

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

Top items this week

4 SEPTEMBER 2020



Government signs multi-year collaboration agreement with TfEM



EMC HR Bulletin, August 2020 Edition



Transport for the East Midlands

Transport for the East Midlands
Job Opportunities



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

Greater voice for rail passengers in new collaboration between Government and East Midlands transport leaders

Local leaders in the East Midlands will have a more influential role in deciding how rail services can support improvements across the region, thanks to a new collaboration agreement with the Government, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has set out this week.

- Government signs multi-year collaboration agreement with Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) to give councils and local stakeholders a voice in the management of rail services.
- Two locally-based posts created to focus on ensuring benefits delivered to passengers
- Councils and local stakeholders can now review and address performance issues, positively influence decisions in the railway and promote service enhancements.

The Department for Transport has signed a multi-year agreement with Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM) that provides local leaders with a formal voice in the management of the East Midlands franchise, which has been run by East Midlands Railway (EMR) since August 2019. This builds upon the close collaborative work which has been taking place between TfEM and EMR, since the start of the franchise.

To read the full press release on the EMC website visit [here](#). The Department for Transport press release is available [here](#).

EMC News

Transport for the East Midlands (TfEM), Job Opportunities - TfEM is working in

collaboration with the Department for Transport to provide local input into the management of the East Midlands Railway Franchise which started in August 2019 and will run for eight years with the option of a two-year extension. We are now looking to recruit to these two new roles, based in the attractive Leicestershire town of Melton Mowbray, with opportunities for home and mobile working. (During the current Covid situation all EMC employees are remote working.)

The roles are;

- [Head of Rail Improvement \(East Midlands\)](#)
- [Rail Monitoring & Performance Officer](#)

EMC Boards Activity

- **Regional Employers' Board and Regional Joint Council** - 8 September
- **Transport for the East Midlands** - 9 September
- **Regional Migration Board** - 15 September
- **HS2 Executive Board** - 24 September
- **EMC Executive Board** - 25 September
- **East Midlands Councils Annual General Meeting** - 9 October

EMC Councillor Events

Councillor Workshop on Chairing and Effective Meetings - EMC is hosting a 3 hour virtual session on Chairing and Effective meetings, there are two dates and times to select from. The workshop is suitable for new and continuing chairs. This virtual session will be interactive, drawing on people's experience and insights from the tutor with some group work. It covers formal roles such as chairing full council or a planning committee, as well as less formal approaches to chairing eg. for scrutiny activity and public meetings. Dates are; 16 Sep 2020 17:30 and 18 Sep 2020 13:30. Information available from [here](#).



Transport for the
East Midlands

EMC News

EMC Support Activity



Mediation - this week EMC staff have been providing Mediation support to a local authority. Mediation is one of the services offered by East Midlands Councils to local councils, it is a confidential and voluntary process aimed at helping people to resolve disputes and improve working relationships. It is an informal and alternative approach to more formal procedures. East Midlands Councils can offer qualified and independent mediators who will facilitate the process with the aim of helping the individuals to reach a mutually acceptable agreement to resolve their problems. For more information visit [here](#) or contact Lisa.Butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

Practitioner Networks - During September and October EMC is hosting a number of virtual network meetings, these are;

- [Councillor Development Network](#) - 9 September
- [Cyber Security network](#) - 22 September
- Learning and Development network - 10 September
- [Scrutiny Network](#) - 25 September 2020
- [Democratic Services Officers](#), in conjunction with the Association for Democratic service Officers - 9 October

Employers' Information

EMC HR Bulletin, August 2020 Edition - The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available from [here](#). The August Bulletin includes:-

- Employment Law Expert Darren Newman and his regular article, this month he looks at the legal aspects relating to the move to more home working and responding to requests from employees
- National Pay Negotiations information
- Results of the latest COVID-19 Workforce survey
- Information and News on Apprenticeships



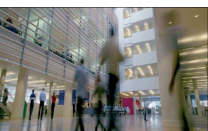
Learning & Development

- Wellbeing Conversations Development for Managers – a programme of interactive virtual workshops
- Solving Workplace Problems using Action Learning, EMCs virtual offer this autumn
- Taking Your Training Remote – A Regional virtual training programme

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](#).

European Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, Social Europe Newsletter - available [here](#).

