

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

Top items this week

29 APRIL 2022



Elections Bill achieves Royal Assent



EMC HR Bulletin, April 2022 Edition



East Midlands Councils (EMC) Nomination Process



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## EMC HR Bulletin, April 2022 Edition

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is available from [here](#). In this month's edition, Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article looks the importance of the correct comparator pool for indirect discrimination cases. The April Bulletin also includes:-

- Local Government Services updated 'Green Book'
- East Midlands Virtual Information Exchange – "Grow Your Own"
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Network, 18<sup>th</sup> May
- Apprenticeship News, including the Local Government Apprenticeship Challenge

## EMC News

**East Midlands Councils (EMC) Nomination Process** - EMC will shortly be inviting nominations for membership. All local authority member authorities are allocated one place on EMC, which is usually the Leader of the Council unless otherwise specified. In addition to this there are another 40 added places which are allocated based on the political balance of the region. For more information on EMC Representation and Nomination visit [here](#).

## EMC Support Activity

**Public Speaking and Media Communication Skills workshop, 22 June 2022** - EMC is hosting an exclusive half day workshop on public speaking and the media. Places will be limited to only 4 for this workshop, to enable delegates attending to maximise from the learning environment and the practical activities [details [here](#)]. Delegates will benefit from a highly experienced trainer on the subject of public speaking and the media, a former television presenter.

The workshop will be of benefit to those required to speak in public, in high profile settings and to the media.

Outcomes from the half day workshop;

- Developing and embedding personal communication skills
- Engagement, perception and impact
- Enhancing personal and corporate impact
- Behaviour, personal and corporate reputation
- Advanced media skills
- Handling various styles of challenge

## EMC Councillor Events

**Cyber Security workshop for Councillors in the East Midlands** - 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. **Dates and times**- 27 May 2022, 10am - 11am or 8 June 2022, 3pm - 4pm (Virtual workshop using MS Teams). To book a place visit [here](#).

**The Role of the Civic Head, 31 May 2022** - EMC is hosting a one day workshop for incoming Civic Heads. The intended audience for this event will be those coming into civic office at their Annual Meetings at the end of May, their deputies and their support staff. **How to book** – visit [here](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



**Midlands Connect Rural Mobility Conference, Monday 20 June 2022, Melton Mowbray** - Join Midlands Connect for their first ever Rural Mobility Conference, discussing how to tackle rural transport connectivity!

The Rural Powerhouse Conference will take place on Monday 20 June at The Civic Suite in Melton Mowbray. The event will include the Department for Transport, senior politicians, decision makers and experts for a number of keynote speeches, panels, discussions and debates throughout the day.

Midlands Connect will also be announcing the winners of the rural mobility competition, proposing technological solutions enhance connectivity for local communities. More about the competition [here](#). Details of the event [here](#).

**Derby's bid to host the headquarters of Great British Railways** - A Westminster Hall debate on 'Derby's bid to host the headquarters of Great British Railways' took place on 27 April 2022. The debate was initiated by Mrs Pauline Latham MP [details [here](#)]. To watch the debate visit [here](#).

**Freeports** - Information and guidance on Freeports operating within England [details [here](#)].

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## Asylum Support, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

**Borders Act to overhaul asylum system becomes law** - The Nationality and Borders Act passed this week will deliver the biggest overhaul of our asylum system in decades [details [here](#)].

More information can also be found in the [Nationality and Borders Bill factsheet](#)

**Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme, numbers of visas issued** - Numbers of visas issued sponsored by individuals, by local authority in separate tables for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland [details [here](#)].

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## Health & Social Care

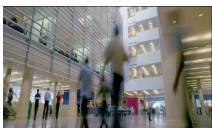


**Health and Care Bill granted Royal Assent in milestone for healthcare recovery and reform** - The Health and Care Bill has today received Royal Assent by Her Majesty The Queen, enacting the most significant health legislation in a decade into law [details [here](#)].

**Understanding health and care reforms: opportunities and implications for local government, 11 May 2022** - this LGA webinar will convene expert speakers to outline the main proposals for reform, piece them together into a coherent whole, and draw out the key themes running through them. It will focus on the opportunities and implications for local government in the Health and Care Bill, the adult social care white paper, the Build Back Better Plan, the integration white paper and the forthcoming health disparities white paper. It will be of particular interest to senior policy makers in local government, the NHS and national policy organisations [details [here](#)].

