

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

Top items this week

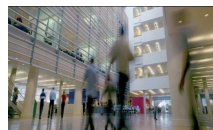
3 SEPTEMBER 2021



EMC HR Bulletin, August 2021 Edition



East Midlands Challenge 2021



Afghan Relocations and Assistance



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Afghan Relocations and Assistance

Councils in the East Midlands continue to respond with offers of support for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). Most councils have already pledged properties and many others in the process of confirming their support. Already, over 80 properties have been pledged, providing supporting for over 420 people. EMC is continuing to work with all councils on these pledges and on the 'wrap-around' support that will also be required.

The Government announced the new 'Afghan Resettlement Scheme' that will soon be introduced. No further details have yet been provided, including the funding instructions for LAs and guidance on how the scheme will work. These will be released imminently and we will be in touch with LAs to support the co-ordination of the scheme.

EMC HR Bulletin, August 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 the legal aspects of flexible working and the reassessment of how work is done post-Covid.

The August Bulletin includes:-

- New Pay and Rewards Network – 1st October 2021
- Inspire People Professionals - Inspire Academy
- Green Book Pay Negotiations Update
- Changes to Self-Isolation Guidance from 16th August 2021

Learning & Development

- EMC Leadership Development Programme - second cohort, starting in October

East Midlands Virtual Challenge, 10 November 2021 - East Midlands Councils will once again host a regional Challenge event but this time with a virtual twist! The 2021 Challenge will include all the key elements of the previous versions but will take place using an exciting new virtual format. The Challenge will take place on 10 November 2021, with 12 team places available.

The event takes place throughout the day with a high intensity 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. It is also a brilliant way to hone those team working skills. For more information and how to book a team please visit our website [here](#).

EMC News

MHCLG: Planning Reform and Local Authority Engagement - EMC will be representing member councils on a MHCLG-led planning reform group.

Following the consultation on the Planning for the Future White Paper, the Government will bring forward legislation, policy and other changes to national planning systems to reform the way that planning operates. This group/forum is a proposed means to exchange insight and seek advice on implementation and delivery of the planning reforms.

Any reflections on the key issues to be considered would be appreciated. Please contact stuart.young@emcouncils.gov.uk. We will ensure you are kept up to date on progress.

- **Regional Employers' Board and Regional Joint Council** - 8 September 2021

The Regional Joint Council meeting will include an update on National Joint Committee for Local Government Services consultation arrangements. The agenda will also include an item on Recruitment and Retention Difficulties for Local Government. For more information on the Regional Employers' Board and the Regional Joint Council visit [here](#).

- **Regional Migration Board** - 14 September 2021
- **Transport for the East Midlands** - 14 September 2021

EMC Support Activity

Kickstart Support Sessions - This week EMC colleagues have delivered a number of employability support sessions for the young people benefitting from the Kickstart Scheme and their employing local authorities. The workshops form part of a series of support, this weeks sessions have focused on teamwork and communications. For more information on Kickstart and the support EMCs can provide visit [here](#) or contact Suzanne Boulty

Suzanne.boulty@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

Climate Change: Behavioural change through Carbon Literacy, a workshop for Councillors - EMC, the LGA and Midlands Energy Hub, working in partnership are offering a series of virtual interactive workshops for Councillors on Climate Change. The third workshop in this 2021 series of events for Councillors on Climate Change will focus on behaviour change through carbon literacy.

The programme for the event will include;

Behavioural Change: Theory and practical application – Dr Andrew Reeves, De Montfort University and RCE East Midlands. Dr Reeves will cover the key concepts underpinning behavioural change theory, and their practical application in a local government context in leading change to promote climate sustainability.

Carbon Literacy: What is it, why it's important and how to get involved - Colleagues from the Carbon Literacy

Carbon Literacy in action: Case study examples - Three case study examples to bring to life the application of Carbon Literacy showcasing individual, community, organisational and place-based scale, and the role of local leadership within this.

Workshop details - 1 October 2021, 14:00 - 16:00, This is a fully subsidised event and is free. To book a place please use the online booking form available from [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Westminster Hall holds a general debate on the future of the East Midlands economy - On Tuesday 7 September, MPs will hold a general debate on the future of the East Midlands economy in Westminster Hall [details [here](#)].

£8.6 billion for affordable homes to give boost onto housing ladder - The Affordable Homes Programme funding will deliver around 119,000 homes, including 57,000 for ownership, 29,600 for social rent and 6,250 affordable rural homes.

