

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

Top items this week

8 JANUARY 2021



East Midlands HS2 Board



Climate Change Workshop,
Community Engagement



EMC HR Bulletin, December
2020 edition



EMC Events for Councillors
and Officers

Climate Change Workshop, Community Engagement

East Midlands Councils and the LGA, working in partnership are offering a series of virtual interactive workshops for Councillors on Climate Change, starting with a focused working exploring community engagement and behaviour change on 19 January 2021.

The interactive virtual workshops will provide Councillors from across the East Midlands with the opportunity to hear from both Councillors and Officers on innovative approaches to climate change reduction plans and initiatives.

The first workshop, to be chaired by Cllr Sally Longford, Nottingham City Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder Energy, Environment and Democratic Services, will include a presentations from;

- **Cllr Adam Clarke, Deputy City Mayor Environment and Transportation, Leicester City Council** on Leicester's climate emergency consultation process - building a collaborative approach.
- **Mike Preston, formally Parish Councillor for Hungarton Parish Council in Leicestershire** - To speak about his role as a Parish Councillor and their Rural Community Energy Fund bid for innovative local energy project.
- **Michael Gallagher, Regional Energy Projects Manager from Midlands Energy Hub**

Along with the presentation, the virtual workshop will be interactive, offering delegates the opportunity to work in smaller breakout groups to share and discuss.

Further information on the first workshop will be available shortly, to pre register to attend please visit [here](#).

The Climate Change series - This virtual workshop is the first in a series of four workshops that will be held 2021, the dates will be confirmed shortly, the themes will explore:

- Community engagement
- Transport
- Energy / Housing
- Green Economic Recovery and Behaviour Change

EMC Boards Activity

Up coming EMC board meeting dates;



- **EMC General Meeting** - 5 February 21
- **East Midlands Strategic Migration Board** - 3 March 21
- **East Midlands Regional Employers' Board** - 4 March 21
- **EMC Executive Board** - 19 March 21

EMC Support Activity

Performance Management Network - EMC will host the Performance Management network meeting on Friday 15 January 2021, for more information on the network visit [here](#). If you would like to attend contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC Councillor Events

Virtual Communication Skills for Councillors - EMC is offering a one-hour virtual communication session for Councillors. This one-hour session offers an interactive introduction to online communication skills.

The outcomes will include: enhanced awareness of positive virtual communications, how to improve personal communication skills, reputation and transferability of skills to the real world.

Please note that we are running two sessions, one for Councillors and one for Officers.

Date and time - Thursday 28 January 14:00 – 15:00

Information on the workshop and details of how to book can be found [here](#).

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing

East Midlands HS2 Board - The East Midlands HS2 Board chaired by Cllr Kay Cutts MBE met on the 7th January to discuss the National Infrastructure Commission's Rail Needs Assessment and the Government's Integrated Rail Plan, which is due to be published shortly. The Board re-affirmed support for the full delivery of the Eastern Leg of HS2 including the Hub Station at Toton, HS2 connectivity for Chesterfield and the Infrastructure Maintenance Depot at Staveley, and agreed to continue to make representations to MPs and Ministers. The Board also received updates on master-planning work around Toton/Chetwynd and in Chesterfield/Staveley, and on work to ensure local businesses can benefit from contracts let by HS2 Ltd for Phase 1 between London and Birmingham.

Government reforms make it easier and cheaper for leaseholders to buy their homes - Millions of leaseholders will be given the right to extend their lease by a maximum term of 990 years at zero ground rent, the Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick has announced [details [here](#)].

Supporting residents who have been affected by cladding issues - This Local Government Association (LGA) briefing is aimed at ward councillors supporting residents in their local areas. It explains the background to the cladding scandal, highlights issues facing residents, and sets out ways in which councillors might support them [details [here](#)].

Re-thinking public transport Tuesday 19 January 2021, 10:30 - the pandemic has accelerated existing bus use trends and the future of local bus services are now at a critical juncture. Drawing on recent LGA research, this webinar will explore the ambitions that councils have for the future of bus services and what needs to happen to improve our public transport networks [details [here](#)].

Homelessness

Commissioning and provider services: safeguarding people experiencing homelessness, 13 January 2021, 10:00 - this is part of a series of eight virtual seminars developed to disseminate and take this work forward. and to inform a further briefing on adult safeguarding and homelessness, including the impact of COVID-19 [details [here](#)].

Psychologically-informed and reflective practice: safeguarding people experiencing homelessness, 18 January 2021, 15:00 - this is part of a series of eight virtual seminars, developed to disseminate and take this work forward and to inform a further briefing on adult safeguarding and homelessness, including the impact of COVID-19 [details [here](#)].

