

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

Top items this week

29 OCTOBER 2021



EMC Planning Reform Event



Autumn Budget and Spending Review



Winter Planning Webinar



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Autumn Budget and Spending Review

The Spending Review outlined government grant funding of £1.6 billion per annum (total £4.8bn over the period) for councils over the next three years to support vital local services. This will help meet some - but not all - of the extra cost and demand pressures they face just to provide services at today's levels.

The key messages that came out of the review were:

- £4.8 billion funding package includes the £200 million commitment to increase Supporting Families funding, funding for cyber security and funding to improve local delivery and transparency.
- £2.6 billion for school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Additional funding to expand capacity in residential children's homes placements.
- The release of the first £1.7 billion of the Levelling Up Fund gives those councils who were successful in the bidding process an opportunity to deliver much needed improvements for their communities.
- £5.7 billion of funding for integrated transport settlements for eight city regions, originally announced in 2019.
- A share of £70 million Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) funding to support delivery of around 96 zero emission buses (approximately a third of the existing bus fleet) in Leicester.

The following Levelling Up funding awards were announced, which formed part of TfEM's prior SR funding submission:

- £23m to transform Leicester Rail Station responding to current pressures and planned services, and linked to a wider station area regeneration scheme (Leicester City Council)
- £49.5m bid to create a new junction, slip road and roundabout onto the A50 to support the South Derby Growth Zone including a new link road to bring forward the Infinity Garden Village development (Derbyshire County Council/Derby City Council)
- £20m package of improvements to the A16 between Boston and Spalding to support the agri-food sector (Lincolnshire County Council)

Integrated Rail Plan -The Chancellor confirmed that the long awaited Integrated Rail Plan would be published 'shortly'. Press reports suggest a date in mid-November after COP26. The Co-Chairs of HS2 East Cllr Ben Bradley MP and Cllr James Lewis (Leeds) issued a joint response to the Budget calling for the publication of the IRP and the delivery of HS2 Eastern Leg in full, which is available [here](#).

An overview of the Review can be found [here](#).

APPG on Social Integration

On Wednesday 27th October the All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Integration released a new report, **Building stronger communities in post-pandemic Britain**. A copy of the report can be found [here](#). This report details the findings from the APPG's second inquiry into social connection during the Covid-19 crisis, which examined in detail the role that business and the voluntary sector played in improving social integration throughout the pandemic. British Futures will also discuss the findings and key themes in more detail in a webinar, hosted by British Future, on **Tuesday 2nd November, 1.30pm-2.45pm**. The panel – including representatives from the Royal Voluntary Service, and the Federation of Small Businesses – will then consider whether the forthcoming Levelling Up white paper offers the chance to build a more integrated and connected society. To join the session you can [register here](#).

Please also sign up to the APPG on Social Integration's mailing list [here](#) to keep updated about the latest from the group going forward, or follow the APPG on Twitter [@IntegrationAPPG](#).

LGA News

Culture Leadership Essentials for Councillors: Take part - This LGA [programme](#) is designed to support a cohort of new and established culture portfolio holders to develop and strengthen leadership skills and become strong cultural leaders in their local areas. As the COVID-19 rebuild phase presents a series of challenges and opportunities to the local cultural offer and leisure services, cultural portfolio holders will need to develop their leadership skills to support their communities. This will require councillors to collaborate, influence, and make crucial decisions to provide better outcomes for local communities. There is no cost to attend. There are six sessions and **participants need to attend all six** – the sessions build together, and an integral part is the journey the group take together and the networking.

- **Monday 15th November, 5pm – 7pm** – Icebreaker at the virtual bar
- **Wednesday 17th November, 2pm – 4pm** - Session 1 - Collaborative place making
- **Tuesday 23rd November, 2pm – 4pm** - Session 2 - Pandemic recovery
- **Monday 29th November, 2pm – 4pm** - Session 3 - Innovation, disruption and change
- **Monday 1st December, 2pm – 4pm** - Session 4 - Culture contributing to cross-cutting agendas

To book: email grace.collins@local.gov.uk by **Monday 8th November**

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

EMC Virtual Workshop on Planning Reform for Councillors, 30 November 2021 - EMC is hosting a two hour virtual workshop for Councillors in the East Midlands on Planning Reform. The workshop will explore the emerging planning reform agenda following the appointment of Michael Gove as the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and provide Councillors with the opportunity to share their perspective on what changes to the planning system would work best locally. This event will form part of a proposed series of EMC workshops for Councillors on Planning Reform, including a session on the draft Planning legislation once this is published.

Date - 30 November 2021, 14:00 - 16:00

Cost - the workshop is fully subsidised and free to attend.

This workshop will be held virtually using Zoom. To book a place please visit [here](#).

EMC Events

Winter Planning Webinar, Thursday 4 November 2021 - As we head into an uncertain winter period, the UK Health and Security Agency and East Midlands Councils have arranged a webinar on 4th November 2021, 9am to 11am, in relation to winter pressures and planning that will need to be in place from an NHS, UKHSA and Local Authority perspective. The event is being planned in such a way to ensure that there is time for questions, so attendees can have a candid discussion on the key issues we face. Speakers include:

- **Mark Brassington, Regional Director of Performance and Improvement, NHSI/East Midlands**
- **Tony McArdle OBE, Director of Local Engagement and Response, UKHSA**
- **Alison Greenhill, Chief Executive, Leicester City Council**

If you would like to book a place please email lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk

Refugee Resettlement IOM UK Cultural Adjustment Session, 22 Nov and 23 Nov 2021 - East Midlands Councils are hosting a 2 hour virtual Cultural Adjustment session on Monday 22nd November 2021 & Tuesday 23rd November 2021 from 2pm-4:00pm delivered by IOM UK after recent feedback from past IOM training in the region. This session will discuss the resettlement process, IOM pre-departure services, and cultural adjustment and integration of refugees after they arrive. These components are what we normally cover in the second half of the full day in-person sessions. Some participants find it helpful to have attended a country specific information session before attending this one, however it is not necessary as there is no country specific information covered in this session. [details [here](#)].

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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