



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

Top items this week

22 MARCH 2024



First meeting of East Midlands County Combined Authority



EMR announce £60 million project to revamp regional fleet



100th asylum hotel set to close next week



Upcoming EMC Training & events

FIRST MEETING OF EAST MIDLANDS COUNTY COMBINED AUTHORITY

The first formal meeting of the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCAA) took place on Wednesday, 20 March in Chesterfield Town Hall. EMCAA brings together leadership from Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to oversee a funding deal of £1.14 billion over the next 30 years.

Barry Lewis, leader of Derbyshire County Council, who chaired the first meeting, launched the organisation alongside the leaders of Derby, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

The meeting was followed by a launch event for partners and stakeholders across the region, which EMC attended. We heard from key players in the creation of the EMCCA including a video message from Levelling Up Minister Jacob Young, Damien Dacey, Director of East Midlands Devolution, and leaders from across the region.

The first Mayoral election for the EMCCA will be taking place on Thursday 2nd May 2024.

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EMR ANNOUNCE £60 MILLION PROJECT TO REVAMP REGIONAL FLEET

East Midlands Railway (EMR) has announced the start of a £60 million programme to refurbish its fleet of Class 360, Class 158 and Class 170 trains.

Some of the trains will be upgraded to provide better facilities for commuter, leisure and airport passengers including new less cramped 2+2 seating throughout the trains in a mixture of airline style and bay seats, luggage racks, charging points, new passenger information systems, and CCTV. All trains will receive new seat foams and covers .

Sir Peter Soulsby, Chair of Transport for the East Midlands and City Mayor of Leicester, said: "The refurbishment of EMR's regional and commuter services has been a TfEM priority for some time, so we are delighted that this investment is now going ahead.

"The refurbishments to these trains, with improved interiors and critical technology modernisation, will benefit all East Midlands rail communities and further strengthen the appeal of rail as a travel option."

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100TH ASYLUM HOTEL SET TO CLOSE NEXT WEEK

The Home Office has announced that 100 Asylum will be closed by the end of March, with people having moved to other accommodation such as large sites and the private rented sector.

This means there are 20,000 fewer asylum seekers in hotels today than six months ago, down from over 56,000 at the end of September 2023, a reduction of 36%.

While there were 30 hotels in use at the peak in October 2023, actual numbers of asylum seekers in the East Midlands remain high, however 12 hotels in the East Midlands have either been closed or identified for closure. Currently, 20 hotels continue to be used for approximately 2,500 people which is about 6% of the national contingency population.

This announcement comes following announcements earlier this week that the proposed number of people to be housed at RAF Scampton has been reduced from 2,000 to 800.

[READ MORE](#)

QUARTERLY MIGRATION BRIEFING

East Midlands Councils publishes a briefing to our members covering the latest news and updates relating to Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants.

This latest edition covers Q3 and Q4 of 2023/24, and marks the launch of our new format which provides greater focus on updates from all streams from a local, regional and national level.

We hope this latest edition proves insightful.

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UPCOMING EMC TRAINING

[The Role of the Civic Head](#), Thursday, 6 June 2024, 10am—3pm, North Kesteven District Council

This session will benefit Elected Members who anticipate election to the office of Mayor or Chair of Council at Annual Meetings in May 2024. Attendance by civic office support staff has also proved useful and beneficial in understanding the role and building effective working relationships.

[Chairing Skills for Members](#), Thursday, 4 July 2024, 6pm—8pm, Online

This session has been developed for Councillors in the East Midlands, who are interested in developing their chairing skills in face to face, virtual and hybrid settings. It is suitable for both chairs and vice chairs.

[Vicarious Trauma Training](#), Monday, 15 April 2024, 9am—4pm, Online

To support the development of skills in the prevention and management of burnout and vicarious traumatization while providing assistance to the Refugee & Asylum Seekers (RAS) population, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).

IOM UK: Iran Refugee Information Session, 16 April & 17 April, 10am—12pm, Online

[Session One: Geography, History, Current Events and Services](#)

[Session Two: Cultural Norms, Family and Social Life](#)

[ALL TRAINING & EVENTS](#)

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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