

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

Top items this week

6 APRIL 2023



Plans for East
Midlands devolution
move forward



Local Authority
Housing Fund
Guidance



Bus fare cap
extended until end
of June



Upcoming EMC
events and training
2023

PLANS FOR EAST MIDLANDS DEVOLUTION MOVE FORWARD

County and city councils in the East Midlands have agreed to move forward with devolution plans for the region worth at least £1.14bn.

Nottinghamshire County Council was the final authority to approve the proposals for devolution at a meeting last week, while Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, and Nottingham City Council all agreed to proceed with the plans at meetings earlier in March.

The votes follow a public consultation which took place from November 2022 to January 2023.

Now that the four councils have agreed on a final version of the proposal, new local powers and funding to improve the environment, skills training, transport, housing, and the economy could be in place as soon as next year.

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EMC HR BULLETIN—MARCH 2023

The latest edition of the EMC HR Bulletin is now available. This month, Employment Law expert Darren Newman gives further insights on the case covered last month relating to age discrimination and the circumstances in which age discrimination could be justified – or not!

Also in the March Bulletin:

- New Working Arrangements and Recruitment/Retention Challenges – Priorities for the Regional Employers and Joint Council
- East Midlands Challenge 2023 – the results of the Challenge and feedback from participants, plus plans for 2024 – put 23rd April on hold in your diary!
- The Latest National Living Wage Forecasts for 2024

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LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND GUIDANCE

Last week, DLUHC published guidance regarding councils participating in the £500 million Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) announced in December 2022. The guidance and resources published set out:

- The grant determinations for payments made in financial year 2022/23 for round 1 of LAHF
- A copy of the fund prospectus and guidance

This guidance applies to the LAHF which was announced in December 2022 and will run in financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24. It refers to the first £500 million for the fund announced in December 2022. It does not apply to the additional £250 million announced in March 2023, further detail on which will be published in due course.

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BETTER CARE FUND POLICY FRAMEWORK 2023 TO 2025

This week, DLUHC published the Better Care Fund (BCF) policy framework 2023 to 2025.

This document sets out the agreed way in which the BCF will be implemented from 2023 to 2025.

The policy framework is intended for use by those responsible for delivering the BCF at a local level, such as councils, clinical commissioning groups, health and wellbeing boards and NHS England.

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[GUIDANCE >](#)

BUS FARE CAP EXTENDED UNTIL END OF JUNE

The government announced that the discounted bus travel is being extended for a further three months across 5,000+ routes from over 140 bus companies. The £2 fare cap means passengers can save on single bus tickets. The scheme began in January this year and has seen an uptick in passenger numbers.

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ASYLUM SEEKERS TO BE ACCOMMODATED ON SURPLUS MILITARY SITES FACTSHEET

Last Wednesday, Immigration Minister, Robert Jenrick, announced that surplus military sites will be used to accommodate asylum seekers who enter the UK illegally on small boats and to reduce reliance on hotel use, including RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire.

More information about this announcement and plans can be found here:

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REMINDER: UK EMERGENCY ALERT

SUNDAY 23 APRIL—3PM

The Cabinet Office has launched a new system that will give the Government and emergency services the capability to send an alert directly to mobile phones when there is a risk to life. A UK-wide alerts test will take place on **Sunday 23 April at 3pm**, which will see people receive a test message on their mobile phones.

The Emergency Alerts system will allow government to get urgent messages quickly to nearly 90 per cent of mobile phones in a defined area. The alerts will only ever come from the Government or emergency services, and they will issue a warning, the details of the area impacted, and instructions about how best to respond.

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UPCOMING EMC EVENTS

The International Organization for Migration (IOM, UN MIGRATION)

[IRAQ: GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, CURRENT EVENTS & CULTURAL NORMS](#)

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East Midlands Councils

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB

