



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

Top items this week

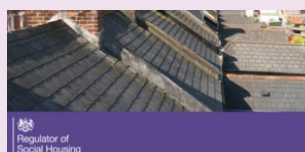
31 OCTOBER 2025



English indices of
deprivation 2025



Office for National
Statistics 2031 Census:
consultation open



Regulator of Social
Housing: annual stocks
& rent sector statistics



Awaab's Law & Social
Housing Innovation Fund

ENGLISH INDICES OF DEPRIVATION 2025

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has published the 2025 English Indices of Deprivation, providing the latest official measure of relative deprivation across England. The indices bring together a wide range of indicators covering income, employment, education, health, housing, and access to services, allowing comparison between over 32,000 small neighbourhood areas. In the East Midlands:

- Leicester is one of the top 10 most deprived council areas in terms the average level of deprivation based on the population weighted ranks of all the neighbourhoods within it.
- Nottingham is one of the top 10 council areas for the proportion of children (15 and under) living in income deprived families.
- Nottingham and Leicester are within the top 20 council areas for the proportion of older people (aged 60 or over) who experience income deprivation.
- East Lindsey and Bassetlaw are within the top 20 most deprived rural areas.

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OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS 2031 CENSUS: CONSULTATION OPEN

This week, the ONS launched a consultation to inform the 2031 Census. The consultation is looking for views on how census data is used, and requirements for topic data from Census 2031. For each of the 13 census topic groups, it will ask about:

- the purposes you use census data for
- the requirements for Census 2031 data
- how you use census data at small geographies, to understand small populations, to make comparisons over time and across geographies
- how you compare census data with other census variables (multivariate analysis).

The consultation will close on 4 February 2026.

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REGULATOR OF SOCIAL HOUSING: ANNUAL STOCKS AND RENT SECTOR STATISTICS

- There is a total of 4.5 million homes in the social housing sector in England, with a net increase of 37,700 since 2024.
- The overall rise since 2024 mainly comes from approximately 28,000 additional Affordable Rent homes and around 13,900 increase in low-cost home ownership homes.
- There was a decrease of just over 4,100 social rent homes.
- Just over 537,000 homes were surveyed by private registered providers during the year. Over the year, providers identified almost 41,000 homes which did not meet the Decent Homes Standard.
- Private registered providers reported that 75% of homes had an energy efficiency certificate rating of EPC-C or above, an increase from 71% in 2024. A further 19% had a rating of EPC-D.

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AWAAB'S LAW & SOCIAL HOUSING INNOVATION FUND

This week, a new law came into force to protect social housing tenants from emergency hazards and damp and mould. The changes are a legacy of Awaab Ishak, who died after being exposed to mould. New rules will protect tenants and force social landlords to urgently fix dangerous homes, with emergency hazards to be addressed within 24 hours.

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A new £1 million Social Housing Innovation Fund has also been launched by the government this week. Councils, social landlords, tenant groups and other eligible organisations can apply for grants of £60,000 to £100,000 to test innovative approaches that give tenants more influence over decisions affecting their homes.

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COUNCILS INVITED TO JOIN DEEP DIVE SESSIONS ON REGULATORY BURDENS

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) is inviting council officers to attend Local Authority Regulatory Deep Dive meetings this November.

The sessions will explore ways to reduce centrally led regulatory burdens on councils and local businesses. Topics will include provision of services regulations, licensing proposals, Trading Standards enforcement and inconsistencies in regulatory implementation.

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PLACES OF WORSHIP PROTECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME

The Home Office's 'Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme' is now open for applications. Through this scheme, eligible sites can apply for fully funded physical security measures. The application portal is now open and will close on 8th December 2025.

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REMINDER: CALL FOR EVIDENCE: THE 10 YEAR WORKFORCE PLAN

In September, DHSC launched a call for evidence for the 10 Year Workforce Plan. The Plan will build on the 10 Year Health Plan (10YHP) published in July this year and will set out how the government will deliver a new, sustainable workforce model in line with the three shifts identified in the 10YHP: from hospital to community, from analogue to digital, and from sickness to prevention. DHSC is encouraging organisations to contribute to the call for evidence and share their insights.

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OUTSIDE THE REGION: LGR DECISION ANNOUNCED ON SURREY

Alison McGovern, Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness, has announced a decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Surrey.

In a written ministerial statement, she explained that she believed the two unitary proposal would provide the best option for financial sustainability. She explained the decision was taken based on the needs of the local area and should not be taken as a precedent for any future decisions in other local government reorganisation areas.

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Lib Dem Group: Cllr Gale Waller
Reform UK Group: Cllr Martin Griffiths
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