



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

Top items this week

21 MARCH 2025



Local Government
Reorganisation Proposals
Across the East Midlands



East Midlands Councils
HKBNO
WELCOME HUB

Continued Funding for
Hong Kong BN(O)
Welcome Programme



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to End



EMCCA Mayor to Unveil
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION PROPOSALS ACROSS THE EAST MIDLANDS

Discussions on local government reorganisation continue across the East Midlands, with councils in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Lincolnshire exploring various restructuring models.

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

In Leicestershire, the county council has proposed a single unitary authority for the county, excluding Rutland and Leicester City.

Leicestershire district councils and Rutland County Council propose a three-unitary model, which would see North-West Leicestershire, Charnwood, Melton, and Rutland form one authority, while Blaby, Harborough, Hinckley & Bosworth, Oadby, and Wigston would form another, with Leicester City Council remaining unchanged.

Leicester City Council has proposed expanding its boundaries to incorporate parts of neighbouring districts, with the rest of the county forming a second unitary authority.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

In Nottinghamshire, councils have put forward three potential options.

One would see Nottingham City Council merge with Broxtowe and Gedling, while another proposes a combination of Nottingham City, Broxtowe, and Rushcliffe, with both models creating a second unitary authority for the rest of the county.

The third option would keep Nottingham's current boundaries while establishing a single county-wide unitary authority.

Derby and Derbyshire

Derbyshire County Council has expressed a preference for a single county-wide unitary authority, while Derby City Council and the eight district and borough councils are considering an alternative model that would establish two new unitary authorities, one of which would retain Derby City's existing boundaries.

Greater Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire County Council and North Lincolnshire Council have put forward a two-unitary model. West Lindsey has put forward six models which include the two geographies put forward by LCC and NLC, and a further four models to create two or three unitary councils.

East Lindsey and South Holland have put forward a model to create two unitary councils with a further option to divide East Lindsey along parliamentary boundaries.

The City of Lincoln has proposed a three-unitary model that would see its boundaries expand to include neighbouring wards, while North Kesteven and South Kesteven have suggested a three-unitary structure incorporating Rutland.

CONTINUED FUNDING FOR HONG KONG BN(O) WELCOME PROGRAMME

The government has announced continued funding for the HKBN(O) Welcome Programme for 2025-26, ensuring ongoing support for those settling in the UK. This includes demand-led funding for councils in England to provide English language support and assistance for those facing financial hardship. The programme will also extend its support for mental health and wellbeing services, with Barnardo's continuing to deliver crucial assistance to BN(O) status holders and their dependents. These services aim to help individuals navigate the challenges of resettlement, offering tailored support to improve their overall wellbeing and sense of belonging.

Additionally, funding will continue for Welcome Hubs, which play a key role in helping new arrivals integrate into their communities. The East Midlands Welcome Hub, which is coordinated by East Midlands Councils, continues to work alongside councils and voluntary organisations to provide essential support to hongkongers.

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MIDLANDS ENGINE FUNDING TO END

MHCLG has confirmed that it will proceed with its decision to end funding for pan-regional partnerships, including the Midlands Engine, following a consultation launched in December 2024. As a result of this decision, all government funding for the Midlands Engine will cease on 31st March 2025, and the partnership will begin winding down operations in the coming weeks. The Midlands Engine Partnership Board will meet to finalise the transition arrangements and agree on a formal closure plan for its programmes. EMC will keep members informed of any developments regarding the closure process and the impact on ongoing regional initiatives. It is important to note that the cessation of funding for pan-regional partnerships does not affect Midlands Connect.

EMCCA MAYOR TO UNVEIL INVESTMENT VISION AT UKREIIF

The East Midlands will take centre stage at the UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiIF) in May, where EMCCA Mayor Claire Ward will launch a new vision for EMCCAs economic future. For the first time, the region will unite under the East Midlands Pavilion, providing a platform for investors, developers, and businesses to engage with the Mayor and local investment teams. The event will highlight major commercial opportunities, including the East Midlands Freeport and the East Midlands Investment Zone.

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COMMUNITIES FOR AFGHANS: UPDATES FROM MHCLG

This week, MHCLG provided further updates to the prospectus and supporting information for the 'Communities for Afghans phase 2' with information about how to apply to become a Principal Sponsor for the Communities for Afghans scheme. MHCLG is working with partners to deliver an Afghan sponsorship project, modelled on the existing Community Sponsorship scheme.

MHCLG leads this project in conjunction with Principal Sponsors and ensures the provision of sponsor groups and properties to undergo checks and matching of families to properties.

This is a specific project to support households eligible for the Afghan Resettlement Programme into accommodation as part of the government's commitment to these cohorts.

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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 Ashley Baxter

Executive Director: Stuart Young



East Midlands Councils

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB