



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

### Top items this week

31 JANUARY 2025



East Midlands Councils' General Meeting



New Leader Appointed at Bolsover District Council



National Pay Developments



APPG Calls for Evidence to identify the priorities in the East Midlands

## EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS' GENERAL MEETING

The East Midlands Councils' General Meeting took place this morning, Friday 31st January 2025. Members from across the region came together to discuss key regional issues including the Devolution White paper and Local Government Reorganisation. EMC will continue to work closely with members over the coming months as the local government sector continues to navigate the quickly changing landscape.

Andrew Pritchard, Director of Policy and Infrastructure at EMC gave a presentation on Flooding and Flood Risk in the East Midlands, which led to a wider discussion about regional joint working on this matter. The full presentation can be found on our website here:

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## NEW LEADER APPOINTED AT BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor Jane Yates has been elected as the new Leader of the Council at a full council meeting on Wednesday 29 January 2025, after former leader Steve Fritchley, and deputy leader Duncan McGregor, announced their retirement on 15 January.

Councillor Yates is joined by Councillor Donna Hales (Bolsover North and Shuttlewood) who takes up the position of Deputy Leader.

We thank Cllrs Fritchley and McGregor for their support during their tenure, and look forward to continuing to work closely with Cllr Yates and Cllr Hales in their new roles.

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## SAVE THE DATE: IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER AND THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANNING REFORM AGENDA FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS

East Midlands Councils invites you to attend this event providing an insight into the implications of the Devolution White Paper and the Government's planning reform agenda for the East Midlands. This half day event will be taking place from 10am on Tuesday 4 March 2025 at Devonshire Place, 78 London Rd, Leicester LE2 0RA. Please hold this date in your diary. We will follow up with more information and details on how to book shortly.

## NATIONAL PAY DEVELOPMENTS

The NJC unions, representing **Local Government Services (Green Book)** employees have submitted their claim for 2025. It seeks an increase of at least £3,000 across all NJC spinal column points, a clear plan to reach a minimum pay rate of £15 an hour, one extra day of annual leave for all staff, a reduction in the working week by two hours, with no loss of pay, and the ability for school staff to take [at least] one day of their annual leave during term time, with no loss of pay. See the claim in full here:

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A claim has also been received from the JNC unions for local authority **Chief Officers**. The Claim is for an increase of 6 per cent or an increase that is no less favourable to Chief Officers than the NJC claim – as a step towards pay restoration and an additional day of paid leave, in line with NJC terms.

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Agreement has been reached nationally for **Youth & Community workers** on a pay award for 2024. It comprises an increase of £1290 on pay points effective from 1st September 2024.

Caretakers' Letting Fees were revised by the Regional Joint Council, providing an uplift on the allowances of 2.5% with effect from 1st April 2024.

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## LGA LETTER TO JIM MCMAHON MP ON DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER

Ahead of giving evidence to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee on English devolution, LGA Chair Cllr Louise Gittins sent a letter to Jim McMahon MP outlining the reoccurring themes and issues that have come to light during their engagement with the sector. The full letter can be found here:

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## PRODUCTIVITY IN THE MIDLANDS: TRENDS, CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

The Productivity Institute has produced a new report titled Productivity in the Midlands: Trends, Challenges & Solutions. The Midlands Insight Report offers a strategic assessment of the region's productivity landscape, highlighting key challenges and proposing practical solutions. Leveraging local insights and recent data, this report provides policymakers with a roadmap to foster resilience and long-term growth.

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## EMCCA TO RECEIVE £200M IN TRANSPORT FUNDING

Almost £200 million is set to be spent on transport across Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The funding has been given to East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) from the Department for Transport and is for the year 2025/26. It includes a new pot of money specifically for Mayoral Combined Authorities: an extra £66m, on top of last year's commitments, which pushes the transport budget for next year to nearly £200m.

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## APPG CALLS FOR EVIDENCE TO IDENTIFY THE PRIORITIES IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

The East Midlands APPG has issued a Call for Evidence to identify the priorities in the East Midlands for the 2025 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Working with EMC and the East Midlands Chamber, the APPG is keen to hear from stakeholders across the East Midlands about strategic policies and projects that would enable the region to address one or more of following challenges:

Boosting transport links; Improving climate resilience and flood mitigation/adaptation, including flood risk; Creating new jobs, boosting skills and improving labour productivity; Building more homes and addressing rising homelessness; Supporting a just transition to net zero; Improving healthy life expectancy and reducing health inequalities, particularly for women.

The deadline for this Call for Evidence is Friday 7 February 2025.

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### 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



### East Midlands Councils

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB