



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

Top items this week

10 MAY 2024



A new Mayor for the East Midlands



EMC project to enhance ESOL provision across the region



Institute for Government Report on English devolution



Upcoming councillor and officer development

CLAIRE WARD BEGINS MAYORAL DUTIES

On Tuesday 7th May, Claire Ward officially became the first Mayor of the East Midlands after signing the official mayoral declaration along with Mark Rogers, Chief Officer of the new East Midlands Combined County Authority.

This follows last Thursday's election which saw Claire Ward (Labour) receiving 181,040 votes (40.3%).

East Midlands Councils is looking forward to working closely with the new Mayor and authority to ensure that our priorities as a wider region are aligned.

More information about the election results, and the new combined authority can be found on their website:

[READ MORE](#)

EMC PROJECT TO ENHANCE ESOL PROVISION ACROSS THE REGION

East Midlands Councils is working with Migrant English Support Hub (MESH) to undertake a comprehensive review of English Language provision in the East Midlands, as part of its delivery of the Government's English Language support programme.

This project will evaluate existing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services, assess learner outcomes, pinpoint gaps in service delivery, and provide recommendations for improvements.

Through existing work within the ESOL sector, EMC is conscious that the support for refugees and asylum seekers differs greatly across the region, with many more rural areas lacking the necessary infrastructure to offer comprehensive ESOL support.

This evaluative exercise will allow EMC to better understand the varying levels of ESOL provision across the region, assess delivery and outcomes, and formulate recommendations on where and how this needs to be improved and resources better directed.

Migrant English Support Hub (MESH) brings invaluable expertise to this partnership, having previously conducted similar work in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

[READ MORE](#)

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT REPORT ON ENGLISH DEVOLUTION

The Institute for Government has released a report calling on the next government to reset the English devolution agenda, proposing 30 recommendations.

The report praises the impact that regional mayors have made, but highlights that ‘English devolution is an incomplete patchwork of mismatched deals’ and that powers and funding remain inadequate.

The recommendations include extending devolution to at least 85% of England’s population, with devolution to England’s remaining large urban areas – such as Leicester—prioritised in the first half of the parliament.

[READ MORE](#)

EMC COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

[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.

[One Year On – Workshop for Newly Elected Councillors](#), Friday 14 June, 1pm—4pm, Leicester City Council

This workshop aims to continue supporting newly elected members with their learning journey through networking, reflection, information updates and taster skills sessions all included. This is an informal, interactive session where you will benefit from the learning, the opportunity to ask questions and making new connections with both councillors and officers.

[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.

[BOOK NOW](#)

UPCOMING MIGRATION TRAINING

IOM UK: Afghan information sessions:

[Geography, Society, Current Events and Services](#), Tuesday 5 June, 10am-12pm, Online

This session’s content will focus primarily on the geography and history of Afghanistan, as well as Afghan’s experiences in conflict.

[Cultural Norms, Family and Social Life](#), Wednesday 6 June, 10am-12pm, Online

This session’s content will focus primarily on Afghan cultural norms, practices, 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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