



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

Top items this week

Local Government Finance
Settlement 2026/27 to 2028/29



13 FEBRUARY 2026



Final Local Government
Finance Settlement 2026
to 2027

Public Health Grant 2026
to 2027 allocations to
councils

Move to establish new
Foundation Strategic
Authorities

Representation of the
People Bill introduced to
Parliament

Final Local Government Finance Settlement 2026 to 2027

This week, MHCLG set out the final 2026/27 – 2028/29 Local Government Finance Settlement, following the consultation for the provisional settlement, which closed on 14 January. The final settlements included some significant changes from the provisional settlement. Across the 42 East Midlands authorities listed, including fire and rescue authorities:

- 28 authorities saw reductions (67% - compared to 38% nationally)
- 8 authorities saw increases (19% - compared to 15% nationally)
- 6 authorities saw no change (14% - compared to 46% nationally)

All eight authorities that saw an increase from provisional to final were upper-tier: Derby, Derbyshire, Leicester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and North Northants, with increases between £2m and £4m. Leicester (+£4.46m), Nottinghamshire (+£4.34m) saw some of the biggest gains from the provisional to final statements across the UK, while West Northants and Rutland saw decreases.

Districts and boroughs saw the biggest reductions from provisional to final settlements, with North West Leicestershire (-£3.37m) seeing the second largest reduction across the UK, and Harborough (-£1.5m) also in the top 10. The reductions were almost entirely through changes in 'other rolled-in grants', alongside some small changes in 'additional funding for local services'.

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Public Health Grant 2026 to 2027 allocations to councils

Also, this week, the Department of Health and Social Care confirmed the Public Health Allocations to Councils in England for 2026/27, along with the provisional allocations for 27/28 and 28/29. The East Midlands

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Authority	Total Public Health Grant 2026/27	Indicative Public Health Grant 2020/21	Indicative Public Health Grant 2020/21
Derby	27,694,279	28,013,327	28,337,777
Derbyshire	55,463,408	56,694,883	57,742,728
Leicester	37,933,831	38,416,751	38,958,295
Leicestershire	33,109,798	34,388,114	35,333,301
Lincolnshire	44,953,278	45,788,752	46,643,174
North Northamptonshire	22,981,993	23,402,034	23,823,816
Nottingham	46,027,984	46,586,330	47,175,831
Nottinghamshire	55,830,781	57,331,972	58,350,697
Rutland	1,686,987	1,729,777	1,771,961
West Northamptonshire	25,267,808	25,678,543	26,129,454

MHCLG invites expressions of interest to establish new

Foundation Strategic Authorities

Yesterday, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Devolution, Matthew Pennycook MP, and Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, wrote to councils inviting areas without an existing devolution agreement to come forward with expressions of interest to establish new Foundation Strategic Authorities (FSAs).

The letter states that FSAs would typically operate across “sensible geographies” and act as non-mayoral combined or combined county authorities. They would hold devolved powers over local transport and skills, with access to additional powers and partnerships set out in the English Devolution White Paper.

The letter reiterates the Government’s commitment to mayoral devolution and local government reorganisation, describing FSAs as a potential stepping stone towards mayoral models. Expressions of interest will begin to be reviewed from 20 March 2026 and must have the support of relevant authorities and meet White Paper criteria.

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Consultation: Areas for producing spatial development strategies

In the same letter, it was announced that MHCLG is launching a consultation on sensible geographies for Spatial Development Strategies. In the East Midlands SDS’s are proposed for:

- EMCCA area (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire)
- GLCCA area (Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire & North East Lincolnshire)
- Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland area

North and West Northamptonshire are in a group of 10 authorities where currently no SDS geography is proposed, and the Government is seeking proposals through the consultation process.

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EMC invests £223,000 to Strengthen ESOL Coordination

and Capacity Across the East Midlands

Supported by national government grant funding, EMC has provided funding to increase English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision and to improve the development, coordination and delivery of services across the East Midlands. The programme focuses on supporting those needing language support that have arrived in the region by managed schemes including through Homes for Ukraine, Communities for Afghans and Hong Kong BNO routes.

A total of £223,000 has now been distributed by EMC to support three core objectives:

- Developing the regional coordination of ESOL delivery.
- Supporting continuing professional development for ESOL tutors
- Increasing the delivery of informal ESOL training in local community based settings.

As part of the programme, Local Authority adult skills leads in Leicester, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Derby have proposed a range of CPD projects.

A total of 14 VCSE organisations across the region have also been awarded funding to support approximately 1,800 individuals, particularly expanding beginner-level English language support.

As part of this programme, a regional ESOL conference took place yesterday, bringing together ESOL practitioners from across the region. It marked the launch of Learning English East Midlands (LEEM), a cost-effective, web-based ESOL resource that aims to significantly improve visibility, coordination and referral pathways.

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Representation of the People Bill introduced to Parliament

Yesterday, the government introduced the Representation of the People Bill to Parliament. This Bill brings forward the legislation required to deliver the government's commitments on electoral reform. As outlined in the [**Strategy for Modern and Secure Elections**](#), published last summer, the Bill brings forward changes to the electoral franchise, registration processes, the political finance framework, campaigning rules and voting processes. This includes giving 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote in all UK elections.

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Reminder: Consultations on local government reorganisation launched

MHCLG has announced the launch of a consultation on the next phase of Local Government Reorganisation. These consultations are on the proposals submitted by authorities across the East Midlands at the end of last year. Each of the consultations can be found here:

- [**Derby and Derbyshire**](#)
- [**Nottingham and Nottinghamshire**](#)
- [**Lincolnshire**](#)
- [**Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland**](#)

The consultation is open to everyone. MHCLG is keen to receive responses from councils affected by the proposals and neighbouring authorities. **All consultations close on 26 March.**

Reminder: 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.

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 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.

• ILM7 Certificate in Executive Coaching and Mentoring - Starting 2 June 2026

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.

• ILM 5 Certificate in Coaching and Mentoring (Cohort 1) - Starting 17 June 2026

This 7 day programme is suitable for those who are required to coach &/or mentor others within their organisation either as a line manager or as a participant in a wider coaching pool.

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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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