Local Government News



Difference and Inclusion: Building a 'how to' toolkit, Wednesday 23 September 2020 - A LGA webinar on how do we take a more active approach to Diversity and Inclusion? Recent publicity around the Black Lives Matter campaign has focused the debate on equality, diversity and inclusion. It is providing an opportunity for leaders and individuals to re-evaluate how they can actively advance the adoption of genuinely inclusive practices in teams and organisations. For more information visit [here](#).

LGA Webinar, Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour during COVID-19 Tuesday 29 September 2020 - this webinar will focus on how councils and the police responded to anti-social behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic. It will discuss lessons learned and how this might affect our local anti-social behaviour strategies going forward. For more information on this LGA webinar visit [here](#).

Health & Social Care



LGA Webinar Local Testing and Contact Tracing Systems: Local Innovation and Lessons Learnt, Tuesday 8 September 2020 - this LGA webinar will explore innovation from local areas as they develop their own testing and contact tracing systems, as well as hearing from central government on how they are looking to further localise test, trace and outbreak management work. This webinar will focus on how councils and the police responded to anti-social behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will discuss lessons learned and how this might affect our local anti-social behaviour strategies going forward. For more on this webinar visit [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning and Housing

The UK2070 Papers, Series 2 - Series 1 [was published in August](#), with the September edition [published on 4 September](#). **Series 2** has nine papers focussing on the impact of COVID-19 on the future of the UK, including:

- An assessment of how COVID-19 could drive changes to local government funding and the ongoing balance between centrally-raised and locally-raised revenues;
- Analysis of both the higher education and further education sectors, both for the vital role each plays in addressing regional inequalities, and for how they must now be more related to their local economy as 'place' will matter more, and not less, after the pandemic, and;
- Discussion of the impact of COVID-19 on social housing provision and the wider housing market; on the construction industry's supply chain; and perspectives from Wales and the East Midlands.

In October 2020 the UK2070 Commission plans to publish a report to Government, proposing a plan with coherent priorities for how to carry out the Government's stated aim of 'levelling-up' the UK economy [[access here](#)].

HS2, formal start of construction - HS2 Ltd has announced the formal start of construction on the project, highlighting the large number of jobs the project will be recruiting for in the coming months and years. Earlier this year, on 15 April, the Department for Transport (DfT) gave approval for HS2 Ltd to issue Notice to Proceed (NtP) to the four Main Works Civils Contractors (MWCCs) working on the project (*names in Notes to Editors*) to commence full detailed design and construction of Phase One of the HS2 railway (the route from London - West Midlands). Press release [here](#).

Environment and Sustainable Development

£2 million fund for local action on air quality - New round of funding opens for Local Authorities to help clean up dirty air for communities. The government has announced the latest round of funding for local projects to improve air quality across England. Local Authorities can bid for a portion of at least £2 million for a wide range of projects to improve air quality and create cleaner and healthier environments [[details here](#)].

Decarbonising transport - These documents form part of the Decarbonising transport series, 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.

- Travelling less and the role of the online opportunities - [here](#).
- The role of land use, localisation and accessibility - [here](#).
- Climate smart parking policies - [here](#).
- The role of buses - [here](#).
- Growing cycle use - [here](#).
- Getting carbon ambition right - [here](#).

Net Zero Innovation Programme: applications now open - Delivered through a collaboration between the Local Government Association (LGA) and University College London (UCL), the Net Zero Innovation Network brings together local authorities, universities and other stakeholders to address climate challenges at the local level and seek routes to achieve council's net zero commitments. [The Net Zero Innovation Programme](#) is now open for applications. The application closing date is 25 September.

EMC Events

EMC Wellbeing Conversations Development for Managers - EMC has commissioned the development of two workshops for managers in local authorities. These two-hour interactive workshops will be held virtually, and will offer a practical opportunity for managers to explore and develop skills in effective Wellbeing conversations with staff. Further details on these practical workshops and information on how to book are [here](#). The two workshops are;

- **Wellbeing Conversations Development for Managers – Workshop 1 (additional date available for 16 September)**
- **Develop skills for effective Wellbeing Conversations – Workshop 2**

Solving Workplace Problems using Action Learning, 24 Sep 2020 - This autumn EMC will be hosting and facilitating virtual sessions for officers across local government, providing a focused opportunity for individuals who want to make progress, perhaps exploring work challenges where they feel stuck, or need space to be able to refocus and move forward. For more information on the programme and offer from EMC please visit [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 Alan Rhodes
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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