



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

Top items this week

10 OCTOBER 2025

PLANNING NEWSLETTER

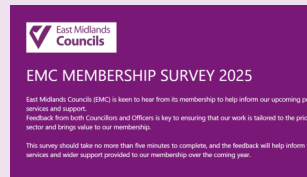
Planning guidance: letters
to chief planning officers



Museum Renewal Fund:
East Midlands Allocations



Local Innovation
Partnerships Fund
launched



EMC 2025 Membership
Survey

PLANNING GUIDANCE: LETTERS TO CHIEF PLANNING OFFICERS

MHCLG has issued a planning update newsletter to chief planning officers of local planning authorities in England about the latest announcements relating to planning practices and policy. The newsletter includes an update on the New Towns Taskforce and 2025 Housing Design Awards. It also includes information on a consultation on proposed reforms to infrastructure planning and a new checklist for local plan examinations.

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MUSEUM RENEWAL FUND: EAST MIDLANDS ALLOCATIONS

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has published the allocations for the government's £20 million Museum Renewal Fund. The funding will be shared between 75 civic museums to help improve public access to collections, protect community and educational programmes, and help to ensure local and regional museums are fit for the future.

In the East Midlands:

- Derby Museums (Derby) - £799,700
- Derbyshire County Council Museums Service (Buxton, Derbyshire) - £72,000
- Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust (Swadlincote, South Derbyshire)- £42,019
- The Village Church Farm Museum (Skegness, East Lindsey) - £14,085

LOCAL INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS FUND LAUNCHED

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology announced that local leaders can now bid for support of up to £20 million each of government funding to grow innovation. Research funding body UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is inviting a broad range of local and regional partnerships to bid for government funding to support research and innovation projects in their area through the Local Innovation Partnerships Fund.

Local leaders, working alongside universities and businesses, are best placed to identify these regional opportunities and turn research breakthroughs into real-world solutions that benefit their communities. Consortiums of various forms are encouraged to apply.

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NEW UK TOWN OF CULTURE COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

DCMS has announced a new UK Town of Culture competition. The competition will see multiple towns competing to win the title with the winning town delivering a cultural programme, which will help to increase pride in place by shining a spotlight on multiple towns and enabling them to tell their unique story. The competition will build on the success of the UK City of Culture programme, which has seen lasting impacts across winning cities of Derry/Londonderry, Hull and Coventry. The current UK City of Culture is Bradford.

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COMMON GROUND AWARD – FUND OPENS NEXT WEEK

MHCLG has 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. The fund opens next week (14 October) and the deadline to submit an application is 21 November. Funding will be awarded in January 2026.

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REFORMING THE LICENSING SYSTEM

On 7 October, the government launched a fast-track review of the licensing rules applicable to pubs, bars and local events and want to hear from councils, landlords, customers and communities. The call for evidence will focus on nine key recommendations from the government's Licensing Taskforce, with particular emphasis on streamlining on-trade alcohol licensing for hospitality venues. The four-week call for evidence is giving people the opportunity to share their views. The deadline to submit evidence is midday on 6 November.

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ACTIVE TRAVEL INNOVATION FUND OPEN

On 6 October, the Department for Transport (DfT) and Active Travel England (ATE) announced that organisations and businesses can bid for a share of £1 million in government funding to help them deliver bold and innovative initiatives that enable more people to walk, wheel or cycle.

The Active Travel Innovation Fund is inviting applications from small to medium-sized businesses and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), with grants of up to £100,000 available for each successful project. For full details and eligibility criteria, visit the government Find a Grant website. The window for applications closes on 14 November.

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NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

- Consultation on streamlining infrastructure planning.

CLOSES 27 OCTOBER

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- Consultation on new proposals to transform the process of buying and selling a house.

CLOSES 29 DECEMBER.

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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 & 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 will help inform the scope of our services and wider support provided to our membership

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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



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