



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

Top items this week

21 FEBRUARY 2025



“A Railway fit for Britain’s Future”



New Independent Commission



Councillor Development Events



Employment Law Update with Darren Newman

“A RAILWAY FIT FOR BRITAIN’S FUTURE”

DfT is seeking views on new policies to be included in the forthcoming Railways Bill, which will enable the establishment of Great British Railways (GBR). GBR is intended to be ‘a single directing mind’ that will run our rail infrastructure and passenger services in the public interest. The proposed reforms include:

- the establishment of a new passenger watchdog
- reform of fares and online retail of tickets
- a new statutory role for devolved leaders in governing, managing, planning and developing the rail network
- streamlining processes and reducing regulatory burdens to empower GBR to deliver the best service for railway users
- ensuring the private sector continues to play a key role, including a statutory duty for GBR to promote rail freight.

Transport for the East midlands Board (TfEM) will consider the consultation when it meets on 10 March. The closing date for responses is 15 April 2025.

[READ MORE](#)

NEW INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY AND COHESION

British Future is supporting a new, Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion this spring, which seeks to understand the challenges to cohesion in our society and how we can rebuild community connection. The deadline for submissions is Friday 28 March 2025.

[READ MORE](#)

EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE WITH DARREN NEWMAN

EMC’s popular Employment Law Update facilitated by Darren Newman will take place on 5 March 2025. In the session we will look at the latest employment law developments affecting local government. This will include the new duty to prevent sexual harassment, five game changing reforms in the Employment Rights Bill, dismissals following a breakdown in the employment relationship and what happens when an employee objects to a TUPE transfer.

[BOOK NOW](#)

EMC COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT

The Role of the Civic Head - 20th May 2025 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 2025.

[READ MORE](#)

Chairing Skills for Members - 18th June 2025 - 6pm - 8.30pm on-line

This 2.5-hour 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.

Look out for the following learning events too!

[READ MORE](#)

Regional Induction Session for New Councillors

We are planning a regional induction session for new councillors in early July 2025 to help them hit the ground running! The date and further details will follow shortly but the aim is to complement your own council's induction programme by covering a range of national and regional issues as well as further understanding the local ward role.

Save the date on **5th June 10am – 4pm** at Devonshire Place in Leicester, where councillors and officers can meet to hear an update on the latest government policy reforms regarding the devolution framework, national planning policy and housing and to consider the impact for councils and communities. This event will be bookable soon on our website.

LGC AWARDS 2025

Good luck to the following East Midlands authorities who have been shortlisted for LGC Awards:

Digital Impact Award	North Northamptonshire Council - Digital Front Door to Children's Services
Diversity & Inclusion Award	West Northamptonshire Council - Well Northants: Empowering communities and transforming lives
Development Award	Leicester City Council - Workspaces for growth
Environmental Services	Nottingham City Council - Nottingham Clean Champions
Health & Social Care Award	Leicester City Council, Leicestershire CC, Rutland CC with LLR Integrated Care Board and These Hands Academy - Connected Care Programme
Housing Award	Broxtowe BC - Affordable Housing Programme
Innovation Award	North Northamptonshire Council - The Chester House Estate
Large Team of the Year Award	North Northamptonshire Council - Public Health Team
Medium Team of the Year Award	South Kesteven DC - East Midlands Building Consultancy
Public/Private Sector Partnership Award	South Derbyshire DC with Olivo and Chilled Pubs —Redistribution of food in partnership with the private sector
Public/Private Sector Partnership Award	Leicester City Council with Leicestershire Police and Turning Point - A partnership to save lives
Rising Star Award	Melton BC - Jazz Gallocker

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