read the full press release visit [here](#).

New Plan for Immigration announced by Home Secretary, Priti Patel

The Home Secretary made a statement to Parliament on 24 March, setting out the New Plan for Immigration. Details of the statement can be found [here](#).

The New Plan for Immigration (which can be found [here](#)) has the following three objectives:

- To increase the fairness and efficacy of our system so that we can better protect and support those in genuine need of asylum
- To deter illegal entry into the UK, thereby breaking the business model of criminal trafficking networks and protecting the lives of those they endanger
- To remove more easily from the UK those with no right to be here
- This policy statement is accompanied by an engagement and consultation process that will run for 6 weeks from 24 March 2021.

The Home Office would like to hear a wide range of views and perspectives, from stakeholders and members of the public. A consultation is being undertaken on behalf of the UK Government by independent insight consultancy, BritainThinks. The consultation will run for 6 weeks from 24 March 2021. Throughout this period, the online questionnaire will remain open for anyone else who wishes to participate. For more information on the consultation please visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Government's independent advisory council, the Industrial Strategy Council – published its Annual Report earlier this week. The council – a group of influential business leaders led by the Bank of England's chief economist, Andy Haldane, has questioned the likely success of the Government 'Levelling Up' agenda unless it prioritises putting more spending decisions into the hands of local communities.

The Councils' Annual Report emphasises that addressing regional disparities is fundamental to boosting productivity, pay and prosperity. However, it questions the current approach as being over reliant on infrastructure spending and the continued use of centrally controlled funding pots thinly spread across a range of initiatives, with sustained local growth needing to be rooted in local strategies, covering not only infrastructure but also skills and sectors.

The full report 'Industrial Strategy Council: Annual Report' is available [here](#).

Councils given power to build more homes for first time buyers and for social rent - Councils in England will have more freedom on how they spend the money from homes sold through Right to Buy to help them build the homes needed in their communities [details [here](#)].

- Councils will be given more freedom on how they spend the money they receive from selling homes through Right to Buy
- Councils can spend that money on building homes for shared ownership, First Homes and housing at affordable and social rent

UK Community Renewal Fund: prospectus - The UK Community Renewal Fund will provide £220 million additional funding to help places across the UK prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund [details [here](#)].

Local Economic Recovery Planning Playbook for Action - The LGA commissioned Social Finance to produce this good practice guidance for councils to develop and improve local economic recovery plans [details [here](#)].

Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

EU Settlement Scheme, 100 days left to apply - Tuesday 23 March marked 100 days to go until the deadline of 30 June 2021 for applications to be made to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members, who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, should apply without delay so that they can continue to work, study, access free healthcare and benefits in the UK after 30 June 2021. Details of the EU Settlement scheme can be found [here](#).

Prime Minister meets Hong Kong BN(O) families who have come to the UK: 19 March 2021 - Prime Minister Boris Johnson held a video call with four British National (Overseas) families from Hong Kong who have come to the UK following the imposition of the National Security Law [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care

Public health annual report 2021: rising to the challenges of Covid-19 - This LGA report looks at what public health has helped to achieve and what could have been done better during COVID-19. It also looks to the future and the significant organisational changes ahead of us [details [here](#)].

Climate Change & Sustainable Development

Behavioural change and the environment guide – the LGA has launched a [behaviour change and the environment resource](#) for councils on how to make green behaviour changes in their own communities. The online resource takes a councillor or officer through six steps of undertaking a behavioural change project applied to a variety of green behaviours.

The Net Zero Innovation Programme, 23 March 2021, 2.00pm - 3.00pm – the LGA is collaborating with University College London on the [Net Zero Innovation Network](#). As part of the programme, the LGA are hosting a [one-hour seminar](#) exploring how we can best work with local stakeholders to achieve action on climate change, and the launch of the ['Together towards net zero' podcast](#).

Employers' Information

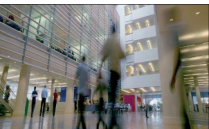
Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2021 Event: 22nd April 2021 - EMC is proud to be supporting a national event to recognise the great apprentices that we have within local government. The event will take place virtually and is being co-ordinated by our counterparts in the East of England on behalf of all regions and we would welcome your engagement and support, to encourage apprentices to sign up for this event.

It will provide apprentices with the opportunity to learn, network and showcase their skills, expertise, and initiative. Working in virtual teams to experience the opportunities, risks, and challenges involved in delivering successful local government services, in a developmental environment, it is set to be a really exciting day. It is open to all level 2 and level 3 apprentices in local government (current apprentices or recently qualified within last 12 months).

Full details and how to book can be found [here](#).

SGI News - SGI Europe's newsletters provide an update on recent developments at European level on workforce matters and the most recent newsletter is available from [here](#).

Local Government News



Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence, Consultation - This call for evidence seeks to understand the experience of local authorities in the whole of the UK regarding remote meetings. This includes authorities in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 17 June 2021 [details [here](#)].

New guidance on safe use of council offices - Updated guidance has been published following confirmation that emergency legislation regarding virtual council meetings will not be extended [details [here](#)].

Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched - The newly named Supporting Families programme to support some of the most vulnerable families in society.

- Successful programme to support vulnerable families launches its next phase, backed by £165 million in funding for 2021 to 2022.
- Over 400,000 vulnerable families supported to build brighter futures since 2015.
- Number of children going into care reduced through the programme, and the number of adults going to prison.
- New additional £7.9 million fund launched to improve how councils use data to support families, including by providing key workers with the information that they need.

The newly named 'Supporting Families' programme, previously known as the 'Troubled Families' programme, includes work to support people to leave abusive relationships, get the right joined-up support for those with mental health issues and help people to find work – all part of the government's comprehensive programme of work to support and unite communities [details [here](#)].

Local Data Accelerator Fund for children and families - A £7.9 million fund to support data projects that improve services for children and families.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is making available £7.9 million for data projects which improve outcomes for children and families. Local organisations are asked to bid in groups.

The closing date for applications is 11pm on Friday 30 April 2021 [details [here](#)].

New raft of measures to prepare our high streets and seaside resorts for summer - Measures to support a safe and successful reopening of our treasured high streets and seaside resorts ahead of a great summer were announced this week [details [here](#)].

- £56 million Welcome Back Fund to help boost the look and feel of high streets and seaside towns
- Funding will help councils prepare for the safe return of shoppers and tourists, including employing extra staff to keep festivals and events covid secure
- Pubs, restaurants and listed buildings given more flexibility to use their land to help more people meet up and enjoy themselves, including erecting marquees in pub gardens for the whole summer

Union flag to be flown on UK Government buildings every day - New guidance published by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will see the Union flag flown on UK Government buildings every day [[here](#)].

EMC Events



Leadership Development for Senior/Middle Managers in times of Change - EMC has developed a leadership development programme that helps managers lead people through change and uncertainty. The first programme will start on 22 April 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.

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 Alan Rhodes
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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