



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

Top items this week

12 DECEMBER 2025



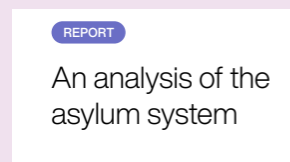
Have we got the Energy?
Understanding our
energy future



EMC Learning and
Development Events



New rail timetable
starts on Sunday



National Audit Office:
Analysis of the Asylum
System

Have we got the Energy?

Understanding the decisions that will shape our energy future

EMC is hosting a focused session for senior officers and councillors on the key elements of national and regional energy systems, markets and planning that will shape local decision-making in the coming years. This event will take place on Thursday, 19 March 2026, from 10 am to 1 pm at Devonshire Place in Leicester. Key topics include:

- How energy systems and markets operate
- National policy, regulation and key players
- Regional Energy Strategic Planning and the T RESP process
- Grid connectivity and future investment plans
- DNO roles and responsibilities
- Community energy opportunities
- Local authority responsibilities

Attendance is free for local authority officers and councillors across the region.

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EMC Learning and Development Events

Supporting leadership and management development needs in the lead up to LGR is a key priority and EMC are providing a range of ILM accredited courses to facilitate this. We will be advertising further ILM sessions in the next couple of months.

ILM 3 Award in Leadership and Management (6 days)

This is a 6-day programme designed for those currently managing or aspiring to lead multi-disciplinary teams, particularly within the context of local government, with cross-functional collaboration. It is ideally suited to officers and managers who work through influence and partnerships to deliver outcomes. The course covers essential leadership and management topics to build confidence in navigating complex challenges, improving service quality, and driving innovation in public service delivery.

[Cohort 1 \(6 days\) Starting 4 February 2026](#)

[Cohort 2 \(6 days\) Starting 12 March 2026](#)

East Midlands Challenge

The East Midlands Challenge returns on 29 April 2026, offering a practical, high-pressure development experience for future leaders across local government, health, housing and emergency services. It is a full-day, immersive development exercise that places teams in realistic, time-pressured scenarios involving service planning, competing priorities and customer needs.

Teams work through complex, realistic scenarios that test resilience, decision-making and political awareness.

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New rail timetable starts on Sunday

A new timetable will take affect across EMR, Northern and LNER services on Sunday, 14 December. The timetable changes will bring a range of improvements to services across the region. On the ECML, there will be improved connectivity between London, Yorkshire and the North East, additional LNER services on Sundays between Bradford and London, and more frequent EMR services between Nottingham and Lincoln.

EMR has stated that the changes will see more than 2000 extra seats on EMR services to and from Lincoln on a weekday and more than 3000 extra on a Saturday, new direct journey opportunities with EMR—including Matlock to Cleethorpes and Crewe to Lincoln, and improved local calling patterns, with more EMR trains at Hykeham, Burton Joyce, Radcliffe, Attenborough and Spondon.

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Britain's most bashed rail bridges

Three bridges in the East Midlands have been identified by Network Rail as among the 10 most bashed bridges. Between 1 April 202 and 31 March 2025:

- 1. Watling Street A5, Hinckley - 22 strikes
- 2. Harlaxton Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire – 18 strikes
- 8. Barrowby Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire – 11 strikes

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More young people to benefit from apprenticeships

This week DWP announced £725m of government funding for the apprenticeship system to help tackle youth unemployment.

The latest funding includes £140 million for a pilot where Mayors will be able to connect young people – especially those not in education, employment or training (NEET) – with thousands of apprenticeship opportunities at local employers.

As part of the package, the government will also cover the full cost of apprenticeships for eligible young people under 25 at small and medium-sized businesses.

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National Audit Office: Analysis of the Asylum System

The NAO has mapped out the asylum system end-to-end to show the causes of delay and inefficiency - the first time it has been presented in this way.

The public spending watchdog has also created an interactive data visualisation and analysed a sample of 5,000 asylum cases lodged almost three years ago, finding over half (56%) of those people still do not have a final outcome.

Following the Home Secretary's newly announced measures to overhaul the asylum system, the NAO has set out four requirements needed for an effective, value for money system:

1. Whole system approach
2. Addressing fundamental barriers
3. Timely, robust and shared data
4. Resilient and strategic approach to capacity and workforce

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EMC Leadership

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Vice Chair: Cllr Elly Cutkelvin
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Reform UK Group: Cllr Martin Griffiths
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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