



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

Top items this week

8 MARCH 2024



Spring Budget 2024:
East Midlands impact



Local Authority Housing
Fund: Round 3



Pay Claim for Chief Officer
& Craftworkers



East Midlands Challenge
2024

SPRING BUDGET 2024:

EAST MIDLANDS IMPACT

On Wednesday, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt delivered the Spring Budget to Parliament. Headlines from this year’s budget included a further 2 per cent cut to National Insurance and increases to the child benefit threshold and the VAT threshold for small businesses.

But how do the announcements made this week impact local authorities?

- Following a plea from Leaders across England to extend the Household Support Fund (HSF), the Chancellor has done so, but only by a further six months.
- £400m of funding to expand the [Long-Term Plan for Towns](#) to 20 new towns including Carlton in Gedling.
- [Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund](#) – Round 2—scope includes authorities within Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the River Mease SAC.
- Round 4 of the [Community Ownership Fund](#), helping communities to take ownership of assets at risk of closure
- Freeport tax reliefs extended to September 2031
- Increase from 40% to 50% of the cap on the cost of a replacement home that can be funded from Right to Buy receipts

For the sixth time in a row councils have received a one-year settlement in this latest Budget, despite an ongoing appeal for the return of multi-year settlements.

Last week the Local Government Information Unit released a report warning that more than half of the country’s senior council figures have warned that their councils is likely to go bankrupt within the next parliament unless funding changes.

The full LGiU report can be found here:

[READ MORE](#)

More about this year’s statement here:

[READ MORE](#)

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND: ROUND 3

Yesterday, Thursday 7 March, DLUHC published information on the £450 million third round of the Local Authority Housing Fund, announced in November 2023.

The fund will support councils in England to obtain better quality temporary accommodation and will also provide safe and suitable housing for those on the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme who are unable to secure their own housing.

The programme will run over two financial years: 2024-25 and 2025-26.

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CHIEF OFFICER PAY CLAIM 2024/25

GMB and Unison have issued the 2024 pay claim for local authority Chief Officers. The claim is for:

- An increase that is no less favourable to Chief Officers than the NJC claim (of 10 per cent or an equivalent lump sum) as a step towards pay restoration
- Action to close the gender, ethnicity and disability pay gaps
- Joint work on model national overtime working and mental health policies.

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CRAFTWORKERS' PAY CLAIM 2024/25

The pay claim from the JNC Trade Unions for local authority Craftworker ('Red Book') employees has also been received. The claim seeks:

- A 10 per cent or £3,000 increase in pay (flat-rate to increase with inner and outer London figures as a percentage)
- A reduction of the working week to 35 hours with no loss of pay
- An increase of two days annual leave days for all employees
- A substantial additional increase in the tool allowances

The full pay claim can be viewed on our website:

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EAST MIDLANDS CHALLENGE 2024

The East Midlands Challenge returns in April and is a fantastic opportunity for aspiring leaders to gain exposure to issues outside of their normal work and giving them a taste of what senior management is really like, identifying priorities and dealing with politically sensitive issues, all while maintaining a customer focus and delivering services.

There's still time to enter into this year's Challenge taking place on **Tuesday 23 April 2024**.

The Challenge is open to teams of six from Public Sector organisations across the East Midlands. If you're considering entering this year, watch this short video by participants from last year's winning team, Newark and Sherwood District Council!

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

[READ MORE](#)

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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