

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

## Top items this week

27 MAY 2022



Business Rates Review



Funding for Garden communities



Communications and Marketing Specialist - East Midlands Councils



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## Funding for Garden communities

- £15 million funding to support delivery of thousands of new homes in green garden communities across England
- Part of a £69 million programme to deliver up to 16,000 homes per year from 2025, creating almost 200,000 jobs and boosting the economy
- Builds on the government's plans to level up the country, regenerate underused land and bring forward beautiful new developments

The investment brings total funding for the Garden Communities programme to more than £69 million, helping level up the country and regenerate communities, with most of the new homes situated in the North, Midlands and South West. It will also support nearly 200,000 jobs in the schools, shops and offices developed within each garden community. The programme provides support to progress long-term housing projects from their earliest stages. It enables local authorities to recruit specialist staff, undertake the required planning and receive advice and support from the housing delivery body, Homes England.

### List of areas allocated funding - In the East Midlands

#### Garden Towns

- North Northants, Northamptonshire - £441,000

#### Garden Villages - Area

- Whetstone Pastures, Blaby - £135,000
- Infinity, South Derbyshire - £850,000\*
- Spitalgate Heath, South Kevesten - £40,000
- Tresham, East Northamptonshire - £237,000

\* awards made up of Capital and resource funding

For more information visit [here](#).

## EMC News

**Communications and Marketing Specialist - East Midlands Councils** - A great opportunity exists for a marketing and communications specialist to work with a highly respected regional organisation with national reach.



You will be leading on all of EMC communications and engagement activity, raising our local and national profile across our core responsibilities and promoting our free and income generating services to member councils and partners.

The closing date for applications is Monday 6 June 2022. Interviews will take place week commencing 13 June 2022, further information is available from [here](#).

## EMC Boards Activity

Upcoming board meeting dates;

- **Regional Migration Board** - 8 June 2022
- **Regional Employers' Board and Regional Joint Council** - 9 June 2022
- **Transport for the East Midlands** - 22 June 2022
- **EMC Executive Board** - 24 June 2022
- **EMC Meeting** - 15 July 2022 – 2.00pm start

**East Midlands Scrutiny Network, 24 June 2022** - The next East Midlands Scrutiny network meeting will take place on 24 June, 10:00 – 12:30. The theme for this network meeting will be on **budget scrutiny**. This network meeting will be hosted by Erewash Borough

Council. For more information on this network meeting contact [Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk)

The East Midlands Councils Scrutiny network is a local authority network for Councillors and Officers involved with Scrutiny. 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 Councillor Events

**Cyber Security workshop for Councillors in the East Midlands, 8 June 3pm - 4pm FREE event** - EMC, working collaboratively with the East Midlands Special Operations Unit is hosting two free webinars for Councillors on cyber security.

Cyber Security is the protection of your hardware, software and data from unauthorised access and cyber-attacks. We recognise the value and responsibility you bring to our communities as a councillor, with this in mind we want to ensure that you have strong cyber security protection available to you. With the current news around global conflicts, we are seeing a real increase in targeted cybercrime, to combat this, we will cover topics around securing your digital footprint, securing your social media, how to work in public using technology and practical tips.

(Virtual workshop using MS Teams). To book a place at this fully subsidised event visit [here](#).

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### Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Next step in plans for gigabit broadband in new-build homes** - Digital Infrastructure Minister Julia Lopez has launched a consultation on proposals for changes to building regulations to ensure new homes have next-generation gigabit broadband installed in them as standard practice [details [here](#)].

**Funding for transport projects to help tackle loneliness** - Pilot projects funded to explore how future transport schemes can contribute to reducing loneliness in communities [details [here](#)].

- nearly £5 million has been allocated for pilot projects to understand how transport can be used to alleviate loneliness
- government has partnered with 12 organisations across England to deliver pilot projects targeting people who are most at risk of loneliness
- the projects will be evaluated to develop an evidence base for how transport policies can reduce the number of people feeling lonely

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### Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

**Ukraine refugees – Clive Betts, Levelling-Up Committee Chair, writes to Lord Harrington on Homes for Ukraine concerns** - Clive Betts, Chair of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee, has written to Lord Harrington, Minister for Refugees, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, concerning recent reports of problems with the operation of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, including delays in criminal records checks for UK hosts and of accounts of Ukrainian refugees being forced into temporary accommodation such as B&Bs [details [here](#)].

