

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

Top items this week

5 NOVEMBER 2021



East Midlands LA Challenge  
2021



EMC HR Bulletin, October  
2021 Edition



£200 million boost to help  
level up communities across  
the UK



EMC Events for Councillors  
and Officers

## EMC HR Bulletin, October 2021 Edition

The latest edition of the bulletin is now available [here](#). In this month's edition, Employment Law Expert Darren Newman looks at redundancy selection following a recent case involving a local authority.



The Bulletin also includes:-

- Initiatives to support skills shortages and promote local government as an employer of choice, including extension of the Kickstart scheme, placements for planning students and engaging with T-level students.
- Developing managers to lead in the context of hybrid working.
- Updates on national developments: pay negotiations, COVID workforce news, ACAS guidance for employers on menopause at work, apprenticeships.

## £200 million boost to help level up communities across the UK

Skills training for the unemployed and investment in businesses developing low carbon technology are among around 500 projects set to benefit from a £200 million boost for local economies, Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove announced this week.

The government is backing 477 locally-led, innovative projects that will help breathe new life into towns, villages and coastal communities across the UK as the government delivers on its mission to level up the nation and commitment to net zero [details [here](#)].

UK Community Renewal Fund: successful bids - Announcement of the successful bids for the UK Community Renewal Fund available [here](#). For a breakdown in the **East Midlands** visit [here](#).

## EMC News

**East Midlands Local Authority Challenge** - On 10 November the East Midlands Local Authority Challenge will take place. This year the Challenge will take place virtually. The results from the Challenge will be published in the EMC Policy Brief next week.

## EMC Support Activity

**Kickstart Scheme, Update and Support Available** - EMC's work is well underway as a gateway organisation for the Kickstart Scheme. EMC can also provide the employability training that is a feature of the scheme, and which is also fully funded. Development is structured throughout the placement, so that participants understand what employers look for in effective employees to maximise the time at work and develop key skills such as teamworking and communication. Tailored training and coaching can also be provided if required. The development is provided through virtual or in-person sessions, depending on the preference of the councils. The employability training can also be provided to organisations that have not accessed Kickstart through EMC as the gateway. For further information, contact Suzanne at [Suzanne.boulty@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Suzanne.boulty@emcouncils.gov.uk) or visit [here](#).

## EMC Councillor Events

**EMC Virtual Workshop on Planning Reform for Councillors, 30 November 2021** - EMC is hosting a two hour virtual workshop for Councillors in the East Midlands on Planning Reform. The workshop will explore the emerging planning reform agenda following the appointment of Michael Gove as the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and provide Councillors with the opportunity to share their perspective on what changes to the planning system would work best locally. This event will form part of a proposed series of EMC workshops for Councillors on Planning Reform, including a session on the draft Planning legislation once this is published.

**Date** - 30 November 2021, 14:00 - 16:00. **Cost** - the workshop is fully subsidised and free to attend.

This workshop will be held virtually using Zoom. To book a place please visit [here](#).

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## Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

**Local areas to trial new digital initiatives to make planning process more accessible** - Innovative digital tools to help local people have their say in the planning process will be trialled in 13 areas across England. Over £1 million of government funding has been allocated to 13 planning authorities under the PropTech Engagement Fund to test new digital initiatives to make the planning process more open and accessible and boost public engagement [details [here](#)].

In the East Midlands;

- Chesterfield Borough Council - £100,000
- Bolsover District Council - £100,000

**Estate Regeneration Funding** – £1.3 million will be allocated towards the regeneration of 2 estates in the East Midlands, from the £14 million estates regeneration share of the Brownfield Land Release Fund: £250,000 towards the social club at the Hurst Farm Estate in Derbyshire Dales; and £1.05 million towards the Yorke Drive and Lincoln Road Playing Fields in Newark and Sherwood [details [here](#)].

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## Housing and Homelessness

**£65 million support package for vulnerable renters** - Vulnerable renters struggling due to the impact of the pandemic will be helped by a £65 million support package.

The funding will be given to councils in England to support low-income earners in rent arrears – helping to prevent homelessness and support families get back on their feet.

The £65 million will be available through the winter months and households at risk of eviction or homelessness should contact their local council if they require support. The fund recognises the impact the pandemic has had on households in the private rented sector with the lowest income [details [here](#)].

**Government announces support for rough sleepers over winter** - More than 60 councils have been allocated a share of the up to £52 million Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant scheme for specialist support services for rough sleepers and those at risk, including one-to-one support and mentoring [details [here](#)].

- Voluntary, faith and community groups have been awarded grants from the £3.8 million Homelessness Transformation Fund to transform shared accommodation into COVID-secure, self-contained accommodation, giving rough sleepers safe places to stay.
- Additionally, up to 3,500 rough sleepers will be provided with emergency accommodation, with areas most in need of support to tackle rough sleeping invited to bid for funding from the £10 million Winter Pressures Fund.

