

PRESS RELEASE**Release Date: 4th August 2010****Ref: 04-10****Report Finds Councils Fit for the Future****Councils support to Economic Recovery**

A new report by East Midlands Councils finds that local authorities in the region have responded innovatively to the recession, becoming more efficient and supporting businesses and communities to recover.

Cllr Martin Hill OBE, Chairman of East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership, led the report. He said:

“Having played an important role in helping the East Midlands withstand the recession, Councils will now have more freedom from Government control but less money to spend. Our democratic mandate gives Councils the responsibility to lead and do things that others can't. By working together and sharing good practice Councils can make sure that they are fit for the challenges ahead”.

Councils have undertaken a wide variety of activities, such as saving money through working together on procurement, supporting town centre retailers and developing wide-ranging 'jobs plans' to help people back to work.

Councils in the East Midlands now face more challenges including the need to make further efficiencies, balanced by the potential opportunities of working with business in Local Enterprise Partnerships. The report finds that Councils can benefit from continuing to share information on good practice, working together to achieve economies of scale and responding flexibly to local needs.

The report includes case studies of good practice –

- Derby City Council's 'Trains, Planes and Automobiles' research into the key sectors underpinning manufacturing in the City (DERBY)
- Bassetlaw District Council's joined up local and small business based response to the recession (NOTTS)
- Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council's Total Place pilot (LEIC / LEICS)
- Nottingham City Council's 'Whole Council' corporate response to the recession (NOTTM)
- East Lindsey District Council's Courts Service; a family based service supporting individuals at risk of losing their home, developed specifically in response to the recession (LINCS)
- The iCon centre in Daventry, a national centre of excellence in construction, offering opportunities around construction during the recession (NORTHANTS)

The report is available from <http://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/Joint-Working>

ENDS

East Midlands Councils

As a representative and consultative forum, East Midlands Councils is the voice for all Local Authorities in the East Midlands

It represents 46 councils, covering an area of over 6000 square miles with a population of 4.4 million people.

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