

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

Top items this week

9 OCTOBER 2020



Scrutiny: Reset and Recovery,
10 Nov 2020



£60 million funding for
Police forces and local councils



East Midlands leaders call for
full delivery of HS2's Eastern
Leg



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

Coronavirus enforcement - £60 million funding for Police forces and local councils

Police forces and local councils will receive an additional £60 million to step up their enforcement of coronavirus rules as part of the government's plans to tackle the rise in infections.

The funding, recently announced by the Prime Minister, will enable police to increase patrols in town centres and ensure that people are complying with the new restrictions, particularly in high-risk areas. Police will also provide more support to local authorities and NHS Test & Trace to enforce self-isolation requirements.

Local councils will use the funding to increase their compliance work and enforcement checks on businesses.

Local councils play a central role in ensuring compliance with COVID-19 guidance in their local communities.

Enforcement officers such as Environmental Health Officers are responsible for explaining and encouraging businesses and communities to follow the latest guidelines, carrying out inspections, issuing fines and closing premises in the case of non-compliance.

The £60 million funding will be divided equally between police and local councils, with both receiving a £30 million share [full details [here](#)].

[Full details of the allocations to local authorities](#) can be found on GOV.UK from 8 October.

[Guidance on how the £30 million for councils could be used](#), including the roles of marshals, stewards and ambassadors, will be available on GOV.UK once published.

The guidance includes several case studies [details [here](#)], including;

Charnwood Borough Council - Charnwood Borough Council has deployed two types of marshals: a team of 'High Street helpers' that were drawn from other council roles and a team of SIA-accredited stewards contracted via a local security firm. Each team took 2-3 weeks to deploy. The High Street Helpers chiefly served as a friendly and reassuring face in public places, providing advice and guidance to the public.

Northamptonshire Local Resilience Forum - Northamptonshire Local Resilience Forum initially deployed marshals labelled as 'Community Officers' as a response to the reopening of the hospitality and night time economy on 4 July 2020. The marshals are employed via an event management company and uses staff who are used to engaging with the public, and if necessary dealing with conflict resolution. They are deployed in locations across the county with a main focus on town centres in Northampton, Kettering, Corby and Wellingborough.

Northampton Borough Council - In addition to the marshals deployed as part of Northamptonshire Local Resilience Forum COVID-19 response, Northampton Borough Council has re-deployed some of its existing neighbourhood wardens into marshal type roles. During the early stages of the pandemic, the wardens worked directly with Environmental Health Officers to carry out ground checks on businesses which were required to be closed under COVID-19 secure regulations.



Enforcement and Regulatory Conference, 6 October - On Tuesday, the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and East Midlands Councils hosted a timely and extremely well attended on-line conference on Enforcement and Regulation. The 190 delegates had the opportunity to hear from a range of local and national agencies about regulations and enforcement policies related to COVID19 including some excellent case studies from Herefordshire County Council on the Rook Row Farm outbreak, Northamptonshire County Council on the Greencore outbreak and Leicester City Council talked through their approach and lessons learnt from the national and local lockdown. Delegates also heard from Lincolnshire Police about how they dealt with planned and illegal events during the pandemic. The feedback received has been excellent and delegates found the opportunity to learn and engage extremely useful.

EMC News Continued

East Midlands Annual General Meeting - the EMC Annual General meeting took place today virtually. The meeting included a keynote address from the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Cllrs Martin Hill, David Mellen, and Jonathan Morgan were endorsed by the membership as Chairs and Vice-Chairs, respectively, of East Midlands Councils.

East Midlands Councils Annual Report - the EMC annual report available [here](#).

EMC Councillor Events

Scrutiny: Reset and Recovery, 10 Nov 2020 - This virtual workshop has been designed to focus on the role of scrutiny in the 'reset and recovery' period. For details of the workshop visit [here](#).

Local government has changed significantly in order to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. Functions, finances and political management arrangements have been re-shaped since March 2020. Scrutiny has also been impacted by COVID. This virtual workshop has been designed to focus on the role of scrutiny in the 'reset and recovery' period.

It will examine a range of related issues:

- reviewing the impact on scrutiny functions across the region, including how scrutiny members and officers have responded
- highlighting best practice in working remotely and through virtual platforms
- identifying learning from scrutiny reviews of council responses to COVID-19
- considering the role that scrutiny can play in the recovery planning period
- outside of COVID-19, identifying emerging and re-emergent priority topics for scrutiny to examine, for example, scrutiny of climate change and scrutiny of re-organisation

In particular, the workshop will focus on how the recovery stage is developing and how scrutiny needs to play a part in debates over growing financial and budgetary pressures and fundamental re-prioritisation processes.

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

East Midlands leaders call for full delivery of HS2's Eastern Leg to bridge East – West divide - A group of MPs, civic and business leaders from across the Midlands has written to Boris Johnson calling for the full delivery of HS2's Eastern Leg from Birmingham to Leeds. In a letter to the Prime Minister, the cross-party group cites a new report which demonstrates stark social and economic inequalities between the Eastern and Western regions of the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine.

