



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

## Top items this week

28 FEBRUARY 2025



Politics vs Planning East Midlands Roadshow



Breaking Down Barriers: Reconnecting Coventry, Leicester and Nottingham



Councillor Development Events



Employment Law Update with Darren Newman

## POLITICS VS PLANNING EAST MIDLANDS ROADSHOW

East Midlands Councils is participating in the second Cavendish Politics vs Planning roadshow, taking place in Derby on Wednesday 2 April 2025. The event will focus on the Government's commitment to establishing Great British Railways (GBR) in Derby and its impact on the city, the wider region, and the rail industry. Discussions will explore how rail can drive economic growth in the region and align with the new government's ambitions.

EMC's Director of Policy and Infrastructure, Andrew Pritchard, will be attending as a key speaker alongside Will Rogers, Managing Director of East Midlands Railway, and Sarah Spink, Strategic Partnerships Lead at Midlands Connect. The discussion will be chaired by Cavendish's Anna Collins. Find out more and register here:

[READ MORE](#)

## NEW APPRENTICESHIP IN PLANNING – INVITATION TO WEBINAR DISCUSSION

On Thursday 13th March (1.00pm -2.30pm), Nottingham Trent University and Bolsover District Council are jointly hosting an interactive webinar looking at solutions to address recruitment and retention issues in local planning authorities, in the context of challenges facing the East Midlands relating to planning for growth and Net Zero.

This innovative project aims to explore the feasibility of creating a pathway into the planning profession through a Level 4 Apprenticeship in Town and Country Planning creating more opportunities for our young people to access higher skilled and higher paid jobs. Find out more and register here:

[READ MORE](#)

## BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS: RECONNECTING COVENTRY, LEICESTER AND NOTTINGHAM

Midlands Connect have launched their latest report 'Breaking down barriers: Reconnecting Coventry, Leicester and Nottingham' providing fresh insights into reinstating direct rail services, highlighting the benefits, and outlining key stages and next steps.

Rail connectivity between Nottingham, Leicester and Coventry is one of Transport for the East Midlands' eight strategic transport priorities. Passengers travelling from Leicester and Nottingham to Coventry must get off one train and Nuneaton, change platforms and board another, resulting in a slow inconvenient service. Because of this, just 3 per cent of trips between Coventry and Leicester are made by rail, compared to 30 per cent between Coventry and Birmingham.

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## EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE WITH DARREN NEWMAN

East Midlands Councils' popular Employment Law Update facilitated by Darren Newman will take place on Wednesday 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](#)

## REORGANISATION TO END COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

The strategic alliance between High Peak Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council which began in 2008, is likely to end due to local government reorganisation. A Local Government Association peer review in 2022 found the councils' joint working arrangements and shared services had by then created more than £15m of savings. Stoke-on-Trent City Council has proposed merging with Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands to form a North Staffordshire unitary authority, covering a population of around 500,000.

Staffordshire Moorlands leader Mike Gledhill said to the MJ: 'With a population of 95,000 the Moorlands is too small to be a unitary authority, and, unfortunately, we cannot continue our alliance with High Peak as that crosses the devolution boundary into Derbyshire.'

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## 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.

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### 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.

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### *Look out for the following learning events too!*

#### 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 **5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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

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