



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

Top items this week

14 FEBRUARY 2025



Government unveils plans
for next generation of new
towns



East Midlands APPG

Gathers Evidence Ahead of
Spending Review



LGA's Impact

Programme—Deadline
this month



**Employment
Law**

WITH DARREN NEWMAN

Employment Law Update
with Darren Newman

GOVERNMENT UNVEILS PLANS FOR NEXT GENERATION OF NEW TOWNS

The Government has unveiled plans for the next generation of new towns across England. Over 100 proposals have been submitted by councils and housebuilders across the UK, each aiming to deliver at least 10,000 homes alongside essential infrastructure such as schools, GP surgeries, and transport links.

While the exact locations have not yet been revealed, the government says most proposals are to extend existing towns or cities, alongside a "smaller number" of new standalone settlements. The New Homes Taskforce will identify specific locations - as well as funding options - by the summer, with a view to construction on the first sites beginning by the time of the next election in 2029.

[READ MORE](#)

EAST MIDLANDS APPG GATHERS EVIDENCE AHEAD OF SPENDING REVIEW

The East Midlands APPG has received over 35 responses to its Call for Evidence from local councils and businesses providing insight to help identify regional priorities ahead of the 2025 Comprehensive Spending Review.

The APPG was keen to hear about the key challenges facing the region including transport improvements, climate resilience, job creation, housing supply, the transition to net zero, and tackling health inequalities—particularly for women.

An oral evidence session will take place in the coming weeks, followed by a report outlining recommendations.

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

Many thanks to everyone who have shown interest in attending EMCs event on the devolution white paper and the Government's planning reform agenda in the East Midlands.

In response to feedback from a number of people who wanted to attend but couldn't make the original date, and given the updated timings for Local Government Reorganisation, we will now hold this event after the local elections.

The event will now take place on **Thursday 5 June 2025** from 10am to 4pm at Devonshire Place, 78 London Rd, Leicester LE2 0RA.

We will follow up with more information and details on how to book shortly.

LGA'S IMPACT PROGRAMME: SECURE GRADUATE TALENT FOR YOUR COUNCIL

There is still time for councils to sign up for the LGA's flagship graduate programme, Impact, to secure fresh talent for the Autumn 2025 intake. The programme offers councils an easy way to recruit high-calibre graduates, enhance diversity, add capacity, and futureproof their workforce against retirement and succession challenges.

With over 8,000 applicants this year, candidates are undergoing a rigorous selection process before being matched with councils to work on key projects. Graduates rotate within their host authority and complete a CMI-accredited Level 7 qualification. Impact provides a valuable pipeline of talent to support councils through transformation and uncertainty.

To take part, councils must complete a brief form by 28 February 2025. For more information, contact impact@local.gov.uk.

EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE WITH DARREN NEWMAN

Darren Newman's employment law updates are always popular, as he tailors the content for our sector and offers pragmatic advice on employment law issues.

This session will focus on key cases and employment law issues, including developments arising from the Employment Rights Bill.

The cost to attend is £70 per delegate for EMC member organisations. We are offering an additional place at half-price for every member place booked.

[BOOK NOW](#)

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PAY BRIEFING

This week EMC hosted a regional pay consultation briefing which was attended by more than 60 senior officers and lead Members from across the region.

This session was described by attendees as informative, providing an opportunity for attendees to meet with the national negotiators to discuss the claims from the joint trade unions and to inform the National Employers' response.

The Employers' Side of the National Joint Committee will meet in March and again in April to consider Councils' feedback and respond to the employees' pay claims.

We will continue to keep you updated as national pay negotiations progress.

[READ MORE](#)

EAST MIDLANDS COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

East Midlands Councils has been working with LGComms to set up a regional network for Communications colleagues in the region.

Following the success of our inaugural event in September, we are pleased to announce that the next session will be held on Monday 17 March at Charnwood Borough Council offices in Loughborough.

This network provides an important forum for sharing issues, best practice, campaigns and challenges within our region.

[BOOK NOW](#)

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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