

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

Top items this week

4 DECEMBER 2020



Modern Slavery & Child Trafficking Summit, 11 and 14 December 2020



EMC HR Bulletin November 2020



EMC and LGA Workshop Series for Councillors: Climate Change



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

EMC HR Bulletin, November 2020 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 will focus on unintentional bullying.

The November Bulletin includes:-

- East Midlands Kickstart Scheme – opportunities to join in
- Xperthr Regional Deal 2021-22 – Subscription Renewal
- Salary sacrifice shared cost schemes webinar
- Information Exchange - 16 December 2020 on Wellbeing

Learning & Development

- Selfcare for Coaches workshop, 9 December 2020
- Social Connections examples from across the East Midlands

Round-up of National Developments



EMC News

Modern Slavery & Child Trafficking Summit, 11 and 14 December 2020 - To help tackle modern slavery and human trafficking, East Midlands Councils are holding a region-wide virtual summit for Local Authority councillors, senior officers, the voluntary sector and wider private and public sector partners.

Spread across two dates, this virtual summit will give those attending the opportunity to explore the causes and impact of Modern Slavery globally, nationally and within the East Midlands, help identify the impact on victims and communities, as well as show what more can be done in support of partners in the statutory, non-statutory and business sector in making the East Midlands a hostile environment for the perpetrators of this crime whilst supporting potential victims.

Join us at this event on Friday 11th December and Monday 14th December from 10am to discover how we can develop strong partnerships across government, criminal justice agencies, civil society and the third sector sharing knowledge to help eradicate Modern Slavery in the East Midlands. To book a place at this free virtual event visit [here](#).

EMC Support Activity

Leadership Development Programme - this week EMC has launched its new Leadership Development programme for Senior and Middle Managers. The programme 'Leading in turbulent times' is set in the context of the unique challenges posed by Covid-19 including change, complexity, ambiguity and uncertainty.

The aim of this 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 which address key issues and provide practical tools to support managers. For more information please contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk or visit [here](#).

EMC Councillor Events

EMC and LGA Workshop Series for Councillors: Climate Change - East Midlands Councils and the LGA, working in partnership are offering a series of virtual interactive workshops for Councillors on Climate Change, starting with a focused working exploring **community engagement and behaviour change on 19 January 2021**.

The interactive virtual workshops will provide Councillors from across the East Midlands with the opportunity to hear from both Councillors and Officers on innovative approaches to climate change reduction plans and initiatives.

Further information on the first workshop will be available shortly, to pre register to attend please visit [here](#).

Climate Change and Sustainability



Growing Cycle Use, LGA webinar, 10 December 2020, 10.30am - This LGA webinar forms part of the Decarbonising Transport series, accompanied by a toolkit of seven evidence-based policy briefings prepared for the Local Government Association by the Decarbon8 Research Network and the Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions [event details [here](#)]. The toolkit is now available on the LGA website: <https://www.local.gov.uk/decarbonising-transport>

Seeing the wood for the trees, 11 December 2020, 10.30am - In this LGA webinar we will examine the case for planting trees in terms of finance and carbon, the challenges this presents for local authorities and the benefits of urban tree planting [details [here](#)].

Financing Green Ambitions, Full report - This guide looks at some of these sources of funding, as well as green loans, community municipal bonds and more and how they might apply to different types of projects [details [here](#)].

Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

Points-based immigration Skilled Worker route opens - Government has launched a number of immigration routes under the UK's new [points-based immigration system](#), including the Skilled Worker route.

Applicants for the new routes can now start to apply under the points-based system. EEA nationals that arrive in the UK before 31 December 2020 remain eligible for the [EU Settlement Scheme](#).

Under the new Skilled Worker route, anyone coming to the UK to work will need to demonstrate that they have a job offer from a Home Office-licensed sponsor at the required skill level – RQF 3 or above (A Level and equivalent). Anyone you hire from outside the UK needs to speak English to the required standard and their job is required to meet the applicable minimum salary threshold.

Alongside the [Skilled Worker](#) visa, a number of other routes have opened, these include:

- [Global Talent](#) visa for people who can show they have exceptional talent or exceptional promise in the fields of science, engineering, humanities, medicine, digital technology or arts and culture
- [Innovator](#) visa for a person seeking to establish a business in the UK based on an innovative, viable and scalable business idea
- [Start-up](#) visa for a person seeking to establish a business in the UK for the first time
- the [Intra-company Transfer](#) visa, which is for established workers who are being transferred by the business they work for to do a skilled role in the UK

EUSS Update - The latest EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) [quarterly statistics](#) were published on 26th November including analysis of the over 4 million applications submitted to the scheme up to 30 September 2020. The detailed quarterly statistics report complements the high-level [monthly statistical updates](#). The most recent monthly update covers the progress of the scheme up to 31 October 2020.

