

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

Top items this week

2 OCTOBER 2020



Launch of new project to find young unaccompanied refugees a home



EMC HR Bulletin, September 2020 Edition



East Midlands Councils AGM



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

EMC HR Bulletin, September 2020 Edition

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

- Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article - this month he looks at the Exit Pay Cap
- Working from Home Survey, regional results
- National Exit Pay Cap Consultation
- Results of the latest COVID-19 Workforce survey
- Case study on running a Virtual Recruitment Assessment Centre



Learning & Development

- EMC Learning and Development network on Performance Management and appraisals
- Wellbeing Conversations Development for Managers
- Taking Your Training Remote – A Regional virtual training programme, news on a new cohort

EMC News

Launch of new project to find young unaccompanied refugees a home - Place to Call Home is a partnership between EMC and councils across the East Midlands, seeking to recruit around 40 foster carers and supported lodgings providers across the region.



At the end of March 2019, there were 310 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the care of local authorities in the East Midlands. Foster carers support these young people day-to-day, providing safety, security and a family environment. EMC's East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, with councils from across the region, identified the need to recruit more foster carers and supported lodgings providers, and provide them with the training to care for unaccompanied refugees. East Midlands Councils prepared a successful bid to the government's Controlling Migration Fund to finance the project, and Leicestershire County Council agreed to take on the responsibility of lead authority for delivery of the project on behalf of the region.

The project was formally launched on Thursday 1st October and there was wide coverage in local media and BBC and ITV regional news. The 'Place to Call Home' website is [here](#).

Immigration Solicitor joins the East Midlands Councils - this new role at EMC's East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership is to provide legal advice on immigration and asylum matters to local authorities within the region. By working together and pooling funding, eight upper tier authorities and East Midlands Councils have created this unique resource to provide legal advice, guidance, and training to social care and legal teams, particularly in relation to local authorities' responsibilities towards unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and care leavers, and families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). It is believed to be the first such role in the country!

EMC Boards Activity

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

EMC Support Activity

Democratic Services Network - EMC and Association of Democratic Service Officers (ADSO) colleagues in the region are hosting a virtual networking session, to provide Democratic Service colleagues with an opportunity to come together to share experiences, particularly where authorities are looking at setting up remote council meetings. The meeting will take place on 9 October. For more information visit [here](#).

Scrutiny: Reset and Recovery, 10 Nov 2020- This virtual workshop has been designed to focus on the role of scrutiny in the 'reset and recovery' period.

Local government has changed significantly in order to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Functions, finances and political management arrangements have been re-shaped since March 2020. Scrutiny has also been impacted by COVID. This virtual workshop has been designed to focus on the role of scrutiny in the 'reset and recovery' period.

It will examine a range of related issues:

reviewing the impact on scrutiny functions across the region, including how scrutiny members and officers have responded

- highlighting best practice in working remotely and through virtual platforms
- identifying learning from scrutiny reviews of council responses to COVID-19
- considering the role that scrutiny can play in the recovery planning period
- outside of COVID-19, identifying emerging and re-emergent priority topics for scrutiny to examine, for example, scrutiny of climate change and scrutiny of re-organisation

In particular, the workshop will focus on how the recovery stage is developing and how scrutiny needs to play a part in debates over growing financial and budgetary pressures and fundamental re-prioritisation processes.

For details of the workshop visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



"Permitted development" homes to meet space standards - New homes delivered through Permitted Development Rights will have to meet space standards, Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick has announced.

Permitted development homes make an important contribution to delivering the housing the country needs by making effective use of existing buildings, allowing them to be changed into homes without the need to go through a full planning application.

The homes are instead consented through a lighter-touch 'prior approval' process, speeding up the delivery of these new homes – with over 60,000 homes provided over the last 4 years.

The measures announced today will mean that all new homes in England delivered through these rights will in the future have to meet the Nationally Described Space Standard [details [here](#)].

Planning guidance: letters to chief planning officers - Guidance on various aspects of the planning system, given in letters to chief planning officers of local planning authorities [details [here](#)].

New digital service to improve home energy performance - A new digital service to help homeowners improve the energy performance of their homes and cut their energy bills has been launched [details [here](#)].

