

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

Top items this week

16 MAY 2025



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.

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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:

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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.

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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.

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West Northamptonshire Council

Mark Arnall 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.

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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:

[BOOK NOW](#)

EMC COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Upcoming Cllr Development opportunities:

The Role of the Civic Head

Tuesday 20 May 2025 | 10am—3pm

[BOOK NOW](#)

Chairing Skills for Councillors

Wednesday 18 June 2025 | 6pm—8.30pm

[BOOK NOW](#)

Hitting the Ground Running—Workshop for newly elected councillors

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

[BOOK NOW](#)

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.

[READ MORE](#)

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

Independent Group: Cllr Ashley Baxter

Executive Director: Stuart Young



East Midlands Councils

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB