

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

## Top items this week

06 JUNE 2025



Planning Reform,  
Devolution and LGR



Local Government  
Reorganisation  
Contributions Announced



Remote Attendance and  
Proxy Voting



EMC Councillor  
Development Programme

## PLANNING REFORM, DEVOLUTION AND LGR

Yesterday, we were joined by over 120 delegates, including local government leaders, policy experts and planning professionals to explore the overlapping impacts of devolution, local government reorganisation (LGR) and planning reform aka 'The perfect storm'!

In the morning we heard from expert voices across the sector on the emerging LGR proposals, the experience of colleagues in North Northamptonshire and the ongoing experiences from authorities in the region.

In the afternoon we discussed the impact of the Government's planning reform agenda along with the practicalities of implementing change, including the legal and environmental implications.

Special thanks to our Chair Cllr Tricia Gilby and our expert speakers for their insights and challenge. Thanks also to all of the delegates who contributed to a timely and important discussion. We look forward to continuing these conversations and supporting our members in these areas over the coming months and years.

The slides from yesterday's event can be found here:

[READ MORE](#)

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION CONTRIBUTIONS ANNOUNCED

This week, a written Ministerial Statement by Jim McMahon MP set out how Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Proposal Development Contributions would be allocated, the amount that each area would receive, and the method for that payment, across the 21 LGR areas.

In the East Midlands, the contributions will be as follows:

- Derbyshire and Derby: £350,582
- Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland: £365,888
- Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire: £357,246
- Nottinghamshire and Nottingham: £369,754

Each area will receive a flat rate of £135,000, plus an additional 20p per person based on the latest ONS population estimates. Areas must agree on up to three councils to receive an equal share of the funding for the area.

The MHCLG Minister of State also confirmed that each area has now received feedback on their interim plans, a summary of which can be found here:

[READ MORE](#)

## CITY-REGION LOCAL TRANSPORT FUNDING ANNOUNCED

This week, the government announced £15.6 billion of government funding for local transport projects in England's city regions.

Within the announcement, EMCCA is set to benefit from £2.0 billion from 2027/28 to 2031/32 to design a new mass transit system to connect Derby and Nottingham, encompassing road, rail and bus improvements across the Trent Arc corridor.

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## REMOTE ATTENDANCE AND PROXY VOTING

This week, MHCLG published the government response to the consultation on remote attendance and proxy voting. The response sets out their analysis of consultation responses and outlines the government's plans to enable remote attendance and proxy voting for councils.

Allowing remote attendance at meetings will give councils the freedom to operate more efficiently and make elected roles more accessible for more people. Introducing proxy voting will support council decision-making when councillors are away because of serious or long-term illness or becoming a new parent.

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## HELP IMPROVE HOW GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS DECISION-MAKING IN COUNCILS

MHCLG is exploring how to better support councils to use data effectively for decision making and driving service improvements across communities.

The department is carrying out research with councils to understand how data is currently used for strategic planning, decision-making, prioritisation and measuring progress.

The researchers are keen to speak to council heads of service or those with strategic oversight in one or more service areas.

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## PENSIONS SCHEME BILL

This week, the government introduced a new Pension Schemes Bill to help people plan their retirement and get more from their pension pots.

The Bill is designed to support working people plan for their retirement by making pensions simpler to understand, easier to manage, and drive better value over the long term.

It introduces a new system to show how well pension schemes are performing. For those approaching retirement, the Bill will require schemes to offer clear default options for turning savings into a retirement income. This means people will have clearer, more secure routes to decide how they use their pension money over time. The measures include consolidating the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), with assets to be held in six pools that can invest in local areas infrastructure, housing and clean energy.

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## EMC COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

### Chairing Skills for Councillors

Wednesday 18 June 2025 | 6pm—8.30pm

This 2.5-hour session has been developed for Councillors in the East Midlands, who are interested in developing their chairing skills in face to face, virtual and hybrid settings. It is suitable for both chairs and vice chairs.

[BOOK NOW](#)

### 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 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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