

Top items this week

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MPs discuss proposals to fully reinstate rail services on Lincoln to Nottingham rail line



Long-term strategy launched to fix children's social care



New research hub to help tackle decarbonisation



Local Resilience Forum 2021/22 funding pilot evaluation

Invitation to Councillors – EMC General Meeting

10am, Friday 10th February 2023

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP - Minister of State (Minister for Immigration)

The EMC General Meeting will be held next week, Friday 10th February 2023. We are delighted to confirm that Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP - Minister of State (Minister for Immigration) will be attending.

The invitation is open to councillors from across the region. If you would like to attend, we would be grateful if you could confirm by emailing mila.pereira@emcouncils.gov.uk.

The meeting will be held at Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP. Parking is available and the meeting will close with lunch.

Meeting with Secretary of State for Transport on Lincoln to Nottingham rail line.

East Midlands Councils board member, Cllr Roger Blaney, met with the Secretary of State for Transport, The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP, along with local MPs and stakeholders, to discuss proposals to fully reinstate rail services on the Lincoln to Nottingham Line.

This is one of a number of enhancements proposed by EMR for the May 2023 timetable supported by the TfEM Board at its meeting on the 19th December 2022 and in subsequent correspondence with the Rail Minister, Huw Merriman MP.



Pictured (left to right) Michael Hardy, Newark Business Club, Cllr Roger Blaney, Newark and Sherwood, Rt Hon Mark Harper, Secretary of State for Transport, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Newark, and Tom Randall MP, Gedling.

EMC HR BULLETIN—JANUARY 2023

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is out now. This month's edition includes:

- Regional Pay Consultation Briefing and Claims received for Green Book Staff and Chief Executives
- Youth & Community Workers 2022 Pay Award
- Industrial Action
- Fire Brigades Union Ballot Outcome and Agreement on Response to Major Incidents
- Minimum Services Levels during Strikes
- Consultation on Holiday Pay/Entitlement for Part-Year and Irregular Hours Workers
- Consultation on Introduction of a Code of Practice relating to Dismissal & Re-engagement

[READ THE LATEST HR BULLETIN.](#)

HEALTH NEWS

Long-term strategy launched to fix children's social care

The Government has announced plans to transform children's social care, putting families at the heart of reform. Backed by £200 million over the next two years, a new, ambitious and wide-ranging Children's Social Care Implementation Strategy will transform the current care system to focus on more early support for families, reducing the need for crisis response at a later stage.

[Read more.](#)

NHS to expand services to keep vulnerable out of hospital

Tens of thousands of elderly and vulnerable people will receive tailored support at home as part of a new NHS plan to improve waiting times for emergency care.

It comes as the government and the NHS publish a new urgent and emergency care plan, following increasing demand on NHS services.

Under the plans, community services including falls and frailty teams will be scaled up, with up to 50,000 people a month supported by clinicians at home in high-tech 'virtual wards'. Urgent community response teams will also be scaled up to provide more patients with support at home within 2 hours, in recognition of the pressures facing A&E.

[Read more.](#)

£53 million cash boost to improve housing support for drug and alcohol recovery

People in alcohol and drug recovery will soon have access to housing support, helping to break the cycle of addiction and improve health outcomes.

Up to £53 million will be allocated to 28 local authorities across all regions of England with the greatest need.

The funding will allow for local authorities to create new housing support schemes tailored to meet local need.

[Read more.](#)

TRANSPORT NEWS

New research hub to help tackle decarbonisation and improve transport resilience

A new research hub is being launched to boost innovative measures to decarbonise and improve transport, as the country works towards its net zero goals.

Decarbonisation Minister Jesse Norman has announced applications are now open for organisations to host the new hub, with the government pledging £10 million in funding for the centre, which will establish a UK centre of excellence for transport innovation.

[Read more.](#)

National Apprenticeship Week 2023—Skills for Life

National Apprenticeship Week takes place from 6-12 February.

