

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

Top items this week

9 JULY 2021



EMC Leadership Development Programme



EMC Annual General Meeting - EMC Annual Report



£226 million package to support vital bus services



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

EMC Annual General Meeting - EMC Annual Report

Today the EMC Annual General meeting took place virtually, chaired by Cllr Martin Hill OBE, the full papers are available [here](#). At the EMC AGM the chairs and vice chairs of East Midlands Councils were agreed, along with the political group leaders.



Chair and Vice Chairs

- **Chair:** Cllr Martin Hill OBE, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council
- **Vice Chair:** Cllr David Mellen, Leader of Nottingham City Council
- **Vice Chair:** Cllr Jonathan Morgan, Leader of Charnwood Borough Council

Political Group Leaders

- **Conservative Group:** Cllr Roger Blaney, Newark and Sherwood District Council
- **Labour Group:** Cllr Rob Parker, Lincolnshire County Council
- **Lib Dem Group:** Cllr David Bill MBE, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
- **Independent Group:** Cllr Jason Zadrozny, Leader of Ashfield District Council

Members welcomed to the AGM the co-chairs of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the East Midlands, Alex Norris MP and Nigel Mills MP. With a discussion and commitment to improve joint working, and maximise investment and influence, particularly within the context of the Levelling Up and Recovery White Paper, EMC and the EM APPG will undertake further activity between now and the Autumn on these agreed priorities.

Annual Report - This Annual Report is a summary of our work over the past 12 months and provides EMC with an opportunity to account to its membership for the work undertaken on its behalf. We continually strive to improve and widen our service offer to the sector and to deliver against the membership's agreed priorities.

The Annual Report covers the full breadth of EMC's offer, including proposals for greater investment and infrastructure funds, our work on HS2, providing focused member and officer development programmes and our role as the Regional Employers' Organisation; as well as taking forward the management of important refugee and asylum resettlement programmes.

Looking back over the past year, it was one dominated by the sector's response to Covid-19. The way in which the sector has responded should be applauded and EMC has continued to direct its resources to supporting its membership throughout this challenging time.

As an 'all-member organisation'; we routinely offered all councillors and officers in the region opportunities to attend our briefing, skills development and training events. There have been over 2300 councillors and officer places taken throughout the year.

We have continued to offer advice, access to low cost services and capacity support to our member councils - and all councils in membership accessed at least one of these discounted services during 2020/21, with EMC delivering savings on behalf of its member councils estimated to be £548,000. The EMC annual report is available from [here](#).

EMC Councillor Events

Virtual Communication Skills for Councillors, 23 September 2021 - EMC is offering a one-hour virtual communication session for Councillors. This one-hour session offers an interactive introduction to online communication skills [details [here](#)]. While set in the virtual environment the course content will be applicable to communication in the face to face environment.

The focused session explore the following all set within the virtual environment; Awareness of online communication skills; Engagement, perception and impact; Warmth; Gestures; and Behaviour and reputation.

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Building Safety Bill: draft regulations - These draft regulations provide Parliament with more detail of our intentions for secondary legislation [details [here](#)].

RIBA East Midlands Innovation in Housing Sustainability - Identifying exemplar case studies - With an emphasis on the journey to Net Zero Carbon, RIBA East Midlands is seeking to celebrate innovation in housing sustainability by identifying exemplars of good design for new public sector and social housing in the region. Submissions are free and close on 31 August [details [here](#)].

£226 million package to support vital bus services - Government funding to maintain and improve bus services as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and passenger numbers start to return to pre-pandemic levels.

- funding will maintain bus services as passengers begin to return in higher numbers in the months following lifting of restrictions
- Department for Transport also announces 35 expressions of interest for share of first tranche of £120 million to roll out zero emission buses across England
- both packages come as part of government drive to build back greener from the pandemic

The funding will run from September 2021 to April 2022 and will support operators across England, outside of London, cementing the government's commitment to level up transport links as passenger numbers begin to return to pre-pandemic levels [details [here](#)].

Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme - The ZEBRA scheme will provide up to £120 million for local transport authorities (LTAs), outside London, to support the introduction of zero-emission buses and the infrastructure needed to support them. This funding will support the introduction of the [4,000 zero-emission buses announced by the Prime Minister in February 2020](#).

The LTAs selected under the fast track process to progress to Phase 2 of the competition were announced on 6 July 2021. They include Leicester City Council from the East Midlands.

