



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

Top items this week

1 AUGUST 2025

GROWTH, PRODUCTIVITY & INVESTMENT IN THE EAST MIDLANDS



Population:	5 million	Bigger than Wales + NI
Businesses:	358,000	6.5% of the UK total
GDP (2022):	£197bn	5.8% of the UK total
Employment Rate:	74.3%	UK = 75.2%
Median weekly earnings:	£884	UK = £728
Manufacturing jobs:	10.6%	UK = 7.0%
Unemployment:	5%	UK = 4.7%

The East Midlands' £10.8
billion funding deficit



East Midlands has seen
the fastest Population
Growth

Local Government Reorganisation



East
Midlands

Update on Local
Government
Reorganisation



Government unveils new
company to help deliver
housing

THE EAST MIDLANDS' £10.8 BILLION FUNDING DEFICIT

New analysis reveals a £10.8 billion shortfall in public investment for the East Midlands over the last five years. Despite strong population growth and a resilient economy, the East Midlands consistently receives the lowest levels of per-head public funding of any UK region or nation, particularly in key areas like transport and economic development.

Transport spending in the East Midlands has now fallen to just 54% of the UK average. Rail investment stands at just over 40% of the England average - a gap worth billions in lost funding. The data, drawn from ONS and Treasury sources (PESA 2025), shows this underinvestment is not new. If funded at the UK average, the region would have received £10.8bn more since 2019.

Cllr **Sean Matthews, Chair of EMC**, said: *"These figures lay bare the extent to which the East Midlands has been taken for granted by Governments of all colours over the last 20 years.*

"The disparities in transport and rail spending are truly shocking. Ministers and Government funded transport bodies must do much more to close the investment gap in the East Midlands if we are going to generate the economic growth the country needs."

Read the full report on our website here:

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FASTEST POPULATION GROWTH IN ENGLAND AND WALES

EMC's Director of Policy and Infrastructure, Andrew Pritchard, spoke to BBC East Midlands Today yesterday following the release of new population estimates from the Office for National Statistics, which show the East Midlands has seen the fastest population growth of any region in England and Wales over the last decade.

The region's population rose by 9.1% between 2014 and 2024, an increase of more than 400,000 residents, taking the total to over 5 million.

The growth has been fuelled by a combination of international migration, people moving from other parts of the UK, and natural change.

Andrew said: *"The East Midlands has been growing above the UK average for some time. We're an attractive place for people to live, with a generally buoyant economy.*

"What stands out to us however is the mismatch between population and economic growth, and the levels of public investment in the region. Many authorities are now having to manage significant population and economic growth without the infrastructure investment to match – especially in transport."

More information can be found in this BBC News article:

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UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

On 24 July, the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon OBE MP, wrote to Leaders of the councils in the 21 areas invited to submit proposals for unitary local government.

The letter included the document 'Summary of the local government reorganisation process', which provides further information on the reorganisation process and expected timelines.

As no authorities in the East Midlands are on the Devolution Priority Programme, the timeline for our region remains the same, with final proposals submitted at the end of November, and a consultation period in the new year - prior to the local elections in May.

Following this, decisions on which proposal to implement could be announced before the summer recess. Secondary legislation would then be prepared, to be laid in the House after the summer recess. The legislation could then be made, subject to Parliamentary approval. This would allow for elections to the new unitary authorities on 6 May 2027. The new authorities would then go live on 1 April 2028.

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GOVERNMENT UNVEILS NEW COMPANY TO HELP DELIVER HOUSING

On Wednesday (30 July), the government unveiled a new company, Platform4, to start work on the delivery of up to 40,000 new homes over the coming decade by transforming surplus rail land. Previously, London and Continental Railways Ltd and Network Rail's Property Team operated independently, each managing different aspects of surplus rail land across the UK.

Now, Platform4 will bring these two functions together in a unified structure to deliver 40,000 homes over the coming decade by disposing of surplus rail land, attracting private investment and accelerating community regeneration.

The company will tackle the challenges associated with building on railway land and will form partnerships with other public sector landowners to make the land more attractive to private developers.

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EMC HR BULLETIN

EMC has published its latest HR Bulletin. This month's edition includes:

- Local Government Recruitment Campaign update
- Leadership & Management Development Support
- Darren Newman's Employment Update focuses on contract variations
- National Pay Negotiations Update

The bulletin can be found on our website here:

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