

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

## Top items this week

5 FEBRUARY 2021



Local Government Finance Settlement 2021-22



EMC General Meeting



EMC Fortnightly Summary of COVID-19 Information for HR



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

## Local Government Finance Settlement for 2021-22

The government has confirmed details of next year's local government finance settlement [details [here](#)]. In a written statement made to MPs by Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The statement included;

- **Social Care** - additional £1 billion of funding for Adult and Children's Social Care, comprising £300 million in grant and a 3% Adult Social Care precept. The Government proposes to roll-forward allocations of the £1.41 billion 2020-21 Social Care Grant and continue the 2020-21 improved Better Care Fund at £2.1 billion [details [here](#)].
- **New Homes Bonus** - Following consultation, the Government is proposing a new round of 2021-22 (year 11) New Homes Bonus payments.
- **Lower Tier Services Grant** - The Government is proposing a new unringfenced Lower Tier Services Grant in 2021-22, which will allocate £111 million to local authorities with responsibility for lower tier services [details [here](#)].
- **Rural Services Delivery Grant** - The Government will be increasing the Rural Services Delivery Grant by £4 million, taking the total to £85 million
- **Independent Living Fund** - Former Independent Living Fund Recipient Grant will continue to be paid to local authorities in 2021-22.
- **Council tax** - £670 million of new funding alongside the settlement, to enable them to continue reducing council tax bills for low-income households. Further details [here](#).
- **Covid-19 support** - This package, [further details shortly], includes £1.55 billion of unringfenced grant funding; a commitment to meet 75% of councils' irrecoverable losses in council tax and business rates income for 2020-21, worth an estimated £800 million; an extension to the existing Sales, Fees and Charges scheme for three further months, from April to June 2021; and an additional £670 million Local Council Tax Support grant.

Key information for local authorities: final local government finance settlement 2021 to 2022 available [here](#).

## May 2021 polls delivery plan published

The Government has published the May 2021 polls delivery plan. Government has confirmed that the May 2021 polls will take place in a similar way to previous polls, but there will be differences as a result of the coronavirus pandemic [details [here](#)]. This document describes how they will proceed in the COVID-19 context, from announcement to results, and then covers the four major areas that we are addressing; public health and social; distancing; nominations and campaigning; Voting; and the delivery of elections.

## EMC News

**EMC General Meeting, 5 February 2021** - The EMC General meeting took place today, 5 February. The meeting chaired by Cllr Martin Hill OBE, Chair of East Midlands Councils and Leader of Lincolnshire County Council, was attended by Councillors from across the East Midlands. The meeting included a Covid-19 Report on the epidemiology and vaccinations, presented by Ann Crawford, Deputy Director, Public Health England [epidemiology report available from [here](#)]. Trish Thompson (Director of Primary Care & Public Health Commissioning, NHS England and NHS Improvement) and Dr Ash Banerjee (Screening and Immunisation Lead) also attended the meeting to discuss the roll-out of the vaccination programme. The meeting paper are available [here](#).

**Environmental Health Officers CPD, 25 February 2021** - The next CPD workshop for Environmental Health Officers will be held on **25 February from 10.00am** via MS Teams and we are delighted that **Davy Snowdon MBE** from Pristine Condition International will be covering the whole session. For the Health and Safety webinar he will be talking about safety around vehicle logistics and health and wellbeing. For more information contact [lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk)

## 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](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



### All new developments must meet local standards of beauty, quality and design under new rules -

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Local communities will be at the heart of plans to make sure that new developments in their area are beautiful and well-designed, under proposals outlined by Housing Secretary.

In response to the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission report, the government is today:

- Proposing [changes to the National Planning Policy Framework](#) to place greater emphasis on beauty and place-making, and to ensure that all new streets are lined with trees.
- Publishing a [draft national design code](#) that provides a checklist of design principles to consider for new developments, such as street character, building type, façade, and the requirements that address wellbeing and environmental impact, which councils can use as a foundation for their own local design codes.
- Encouraging all councils to publish their unique design code, so residents have a real say in the design of new developments in their area.
- Creating an 'Office for Place' within the next year, which will support local communities to turn their designs into the standard for all new buildings in their area.
- Opening a new Community Housing Fund to support community-based organisations to bring forward local housebuilding projects for the £11.5 billion Affordable Homes Programme, backed by £4 million of support for local plan.
- And doubling the available funding for areas under the "local heritage listing – monuments men" campaign, with up to £1.5 million now available for communities to nominate local heritage sites including historical buildings or modern architecture, art and memorials for inclusion in their council's local heritage list.

**The government is also putting support in place for councils and communities to help them set expectations of design quality in their area.** This includes the creation of an 'Office for Place' within the next year which will pioneer design and beauty within the planning system. The new organisation will draw on Britain's world-class design expertise to support communities to turn their visions of beautiful design into local standards that all new buildings will be required to meet. [Expressions of interest](#) are now open for the first 10 councils to sign up, with these to receive a share of an initial £500,000. The proposals are now out for consultation for a period of 8 weeks [\[here\]](#).

