

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

Top items this week

6 FEBRUARY 2026



Commissioners set to leave Nottingham City Council



Consultations on local government reorganisation launched



National Pay Claim for Chief Officers 2026



EMC Learning and Development Events

Commissioners set to leave Nottingham City Council

The Government has confirmed that the Commissioners overseeing improvements at Nottingham City Council are no longer required. MHCLG wrote to a letter to the council last week to confirm that the Secretary of State, Steve Reed, MP, is minded to end the Commissioners' two-year appointment as planned on the 22 February, restoring all decision-making powers back to the council.

The letter highlights that while significant progress has been made, there are areas for further improvement and focus, particularly around service design and transformation. To help build on the foundations laid for service improvement, and to secure the Council's compliance with the Best Value Duty, the Secretary of State is minded to provide a reduced package of statutory support to the Authority for eighteen months, to be reviewed after twelve.

This would see two Ministerial Envoys appointed, one with expertise in local government leadership, transformation and implementation and the other with a local government political background. Neither would have any decision-making powers.

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Consultations on local government reorganisation launched

This week, MHCLG 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.

National Pay Claim for Chief Officers 2026

This week, the unions representing local authority Chief Officers submitted a pay claim to the National Employers. The claim seeks an increase of at least 10 per cent or an increase that is no less favourable to Chief Officers than the NJC claim, an additional day of paid leave to align annual leave with NJC terms, and to jointly agree and circulate a national survey on the levels of stress, workload pressures, and unpaid overtime experienced by Chief Officers.

EMC will continue to keep colleagues updated as these negotiations continue:

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West Midlands to become a Government centre for Transport and Infrastructure

The DfT has announced that a new Transport and Infrastructure Campus is planned for the West Midlands.

Following the recently launched Digital and AI Innovation Campus in Manchester and the Energy Campus in Aberdeen, this new centre is intended to bring together transport, property and housing infrastructure expertise from departments across the region.

The National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority (NISTA) will support the development of the Campus. They will nominate a senior leader, based in Birmingham, where they will work with the local area and government departments to grow the campus and spread opportunity throughout the West Midlands.

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Funding to help support high streets announced

On 31 January, MHCLG announced £150 million of government funding to help support high streets.

Communities will help bring people back into their local high streets by supporting local, independent businesses, improve neglected shopfronts and open up empty units.

This will be the first step in the government's upcoming High Streets Strategy. More details on the strategy, including how funding will be allocated to specific places, will be announced in the coming months.

Other steps taken by the government to regenerate high streets include:

- Introducing a new community right to buy through the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, giving local people greater power to save valued community assets like sports clubs and pubs
- Ending 'pub deserts' by banning the loss of the last community facility in an area
- Action to tackle the proliferation of betting shops on high streets

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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.

• [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

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