



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

Top items this week

17 OCTOBER 2025



Flood Action Week Flood
Risk in the East Midlands



Flood Action Week:
National Flooding Support



EMC boosts English
language learning
across the region



Tillbridge Solar project
given Government
approval

FLOOD ACTION WEEK

This week marks Flood Action Week, a time when authorities across the region are encouraged to inform people about what actions they can take to prepare for flooding.

EMC ANALYSIS - Flood risk in the East Midlands

EMC had conducted research based on figures from Aviva's latest report: Building future communities 2025, showing that in the East Midlands, more than 472,000 properties are at risk of flooding, expected to rise to 566,856 by 2050. Communities most at risk include Boston and Skegness along with South Holland & The Deepings, with 90.5% and 75.4% of homes at risk in 2025 respectively. Broxtowe, Derby South, Erewash, Gainsborough, Gedling, Leicester East, Leicester South, Leicester West, Lincoln, Loughborough, Louth & Horncastle, Newark, Nottingham South, and Rushcliffe are all also identified as areas at risk with over 20% homes at risk of flooding. Read more:

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What's happening in the East Midlands?

Work led by the Environment Agency and its partners in the East Midlands to manage flood risk includes:

- In Nottinghamshire, the Environment Agency is working with Nottinghamshire County Council to deliver a natural flood management project upstream of Ompton.
- In Derbyshire, the Environment Agency is helping to fund the Combs Moss Peatland Restoration Project near Buxton in the Peak District. It is led by the Moors For The Future Partnership, aiming to slow the flow of the water that comes off the moor. Forty-nine properties in Bakewell and Bullbridge were fitted with flood resilience measures in 2024, with a further 32 expected to be completed by the end of 2025.
- In Leicestershire, the Environment Agency is installing natural flood management measures at Brooksby College. This will include scrapes, wetlands, bank reprofiling and treeplanting to help slow the flow during storm events and reduce flood risk in downstream communities in the Wreake and Soar.

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National Flood Support

In line with Flood Action Week, DEFRA has this week committed £10.5 billion to flood defences to protect nearly 900,000 properties under new reforms to protect homes and businesses from flooding. The new rules will be used for the next flood programme starting April 2026, ensuring that all priorities flood projects valued at £3 million or less are eligible for full funding by the government. Prioritised projects valued higher than this will be eligible for the first £3 million of support upfront, and 90% of the costs thereafter.

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EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS BOOSTS ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

ACROSS THE REGION

A new East Midlands Councils (EMC) programme will help hundreds of Hongkongers, Ukrainians and Afghans improve their English and integrate into communities across the East Midlands. Supported by funding from MHCLG, EMC has awarded grants totalling £117,000 to 14 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to expand informal and community-based English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision.

As part of the wider programme to strengthen regional ESOL capacity, EMC has also commissioned the Migrant English Support Hub (MESH) to coordinate local planning and delivery, convene a region-wide ESOL learning and best practice forum, and develop an online resource mapping ESOL provision across the East Midlands.

TILLBRIDGE SOLAR PROJECT GIVEN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL

The Secretary of State has granted consent for the UK's largest solar farm to be built in West Lindsey.

The project would cover around 3,000 acres and is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, meaning the decision to allow the plan is determined by the government. According to the developer site could support 1,250 jobs and power 300,000 homes.

Cllr Sean Matthews, leader of Lincolnshire County Council, has responded to the update saying: "It's appalling that the Government have decided to approve this application.

"This solar factory will be the biggest in the UK and absolutely dwarf nearby villages...

"The fact the objections of local people and councils are waved aside for these massive projects in our area is beyond frustrating."

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MAYORS AND COUNCILLORS TO ACCESS LGPS UNDER REFORMS

MHCLG has launched a consultation on restoring access to the Local Government Pension Scheme for councillors in England and extending it to Mayors.

The proposed reforms would align England with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland where elected members already have access.

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PLANS TO SPEED UP JUDICIAL REVIEWS ON KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced that the government will work with the judiciary to cut the amount of time it takes for a judicial review to move through the court system for nationally critical infrastructure projects by around six months.

Judicial reviews can currently take well over a year to be resolved, and have seen some major projects essential for economic growth paused.

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PRO-GROWTH CHANGES TO THE PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

This week, MHCLG announced a pro-growth package that will support the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

The new measures will give the Secretary of State new powers on planning permissions, tackle blockers in the courts, alongside plans to accelerate reservoirs, windfarms and large housing schemes.

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FUNDING TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S HOSPICES

The Department of Health and Social Care has announced that children's and young people's hospices in England will receive almost £80 million in funding over three years, to help ensure these services can continue supporting families during the most challenging times.

The multi-year revenue funding builds on the government's £100 million investment in hospices. This funding will be adjusted for inflation and distributed through local Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), on behalf of NHS England.

Individual hospice allocations for the next three years will be published in due course.

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FUNDING TO HELP SUPPORT FARMING INNOVATION

On 1 September, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced £12.6 million in government funding to help support innovation in UK farming.

The fund aims to cut business costs, improve productivity and tackle industry challenges. The funding will deliver projects ranging from robotic strawberry pickers to early-warning health systems.

The competition for Small Research and Development opened on 15 September, and this week, applications opened for funding to support feasibility studies for early-stage proposals to test and develop ideas.

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CARETAKERS LETTING FEES

The East Midlands Regional Joint Council has agreed an increase to Caretakers' Letting Fees with effect from 1st April 2025. Caretakers' Letting Fees were reviewed by East Midlands Regional Joint Council on 9th October 2025.

The Joint Council agreed to increase the rates by 3.2% with effect from 1st April 2025.

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EMCCA GROWTH PLAN LAUNCHED

East Midlands CCA has launched its growth plan for 2025 -2035, setting out a long-term vision for growth across Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

The plan aims to add £13 billion to the local economy and support 60,000 more people into work over the next decade. It also sets out ambitious targets to deliver more than 100,000 new homes, 210,000 new qualifications and invest more than £2 billion in new transport infrastructure.

The plan identifies key sectors which will power future growth, including clean energy, MedTech and life sciences, advanced manufacturing, digital industries, and the visitor economy.

It also outlines major place-based projects such as the Trent Arc and Supercluster, which together could deliver £3.3bn in economic value and create more than 55,000 high-quality jobs.

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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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