The 6 shortlisted authorities will now develop business cases for investment, with the government awarding the first tranche of funding from the ZEBRA scheme to LTAs that produce the strongest business cases [details [here](#)].

Communities and Local Government Committee (HCLG) questions housing, building & energy sectors - On 12 July, the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee continues its inquiry into local government and the path to net zero with an evidence hearing featuring witnesses from the housing, building and energy sectors. This will look at issues such as the energy efficiency of new homes and the role of local government in helping to reduce the UK's carbon emissions [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care

Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK - The official UK government website for data and insights on coronavirus (COVID-19) including data on Testing, cases and vaccinations. With case information by region and local authorities [here](#).

Migration, Asylum Support and Refugee Resettlement

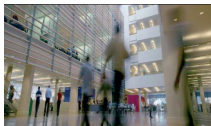
Don't choose to look the other way: Understanding modern day slavery and councils' role in tackling it - Wednesday 14 July 2021, 2.00pm – 4.00pm - modern day slavery is a heinous crime which impacts on all of our communities, and councils have a key part to play in trying to eradicate it. This LGA session, focused specifically on local councillors, will provide an introduction to modern day slavery and the current trends [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information

Regional Employers/LGA Workforce COVID Update - Issue 32 The latest edition of the COVID National Association of Regional Employers (NARE) and the Local Government Association (LGA) Workforce Update [available [here](#)]. This includes items on:

- COVID-19 General Update
 - COVID Local Support Grant
 - PPE and heat stress
 - Long COVID
 - Reminder of NJC Foreign travel employers' guidance
 - Care home workers mandatory vaccinations
 - Burnout in social care staff
 - PAC report on adult social care recruitment
 - Public sector exit payments update
 - Testing arrangements for education settings
 - NJC Term-time only employees update
 - Pay Updates
 - The LG Inform gender pay gap report updated
 - Hybrid Working – Blog
 - Inclusive leadership
 - Behavioural Insights programme open for applications
 - LGA Sector-led improvement report 2020/21
 - EU Settlement Scheme update
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Local Government News



Guidance on Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct - Supporting guidance which is aimed to help understanding and consistency of approach towards the LGA's Model Councillor Code of Conduct [details [here](#)].

A whole household approach to young people's mental health: A 'must know' guide for local councillors - This LGA guide sets out the vital information local leaders need to know about supporting young people's mental health. A whole household approach to young people's mental health recognises the important roles that parents, carers or siblings can play in supporting young people's mental health [details [here](#)].

Homelessness

Move On Fund - The Government is making available £50million across England (outside London) up to 2020/21 through the Move On Fund. The fund is part of a package of measures that have been announced through the Government's new Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The Move On Fund aims to free up hostel and refuge spaces by increasing the availability of affordable move-on, or second stage housing, for rough sleepers and those in hostel accommodation, and victims of domestic abuse currently living in refuges who are ready to leave this type of provision but might otherwise not be in a position to access the next stage of housing.

Funding outside of London is being allocated by Homes England through a Continuous Market Engagement (CME) process. There is no fixed bidding window for CME and the programme will remain open to receive new applications throughout the funding period. This is in addition to £50million that has already been made available for schemes in London through the Greater London Authority (GLA). Full details of the fund and how to bid can be found in the prospectus. Online bidding via Homes England's Investment Management System (IMS) is now open [details [here](#)].

EMC Events



EMC Leadership Development Programme, cohort two - EMC launched a new Leadership Development programme in May 2021. We are now offering the opportunity to join the programme, with new dates starting in October 2021.

The overall aim of this unique and focused 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, action learning and a resource library, which address key issues and provide practical tools to support managers.

Developed around four key themes of Self Leadership, Leading the Organisation, Leading People and Leading Teams, this programme will help leaders and managers to:

- Develop self-awareness of their own leadership and resilience during turbulence and change.
- Respond to the challenges a crisis and long-term uncertainty create for organisations, teams, and people.
- Identify ways in which organisations can build their resilience, adapt to change, and engage their people during turbulent times.
- Address key challenges when leading and managing people during change and uncertainty.
- Identify strategies and actions to support performance, engagement, and wellbeing of people during change.

The programme will start on 13 October. For further information on the programme visit [here](#), alternatively if you would like to have a conversation about the programme please contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Leadership

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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

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