



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

Top items this week

30 JANUARY 2026



Building Safety Levy – New Burdens Funding Update



Invitation to Councillors – EMC General Meeting



£500m budget approved by EMCCA.



EMC Learning and Development Events

Invitation to Councillors – EMC General Meeting

The East Midlands General Meeting will be taking place on **Friday 27th February 2026**.

Confirmed speakers include Alex Norris MP for Nottingham North and Kimberley, and Minister of State at the Home Office; and Tony McArdle, Senior Sector Advisor and Member of MHCLG's Local Government Reorganisation Advisory Group.

This meeting will be held at the offices of Newark & Sherwood District Council, Castle House, Newark, NG24 1BY. Registration will commence from 9am, with political pre-meetings taking place at 9.30am.

The General Meeting will begin at 10am, concluding with lunch at midday. The invitation to attend the EMC General Meeting is open to councillors from across the region. If you would like to attend, we would be grateful if you could confirm by emailing lisa.hopkins@emcouncils.gov.uk.

EMC HR Bulletin

The latest EMC HR Bulletin is now live. This month's edition covers: Employment Law Update, East Midlands Challenge, EMC Leadership and Development opportunities and national developments and regional pay briefing.

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Building Safety Levy – New Burdens Funding Update

This week, MHCLG wrote to councils to confirm the updated new burdens grant allocations for councils with building control responsibilities. The funding will cover councils' set-up costs in preparation for them acting as collection agents for the building safety levy. Parliament approved the Building Safety Levy Regulations in Autumn 2025, and grants will be paid in April 2026. The levy will be charged on new residential floorspace in England on the 1 October..

Changes to Leaseholder system announced

This week, the Prime Minister announced changes to the leaseholder system. Ground rents set to be capped at £250 a year, new leasehold flats will be banned, and homeownership strengthened. Forfeiture for leaseholders will also be abolished.

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Consultation on Children's social media usage

Last week the government announced a consultation on children's social media use and phone bans in schools to protect young people's wellbeing and ensure safer online experiences.

The consultation on children's use of technology will seek views from parents, young people and civil society – with the first events in a nationwide tour to be held in the days ahead. The government will respond to the consultation in the summer.

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New member for Highways in Lincolnshire

A new executive member for highways has been appointed in Lincolnshire. Cllr David East will take on the position after Michael Cheyne announced his intention to step down from the role at the next full council meeting on Friday, 20 February 2026. Cllr Cheyne will remain a representative for Boston West.

£500m budget approved for major transport and growth investment across the East Midlands Combined County Authority.

EMCCA has approved its budget for 2026/27, with £500m set to support a range of transport and regeneration projects across Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Derbyshire. The budget includes £290m capital programme, with more than 70% focused on transport infrastructure and better connected communities, £120m for the four highways authorities for road maintenance. More information:

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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.

- [ILM3 Award in Leadership and Management - Cohort 1 - Starting 4 February 2026](#)
- [ILM3 Award in Leadership and Management - Cohort 2 - Starting 12 March 2026](#)

This is a 6-day programme designed for those currently managing or aspiring to lead multidisciplinary 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.

- [ILM 7 Certificate in Executive Coaching and Mentoring](#)

This 9 day programme is designed for those involved in Executive Coaching and Mentoring, who wish to gain an internationally recognised qualification on the National Qualification Framework at Level 7 (assessed as similar to Masters Level).

National Local Government Recruitment Campaign: Make a Difference, Work for Your Local Council

The LGA and East Midlands Councils, through its role as the Regional Employers' Organisation, have launched this years' National Recruitment Campaign to promote careers in local government and highlighting how rewarding working in the sector can be. The campaign, funded by UK Government, will run from 5 January 2026 for six weeks until 15 February 2026, and will be promoted across multiple media channels including outdoor billboards, radio, social media, podcast adverts and many more. This is a great opportunity for councils to promote their existing roles, and encourage interest in the sector locally. The LGA has developed a free toolkit to help councils promote the campaign in their area.

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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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