



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

Top items this week

26 SEPTEMBER 2025



Pride in Place Programme:
East Midlands Areas
Announced



**PM reaffirms Midland
Mainline Electrification
beyond Wigston**



**Common Ground Award
Funding**



**Real lessons from Local
Government
Reorganisation**

PRIDE IN PLACE PROGRAMME: EAST MIDLANDS AREAS ANNOUNCED

The government has launched the Pride in Place Programme (PiPP), a UK-wide 10-year investment scheme for disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Each selected area will receive up to £20 million over the next decade to help build stronger and more resilient communities.

In the East Midlands, Phase 1 includes Nottingham, Ashfield, Mansfield, Leicester, Boston and Derby. Phase 2 extends support to disadvantaged neighbourhoods, including:

- Leicester: Eyres Monsell, Braunstone Park West, Thurnby Lodge
- North Northamptonshire: Corby Kingswood, Queensway, Kettering Avondale Grange
- Nottingham: Broxtowe & Cinderhill; St Ann's East
- Lincoln: Birchwood West
- Erewash: Cotmanhay
- East Lindsey: Mablethorpe
- West Lindsey: Gainsborough West
- North East Derbyshire: Grassmoor & Holmewood
- Derby: Chaddesden West

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PM REAFFIRMS MIDLAND MAINLINE ELECTRIFICATION BEYOND WIGSTON

The Prime Minister has confirmed the government's intention to electrify the Midland Mainline north of South Wigston in Leicestershire, despite putting the project on hold in July.

According to the BBC Starmer said "we do have plans" to electrify the Midland Mainline north of South Wigston in Leicestershire.

The prime minister acknowledged the line was "hugely important" and "we need to get on with it as quickly as possible". "We've got to get it right," he added. "We've got to get the timing right, but we're committed to doing it."

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COMMON GROUND AWARD FUNDING

MHCLG launched a Common Ground Award for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations that are bringing people together from different backgrounds.

The grant is open to applications from VCSE organisations with a base and operating in England, with charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes. Up to £1.7 million capital funding is available in 2025 and 2026 and will be distributed in payments of up to £10,000 per successful applicant. Applications must state the level of funding required and confirm that it can be committed for spending by 31 March 2026. The fund opens on 14 October and the deadline to submit an application is 21 November. Funding will be awarded in January 2026.

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REAL LESSONS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

We're partnering with Opus People Solutions Ltd, Local Government East and West Midlands Employers on an event exploring the practicalities of Local Government Reorganisation. As proposals are submitted and the next wave of Local Government Reorganisation gathers momentum, the spotlight shifts from debating structures to the critical challenge of delivery. This event will take place on Thursday 9 October from 9am in Northamptonshire and will bring together senior leaders and managers from West Northamptonshire Council who will share their first-hand experience of leading through reorganisation.

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MANAGING CHANGE – TRAINING FOR MIDDLE MANAGERS

East Midlands Councils is running a Managing Change training course to support managers in embedding change effectively alongside business as usual.

Aimed at middle managers, the course will explore the challenges of managing strategic change, barriers to embedding change, and how to bring people with you through the process.

This will be delivered as two half day workshops and both must be attended. The first workshop is on 28th October 2025 from 10am – 1pm delivered virtually and will focus on the underpinning knowledge needed to manage change. The second workshop will be face to face on 12th November 2025 from 10am – 1pm with lunch at PERA Business Park in Melton Mowbray and will focus on the practical applications of managing change effectively. It will be facilitated by Dr Suzanne Ross, founder of 2thrive, who brings over 20 years' experience in leadership and organisational development.

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EMC 2025 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

EMC is keen to hear from its membership to help inform our upcoming Programme of events, services and support. Feedback from both Councillors and Officers is key to ensuring that our work is tailored to the priorities of the sector and brings value to our membership.

This survey should take no more than five minutes to complete, and the feedback will help inform the scope of our services and wider support provided to our membership over the coming year.

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LGA SUSTAINABILITY MASTERCLASS FOR COUNCILLORS

The LGA are running Sustainability Masterclasses for Councillors in October and January.

Sign up for the online Councillor Sustainability masterclass on 15 and 16 October or 20 and 21 January. You will learn how to take meaningful action and become carbon literacy accredited, with plenty of opportunities for collaboration, discussion, and support.

[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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