



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

Top items this week

31 MAY 2024



Parliamentary 'wash-up'



Railway stations awarded
Access for All accessibility
funding



EMC and NTU to conduct
research to improve
outcomes for UASC.



LGA Conference cancelled

PARLIAMENTARY 'WASH-UP'

Last week there was a rush of legislation passed through parliament, while some ongoing bills, including the **smoking and vaping ban**, were left behind. As Parliament was prorogued on Friday 24 May 2024, and dissolved on Thursday 30 May 2024, the wash-up lasted only two days, meaning some of the government's planned legislation was lost.

The **Leasehold and Freehold Reform Bill** was passed, leaving behind the provisions relating to the capping and phasing out of ground rents, but ensuring the reform of lease extensions, enfranchisement and service charges, and the abolition of leaseholds for new houses.

The Renters (Reform) Bill, which included reforms for the private rental sector, was not included in the wash-up. The bill, which aimed to deliver a fairer private rented sector for landlords and tenants, had recently had its second reading in the House of Lords.

The **Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill** was passed, quashing the convictions of sub-postmasters convicted in the Horizon scandal, as did the **Victims and Prisoners Bill**, establishing a compensation body for victims of the infected blood scandal, which saw 30,000 people infected with HIV and hepatitis C.

The **Finance (No 2) Bill**, which includes measures to set the charge for income tax and corporation tax passed, along with new measures including the abolition of Multiple Dwellings Relief from the Stamp Duty Land Tax.

While the **Digital Markets Competition and Consumers Bill** passed, establishing a new regulatory regime for businesses considered to hold "substantial and entrenched market power" in digital markets, The **Data Protection and Digital Information Bill** which included post-Brexit changes to the GDPR Act (2018) was not included.

Other bills which passed include: **The Media Bill, Pet Abduction Bill, Paternity Leave (Bereavement) Bill, and British Nationality (Irish Citizens) Bill.**

Other bills which have been abandoned include: **The Terrorism Bill (Martyn's Law), Football Governance Bill, Criminal Justice Bill, Arbitration Bill, Sentencing Bill, Economic Activity of Public Bodies Bill and the Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill.**

RAILWAY STATIONS AWARDED ACCESS FOR ALL ACCESSIBILITY FUNDING

The latest round of funding for the Access for All programme has seen 50 railway stations across the UK selected to receive funding to address the issues faced by disabled passengers and passengers facing mobility restraints when using railway stations. Out of 310 nominations across the UK, four stations in the East Midlands will receive a share of the £350m reallocated HS2 funding: Chinley, Sileby, Sleaford and Stamford.

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EMC AND NTU TO CONDUCT RESEARCH TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR UASC

East Midlands Councils, with the support of the regional children's services departments, has appointed Nottingham Trent University to conduct research aimed at improving outcomes for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in care.

The research will assess the outcomes for current and former UASC, while also supporting local authorities to meet the ongoing demands of the UASC National Transfer Scheme (NTS).

The final report will provide recommendations for increasing capacity and efficiencies, and where there is potential for improving wider service delivery and outcomes for current and former UASC.

The NTS was made mandatory by the Government in December 2021 and facilitates the transfer of unaccompanied children to local authorities in the UK from the Kent ports and other points of entry.

This research will feed into EMC's wider programme of work supporting councils to meet this demand by developing a regional approach to the care of UASC, with an emphasis on UASC-specific and cost-effective placements that meet the particular needs of unaccompanied children.

LGA CONFERENCE CANCELLED

The Local Government Association has officially cancelled its annual conference after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called the General Election that clashed with the event.

The LGA board made the decision to axe the conference, due to take place 2-4 July in Harrogate, while voters are due to go to the polls on 4 July.

However, it will continue with a remote annual assembly on 2 July, and is 'actively exploring' options for members to meet later in the year.

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE
Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell
Vice Chair: Cllr Tricia Gilby
Conservative Group: Cllr Phil King
Labour Group: Cllr Jewel Miah
Liberal Democrat Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Matthew Relf
Executive Director: Stuart Young



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