- Letter signed by group of MPs, councillors and business leaders including Darren Henry MP, Lilian Greenwood MP and former Transport Secretary Lord McLoughlin
- Communities on HS2's Eastern Leg receive less transport investment, have lower productivity rates, and are home to more social mobility cold spots than those on HS2's Western Leg
- Productivity in the East Midlands is 9% below Western Leg average and a 20% below UK average
- Eastern Leg regions received 21% less transport investment per head over past five years than Western Leg regions, and a third (33% less) than the UK average
- East Midlands is home to 26% of England's social deprivation coldspots
- Levelling up seen as essential in addressing social and economic inequalities and ensuring recovery from COVID-19

Mind the gap: The role of HS2's Eastern Leg in bridging England's east-west divide, authored by campaign group HS2 East, highlights that communities surrounding the Eastern Leg of HS2 Phase 2b suffer from lower productivity, poorer social mobility and receive lower levels of transport investment than communities surrounding its Western Leg, set to run from Birmingham to Manchester [details [here](#)].

Long-term delivery of social and affordable rented housing: government response to the Select Committee report - A response by the government to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee's report on long-term delivery of social and affordable rented housing [details [here](#)].

LGA Webinar; Building a better railway for the future, 16 October - this webinar with the Rail Delivery Group will give councils the opportunity to explore the upcoming reform of rail in Great Britain and what this could mean for relationship between councils and the industry, which councils have said need to be stronger [details [here](#)].

LGA Webinar; Accelerating the uptake of electric vehicles 14 October - This LGA webinar will explore councils role in electrification and what innovative councils have already done [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care

Meeting the home adaptation needs of older people - The LGA wrote this publication before the COVID-19 pandemic but the learning in this guide feels even more relevant after the experience of supporting our residents at the height of the crisis, and as we plan for potential further local outbreaks [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information

JNC Youth & Community Pay Agreement 2020 - The JNC for Youth and Community Workers has reached an agreement on a pay award for 2020. The circular can be found [here](#).

CEEP News - CEEP UK's newsletters provide an update on recent developments at European level on workforce matters and the most recent newsletter is available from [here](#).

National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP) - This week applications opened to candidates for the 23rd cohort of the National Graduate Development Programme (NGDP). The NGDP provides councils, and the local government sector, with a pipeline of talent. Each year, we whittle down from around 5000 applicants to find the brightest and best graduate trainees, with real leadership potential, a passion to make a difference, and the capacity to bring new ideas and take on the strategic challenges of local authorities across the country. Having placed around 150 graduates in 2020 despite the challenging circumstances, the programme reopens in September for applicants for our 2021 intake.

As well as recruiting from our diverse, national talent pool, there are also bespoke options to suit any organisation's needs: you can develop existing talent within your organisation, focus on graduates who already live and work locally, or even partner with another local authority to take on trainees. Organisations have until the end of March 2021 to express an interest in signing up for next year's intake. To find out more visit www.local.gov.uk/ngdp or email ngdp@local.gov.uk.

Local Government News

Extra support for councils to expand services for domestic abuse victims and their children - Extra support will be given to councils to help them to prepare for the introduction of landmark legislation that will ensure domestic abuse victims and their families get the vital help they need has been announced this week .

Once the duty comes into forces, the new £6 million funding announced will mean that councils in England can commission additional vital support for those victims of domestic abuse and their children who might currently be turned away from refuges and other safe accommodation because their needs cannot be met.

The Domestic Abuse Bill, currently before Parliament, includes a new duty for councils to assess and provide support and safe accommodation to victims and their children in England. This new funding will mean councils can plan accommodation and specialist services ahead of the Act coming into force and ensure that in all areas across the country services are joined up [details [here](#)].

Re-thinking youth participation for the present and next generation: education and employment - The LGAs report on re-thinking youth participation, available from [here](#).

The LGA's new grant funded Digital Connectivity Programme – this provides resource for councils to build and develop connectivity capacity and capability to overcome some of their toughest accessibility challenges. This inaugural year of the programme will look to work with six local authorities from across urban and rural settings [details [here](#)].

LGA Webinar; What does the future of commercial activity look like post COVID-19? 13 October - many councils have lost significant income due to the impact of COVID-19 so are refocusing commercial activity during a period of financial uncertainty and market instability. Hear from inspirational speakers from a range of commercial disciplines. There is also the opportunity to take part in commercial surgeries, at which attendees can ask subject matter experts themed questions linked to their own commercial projects [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

Taking your Training Remote - How to deliver excellent training remotely (Virtual Workshops) 01 Dec 2020 - EMC is offering a regional programme of 'Taking your Training Remote', which will help you learn how to deliver online workshops that are interactive, fun and highly effective. The programme covers both the technical and training design dimensions. For more information about the programme, split over two dates visit [here](#).

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

East Midlands Councils

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



Click on our [Twitter](#) & [YouTube](#) accounts for further information.