**Local heritage list campaign: announcement of successful areas** - This campaign encourages communities to nominate those locally important historic buildings which they value most for inclusion in their local authority's local list. In October 2019, the government [announced](#) the most ambitious local heritage campaign for decades. To support the campaign, the government initially announced the provision of £700,000 of funding to councils in 10 English county areas to develop new or updated local lists.

The funding is intended to support projects which involve a county-wide approach to developing local lists. Successful proposals have also set out how they will engage civic/heritage groups and local historic building societies.

Following overwhelmingly positive interest from authorities, the department has announced a doubling of the original funding allocation to £1.5 million to support local heritage lists. This will enable 22 areas to benefit instead of the 10 originally envisaged [\[details here\]](#). **From the East Midlands; Lincolnshire**

**Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), Trustee Vacancies** - The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) is looking to appoint **two new Trustees** [\[details here\]](#). You do not need to be an expert in town planning or have a background working in the built environment sector. Closing date: 5pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February. They are particularly interested in candidates who believe in the importance of the work we do and experience in one or more of the following areas; Finance, fundraising, new business development; Communications and public relations; Private sector/ development experience; and Charity governance and/or organisational management.

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## Climate Change & Sustainable Development

**Building a Recovery Plan Through the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, 12 February 2021, 10.30am** - the 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were globally agreed and ratified by United Nations' members in 2015. To help councils meet the Government's commitment to achieve the ambitions of the SDGs by 2030 and create 'a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all' we must accelerate action in local areas across the country [\[details here\]](#).

**Digital solutions to the climate crisis, 9 February, 2:30pm** - through a series of presentations - which bring together innovators, technologists, and local authorities - you'll hear examples of how digital technologies are being deployed to support citizen engagement on climate action [\[details here\]](#).

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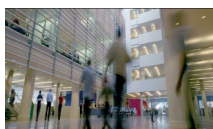
## Economic Recovery

**Remote working: path to an adaptable economy, 17 February 2021, 10.00am** - this LGA roundtable is for officers working on economic growth and development and will form part of our economic growth improvement offer, so feedback is greatly appreciated, and spaces are limited to one officer per council. If you wish to attend please email [productivity@local.gov.uk](mailto:productivity@local.gov.uk) by 5 February 2021 or visit [here](#).

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## Local Government News



**A short guide to publicity during the pre-election period** - This LGA guide provides advice and guidance on the publicity restrictions that should be observed by local authorities during the pre-election period [details [here](#)].

**COVID-19 response and recovery for licensed premises, 8 February 2021, 10.00am** - this LGA session will reflect on the challenges the hospitality sector has faced over the past year [[here](#)].

**Taxi licensing, 9 February 2021, 10.00am** - this LGA session will focus on the Department for Transport's Statutory Standards for taxi licensing including examples of how councils have started to implement the standards [[here](#)].

**Dealing with empty shops, 10 February 2021, 10.30am** - This LGA webinar explores the role of councils as more vacant units have started to appear as a result of retail business failures and the switch to online [details [here](#)].

**Gambling regulation and reducing gambling related harm, 10 February 2021, 2.00pm** - the LGA's annual licensing conference provides an opportunity to reflect on events over the last year and discuss key strategic and practical developments that can be expected to affect councils' licensing committees and teams over the next year [[here](#)].

**Has COVID-19 changed the way communities behave?, 11 February 2021, 10.00am** - At this LGA webinar, we will hear from the researchers about what they found, including how the public defines 'local' and their attitude towards civic participation [details [here](#)].

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## Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership have recently shared translated resources on their [COVID Resource and Guidance page](#). The translated materials include information on the vaccines, recent scams relating to COVID-19, safer travel guidance for passengers as well as lots more. The materials are mainly translated in English, Arabic, Bengali, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Turkish, Urdu and Welsh. *Some guidance may differ*. To access, click [here](#) and scroll to the 'Other Resources and Guidance' section.

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## Health & Social Care

**Delivering under Pressure: supporting the wellbeing of frontline staff, 11 February 2021, 2.00pm** - this free LGA webinar with Our Frontline (a partnership between Shout, Samaritans, Mind, Hospice UK and The Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge) will look at how to support frontline staff who have been at the heart of responding to the pandemic and explore ways to invest in helping these staff to be mentally fit and resilient for the challenges they face [details [here](#)].

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## EMC Events

**EMC Leadership Development Programme** - EMC has launched a new Leadership Development programme, designed around the key themes of; Self-leadership, Leading the organisation, Leading people and Leading teams [full details [here](#)].

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.

Building on the key themes of Self-leadership, Leading the organisation, Leading people and leading teams, the programme will be delivered through 8 webinars;

- A new way of leading: Adaptive Leadership
- Self-leadership during difficult times
- Building resilient organisations
- Re-imagining the future
- Managing change
- Engaging people during change
- Strategic performance management
- Building resilient teams

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## 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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