



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

Top items this week

20 FEBRUARY 2026



EMC Councillor Development: The role of the Civic Head



Planning Reform versus Mission-led Government



IPPR report on regional transport funding



EMC Learning and Development Events

**EMC Councillor Development
The role of the Civic Head**

Back by popular demand, East Midlands Councils is once again delivering its Role of the Civic Head development session, taking place on 8 June 2026 at Melton Borough Council. This practical session is designed for elected members who may be appointed as Mayor or Chair of Council at Annual Meetings in May, as well as the officers who support them. Joint attendance by members and support staff is encouraged, with a 50% discount available on the third place booked. Find out more:

[READ MORE](#)

Planning Reform versus Mission-led Government

Read the latest blog post by East Midlands Councils’ Director of Policy and Infrastructure, Andrew Pritchard, on planning reform and how it aligns with the Government’s wider ambitions for housing, health, climate resilience and community safety. With major changes underway, including updates to the National Planning Policy Framework, new Spatial Development Strategies, and proposals for local government reorganisation, the blog explores how planning reform can support wider priorities such as housing delivery, climate resilience, public health and safer communities. It also considers how reform aligns with the Government’s wider ambitions for mission-led government, and the role planning plays in shaping long-term outcomes for people and places. Read the full blog here:

[READ MORE](#)

Reminder: Invitation to Councillors – EMC General Meeting

The East Midlands General Meeting will be taking place next **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

The agenda and papers for the meeting can be found on our website:

[READ MORE](#)

IPPR report on regional transport funding

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) has published a report examining the current system for funding and approving transport infrastructure in England. It states that local authorities and mayoral areas are required to seek approval from central government and rely on short-term funding arrangements to progress major schemes.

The report highlights that, under the current system, a significant proportion of the economic benefits generated by transport investment, such as increased tax revenues, accrue to central government. It recommends a range of reforms, including devolving greater control over transport funding and approvals to mayoral authorities, enabling them to retain a share of growth-related revenues and borrow against future income.

[READ MORE](#)

Local Elections and LGR Capacity funding

This week, MHCLG confirmed that its original decision to postpone local elections in May has been withdrawn.

In the East Midlands, this affects the City of Lincoln Council.

Alongside this, the Secretary of State, Steve Reed MP, confirmed that up to £63 million in new capacity funding will be made available to help councils across the 21 reorganisation areas to best deliver local government re-organisation, building on the £7.6 million provided for developing proposals last year.

[READ MORE](#)

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.

Have we got the Energy?

Understanding the decisions that will shape our energy future

There are only a few spaces left for our upcoming session for senior officers and councillors to provide a timely overview of the national and regional energy policy to support your planning, strategy and place-based work.

This session will offer practical insight to support councillors to effectively scrutinise major infrastructure and planning decisions, by providing a clear, non-technical introduction to energy systems, markets, national policy and regional energy strategic planning.

[READ MORE](#)

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

East Midlands Councils

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB

