

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

## Top items this week

27 MARCH 2026



Road Investment  
Strategy 3  
2026–2031

RIS3 (2026-31)  
Investment in the  
East Midlands



National Pay Offer  
2026

EMC Councillor Development



The Role of the  
Civic Head

EMC Councillor  
Development  
Programme



Pride in Place expanded  
and Strategy funding  
announced

## RIS3 (2026-31) Investment in the East Midlands

The government has announced major investment in roads through the Road Investment Strategy 3 (2026–31), aimed at renewing and future-proofing England’s strategic road network. The plan focuses on tackling ageing infrastructure, improving safety and journey reliability, and supporting economic growth.

For the East Midlands, two major schemes are planned to start construction during RIS3: the A46 Newark Bypass dualling between Farndon and Winthorpe, and the A38 Derby Junctions project, which replaces three roundabouts with grade separated interchanges. While start dates have not yet been released, early indications suggest that work on the A46 may begin towards the end of the RIS3 period. The A46 will also benefit from a concrete reconstruction scheme on the section north of Leicester, aimed at improving resilience and safety. In addition, local junction safety improvements are planned at A617/A632 and A50/A38 in Derbyshire, and the A1/A606 near Stamford.

Finally, a number of potential schemes for RIS4 (2031-36) have been highlighted: M1J28/A38, Gibbet Hill and Dodwells-Longshoot on the A5 and a developer-led scheme on A14 J10a in Northamptonshire. However, there are no specific interventions planned for M1 J24 (EM Freeport) or for improving safety and reliability on the A1 in the East Midlands.

[READ MORE](#)

## National Pay Offer 2026

This week, the National Employers made a one-year, full and final pay offer of 3.3 per cent to local government services (‘Green Book’) employees, JNC local authority Chief Officers, and JNC local authority Chief Executives.

These offers were in response to the pay claims for 2026 which were submitted by representatives of these bargaining groups. Details of the claims and the National Employers’ offers are available on our website..

A claim has not yet been received for 2026 for unions representing Craftworkers, and agreement has yet to be reached on any national pay award for this group of employees for 2025.

We will continue to keep you informed of any further developments.

[READ MORE](#)

## EMC Councillor Development Programme

### 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.

[READ MORE](#)

### Chairing Skills for Councillors

Continuing our Councillor development programme for 2026, EMC will be hosting a virtual session on chairing skills on 17 June 2026. This session is suitable for chairs or vice chairs looking to strengthen their skills, from preparation through to.

structure and participation.

[READ MORE](#)

---

## Council Tax levels set by councils in England 2026 to 2027

This week, MHCLG published Council Tax levels set by local authorities in England in 2026 to 2027. This can be found here:

[READ MORE](#)

---

## Pride in Place expanded and Strategy funding announced

Last week, MHCLG announced that 40 additional authorities would receive Pride in Place funding. Hucknall Westville in Ashfield and New Normanton in Derby will join 21 areas across the East Midlands receiving this funding.

[READ MORE](#)

£319 million of government funding is included within the Pride in Place strategy, to help communities to restore pride and opportunity in neighbourhoods. The investment is delivered through four strands:

- High streets reinvigorated – £301 million High Streets Innovation Partnerships programme to help support local communities to revive high streets. Allocations still to be confirmed.
- Safe places for children to play – £18 million of government funding to buy new and improve playgrounds. In the East Midlands: East Lindsey, Bassetlaw, North Northamptonshire, Mansfield, Ashfield, and Lincoln are to receive funding.
- Local progress accelerated – Plans are also moving forward for areas in the first phase of Pride in Place, providing communities with up to £20 million over 10 years
- Five projects will test a new initiative to get local agencies such as councils, the NHS and schools to pool their cash and work together instead of operating in silos.

[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