Publication of ONS Immigration Statistics for Q3 of 2020 (1st July to 30th September) - The Office for National Statistics have published the quarterly and annual statistics relating to those, coming to the UK, extending their stay, gaining citizenship, applying for asylum, and being detained or removed, as well as immigration for work, study and family reasons. A link can be found [here](#).

The East Midlands continues its long standing tradition in supporting refugees and asylum seekers by ensuring the most vulnerable across the globe are provided with safety, sanctuary and support.

Local Government News and wider

Guidance, Students returning to higher education for spring term - guidance available from [here](#).

Planning, commissioning, funding and supporting post-16 high needs students - The purpose of the review was to provide the study's sponsors with a clearer understanding of how local authorities and providers within the post-16 high needs system – general further education colleges and special post-16 institutions – can work together to manage an increased demand for support for high needs students, and what more can be done to make best use of resources [details [here](#)].

Retailers will be able to extend their daily opening hours from Monday to Saturday in the run up to Christmas and through January [details [here](#)].

Compliance and enforcement webinar - Thursday 3 December 1.30pm - 3pm. Aimed at frontline officers and legal teams, this session will build on the experience of councils before the lockdown and provide an early opportunity to discuss the operation of the new tiered regulations. Contact McKenzie-Blythe@local.gov.uk if you would like to attend.

Equality and diversity volunteer officer peers needed - do you want to become part of a team delivering LGA equality peer challenges (currently conducted remotely)? Applicants need experience of working on equality, diversity and inclusion issues affecting their organisation's workforce or community, knowledge of the public sector equality duty and good communication skills. Please contact gill.elliott@local.gov.uk.

Health & Social Care



NHS England and the LGA are holding a joint webinar on 8 December 2020 - 8 December

2020 10.00am – 11.30am - for professional, political, clinical and community leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities of place-based leadership of health, care and wellbeing. Attendees will hear from councils and their health partners at the cutting edge of place-based collaboration about their experience [details [here](#)].

LGA and ADPH webinar on mass testing technologies Thursday 10 December, 3.30pm-5pm – a webinar on mass testing technologies being trialled including an update from Liverpool. Contact outbreakmanagement@local.gov.uk to request a space.

A glass half-full: using asset-based approaches to improve local health and wellbeing – 10 years on, 10 December 2020, 2.30pm - 'A glass half-full', published in 2010, offered a fresh perspective on how to reduce inequalities in community health and wellbeing. It proposed assessing and building on the strengths and resources in a community to increase resilience and social capital and develop better ways of delivering health outcomes [details [here](#)].

More funding to support people with disabilities live independently - An extra £68 million will help thousands more disabled people to access grants to improve their homes so they can live independently [details [here](#)].

- Extra £68 million to help adapt homes for people with disabilities in England
- More than 280,000 home adaptations provided through the Disabled Facilities Grant
- Details of £4 billion Better Care Fund confirmed to better integrate health and social care

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) Regulations 2020: Enforcement advice for local authorities from the LGA - This note provides guidance on the interpretation of the key issues within The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020 (referred to as 'the regulations') and in particular the Tier 2 'High Alert' restrictions [details [here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

Public service buildings will be delivered more quickly through the planning system with a faster, more streamlined planning process - A new fast track for public service buildings including schools, colleges, universities, prisons and hospitals will be delivered more quickly through the planning system with a faster, more streamlined planning process. Councils will need to make decisions on these important buildings as a priority and have a legal duty to decide major public service development applications within 10 weeks [details [here](#)].

Open consultation, Supporting housing delivery and public service infrastructure - The government is [consulting](#) on the introduction of a new right to allow for the change of use from any use, or mix of uses, from the commercial, business and service use class (Class E) to residential use (Class C3) [details [here](#)].

Christmas travel measures to help passengers plan their journey and travel safely - A comprehensive plan to minimise disruption and help people travel safely during the Christmas travel window between 23 and 27 December [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

Report Writing - EMC is hosting two 3 hour virtual workshops on report writing. These virtual workshops will be highly interactive [full details [here](#)]. The course will explore;

- **What are the expectations with regards written reports in your role?**
- **What should we think about before writing the report?** Exploring: the audience and their expectations, language, tone, length.

The virtual workshop will use both plenary and breakout time to ensure maximum delegate participation, making the session interactive for those taking part. During the breakout sessions delegates will be grouped to work with people writing similar types of reports.

Dates; Tuesday 19 January 9:30 – 12:30; Thursday 28 January 13:30 – 16:30

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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