National Apprenticeship Week brings together the entire apprenticeship community to celebrate everything that is amazing about apprenticeships.

Share your Public Sector apprentices on social media using **#NAW2023** and **#SkillsForLife**.

[Visit the National Apprenticeship Week website.](#)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

Local government election timetable in England

This week, DLUHC updated the local government election timetable in England. The timetable outlines election cycles by type of council and lists how often different types of councils hold elections for their councillors.

[View the election timetable.](#)

Local Resilience Forum (LRF) 2021/22 funding pilot evaluation

This week, DLUHC published findings from the evaluation of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) funding pilot.

In 2021, DLUHC provided £7.5 million of funding to LRFs for one year as a pilot project to improve LRF capacity and capability, and to collect evidence on the efficacy, challenges and opportunities of the government providing direct funding to LRFs.

The pilot was evaluated to assess the outcomes, additionality, and value for money of the funding.

The evaluation shows that the pilot was well received by LRFs and has allowed them to take significant steps towards delivering new capacity and capability to support focused work on delivering improvements to specific capabilities and nationally and locally defined priorities.

[Read the evaluation.](#)

Sign up to be part of the National Gradual Development Programme (NGDP) in 2023

The NGDP is developing new talent in local government, placing high calibre graduates in councils across the country. Over 4,600 graduates have already applied this year.

Find out how the NGDP could help your council to build capacity and develop future leaders of your workforce – sign up by 31 March or contact ngdp@local.gov.uk.

[Read more about the NGDP.](#)

[Council sign up form.](#)

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS

Consultation: Changes to the building control profession and the building control process for approved inspectors

This week, DLUHC published a consultation which sets out for changes to the building control profession and the building control process for approved inspectors (in future to be known as registered building control approvers).

This consultation sets out the detailed requirements needed to implement the changes brought about by the Building Safety Act 2022. The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 14 March.

[Respond to the consultation.](#)

Regulator of Social Housing publishes initial findings on damp and mould in social housing

This week, the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) published its initial findings on damp and mould in England's social housing.

Following the coroner's report into the death of Awaab Ishak in Rochdale, the regulator asked all larger social landlords to submit evidence about the extent of damp and mould in tenants' homes and their approach to tackling it. This covered councils and housing associations who together own and manage over four million homes in England.

[Read more.](#)

Six weeks for developers to sign contract to fix unsafe buildings

Developers have received legally binding contracts that will commit them to pay to repair unsafe buildings.

The government has set a six-week deadline for developers to sign the legal agreements and is warning that companies who fail to sign and comply with the terms of the contract will face significant consequences.

Legislation will be brought forward in the spring giving the Secretary of State powers to prevent developers from operating freely in the housing market if they fail to sign and comply with the remediation contract.

[Read more.](#)

WORKFORCE NEWS

MPs back plans to enforce minimum service levels during strikes

MPs have backed plans aimed at enforcing minimum service levels for some sectors during strikes.

Under the bill, some employees, including in the rail industry and emergency services, would be required to work during industrial action - and could be sacked if they refuse.

The bill passed by 315 votes to 246 but will face further scrutiny in the House of Lords before it becomes law.

Hundreds of thousands more workers to receive job support boost in spring

New regulations which came into force this week mean more than 120,000 working people on Universal Credit across Great Britain will receive a job support boost this spring.

[Read more.](#)

Local Government Pension Scheme

This week, DLUHC launched a consultation seeking views on proposals to amend the rules of the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales.

The consultation covers minor technical amendments to the scheme regulations governing the Scheme Advisory Board 'cost management process'. This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 24 March.

[Respond to the consultation.](#)

Nominations for the New Year 2024 honours round

DLUHC is inviting councils to submit nominations for the New Year 2024 honours list, which will be published in December 2023.

This is an opportunity for those in local government to celebrate colleagues and stakeholders who go above and beyond their roles.

[Nomination form.](#)

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell

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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