

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

Top items this week



SPENDING REVIEW 2025



ROLLS ROYCE WIN BID TO BUILD SMALL NUCLEAR REACTORS



EMC COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



SPENDING REVIEW 2025

This week, Chancellor Rachel Reeves has outlined the results of the 2025 spending review. setting out departmental budgets and long-term capital investment plans through to 2029.

Asylum and border security

Funding for border security will rise by up to £280 million a year by the end of the review period, supporting the creation of a new Border Security Command. The Chancellor reaffirmed the Government's ambition to end the use of hotels for asylum accommodation by 2029.

These measures are projected to save £1 billion a year, but overall, the Home Office will see a 1.4% real-terms cut in its budget by 2029.

Housing

A headline £39 billion has been committed to social and affordable housing over the next decade - described as the largest cash injection in 50 years. A further £10 billion will be delivered through Homes England to unlock the development of hundreds of thousands of new homes, though regional allocations remain unspecified.

Transport

While the transport package includes significant capital investment, most new funding is focused on the West Midlands, North of England and London.

Notable allocations include £15.6 billion for city region transport through to 2031-32, including the £2 billion for EMCCA. The £3 bus fare cap has been extended until March 2027, and £750 million a year will support bus services nationwide. There have been no announcements of any major road or rail schemes for the East Midlands.

Local Government

Local authority core spending power is set to increase by 3% per year in real terms through to 2028/29, although spending power will remain 2.7% lower than in 2010/11 – and 15.9% lower when accounting for population growth. Several new funding pots were announced, including a £240 million Growth Mission Fund and support for 350 communities. READ MORE

Energy

Rolls-Royce SMR has been selected as the preferred bidder to partner with Great British Energy – Nuclear to develop small modular reactors. As part of the Industrial Strategy, the government is pledging over £2.5 billion for the small modular reactor programme which will potentially support up to 3,000 new skilled jobs and powering the equivalent of around 3 million homes with clean, secure homegrown energy. Funding has also been received to progress a mass transit system between Derby and Nottingham for nuclear fusion, which includes the STEP programme in Nottinghamshire. READ MORE

LOCAL TRANSPORT GRANT (LTG) CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS: 2026/27 to 2029/30

Spending Review 2025 confirmed a £2.3 billion investment in local transport through the Local Transport Grant (LTG). READ MORE

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Reform UK has won two seats on Nottinghamshire County Council in a rescheduled election. Voting in the Mansfield North division was originally due to take place along with all other council seats in early May but was postponed after the death of Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition candidate Karen Seymour. The area's two council seats were previously held by the Conservatives and Labour respectively.

The election results for the Higham Ferrers Ward in North Northamptonshire Council have been announced, following the postponed election originally to be held on 1 May 2025. Jennie Bone, Conservative Party and Mark Haddon, Reform will now represent the ward.

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. **BOOK NOW**

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. BOOK NOW

EMC Leadership

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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