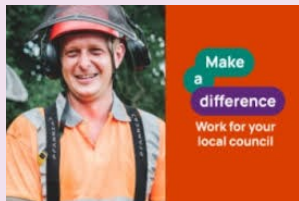


A weekly round up of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by
East Midlands Councils

Top items this week**20 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Regional local government
recruitment campaign



Devolution go ahead for
Greater Lincs



Proposed Reforms—
Housing & Planning



ESOL in the East Midlands

ESOL Benchmarking

REGIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

Earlier this week, HR and Communications colleagues from across the region met with EMC and the LGA for an update meeting to discuss the roll-out of the national recruitment campaign for local government. Will Oldham from the LGA gave an update on the latest developments which included engagement events taking place in all regions, market research testing with members of the public and creative development and refinement of the campaign. If you would like to find out more about the campaign and the benefits to your authority engaging with us to promote the campaign regionally and locally please contact Sam Maher, Director, HR & Councillor Development.

[CONTACT SAM](#)**DEVOLUTION GO AHEAD FOR GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE**

A devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire will go forward, following successful meetings between local authority leaders and the new government.

The three lead authorities - North East and North Lincolnshire unitary councils, and Lincolnshire County Council, will now complete the arrangements to form the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority with a mayoral election scheduled for May 2025. Leader of Lincolnshire County Council, and Chair of EMC, Cllr Martin Hill OBE, said:

“This is great news and I’m pleased we are able to move forward with devolution to deliver growth in Greater Lincolnshire. We have always been clear that strengthening local decision-making with the needs and wants of our communities in mind, will give the best results for residents and businesses.”

[READ MORE](#)**eVISA TRANSITION: VULNERABILITY SUPPORT CONFIRMED**

This update includes the announcement of voluntary sector organisations which are being funded to support the transition to the new digital visa.

[READ MORE](#)

PROPOSED REFORMS - HOUSING & PLANNING

Labour's manifesto was predicated on delivering higher levels of economic growth and reforming the planning system to deliver an additional 1.5 million homes over the 5 years.

Since taking office, the new Government has published a series of legislative and policy proposals aimed at delivering its manifesto commitments, including a series of proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and to the 'Standard Method' for assessing housing need. EMC is to submit a high-level strategic response to the consultation, available [here](#).

- The EMC response is intended to complement more detailed representations made by individual councils. In particular it:
- Supports the Government's emphasis on 'plan-led' planning, social housing delivery and strategic planning.
- Notes that levels of public investment in infrastructure have not kept pace with population and household growth in the East Midlands for some time, leading to poor outcomes for businesses and communities.
- Questions 'greybelt' as a new policy designation and suggests strategic greenbelt reviews would be a more effective mechanism of achieving the same objectives.
- Questions the assumptions behind the new standard method and to what extent increasing supply in rural and suburban areas will make housing more 'affordable' – either by increasing wages or decreasing house prices.

ESOL BENCHMARKING

East Midlands Councils (EMC) is working with the Migrant English Support Hub (MESH) to develop deeper understanding of the challenges facing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) providers and migrant English learners in the East Midlands.

EMC wanted to 'benchmark' ESOL in the East Midlands, to gain insight into opportunities to provide support and coordination to the sector in a way that complements the work already underway by the 200+ ESOL providers in the region. We also wanted to hear what migrant learners had to say about what it's like to learn English as a new arrival to the UK, and their reflections on the English classes they were taking part in. This will help shape future developments of EMC's regional ESOL work. You can find the report here:

[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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