

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

Top items this week

7 AUGUST 2020



Universities for Nottingham
Civic Agreement

Universities for Nottingham
Civic Agreement



EMC Fortnightly Summary of
COVID-19 Guidance &
Information for HR Colleagues



'Planning for the Future'
consultation



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

Launch of 'Planning for the Future' consultation to reform the planning system -The Government this week launched its consultation on 'Planning for the Future' – its proposals to reform the planning system. The consultation paper is available [here](#). The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 29th October 2020.

Robert Jenrick announced that changes were needed to speed up the planning process and that a 'permission in principle' will be given to developments on land designated 'for renewal' to speed-up building and stated that local people would not be able to block developments in designated 'growth' zones.

The Government's proposals include its stated plans to:

- Overhaul an outdated planning system and reform the way the country builds.
- Streamline the planning process process, cut red tape and harness technology to deliver homes faster.
- Value green spaces protected for future generations, with more building on brownfield land.
- Build beautiful homes with communities at heart of new planning system.
- 30% discount through First Homes, with an emphasis on key workers.
- Land will be divided into three categories – 'growth', 'renewal' or 'protected'.
- Reduce the number of planning cases that get overturned at appeal by creating a 'clearer, rules-based system'.

Key points include:

- If land is designated for 'renewal' councils would have to look favourably on new developments. In 'growth areas, new homes, hospitals and schools will be allowed automatically.
- Areas of outstanding natural beauty and the green belt will come under the "protected" category and 'beautiful buildings' will be fast-tracked through the system.
- Proposals that all new streets should be tree-lined and 'all new homes to be carbon-neutral by 2050, with no new homes delivered under the new system needing to be retrofitted'.
- The plans also include the 'first homes scheme', to provide newly built homes at a 30% discount for local people, key workers and first-time buyers.

Critics have highlighted their concerns that the proposals could lead to 'bad-quality housing' and loss of local control over development.

The LGA response is available [here](#).

The Town and County Planning Association response is available [here](#).

EMC will draft a response for sign-off by the Executive Board. Any immediate comments, please send to lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk.

EMC News

Updated NJC JE Guidance Notes -The NJC's Job Evaluation Technical Working Group (JETWG) has now completed its work on updating the scheme guidance notes (as advised in NJC circular dated 1 March 2019). A copy of the circular, the guidance notes showing all track changes and a copy without track changes can be found on our website [here](#).

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](#).

Employers' Information

EMC Fortnightly Summary of COVID-19 Guidance & Information for HR Colleagues - EMC continues to provide a 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](#).

Local Government News

Universities for Nottingham Civic Agreement Announced - Nottingham's two universities, together with the City and County's Local Authorities, hospitals, Integrated Care System and the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, announced on 29th July the inaugural [Universities for Nottingham Civic Agreement](#) – the first of its kind in the country. The [Consultation Synthesis Document](#) sets out in greater detail the evidence-base and conversations that have helped shape it so far. All the resources, interactive maps, case studies and stories that have been produced by the initiative are available at www.universitiesfornottingham.ac.uk

The MJ Awards 2020 - This week the MJ has recently announced the finalists of The MJ Local Government Achievement Awards 2020. The full list of finalists are [here](#); below are the finalists from the East Midlands. Winners of the MJ Awards will be announced at a virtual awards ceremony to be held on 2 October. EMC would like to wish all those from the East Midlands the best of luck!

Finalists from the East Midlands

- Best Commercial Council - finalists include **Leicestershire County Council**
- Best Council Services team - finalists include **Derbyshire County Council**
- Corporate Director of the Year - finalists include **Anna Earnshaw**, Director of Adult Social Services, **Northamptonshire County Council**
- Rising Star - finalists include **Ella Brady**, Policy and Projects Officer, **Newark and Sherwood District Council**
- Senior Leadership Team - finalists include **West Lindsey District Council**
- Workforce Transformation – finalists include **Lincolnshire County Council**

Centre for Public Scrutiny: 10 questions to ask if you're scrutinising climate change - A guide for scrutineers on how to go about scrutiny and inquiry on climate change at local level, with a particular focus on the implications for councils declaring climate emergencies. Produced with the support of the Local Government Association [details [here](#)].

COVID-19 councillor guidance - the LGA has published an [updated version of the COVID-19 councillor guidance](#), originally published back in March. As things have moved on significantly since then, our new [councillor guidance on reset and recovery](#) looks at the role that councillors can play as we move out of lockdown and focus on supporting our places and communities through the process of recovery.

Cyber Security in the age of COVID-19, 21 July 2020 - presentations from this LGA event can be found [here](#).

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

Migration, Asylum Seekers, Refugee Resettlement and Modern Slavery

EMSMP Updates - The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership is providing updates on their webpage in relation to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in the East Midlands [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

Autumn Series of Learning and Development Virtual Networking - EMC is holding a series of L&D network meetings across the autumn, these meetings will be in the form of short, focused sessions on specific topic areas, these are:-

- agile working, strategies and support programmes; - 10 September 2020
- performance management and appraisals; 15 October 2020
- equalities training; 26 November

Open to all. For more information on this network contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

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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