Midlands Connect



Plans submitted for Midlands-wide 'tap and cap' payment platform for public transport - Leaders from across the Midlands are calling on Government to fund a region-wide smart ticketing platform, which would revolutionise the way passengers use and pay for public transport.

A 'tap and cap' system, similar to the platform used by Transport for London, would allow travellers to seamlessly pay for trips on the rail, bus and tram network via their smartphone, travel pass or bank card. A new payment model would 'cap' the payments at a daily or weekly limit, enhancing value for money for those travelling across the whole Midlands region, regardless of travel mode or transport operator.

The development of the smart ticketing platform, which will be based on 'Swift' payment technologies, will be led by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) with initial rollout of the plans being implemented by TfWM and Nottingham City Council. Strategic regional transport body Midlands Connect will work with other local authorities across the region to integrate more areas into the scheme, which could be operational by 2022.

For the full press release visit [here](#).

Employers' Information



EMC Fortnightly Summary of COVID-19 Guidance & Information for HR Colleagues - EMC continues to provide a weekly summary to HR colleagues in the East Midlands updating developments relating to COVID-19, along with information on the frequently asked questions we have received and responded, this information can be found [here](#).

CEEP News - CEEP UK's newsletters provide an update on recent developments at European level on workforce matters and the most recent newsletter is available from [here](#).

Free recruitment support to help council fill planning, ICT and legal vacancies - The LGA has [launched three Return to Work programmes](#) – focusing on ICT, planning and legal – to help you connect with professionals who are returning to work after a career break [details [here](#)].

Local Government News



Local authority COVID-19 financial impact monitoring information - Summary of data collected from local authorities on the financial impact of COVID-19 [details [here](#)].

Comprehensive Spending Review 2020: LGA Submission - This submission, separated into five distinct chapters, sets out how local government can act as the driver to achieve shared priorities between central and local government [details [here](#)].

LGA Behavioural Insights Programme for 2020 – councils can [apply for £20k](#) to help deliver a project aimed at changing or sustaining a behaviour that has arisen in communities during the COVID-19 crisis. The funding is very competitive so we are encouraging high quality applications from councils looking to partake in a different, innovative project. Councils will be asked to match fund the projects that will have national significance and learning for local authorities nationwide. The application deadline is 29 October 2020 at 5pm, you can view our [behavioural nudges, tools and techniques](#), and contact productivity@local.gov.uk if you have any questions.

National Graduate Development Programme provides local government with a pipeline of talent - Having placed almost 150 graduates in 2020, the programme reopens in September for our 2021 intake. Organisations have until the end of March 2021 to express an interest. To find out more visit www.local.gov.uk/ngdp.

Coronavirus Regulations 2020: health emergencies, planning, local government meetings and education - Changes to local authority powers and duties in health emergencies, planning, local government meetings and education resulting from Coronavirus Regulations 2020.

Please note that this is a guide and not legal advice. If you are unsure or have any concerns about the meaning or applicability of the Act, or any of the provisions made under the Act, you should seek your own detailed legal advice [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care



End of life care: guide for councils - This guide was begun in early 2020 and was nearing completion in March 2020. It has been revised to reflect the new challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 continues to be challenging for councils and their partners. The guide cannot cover all of the implications and issues that the pandemic has raised but seeks to help councils play a leading role in how people in their local areas experience end of life care, including during the pandemic [details [here](#)].

Supporting action on reducing health inequalities - PHE has launched the Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT), designed to support professionals across the public health system and wider health economy systematically address health inequalities and equity in their work programmes, services or business planning cycles. Read this blog to find out more about the tool [details [here](#)].

EMC Events



Enforcement and Regulatory Conference, 6 October (MS Teams) - The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and East Midlands Councils have arranged an Enforcement and Regulation Conference to bring together local authorities, Police and Public Health England (PHE) to hear from a range of local and national agencies about regulations and enforcement policies related to COVID-19. There will also be the opportunity to hear from a number of case study presentations about lessons learnt. For more information about the event please visit our [website](#).

The seminar will run from 1.30pm-4.30pm on Tuesday 6 October on Microsoft Teams. A detailed programme is available from [here](#). If you would like to book a place please email (lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk). An MS Teams calendar invite will be sent to you prior to the virtual conference.

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
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Executive Director: Stuart Young

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