

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

Top items this week

23 APRIL 2021



LGAs Remote council meetings temperature check



EMC Councillor Development 2021 - 2022



Congratulations to Charnwood Borough Council



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

EMC Councillor Development 2021 - 2022

EMC offers a comprehensive, value for money Councillor Development programme discounted for member councils in the East Midlands. Supporting Councillors is a key area of our work, more information on how we support Councillors and Councils can be found on our website [here](#), or in our Councillor Development 2021 brochure [here](#).

This Policy Brief provides a brief overview of our development and support offer for Councillors across the East Midlands in May and June. For more information on the workshops below [visit here](#), bookings can be made online.

The Role of the Civic Head, 26 May 2021, 14:00 - 16:00 - EMC is hosting a two hour virtual workshop for newly appointed Mayors and deputy Mayors. The workshop will explore the role of the Civic Head and the expectations of the role from a range of perspectives, including the expectations of the incoming mayor, and those of the public and the council. It will include short introductory sessions on Chaining Full Council, Public Speaking and Social Media.

Audience - the intended audience for this workshop is newly appointed Mayors and deputy Mayors.

Cost – £80 per person (plus VAT), please note that places are limited, we recommend early booking to ensure a place.

Chairing and effective meetings, Friday 18 June, 10:00 - 13:00 - This virtual session will be interactive, drawing on people's experience and insights from the tutor with some group work. It covers formal roles such as chairing full council or a planning committee, as well as less formal approaches to chairing eg. for scrutiny activity and public meetings. It explores the implications of remote working for holding and managing meetings and the value of protocols for engagement. The focus is guided by delegates and can include problem solving around challenges chairs might face.

Audience - The workshop is suitable for new and continuing chairs.

Costs - £75 per person (plus VAT). Please note that places are limited, we recommend early booking to ensure a place.

Workshop for Chairs and Vice chairs of overview and scrutiny, Thursday 24 June, 10:00 – 13:00 - This workshop will cover the principles behind scrutiny and the different ways of working, as well as skills for the roles. It will look at the formal roles such as O&S committee meetings, less formal approaches to scrutiny such as task and finish groups and inquiry days and the importance of all parts of the system collaborating constructively through scrutiny. Scrutiny skills include work programming, project scoping and questioning, listening and evidence gathering.

Audience - for new and experienced non-executive councillors and co-optees involved in O&S activity.

Date and Time - , this virtual course will be held using MS Teams.

Costs - £75 per person (plus VAT). Please note that places are limited, we recommend early booking to ensure a place.

Workshop for Chairs and Vice chairs of Overview and Scrutiny, Tuesday 29 June, 10:00 – 13:00 - The workshop will focus on the specific tasks of the Chair and Vice-chair in providing leadership to the scrutiny function, exploring the guidance provided by Government in 2019, considering matters relating to the culture and relationships in your council that influence scrutiny, discussing how you build capacity for O&S activity of different types and motivate your members and getting the most out of O&S to make an impact on your council and for its residents. The focus will be guided by participants and your particular approach to scrutiny in your council.

Audience - This workshop will focus specifically on the role of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Costs - £75 per person (plus VAT). Please note that places are limited, we recommend early booking to ensure a place.

EMC News

Councillor Development Charter - Congratulations to Charnwood Borough Council who have successfully achieved re-accreditation of the Councillor Development Charter clearly demonstrating their on-going commitment and investment in councillors' growth and development, even in these challenging times.

For authorities interested in understanding more about how the Councillor Development Charter and Charter Plus can act as a guide and benchmark as part of your improvement journey then please visit our website [here](#). For any discussions the lead officer is Lisa Butterfill lisa.butterfill@emcouncils.gov.uk

EMC News

COVID-19 - Colleague will be aware that we're currently in Step 2 of the 'Roadmap out of Lockdown' that has seen the opening of non-essential retail; personal care premises; public buildings, including libraries and community centres, indoor leisure facilities; and most outdoor attractions and settings including outdoor hospitality venues, zoos, theme parks, and drive-in cinemas.

So while we can now go to Primark, get our haircut and unsuccessfully try to book a slot at the local beer garden, there's further work on-going in preparation of Step 3.

As part of Step 3 (no earlier than 17th May), the government will look to further ease limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible. This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply.

The Government is undertaking a review to update the advice on social distancing between friends and family, including hugging, and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission. This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on 1 metre plus, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted. This will also inform guidance on working from home.

We will keep you updated as this review develops – but to inform initial discussions with MHCLG colleagues we ask that any views on this are shared with us (please email to Stuart Young, stuart.young@emcouncils.gov.uk).

Employers' Information

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

Local Government News

The LGAs Remote council meetings temperature check 2021 - In order to understand how councils made use of these powers and their views as to how such powers might be used in the future, the Local Government Association conducted a 'temperature check' of councils in England. The findings of the research were also intended to contribute to an MHCLG call for evidence on the matter [details [here](#)].

Infrastructure, Planning and Housing

LGA webinar, Driving efficiency in the delivery of Green Homes Grant LAD2 projects, 4 May 2021, 2.00pm - domestic retrofit programmes are complex and challenging. As part of the Green Homes Grant BEIS have commissioned additional support in terms of a handbook and toolkit. The webinar introduces the handbook and toolkit and provides insights from both the Green Building Council and the Retrofit Academy [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 [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

Leadership Development for Senior/Middle Managers in times of Change - EMC has developed a leadership development programme that helps managers lead people through change and uncertainty. The first programme will start on 13 May 2021, details available [here](#).

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.

Report Writing, 30 June 2021 - EMC is hosting a 3 hour virtual workshop on report writing. The virtual workshop will be highly interactive [full details [here](#)]. The virtual workshop will use both plenary and breakout time to ensure maximum delegate participation, making the session interactive for those taking part.

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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