



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

Top items this week

3 OCTOBER 2025



**£500m Newark Bypass
upgrade gets green light**



**The East Midlands
Challenge is back in April
2026!**



**Real lessons from Local
Government
Reorganisation**



**EMC 2025 MEMBERSHIP
SURVEY**

£500M NEWARK BYPASS UPGRADE GETS GREEN LIGHT

The A46 Newark Bypass application has been granted development consent by the Secretary of State for Transport. The move grants National Highways planning permission to move forward with work that will tackle congestion on the congested corridor. The work will involve widening 6.5km of the existing single carriageway to a dual carriageway, to provide two lanes in each direction between Farndon and Winthorpe roundabouts near Newark-on-Trent.

However, while the consent order has been granted by the SoS, the scheme is still subject to Government funding considerations, and there is no clear timescale for delivery.

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THE EAST MIDLANDS CHALLENGE IS BACK ON 29 APRIL 2026!

Back by popular demand, we are delighted to announce that East Midlands Councils will host the East Midlands Challenge event on 29 April 2026.

The Challenge offers a fantastic opportunity for aspiring leaders to gain exposure to issues outside of their normal work, giving them a taste of what senior management is really like and testing their skills in running a Unitary council.

To complete the challenge, teams must work with neighbouring stakeholders and partners to deliver a new strategy for their organisation. They'll have to identify which areas to prioritise, deal with politically sensitive issues and maintain customer focus when determining how to provide the public with the best services possible despite limited resources.

Previous participants enthused about the value this event brought to their personal development. We will be confirming the venue shortly. All you need to do at this stage is register your intent to take part.

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BUDGET 2025 – STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION PORTAL OPEN

HM Treasury (HMT) has recently launched the Budget representation portal, where your organisation can submit its views with the aim of commenting on government policy and suggesting new policy ideas to be considered in the upcoming Budget.

HM Treasury welcomes comments on existing policy, or suggestions for new policy. In order to inform policy development for the Budget, your representation should contain policy suggestions for the upcoming fiscal event and explain the policy rationale, costs, benefits and deliverability of proposals. It should also be evidence based, providing clear arguments on how it contributes to the aims of the Budget. The representations will be collated and shared with HMT policy officials. The portal closes on 15 October.

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EMC'S LOW COST CPD FOR PLANNING

Yesterday, over 70 local authority Planning Officers attended a low cost CPD webinar on the topic of Planning Enforcement. Delegates heard some interesting presentations from a legal perspective including common pitfalls in enforcement notices; from an officer perspective highlighting practical considerations when drafting notices and from a recipient of an enforcement notice perspective. This webinar was part of the low cost CPD subscription-based programme for Planners. If you would like to find out more please contact lisa.bushell@emcouncils.gov.uk.

REAL LESSONS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

We're partnering with Opus People Solutions Ltd, Local Government East and West Midlands Employers on a free event for members and officers of EMC 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.

[BOOK NOW](#)

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.

[BOOK NOW](#)

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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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



East Midlands Councils

Pera Business Park
Nottingham Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 0PB