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## Local Government News



**Elections Bill achieves Royal Assent** - The Act will:

- stop postal vote harvesting by changing the rules so that people can apply for a postal or proxy vote online through a new online system for absent voters. Applicants can use the online platform as part of the register to vote process or, for those who are already registered, as a stand-alone online submission. These measures will introduce safeguards against the abuse of postal voting.
- Introduce photographic identification for voting in polling stations in Great Britain.
- Changes the voting system for mayoral and PCC elections to First Past the Post
- Require authorities to provide voters with disabilities with specialist equipment to support them to vote if need, and allow anyone over the age of 18 to accompany disabled voters in the polling station.
- Removes the 15-year limit on British citizens overseas voting in UK Parliamentary elections
- Introduce a new electoral sanction for those convicted of intimidation against a candidate, campaigner or elected office holder.
- Update undue influence to include a wide range of harms
- Update the political finance regulatory framework
- Introduce a new digital imprints regime

Following Royal Assent, it is the government's ambition that implementation of the Act will happen within the lifetime of this Parliament. Local councils will receive support from the government's Electoral Integrity Programme to allow them to deliver the changes, and the Electoral Commission will communicate through campaigns with voters to inform them of the new requirements. The government will meet the cost of the new requirements which arise from the Act.

Further information available from [here](#).

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## Local Government News

**Relationships between councils and their local voluntary and community sector: Council officer roundtable 18 May, 10.30am** - the LGA is working with Locality to understand the types of strategic relationships councils hold with their local voluntary and community sector. Many councils reported that partnership working with their local voluntary and community sector improved during the pandemic. This research has been commissioned to build upon this and will highlight the key ingredients needed for strategic relationships to be created, maintained and improved. As part of this research, the LGA and Locality will be hosting a council officer workshop between 10.30-12.00pm on 18 May – for more information and to register your interest do contact [hannah.small@local.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.small@local.gov.uk). Details will be released shortly regarding a councillor workshop.

**New public bodies review programme launched** - The launch of the Public Bodies Review Programme will set out how departments should assess their public bodies. The Cabinet Office has published guidance which will inform departments how to review their public bodies. The [Public Bodies Review Programme](#) delivers on commitments made in the Declaration on Government Reform to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of public bodies and will look to identify a minimum of 5% savings for each organisation [details [here](#)].

**British Sign Language Bill set to clear final stage before becoming law** - The British Sign Language Bill, a Private Member's Bill introduced by Rosie Cooper MP last year and backed by the government, will receive its third reading in the House of Lords before it passes into law following Royal Assent.

The BSL Act will recognise BSL as a language of England, Wales and Scotland in its own right. It is also supported by a duty on the Secretary of State for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to regularly report on what each relevant government department has done to promote or facilitate the use of British Sign Language in its communications with the public [details [here](#)].

**Licensing hours extended to mark Queen's Platinum Jubilee** - The extension will provide the opportunity for people to continue their celebrations of this historic milestone over the bank holiday [details [here](#)].

**Supporting the youngest children in the youth justice system: what works to reduce offending and improve outcomes?** - This LGA report summarises findings from a structured review of the evidence for alternatives to CJS responses, which was undertaken to establish what works to reduce offending and improve outcomes for children aged 8-13 years in contact with the criminal justice system [details [here](#)].

**PAC says government "complacent" about preventing "eye-watering" levels of fraud in the Covid Bounceback Loan Scheme** - The report published this week by the Public Accounts Committee [details [here](#)].

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## EMC Events

**Effective Chairing of Hybrid Meetings, 22 June** - EMC is hosting a half day training session on 'Effective Chairing of Hybrid Meetings'. The workshop will provide training for chairs to maximise opportunities within hybrid meetings [details [here](#)]. A hybrid meeting is a meeting that includes both participants engaging in the real world and virtually. The workshop has been designed to develop skills around managing and engaging with people in a hybrid meeting. The half day training session will be practical. The workshop will include a camera crew to provide instant feedback and reflection. This enables us to demonstrate body language and social skills.

Outcomes from the half day workshop;

- Awareness of effective techniques for chairing hybrid meetings
  - Development and embedding key skills
  - The important of body language
  - Control and engagement
  - Handling various styles of challenge
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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.

