

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

Top items this week

9 MAY 2025



Cllr Martin Hill steps down



East Midlands Councils—
Nomination Process



Positive Commissioner's
Report



Planning Reform &
Devolution Event

WELCOME TO COUNCILLORS

East Midlands Councils would like to offer its congratulations to all new and returning councillors, wishing you all the very best in your roles. We look forward to continuing to work with all councils, with both councillors and officers, in meeting our agreed priorities and in delivering our sector-led support programmes.

A number of county council and the two unitary councils in Northamptonshire are still to confirm their new political leadership with AGMs scheduled to be held over the next week or two.

It can be confirmed, however, that the new leader and deputy leader of Lincolnshire County Council are Cllrs Sean Matthews and Rob Gibson respectively.

ELECTORAL BALANCE UPDATE

The Reform Party has majority control at Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils, and North and West Northants unitary councils. Reform is the largest group at Leicestershire County Council. Therefore, 6 out of 10 upper-tier councils in the East Midlands will be Reform-led.

In terms of political balance, Reform are now the largest political group in the East Midlands with 30%, with both Labour and Conservative at or around 25%, the Lib Dems 8% and Independent/Others with 11%.

Dame Andrea Jenkins, the Reform candidate, won the mayoral election for the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority.

EMC CHANGES

Cllr Martin Hill has stood down from his role as EMC Chair. He led the organisation for 11 years and all at EMC would like to place on record our sincere thanks for his leadership and support throughout this time, and to wish him the very best for the future.

We would also like to place on record thanks to other EMC Board members that have stood down or are no longer councillors; Patricia Bradwell, Lee Breckon, Adam Brown, Joan Dixon, Ian Fleetwood, Kate Foale, Richard Jackson, Barry Lewis, Louise Richardson, Francis Purdue-Horan, Sam Smith, Jason Smithers, Deborah Taylor, Tracey Taylor.

EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS—NOMINATION PROCESS

EMC will shortly be 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](#)

LATEST COMMISSIONERS' REPORT HIGHLIGHTS POSITIVE PROGRESS AT COUNCIL

Commissioners working with Nottingham City Council have highlighted 'much positive progress' in developing plans for improvement and 'a clear direction on instituting reforms'.

The comments came in the Commissioner's second report since being appointed by the Government to oversee improvements at the authority in February 2024.

In a letter about the report to the Council's Leader, Cllr Neghat Khan, the Government's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government, Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, said: "I am pleased that the leadership team at Nottingham, while still relatively new, are working closely with the Commissioner team to move the Council towards a more sustainable position and improve its service delivery and financial stability."

[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



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