### Funding allocations

#### Rough Sleeping Drug & Alcohol Treatment Grant

- Derby £166,576
- Leicester, £409,420
- Northamptonshire, £393,125
- Nottingham, £370,056

#### Homelessness Transformation Fund

- Leicester, One Roof Leicester, £82,850
- Harborough Falcon, Support Services, £92,930
- Chesterfield, Pathways of Chesterfield, £42,140
- Derby, Derby City Mission Ltd, £100,000

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## Climate Change & Sustainable Development

**Net Zero: Government will struggle to achieve 2050 target unless they engage with local councils on climate action** - The UK will struggle to reach the net zero target by 2050 unless Government steps up efforts to work together with local councils on climate action in areas such as housing and planning, low-carbon heating and energy efficiency, says the cross-party Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee in its report on local government and the path to net zero [details [here](#)].

**COP26 Regional Roadshow East Midlands - Climate Innovation & Investment** - This virtual conference is being organised by major regional partners and hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council. The event will showcase the positive changes the East Midlands region is taking with case studies from both the public and private sector to local, regional and international audience. With live panels, broadcast online to an international audience from the 5G Digital Innovation Centre, Nottinghamshire County Council, will host a showcase of partnership working on Innovation, Skills and Infrastructure projects across the UK Midlands region [to book visit [here](#)].

Information available from [here](#) and programme available from [here](#).

**Midlands Energy Hub Autumn Newsletter** - Available from [here](#).

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## Employers' Information

**Managing a multi generational workforce, Wednesday 17 November 2021** - As more employees work beyond retirement age and the routes into employment expand and change, we will see four or five generations working side by side. This expands the talent available to employers if they can make the most of it. This LGA webinar, with Acas, and funded by Government, will look at how to challenge stereotypes on age and what works to attract, engage, retain and develop employees from different stages of their life [details [here](#)].

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## Local Government News

**Devolution vision for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire** - Leaders from the nine councils in Nottinghamshire have set out their ambitious joint vision for devolved powers to improve investment in the economy, the environment and health. In a paper to the joint City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee, councils have outlined how they would work in partnership to help boost economic investment, improve the environment, and tackle health and educational inequalities across the city and county [details [here](#)].

**LGFSR21Queries@communities.gov.uk** - for all local authority enquiries relating to local government finance elements of the Spending Review. The inbox is set up for a limited period and will cover enquiries on the LG DEL side of the Spending Review (local government finance, core spending power but is not set up to manage queries on the Main DEL side of the Spending Review, and so doesn't cover issues like Levelling Up Fund, UKCRF etc).

**LGA publication: Working in partnership: How councils can work with the voluntary and community sector to increase civic participation?** - Local democracy is strongest when there are high levels of civic representation, where citizens voices are heard and taken into account in local decision-making. However, not all individuals in society feel they can participate equally in the civic arena. This research focuses on how councils can work with their local voluntary and community sector to improve civic participation of underrepresented groups [details [here](#)].

**LGA Future Sector Support Programme** -As the LGA look towards 2022, they are beginning discussions with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) about the future development of their [sector support programme](#). To help ensure that their support offer continues to meet your needs, please let them know:

- What aspects of our support are most valuable to your councils?
- What new types of support could your council benefit from?

Please email your comments to [sectorsupport@local.gov.uk](mailto:sectorsupport@local.gov.uk) or contact Principal Adviser [mark.edgell@local.gov.uk](mailto:mark.edgell@local.gov.uk).

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## Health & Social Care

**Experts and local government give evidence on adult social care** - On Monday 25 October the Housing Communities and Local Government (HCLG) Committee held the first evidence session of its inquiry into long-term funding of adult social care [details [here](#)].

**Adult social care campaign to build bigger and better workforce** - A new recruitment campaign will encourage people to apply for roles in the adult social care sector. The 'Made with Care' recruitment campaign will run across broadcast and social media for 5 months, encouraging people with the values that embody carers to join a workforce dedicated to helping others and build a career that helps people live happy, healthy lives [details [here](#)].

**LGA Publication: Integrated health and care - How do you know your council is doing all it can to promote integration to improve health and social care outcomes at a time of change?** - This Must Know from the LGA includes examples of health and care systems that have focused on developing strong partnerships both across the system at integrated care systems (ICS) level and in place-based partnerships and updates the 2020 Must Know on integration [detail [here](#)].

**LGA Publication: Supporting children and young people with their mental health and emotional wellbeing** - The following case studies stand as examples of good practice, success stories and promising initiatives in supporting young people with their mental health [details [here](#)].

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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 Rob Parker  
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE  
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

## East Midlands Councils

First Floor Offices, South Annexe  
Pera Business Park  
Nottingham Road  
Melton Mowbray  
Leicestershire  
LE13 0PB

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