

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

Top items this week

25 JULY 2025



Agreement reached on
National Pay
Negotiations



East Midlands Leaders
Challenge Rail
Electrification Pause



Leadership & management
development to support
transformation and LGR



EMC Cllr Development:
Cyber Security—Staying
safe online

AGREEMENT REACHED ON NATIONAL PAY NEGOTIATIONS

Agreement has been reached on the 2025 national pay award for Local Government Services, Chief Officers and Chief Executives. From 1 April 2025, basic salaries and allowances will increase by 3.2% across all three groups.

The Local Government Services agreement also includes the removal of pay point 2 from 1 April 2026.

Employers are advised to implement the awards as soon as possible. Further details, including guidance on backpay for former employees, are available via the circulars on our website:

Local Government Services

[READ MORE](#)

Chief Officers

[READ MORE](#)

Chief Executives

[READ MORE](#)

EMC WELCOMES NEW CHAIR

East Midlands Councils colleagues were pleased to welcome our new Chair, Cllr Sean Matthews, to our offices in Melton Mowbray yesterday. During his visit, Cllr Matthews met with the EMC Leadership Team to discuss our upcoming programme of work and strategic priorities for 2025–26. He also spent time with staff, learning more about the breadth and impact of our work across the region.

We look forward to working closely with Cllr Matthews over the coming year as we continue to support local authorities and represent the interests of the East Midlands.

EAST MIDLANDS LEADERS CHALLENGE RAIL ELECTRIFICATION PAUSE

Following agreement at the East Midlands Councils AGM, EMC Chair and Vice-Chair, and the Chair of Transport for the East Midlands have written to the Secretary of State for Transport to express their strong opposition to the indefinite ‘pausing’ of Midland Main Line electrification.

The letter highlights that, despite consistent underinvestment (just 58% of the UK average per head) the East Midlands has delivered recent electrification works on time and on budget.

In contrast, projects elsewhere with higher costs continue to be funded. Leaders warn of risks to local rail jobs, wasted public money on preparatory works, and an ongoing reliance on outdated diesel trains.

They have asked the Government to set out its long-term vision for rail in the East Midlands, stressing that further delay will only deepen regional inequalities.

[READ MORE](#)

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT TRANSFORMATION & LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

In response to the evolving challenges facing local authorities, East Midlands Councils offers a suite of accredited leadership, management, coaching, and mentoring programmes tailored to the current and future needs of the sector. Designed to be high-quality, relevant, and cost-effective, these programmes are delivered locally across councils, with EMC coordinating to maximise collaboration and achieve value for money through cohort-based delivery.

Our accredited training provider, Challenge Consulting and Training provide support throughout the learning journey, in addition to the delivery days, and have been awarded direct claim status from ILM for levels 2 – 7 due to their consistently high standards over several years in design, delivery and assessment. Their delegate pass rate of 96% is testament to the quality and supported development they provide. Our other training delivery partners are also experts in their field and consistently receive positive feedback from our delegates.

Supporting Leadership and Management Development

- ILM 3 Award in Leadership and Management
- ILM5 Award in Leadership and Management
- ILM5 Certificate in Leadership and Management
- ILM7 In Strategic Leadership and Management
- Leading through Transformation and Change
- Managing Change
- Collaborative Working

Coaching and Mentoring Development

- ILM3 Award in Effective Coaching
- ILM5 Certificate in Effective Coaching and Mentoring
- ILM7 in Strategic Coaching and Mentoring
- Coaching Fundamentals
- Mentoring Fundamentals

Workplace Mediation Skills

[READ MORE](#)

EMC COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

CYBER SECURITY – STAY SAFE ONLINE!

East Midlands Councils, working collaboratively with the East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU), is hosting a free webinar for Councillors on cyber security. This one-hour session has been developed for Councillors in the East Midlands to provide practical advice and information to help keep you safe online. Previous attendees have rated this briefing as informative and excellent, not only in raising their own awareness but in the practical advice and guidance they can use to signpost in their communities too. There are two upcoming dates available for this online training - Thursday 31 July from 1pm - 2pm or Tuesday 16 September from 7pm - 8pm.

[BOOK NOW](#)

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Sean Matthews
Vice Chair: Cllr Elly Cutkelvin
Vice Chair: Cllr Tricia Gilby
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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