

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

Top items this week

27 JANUARY 2023



**Last chance to sign up  
for East Midlands  
Challenge**



**Coronation: Programme  
of Celebrations  
announced**



**Government cracks  
down on 'fire and  
rehire' practices**



**Mental health services  
boosted by £150 million  
government funding**

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**Last chance to sign up for this year's East Midlands Challenge!**

Taking place on 16 March 2023, the East Midlands Challenge is a simulation exercise where teams take on the role of a senior management team within a fictitious council.

Join authorities from across the region in this fantastic opportunity for aspiring leaders to gain exposure to issues outside of their normal work giving them a taste of what senior management is really like.

To successfully complete the challenge teams will have to work with neighbouring stakeholders and partners to deliver a new strategy for their organisation. They'll have to identify which areas to prioritise, deal with politically sensitive issues and maintain customer focus when determining how to provide the public with the best services possible despite limited resource.

Don't miss out on the chance to be part of this fantastic and rewarding day working with a wide range of colleagues from across our region.

The deadline to register your interest is next Friday, 3rd February, however, specific details, such as names of team members, can be provided at a later date.

[Find out more and register your team.](#)

**Date:** Thursday 16 March 2023

**Time:** 09:00 – 20:30

**Cost:** £1995+VAT per team

**Closing date:** Friday, 3 February 2023

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

As part of the event, competing teams are expected to meet with potential stakeholders and partners such as fire, police, CCG, central government and charities.

We're looking for additional people with local government experience to fill these roles .

To find out more, contact:

[lisa.butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk)

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**EMC General Meeting - 10th February 2023**

The EMC General Meeting will take place at 10.00am on Friday, 10th February 2023 at Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP.

We are also pleased to confirm the attendance of the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Minister of State for Immigration.

Refreshments will be available from 9.00am with political pre-meetings taking place at 9.30am.

The main meeting will start at 10.00am with lunch from 12.00pm.

[Read the draft agenda](#)

A full set of papers will be sent out on Friday 3rd February.

## Net Zero Living: Fast Followers

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, recently launched the Fast Followers competition as part of the Innovate UK Net Zero Living programme.

Councils can apply for a share of the £6 million funding to build skills and capabilities to accelerate local progress towards net zero.

The aim of this competition is to support councils in up to 20 places and fund a dedicated Net Zero Innovation and Delivery officer role to help further develop net zero delivery plans.

Innovate UK will invest up to £300,000 per place over two years. If successful, councils will also have access to net zero skills and capability support provided by Innovate UK and partners.

If successful councils must:

- Recruit a specific Net Zero Innovation and Delivery Officer to participate in the programme
- Actively participate in a programme of net zero delivery support modules to be provided by Innovate UK and partners
- Implement the learning gained to a specific net zero project

The competition closes at 11:00am on 1 March.

[Funding competition.](#)

[More information.](#)

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## Coronation: Programme of Celebrations announced

On 21 January, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport announced a programme to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort.

The Coronation will take place on the morning of 6 May at Westminster Abbey, London, and will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

On 7 May, a Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle will showcase the country's diverse cultural heritage in music, theatre and dance. One of the highlights of the concert will be "Lighting up the Nation", in which iconic locations across the UK will be lit up with projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations.

Throughout the UK, Coronation Big Lunches will bring communities together on 7 May. Street parties will also take place across the weekend.

The weekend of celebrations will end with the Big Help Out on 8 May, which will highlight the impact of volunteering. This will encourage people to get involved with activities run by local community groups, organisations and charities. Organisations already signed up include The Scouts, Royal Voluntary Service, National Trust and RNLI.

[Find out more about plans for the Coronation](#)

[More about the Big Help Out](#)

[More about The Coronation Big Lunch](#)

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## East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership—Quarterly briefing now available

Each quarter, the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership publish a briefing that brings together different sources of information relating to Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants, as well as upcoming training and events.

This briefing contains information from Q2 of 2022/2023 and includes key recent announcements.

[Read the briefing.](#)

If you would like to receive this briefing directly, please contact Anna Anderson at [SMP@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:SMP@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## Chair of Office for Local Government appointed

This week, The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced the appointment of Lord Morse as the new interim chair of the Office for Local Government.

Lord Morse will play a significant leadership role in the establishment of the Office for Local Government, providing supportive challenge and advising on both the immediate delivery and strategic direction of the office for a period of 18 months.

This appointment was announced in the Secretary of State's written ministerial statement on Levelling Up.

[Read the statement.](#)

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## Government cracks down on 'fire and rehire' practices

The government has announced that it will be taking strong action against unscrupulous employers that use the controversial practice of 'fire and rehire'.

Through a planned statutory code of practice, the government is protecting employees and cracking down on employers that use controversial dismissal tactics.

The code, subject to a consultation first, will make it explicitly clear to employers that they must not use threats of dismissal

to pressurise employees into accepting new terms, and that they should have honest and open-minded discussions with their employees and representatives.

A consultation has now opened to the public, which will run for the next 12 weeks.

[Respond to the consultation](#)



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## Mental health services boosted by £150 million government funding

The government has announced a £150 million investment which will be used to build 150 new facilities to support mental health urgent and emergency care services.

The funding will allow for the procurement of up to 100 new mental health ambulances, which will take specialist staff directly to patients to deliver support on scene or transfer them to the most appropriate place for care.

It will also fund 150 new projects centred on supporting the provision of mental health crisis response and urgent mental health care. The new projects include over 30 schemes providing crisis cafes, crisis houses and other similar safe spaces, as well as over 20 new or improved health-based places of safety which provide a safe space for people detained by the police. Improvements to NHS 111 and crisis phone lines will also be rolled out.

[Read more.](#)

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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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