Economic Development

£830 million funding boost for high streets - Funding from the Future High Streets Fund to help 72 areas in England to recover from the pandemic and deliver ambitious regeneration plans.

- The government will invest up to £830 million from the Future High Streets Fund
- Investment will support areas to recover from the pandemic and help transform underused town centres into vibrant places to live, work and shop

The 57 places receiving provisional funding offers can be found [here](#), from the East Midlands:

- Derby City Centre, St Peters Cross – £15,034,398
- Sutton-in-Ashfield – £6,279,872
- Grantham, South Kesteven – £5,558,818
- Nottingham City Centre, West End Point – £12,523,981
- Heanor, Amber Valley – £8,592,837
- Northampton – £8,442,730
- Buxton, High Peak – £6,608,223

Libraries Advocacy Webinar: Economic Renewal, 11 January 2021, 10:30 - This LGA event will support delegates to think through libraries' role in business innovation and skills development, and to articulate what libraries bring to broader economic renewal agendas in the context of COVID-19 [details [here](#)].

Employers' Information

EMC HR Bulletin, December 2020 - The December 2020 edition of the EMC HR Bulletin can be found [here](#). The December edition includes information on:-

- Exit pay cap developments
- Information on wellbeing and sickness absence survey results
- Brexit – employers' guidance
- A new leadership development programme
- The monthly article from employment law expert Darren Newman, advises on the practicalities of remote hearings

Leadership Development Programme - EMC has launched its new Leadership Development programme for Senior and Middle Managers. The programme 'Leading in turbulent times' is set in the context of the unique challenges posed by Covid-19 including change, complexity, ambiguity and uncertainty.

The aim of this 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 which address key issues and provide practical tools to support managers. For more information please contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk or visit [here](#).

Local Government News

Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 - This Code has been designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in local government [available from [here](#)].

Local Elections: Standing for election and campaigning in a COVID-19 context, 26 January 2021, 14:00 -

This LGA webinar will provide the opportunity to learn from comparable elections that have taken place in Scotland during the pandemic by hearing first-hand how candidates and their campaigners responded to the challenges presented by COVID-19 in their recent by-elections. There will also be the opportunity to hear from the Electoral Commission (EC) on their latest available guidance and resources, with attendees able to directly raise questions and concerns to help inform the EC's guidance materials.

This session will not duplicate or cover guidance and advice issued by political party associations, rather it will provide insights into what it feels like to run for election in a COVID-19 context and the type of issues you may encounter.

The event will be hosted on the Zoom platform. To book your place, please register [here](#).

Social Value masterclass for councillors, 20 January 2021, 2.00pm - social value refers to the wider financial and nonfinancial value created and how the services commissioned and procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of an area. This interactive online masterclass will support elected members to develop skills and understanding, make confident and appropriate decisions needed, to enable them to challenge whether social value is being successfully embedded in their council [details [here](#)].

Reimagining the future of public leisure services, 21 January 2021, 10:30 - This webinar will share examples of what councils are doing, their ideas, journey and their vision for how they are reimagining public leisure provision to ensure sport and physical activity makes a real and lasting contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities [here](#).

Migration

Windrush Compensation Scheme - The Home Secretary made an announcement in the House on 14 December on the improvements to the Windrush Compensation Scheme [details [here](#)]. The £500,000 Windrush Community Fund is also now open for applications. The Community Fund will support community and grassroots organisations to run outreach and promotional activity to raise awareness of the Windrush Scheme and Windrush Compensation Scheme. Full information including the application form and guidance for applicants is available [here](#). A moving graphic is [here](#) and another graphic specifically for the Community Fund [here](#).

Health & Social Care

Loneliness, social isolation and COVID-19 - The LGA and Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) have jointly produced this practical advice for Directors of Public Health and others leading the local response to the loneliness and social isolation issues arising from the COVID-19 outbreak [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

Report Writing - EMC is hosting two 3 hour virtual workshops on report writing. These virtual workshops will be highly interactive [full details [here](#)]. The course will explore;

- **What are the expectations with regards written reports in your role?**
- **What should we think about before writing the report?** Exploring: the audience and their expectations, language, tone, length.

The virtual workshop will use both plenary and breakout time to ensure maximum delegate participation, making the session interactive for those taking part. Dates; Tuesday 19 January 9:30 – 12:3; Thursday 28 January 13:30 – 16:30

Virtual Communication Skills for Officers, 28 January - EMC is offering a one-hour virtual workshop on communication. This one-hour session offers an interactive introduction to online communication skills.

The outcomes will include: enhanced awareness of positive virtual communications, how to improve personal communication skills, reputation and transferability of skills to the real world [details [here](#)].

Thursday 28 January 9:30 – 10:30

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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