The funding will also deliver nearly 30,000 homes for Social Rent, which are typically 50 to 60% of market prices, providing secure, affordable housing to people who need it most. It will also deliver new supported housing for some of the most vulnerable, providing much needed homes for older or disabled people with support needs [details [here](#)].

New expert group created to advise on improvements to social housing sector - Experts from across the housing sector have been brought together to form a new expert panel to advise the government on the delivery of the social housing white paper. The [social housing white paper](#) – published last year – outlines a wide-ranging package of reforms to improve standards for residents and enhance regulation of the sector.

The reforms aim to deliver long-lasting and meaningful change – addressing safety issues, strengthening the complaints process, professionalising staff and rebalancing the relationship between resident and landlord [details [here](#)].

New £4 million fund launched to increase community led affordable housing - The new grant programme, gives community-led housing groups better access to high quality, affordable housing that meets the needs of local communities. The money will help community groups meet a range of costs incurred in trying to develop housing. This could include paying for searches, administration costs or legal advice, design work and planning applications. The community-led approach involves community-based groups taking responsibility for local housebuilding. It delivers housing that is affordable locally and remains under the control of the community through land trusts or housing co-operatives [details [here](#)].

Local Government News and wider

Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS), Scrutiny Frontiers 2020/21: experiences from the front line. In this CfGC publication, a range of local authorities share their experiences, providing an opportunity to reflect, learn and gain awareness of what is possible with scrutiny [details [here](#)].

East Midlands Councils will host the Scrutiny Network on 22 September, 14:30. The focus for this network meeting will be on scrutiny relating to flooding. For more information on the scrutiny network visit [here](#) or contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Police awarded £11.3m for programmes to prevent domestic abuse crimes - Innovative programmes aim to reduce the risk posed by domestic abuse perpetrators and improve safety and protection for victims. The Home Office has awarded £11.3 million to 25 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in England and Wales, to go towards domestic abuse intervention programmes. The programmes focus on interventions encouraging behaviour change to help stop perpetrators from committing domestic abuse, with the ultimate aim of preventing further crimes from being committed. Funding will also focus on key areas such as stalking prevention and supporting adolescent perpetrators [details [here](#)].

Place-based collaboration for culture and heritage: East and Midlands regions, 5 October 2021, 10.30am - this event will help councils to connect with national culture and heritage organisations, setting out their place-based priorities and offer, spotlighting good practice and promoting work to connect culture and heritage to wider place agendas, and specifically to COVID-19 recovery [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care

Better Care Fund increased to support health and care integration - More than £6.9 billion has been committed to continue driving integration between health and social care and support local recovery from the pandemic [[here](#)]. More than £6.9 billion has been committed to help people to stay at home and live independently as far as possible, to minimise the time spent in hospital, and to help them recover after they leave hospital by enabling access to care and support services if needed.

Climate Change and Sustainability

The LGA has published a number of case studies from authorities on climate change and sustainability, including 3 from the East Midlands.

- **Leicester City Council: Carbon Awareness in Leicester City Schools** - the city council intend to use the Carbon Literacy Project as a way of accrediting university students and school staff to become carbon literate trainers who will deliver training to school students within the city [details [here](#)].
- **Nottingham City Council: Carbon Neutral Agenda** - Nottingham City Council has set an ambitious target to become the first carbon neutral city in the UK by 2028. The carbon neutral charter sets out a vision for sustainable carbon neutrality on behalf of the Council and the city's Green Partnership [details [here](#)].
- **Derbyshire County Council: Green Entrepreneurs Fund** - Derbyshire County Council has launched a Green Entrepreneurs Fund – a £2 million grant fund to help local businesses develop and invest in green energy and carbon reduction, and provide a boost to the local economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic [[here](#)].

EMC Events

IOM UK Syrian Information Session, 8 September - East Midlands Councils have organised a virtual Syrian Information Session over Wednesday 8th September and Thursday 9th September. This virtual training session will be hosted by IOM UK [details [here](#)].

Report Writing Workshop, 20 September - EMC is hosting a 3 hour virtual workshop on report writing. The virtual workshop will be highly interactive. This Report Writing skills session will look at how to build a logical structure of a report helping participants to communicate their ideas clearly and concisely. In addition, we will look at how to write reports that audiences really want to read. This will include discussing what information to put in and what to leave out, retaining crucial information and leaving out unnecessary detail. The module will also look at the use of correct grammar and punctuation and how to use an appropriate level of language for readers while writing in an appropriate tone of voice [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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