



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

Top items this week

11 JULY 2025



Funding confirmed for key
East Midlands road
schemes



EMC welcomes new Chair
Cllr Sean Matthews



Update on National Pay
Negotiations



Have your say: Upcoming
Government
Consultations

EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The EMC Annual General Meeting took place today at Newark & Sherwood District Council offices. Councillors from across the region gathered to discuss key regional priorities and updates. The meeting welcomed existing and newly elected councillors and we are delighted to announce the new Chair of EMC, **Cllr Sean Matthews**, Leader, Lincolnshire County Council.

The following appointments were also confirmed:

- **Vice-Chair:** Cllr Elly Cutkelvin
- **Vice-Chair:** Cllr Trish Gilby
- **Conservative Group Leader:** Cllr Phil King
- **Labour Group Leader:** Cllr Jewel Miah
- **Independent Group Leader:** Cllr Ashley Baxter
- **Lib Dem Group Leader:** Cllr Gale Waller
- **Reform UK Group Leader:** Cllr Martin Griffiths

MIDLAND MAIN LINE ELECTRIFICATION 'PAUSED'

East Midlands Councils and Transport for the East Midlands have expressed dismay at the Government's decision to indefinitely pause the next phase of Midland Main Line electrification — the latest in a long history of delays and cancellations over the past 45 years.

The announcement comes almost exactly 10 years after a previous Conservative Government also decided to 'pause' the scheme. The Department for Transport has confirmed that 'investment will instead be focused on other schemes during this Spending Review period'. As a result, there will be no further enhancements to the region's railway before the next General Election. EMC and TfEM continue to urge the Government to set out a clear, funded timetable for the project and to work with the region to deliver the modern, sustainable rail infrastructure it needs.

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FUNDING CONFIRMED FOR KEY EAST MIDLANDS ROAD SCHEMES

EMC and TfEM have welcomed the Government's announcement of funding for the A46 Newark bypass and A38 Derby Junctions through the Road Investment Strategy (RIS), two longstanding regional priorities. Both schemes were highlighted in TfEM's Comprehensive Spending Review submission and are expected to improve journey times, support housing and economic growth, and ease congestion on key routes. The A46 Newark scheme will upgrade the remaining single-carriageway section to dual carriageway and the A38 Derby Junctions scheme will improve three junctions around Derby.

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UPDATE ON NATIONAL PAY NEGOTIATIONS

The trade unions representing staff on NJC Local Government Services (the “Green Book”) terms formally rejected the National Employers’ full and final pay offer last Friday, requesting an improved offer and a response by the end of this week. After considering the unions’ position, the National Employers have unanimously confirmed this morning that the pay offer made on 22 April remains their full and final position. EMC will continue to keep members updated on the latest developments with pay negotiations.

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EAST MIDLANDS SUCCESS AT THE LGC AWARDS

On 11 June, over 1,400 local authority professionals attended the 29th Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards at Grosvenor House, London, celebrating excellence and innovation in local government. The event recognises the achievements of officers and politicians, with entries rigorously judged by senior peers from across the sector. This year saw regional success, with **South Derbyshire District Council** winning the Public/Private Partnership award for their work with Olio to safely collect and redistribute food. **Leicester City Council**, alongside Leicestershire Police and Turning Point, won the Public/Public Partnership award for their collaborative project focused on saving lives.

HAVE YOUR SAY: UPCOMING GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS

Several important government consultations are now open, giving councils and communities the chance to shape national policy on key issues.

Flood and Coastal Erosion Funding Reform

This consultation seeks feedback on a simpler and more strategic funding approach to flood and coastal erosion resilience projects. It includes proposals for prioritising investments and invites evidence on alternative funding sources and the role of devolution in managing flood risks.

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The Fair Funding Review 2.0

Views are invited on how to determine funding allocations for councils, with proposals covering local needs, resources, business rates retention, transitional arrangements, and devolution. It also explores ways to reduce administrative burdens and empower local delivery.

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Improving Biodiversity Net Gain for Minor, Medium and Brownfield Development

This consultation looks at improving how biodiversity net gain (BNG) is applied to smaller and brownfield sites, including potential exemptions, simplifying metrics, and supporting off-site options to meet BNG requirements.

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Community Benefits and Shared Ownership for Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure

The government is seeking views on how to ensure communities benefit from hosting low carbon energy infrastructure like wind and solar, supporting the transition to net zero and greater energy security.

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EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Sean Matthews
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Conservative Group: Cllr Phil King
Labour Group: Cllr Jewel Miah
Independent Group: Cllr Ashley Baxter
Lib Dem Group: Cllr Gale Waller
Reform UK Group: Cllr Martin Griffiths
Executive Director: Stuart Young



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