



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

Top items this week

4 APRIL 2025



Nottingham City News



National Infrastructure & Transformation Authority



Asylum Dispersal Grant Funding



Upcoming EMC Training

HOMES ENGLAND ANNOUNCED AS BUYER OF THE BROAD MARSH SITE

The regeneration of Nottingham city centre has taken a significant step forward with Homes England acquiring the Broad Marsh site from Nottingham City Council. The government's housing and regeneration agency will take ownership of key areas, including the former shopping centre, a multi-storey car park, Severns House, and a former college site. The next stage of development will focus on de-risking the site through demolition and enabling works. The project will bring forward around 1,000 homes, 20,000 square metres of retail, office, and community spaces, and generate approximately 2,000 full-time jobs.

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NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSFORMATION AUTHORITY

The Government has formally established the National Infrastructure and Transformation Authority (NISTA) on 1st April. NISTA incorporates the former National Infrastructure Commission and Major Projects Authority and is designed to accelerate the delivery of major government projects, including roads, railways, schools and hospitals, by overcoming barriers and providing expertise on private finance, alongside developing and implementing the 10-year infrastructure strategy. The Government has also published the '[Teal Book](#)' - the definitive guide for project delivery in government. To inform the work of NISTA from a regional perspective, the East Midlands Infrastructure Partnership (EMIP) has published '[Building to Grow: An East Midlands Infrastructure Perspective](#)'. EMIP brings together East Midlands Councils and the Institution of Civil Engineers in the East Midlands, as well as other sector specific stakeholders.

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ELECTRIFICATION OF THE MIDLAND MAIN LINE

Leaders from across the East Midlands, along with industry experts, have come together in a new video calling for full electrification of the Midland Main Line. The Midland Main Line is the backbone of the East Midlands and South Yorkshire, yet remains largely unelectrified. After decades of delay, partial commitments, and uncertainty, there is growing consensus across the region that the time for action is now. The video outlines the broad benefits of electrification, from supporting regeneration and creating skilled jobs, to improving air quality and cutting emissions. It also highlights the role electrification plays in making our cities and towns more attractive to investment and helping to deliver long-term economic growth.

The full video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/hRa5ptk>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPRENTICESHIP OF THE YEAR 2025

In this annual event, taking place on 20-21 May, participants from across the country compete in an online challenge day to become the Local Government Apprentice of the Year. Each year all councils in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are encouraged to send one apprentice or more, to take part to make this a truly inspiring celebration of apprenticeship talent.

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OFGEM RESP DECISION

On 2nd April Ofgem confirmed the activities that the National Energy System Operator (NESO) will undertake in a new role as the Regional Energy Strategic Planner. NESO will develop a total of 11 Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs) across each nation and region of Great Britain. NESO will develop regional plans that span across all energy vectors – electricity, gas, and, in the future, hydrogen networks – as part of one integrated energy system.

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ASYLUM DISPERSAL GRANT FUNDING INSTRUCTION PUBLISHED

The Home Office have published the Asylum Dispersal Grant Funding Instruction for 2025/26 which will see an overall increase in funding to local authorities with asylum dispersal accommodation. Although an increase in existing bed spaces funding from £750 to £1200, which would see an increase of up to 45% for Local Authorities with a large established asylum estate and will help to address pressures that result from the ongoing fast tracked asylum process, the reduction in new bed spaces funding from £3500 to £100 per month will result in local authorities new to asylum dispersal seeing a potential 65% reduction in funding. This could impact on Local Authorities ability to assist newly granted refugees in accessing local services including housing, ESOL and benefits/employment.

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EAST MIDLANDS COACHING NETWORK

East Midlands Councils runs a Coaching and Mentoring Network (EMCN) which helps organisations build internal coaching capacity and enable people to access trained and experienced coaches from other local authorities and partner organisations to support performance, improvement, and personal development at very low cost. We are currently offering the following CPD courses which are free to Network Members. Coaches from outside of the Network membership can pay to attend the events, subject to availability.

- **Mental Health in Coaching Practice: 16th May 2025 (virtual)**
- **Coaching Neurodiversity: 1st July 2025 (virtual event)**

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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



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