**EMC POLICY BRIEF**

**A weekly roundup of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by**

**East Midlands Councils**

**16 May 2025**

**Top items this week:**

* New Leadership Teams Announced
* East Midlands Councils—Nomination Process
* Planning Reform & Devolution Event
* EMC Councillor Development Programme

**NEW LEADERSHIP TEAMS ANNOUNCED**

**Derbyshire County Council**

Reform UK councillors in Derbyshire have selected Alan Graves as their group leader on the county council. Graves is one of the region’s most experienced Reform UK figures, having served on Derby City Council since 1995. Rob Reaney has been chosen as deputy leader. While the group confirmed Graves’ appointment at a party meeting, his formal position as council leader will be decided at the full council meeting on 21 May.

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/news-events/news-updates/news/leaders-for-derbyshire-county-councils-new-administration-announced.aspx>

**Nottinghamshire County Council**

Councillor Mick Barton has been elected leader of the new Reform UK group on Nottinghamshire County Council. Barton brings over 20 years of experience from Mansfield District Council, having first been elected in 2003. He will be supported by Dr John Doddy as deputy leader. Both appointments will be formally confirmed at the full council meeting on 22 May.

**Leicestershire County Council**

A new leadership team has taken office at Leicestershire County Council, with Councillor Dan Harrison confirmed as leader and Councillor Joseph Boam as deputy leader at the annual general council meeting. The full cabinet, including portfolio holders and responsibilities, has also been announced and is available on the council’s website, here:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/new-cabinet-appointed#:~:text=Councillor%20Dan%20Harrison%20was%20confirmed,Councillor%20Helen%20Butler%20-%20resources>

**Lincolnshire County Council**

Reform UK councillors on Lincolnshire County Council have elected Sean Matthews, councillor for Tattershall Castle, as their group leader. He will be joined by Rob Gibson, councillor for Spalding East, as deputy leader. Further appointments, including members of the executive and chairing positions, are being finalised and will be put forward for agreement at the council’s annual meeting on 23 May.

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/article/2336/cllr-sean-matthews-elected-as-reform-uk-group-leader-on-lincolnshire-county-council>

**North Northamptonshire Council**

Martin Griffiths, former Conservative leader of Wellingborough Council, has been appointed as the leader of Reform UK in North Northamptonshire. His appointment as leader of the council will be confirmed at the full council meeting on 22 May. He will be supported by deputy leader Eddie McDonald, a former Northamptonshire Police officer with 30 years of service.

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news/political-group-leaders-announced-north-northamptonshire-council>

**West Northamptonshire Council**

Mark Arnull has been named the new leader of Reform UK on West Northamptonshire Council and was appointed as council leader at a full council meeting yesterday. James Petter has been confirmed as his deputy.

 <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/news/west-northamptonshire-council-welcomes-new-leader-and-cabinet-it-embarks-next-chapter>

**EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS—NOMINATION PROCESS**

EMC has now started the process of inviting nominations for membership.

Local Authority members are allocated one place on EMC, to each local authority in membership, which is usually the Leader of the Council unless otherwise specified.

In addition to this, there are a further 40 places which are allocated based on the political balance of the region.

For further information on this please contact **lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk**.

**PLANNING REFORM & DEVOLUTION (AKA “THE PERFECT STORM”)**

EMC is holding an all-day free event on 5 June 2025 from 10am-4pm 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.

The event will be in-person and will be held at Devonshire Place, 78 London Road, Leicester, LE2 0RA.

We have secured a great line up of speakers so don’t miss out on your chance to attend this informative day. For a copy of the programme and to book a place please visit our website:

<https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/events/planning-reform/>

**EMC COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

Upcoming Cllr Development opportunities:

**The Role of the Civic Head**

Tuesday 20 May 2025 | 10am—3pm

<https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/events/the-role-of-the-civic-head-589/>

**Chairing Skills for Councillors**

Wednesday 18 June 2025 | 6pm—8.30pm

<https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/events/chairing-skills-for-members-337/>

**Hitting the Ground Running—Workshop for newly elected councillors**

Friday 11 July 2025 | 2pm—4.30pm—Lunch served from 12:30pm

<https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/events/hitting-the-ground-running-a-workshop-for-newly-elected-councillors/>

**IMMIGRATION WHITE PAPER LAUNCHED**

This week the Prime Minister launched the immigration White Paper setting out new immigration rules to reduce reliance on overseas recruitment.

The new system will end automatic settlement and citizenship for anyone living here for five years. Instead, individuals must spend a decade in the UK before applying to stay.

The Prime Minister also announced updates on raising the skilled worker threshold, education, adult social care and reforms to the deportation system.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-unveils-new-plan-to-end-years-of-uncontrolled-migration>

**ENDS.**