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### Health & Social Care



**Get in on the Act: Health and Care Act 2022** - The Health and Care Act received Royal Assent on 28th April 2022. This LGA briefing outlines what the Act covers and how it will impact local government.

This LGA document will be useful for executive members and officers responsible for health and social care integration, adult social care, and public health. It is also important for members of health overview and scrutiny committees and health and wellbeing boards, and for all those with an interest in understanding how the Act will impact on local government [details [here](#)].

**The Community Mental Health Framework and local government Wednesday 8 June 2022, 2.00pm – 3.30pm** - this LGA webinar will provide a detailed outline of the new Community Mental Health Framework and demonstrate how it is being implemented in local areas. It will highlight the importance of elected members in promoting good community mental health services in their local areas. Speakers will include NHSE, Rethink and the Association of Mental Health Providers [details [here](#)].

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## Employers' Information

**Workforce wellbeing: focus on ... mental health after COVID-19 Friday 10 June 2022, 10.00am – 11.30am** - this is the first in series of LGA roundtable events giving workforce wellbeing leads an opportunity to get together and share their successes and brainstorm challenges in their work. Join the interactive event to discuss how we can support our employees' mental health as we deal with the impact of a global pandemic and transition to living and working with COVID [details [here](#)].

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## Local Government News

**Business Rates Review** - Information giving the latest position on the Business Rates Review.

It was announced in the Queen's Speech that the Government would introduce a Non Domestic Rating Bill to deliver key conclusions from the Review. The aim is to modernise the business rates system with more frequent revaluations based on more accurate data and incentivise business ratepayers to invest in their properties and decarbonise with new reliefs backed by the Government. In terms of timings for implementation, a roadmap was published in the [Final Report](#) of the business rates review (see p.15).

**Michael Gove to be questioned by MPs on Levelling-Up Bill** - Michael Gove, the Secretary of State of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, will be questioned on the Government's Levelling-Up plans in an evidence session with the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee at 4pm on Monday 13 June [details [here](#)].

**Levelling Up funds and grants - Committee writes to Levelling-Up Minister** - Clive Betts, Chair of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee has written to Neil O'Brien, Levelling-Up Minister with a series of questions concerning the many grants and funding pots connected with the levelling-up agenda.

The LUHC Committee is examining a series of policy areas as part of their work into levelling-up. The Committee intends to do some detailed work on the funds available for levelling-up and, in preparation for this, the letter includes questions around the allocation of these resources and the aim, size and focus of the many different funds available [details [here](#)].

**PAC Chair's Sixth Annual Report published** - The PAC has published the Sixth Chair's Annual Report setting out her analysis of issues to watch across Whitehall, informed by the work of the Public Accounts Committee.

*"Just as the Towns Fund had very woolly criteria, so the Levelling Up fund is vague in its aims. Whitehall struggles to implement a policy which is little more than a slogan. Experience shows that when the criteria for funding is not clear and outcomes vague, value for money for the taxpayer is at risk"* - Dame Meg Hillier MP, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee [details [here](#)].

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## EMC Events

**Introduction to Neurodiversity, 22 June 2022** - EMC is hosting a 90-minute virtual workshop 'Introduction to Neurodiversity'. In this introductory session we will be introducing you to the idea of neurodiversity, what it is, and what the common conditions are that people experience. We will also look at ways in which you can make simple adjustments to better support people and enable them to be their most effective selves. At the end of the session, you should have an increased knowledge about neurodiverse conditions and the ways to best support someone.

This session is suitable for anyone throughout your organisation, but is particularly useful for those working in team leading positions, learning and development teams and human resources. To book visit [here](#).

**High Impact Leadership, ILM Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management, An accredited Leadership Development Programme** - EMC is launching an ILM Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management starting in September 2022. The course will take place with a combination of face to face workshops and interactive virtual workshops. The programme information booklet can be accessed from here [Programme Information - September 2022](#)

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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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Click on our [Twitter](#) & [YouTube](#) accounts for further information.



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