

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

Top items this week

FRIDAY 2 JULY 2021



East Midlands All Party Parliamentary Group

East Midlands All Party
Parliamentary Group



East Midlands Challenge
2020



EMC Leadership Development
Programme



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

EMC HR Bulletin, June 2021 Edition

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from [here](#).

In this month's edition, Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article looks at Gender Critical Beliefs following the recent EAT ruling in the Forstater case.

The June Bulletin includes:-

- Virtual Recruitment Assessment Centre
- Reminder - Trade Union Facility Reporting
- Sickness absence Survey - 2020-21

Learning & Development

- East Midlands Virtual Challenge 2021
- EMC Leadership Development Programme, cohort two
- Report Writing Workshop, 27 Sept 2021



EMC News

The East Midlands All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) - The East Midlands APPG held its AGM on the 29th June 2021, re-electing Alex Norris MP and Nigel Mills MP as Co-Chairs - who will both be attending the EMC AGM on the 9th July 2021. The meeting went on to consider efforts to influence the Government's Integrated Rail Plan and progress on the proposed East Midlands Development Corporation. MPs also discussed the problems implementing East Midlands Railway's (EMR) May regional timetable and resolved to make collective representations to the Rail Minister Chris Heaton Harris MP on this issue.

EMC Boards Activity

East Midlands Councils AGM - EMC's AGM is scheduled for 10.00am on Friday 9 July and will be held virtually via MS Teams. For further information on how to access the meeting please contact lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk.

Papers for the meeting will be available from [here](#) from the afternoon of Friday 2 July.

EMC Support Activity

East Midlands Councils, Low cost CPD programme for Planners 2021/22 - East Midlands Councils (EMC), has arranged a programme of 6 low cost CPD knowledge based seminars for both local authority and private sector planners. The programme will tackle issues of relevance to local planning.

Details of the 2021-22 Programme;

- Design, 27th May 2021
- Use Classes and PDR Rights, 17th June 2021
- Gypsy and Traveller Sites, 7th Oct 2021
- Major Growth Proposals in the East Midlands, 25th Nov 2021
- Planning Post Covid, 27th January 2022
- PropTech and Artificial Intelligence 3rd March 2022

For more information on the programme visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



New apps to simplify extension application process for homeowners - The two apps, announced by Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick, are a step towards a fully digital planning system and will save time and money for developers, architects and homeowners by speeding up and simplifying the application process [details [here](#)].

- Two new web apps will put planning at people's fingertips, making the extension application process easier to navigate for homeowners
- Public-facing app to help homeowners and developers check whether their planning applications can be quickly approved
- App for planners to speed up processing of applications for extensions and other home improvements

Planning and GDPR, An update to "Planning and the GDPR – interim guidance for practitioners" - In June 2021 the Planning Advisory Service published an updated guide to managing data in planning departments and the requirements of the UK GDPR. The guide also contains a template "privacy notice" for planning that councils may wish to refer to and localise [details [here](#)].

Climate Change & Sustainable

Midlands Engine Partners unite; shared vision launched for urgent green growth action to accelerate economic and environmental recovery - The Midlands Engine has this week launched its **Ten Point Plan for Green Growth**, as the pan regional partnership urgently looks to drive economic and environmental recovery in the wake of COVID-19 [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care



New services launched to help people achieve a healthier weight and improve wellbeing - Thousands of adults and children will benefit from new services launched across England to help them achieve a healthy weight and boost their wellbeing [details [here](#)].

- New services to be offered both virtually and face to face across England
- Additional pilot schemes for children and families to be launched in 11 local areas
- Part of the government's world-leading obesity strategy and levelling up agenda ahead of launch of new Office for Health Promotion (OHP)

Must know: behavioural weight management services, a guide to tackling obesity from the LGA - This 'must know' for elected members sets out the importance of weight management services and seeks the support of all elected members in championing these services, as a part of a place based whole systems approach to tackling obesity [details [here](#)].

Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK - The official UK government website for data and insights on coronavirus (COVID-19) including data on Testing, cases and vaccinations. With case information by region and local authorities [[here](#)].

Employers' Information



East Midlands Virtual Challenge 2021 - We're delighted to announce the new East Midlands Virtual Challenge, this will take place on 10 November 2021. In this virtual environment we're making 12 team places available.

The Challenge is Leadership Development day for aspiring managers. It takes the form of a non-stop, high intensity virtual simulation exercise that gives a rare opportunity for aspiring managers to gain exposure to issues outside of their normal working lives and give them a taste of what senior management is like.

What you need to know about the virtual format - Every person taking part in the challenge (both delegates and role players) do so from home, or wherever they locate themselves during working hours. All communication between the teams and the people contacting them takes place over Zoom and via mobile phones.

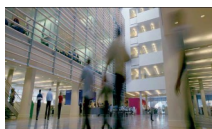
The challenge is designed for teams of 6 people (maximum size) from any area of work. Delegates will spend the day as the management team of a fictional Island authority. Teams can be drawn from any level of management where there is an aspiration to develop and grow.

Getting involved – We're also looking for volunteers to support the delivery of the day, so if you are interested in working with us then contact Kirsty at kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk for more information.

Further information will be available soon.

Benefits and pensions for EEA and Swiss citizens in the UK - This guidance explains the rights of European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss citizens to UK benefits and pensions [details [here](#)].

Local Government News



MHCLG & BEIS Ministers face questions on supporting high streets after Covid-19, Monday 5 July, 4pm - The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee concludes evidence taking for its inquiry into supporting our high streets after Covid-19 on Monday 5 July (4pm) with a hearing featuring Government Ministers from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The session is likely to look at the impact on the high street of the Government's measures to support businesses during the pandemic, and the Government's policies for reviving the high street after covid-19.

The Committee is also likely to examine changing consumer behaviour, the business rates regime, and the impact of Permitted Development Rights on the high street [details [here](#)].

Audit committees and scrutiny committees: working together - This Centre for Governance and Scrutiny publication is a guide for councillors on audit committees and scrutiny committees on how member-level activity on audit, and councils' scrutiny functions, can work more closely [details [here](#)]. This guide suggests practical ways for these councillors, and the officers supporting those role, to share information and work together better to ensure robust financial oversight. This guide complements previous material produced by CfGS, particularly "The financial scrutiny practice guide" and "The governance risk and resilience framework".

Performance Network Awards 2021, winners - APSE is pleased to announce the winners in this year's Performance Networks Best and Most Improved Performer Awards.

One of the highlights of the local government calendar, this year the awards were announced at a special virtual ceremony on 8 June 2021 [details [here](#)]. From the East Midlands;

Refuse collection - Winner: Corby-Kettering Shared Service (Borough Council)

EMC Events



EMC Leadership Development Programme, cohort two - EMC launched a new Leadership Development programme in May 2021. We are now offering the opportunity to join the programme, with new dates starting in October 2021.

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.

Developed around four key themes of Self Leadership, Leading the Organisation, Leading People and Leading Teams, this programme will help leaders and managers to:

- Develop self-awareness of their own leadership and resilience during turbulence and change.
- Respond to the challenges a crisis and long-term uncertainty create for organisations, teams, and people.
- Identify ways in which organisations can build their resilience, adapt to change, and engage their people during turbulent times.
- Address key challenges when leading and managing people during change and uncertainty.
- Identify strategies and actions to support performance, engagement, and wellbeing of people during change.

The programme will start on 13 October. For further information on the programme visit [here](#), alternatively if you would like to have a conversation about the programme please contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

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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