**EMC POLICY BRIEF**

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

**East Midlands Councils**

**20 June 2025**

**Top Items this week:**

* **10-Year Infrastructure Strategy unveiled**
* **Over 500,000 homes to be built through new National Housing Bank**
* **Midland Main Line Overhead Line Upgrade Completed**
* **EMC Coaching and Mentoring Network**

**10-year infrastructure strategy unveiled**

The government has this week published its 10-Year Infrastructure Strategy, outlining how it will invest in and manage the delivery of infrastructure projects across the UK. The strategy includes a focus on improving the condition of public buildings, including schools, hospitals, and courts.

At least £725 billion will be allocated over the next decade, including £9 billion set aside for 2025–26 to address urgent maintenance needs of health, education, and justice estates. This annual allocation is expected to rise to over £10 billion by 2034–35.

The strategy adopts recommendations from the James Stewart Review of HS2 and aims to improve planning, delivery, and investment processes across infrastructure projects. It is intended to offer long-term certainty for investors and streamline public sector delivery.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/decade-long-infrastructure-strategy-to-deliver-stability-investment-and-national-renewal>

**Over 500,000 homes to be built through new National Housing Bank**

This week the government has announced the creation of a National Housing Bank, a publicly owned subsidiary of Homes England. The new body will have £16 billion in financial capacity, in addition to £6 billion already allocated this Parliament, and is intended to support the delivery of over 500,000 new homes across the UK.

The bank will have powers to issue government guarantees and will operate with increased flexibility to make long-term investments in housing and infrastructure. The aim is to leverage an estimated £53 billion in private sector investment, with a focus on increasing housing supply.

The National Housing Bank will also introduce new lending products for small and medium-sized developers and support the delivery of complex housing sites through infrastructure financing.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-500000-homes-to-be-built-through-new-national-housing-bank>

**Midland Main Line Overhead Line Upgrade Completed**

Network Rail has completed an £84 million project to upgrade overhead line equipment (OLE) on the Midland Main Line between London St Pancras and Bedford. The OLE125 Compatibility scheme, which ran from September 2023 to June 2024, was delivered on time and under budget.

Electrification of the next stage of the line, from Kettering to Wigston was also completed on time and under budget earlier this year. The project replaced outdated infrastructure installed in the 1980s, which had limited the performance of new bi-mode trains. The upgraded equipment now enables these trains to run more efficiently, improving reliability and performance on the route and reducing diesel use. Further work is still required to fully upgrade the Midland Main Line, which remains a TfEM priority where sections north of Wigston leading on to Leicester, Derby, Nottingham, Chesterfield and Sheffield remain unelectrified, with funding decisions pending.

<https://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/news/gbp-84m-project-delivering-overhead-line-improvements-completed-on-time-and-under-budget>

**HS2 Delayed Beyond 2033 Target**

The government has confirmed that the opening of HS2 will be delayed beyond the previously stated target of 2033. No new timeline has been provided for when the high-speed rail line will begin operating. The Transport Secretary cited cost overruns and project mismanagement as contributing factors, with costs rising by £37 billion since the project was approved in 2012. A further update on costs and timescales is expected before the end of the year.

**EMR launches digital ticketing trial to simplify rail travel**

More than 200 passengers have already signed up for East Midlands Railway’s new digital

ticketing trial, set to launch in September between Leicester, Derby and Nottingham.

The trial, backed by Department for Transport funding, will use GPS technology to track journeys

and automatically charge the best-value fare, removing the need to pre-purchase tickets.

It is the first pilot of its kind in the Midlands and North aimed at simplifying rail travel.

**HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING—WORKSHOP FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLORS**

Friday 11 July 2025 | 2pm—4.30pm

Our Hitting the Ground Running Workshop on 11th July is provided specifically for newly elected councillors. The purpose of this introductory session is to highlight the role of the modern councillor, in particular, how you can be effective in your community leadership/ward councillor role and work most effectively with council officers.

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

**EMC COACHING & MENTORING NEWORK CPD EVENTS**

To develop coaching skills across the region, our 2-hour virtual coaching CPD events are

available.

**Coaching Tools – 7th August 2025 & 30th Sept 2025**

Participants at these CPD sessions will benefit from guidance and advice from Sandra Whiles, author of The Coaching Tools Compendium, providing encouragement and support for coaching journeys.

**Coaching through Uncertainty and Change – 10th Sept 2025**

For the public sector, change has always been a fact of organisational life. The pace of change has however, increased significantly and is alongside a turbulent external environment. A term often used to describe this external environment is VUCA – Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous.

<https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/event-category/coaching/>