**EMC POLICY BRIEF**

**A weekly roundup of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by East Midlands Councils**

**30 AUGUST 2024**

**Top items this week**

* South Midlands authorities discuss options for devolution
* Roll out of Local Government recruitment campaign
* New Homes Accelerator Programme launched
* Current Vacancies with East Midlands Councils

**SOUTH MIDLANDS AUTHORITIESSOUTH MIDLANDS AUTHORITIES DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR DEVOLUTION**

Steps are being taken towards forming a devolution proposal covering six councils in the South Midlands- spanning parts of the East Midlands, South East and East of England. North and West Northamptonshire councils are exploring options for forming a Joint Committee with Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes.

A report to North Northamptonshire last night (Thursday 29) has recommended full council backing is given for the creation of the joint committee, which would replace the current Central Area Growth Board and initially take on decision-making powers over activities formerly handled by the region's Local Enterprise Partnership.

Officers said previous devolution deals have required the creation of combined authorities, but this is ‘not expected to be a preferred option' by local leaders at present.

**ROLL OUT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN**

Following the successful National Recruitment Campaign event held in Leicester in July which was jointly hosted with EMC and the LGA, we are pleased to share with you details of an update meeting taking place via MS Teams on 18th September.

At the meeting, the LGA will provide an update on the developments with the national recruitment campaign, and we will look ahead to next steps in rolling out the toolkit of resources to support councils.

<https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/events/update-meeting-roll-out-of-lg-recruitment-advertising-campaign/>

**EMC HR BULLETIN**

East Midlands Councils’ monthly HR Bulletin has been released today. This month’s bulletin covers:

* Local Government Recruitment Campaign Update Meeting – 18th Sept
* Employment Law Update – 7th Nov
* Regional Sickness Absence Benchmarking 2023-24
* An article from Darren Newman, employment law expert, on navigating the tensions
* between employment law and criminal justice
* National updates

<https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/emc-hr-bulletin-august-2024/>

**NEW HOMES ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME**

This week, the Deputy Prime Minister, Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, launched a New Homes Accelerator programme.

The New Homes Accelerator is a collaborative effort between the government, Homes England, the Greater London Authority, local authorities, developers and other key stakeholders. It will focus on selected large-scale housing developments that are encountering significant delays or obstacles.

MHCLG has also launched a call for evidence asking developers, councils and landowners to identify large-scale housing developments that are delayed or stuck so the government can better understand the scale of the challenge and evaluate what support it can provide.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-homes-accelerator-programme>

**WORK WITH US!**

**PROGRAMME AND POLICY OFFICER**

This is an exciting opportunity to assist with the coordination of Home Office and MHCLG funded programmes and schemes in collaboration with key partners.

The role will support policy development and programme delivery through research, evaluation, data collation and analysis.

It will also support the regional coordination of Asylum and Refugee Resettlement Schemes, in particular placements in line with the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

**The closing date for applications is noon on Monday 2nd September 2024.**

Interviews will take place week commencing 9 September 2024.

<https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/vacancy/programme-and-policy-officer/>

**UASC CARER RECRUITMENT CO-ORDINATOR**

This is a unique opportunity to be an integral part of an innovative regional programme supporting some of the most vulnerable young people in our society, by increasing the number of carers for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

The role will focus on supporting the recruitment of additional UASC carers through working with Local Authorities and EMC to develop an effective communications strategy, direct engagement with local community groups, and supporting the EMC Programme Manager with continuous improvement.

**The closing date for applications is Monday 9th September 2024 (5pm)**

Interviews will take place in the week beginning 30th September 2024

<https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/vacancy/uasc-carer-recruitment-co-ordinator/>