



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

Top items this week

6 MARCH 2026



Have we got the Energy?
Understanding our energy future



Asylum Move On
announcement



Lincolnshire Public
Sector Challenge



Government review
launched into park homes
commission charge

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, which will take place on Thursday 19 March, 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.

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Asylum Move On announcement

Following the conclusion of the Asylum Move On 56 day pilot, Home Office Ministers have confirmed the decision to set the notice period for all individuals granted leave exiting the asylum accommodation estate at 42 days, from the point they are notified of a positive asylum decision. Individuals will continue to receive a minimum of 28 days to move on from when they are notified that their asylum support is being discontinued in their asylum support discontinuation letter with this policy applying to individuals granted leave on or after 9 March 2026.

The policy will not apply to individuals who are already within the notice period and those for whom support has already been discontinued. However, where necessary, support may be extended. Requests will be considered by the Home Office on a case-by-case basis but will only be granted in limited circumstances where necessary.

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Lincolnshire Public Sector Challenge

Colleagues across East Midlands local authorities are invited to take part in the Lincolnshire Public Sector Challenge on Saturday 13 June, a walking event for public sector staff following the Ridges and Furrows Trail from North Hykeham to Sleaford.

Participants can choose between two routes, a 26.5 mile route and a 14 mile route.

There will be refreshment and comfort breaks along the route, with facilities also available at the finish in Sleaford.

Entry costs £20 for adults and £10 for under 18s (under 18s must be accompanied by an adult). A £5 contribution from each entry will be donated to the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK. Participants are also welcome to fundraise for their own chosen charity via GiveWheel.

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Spring Forecast 2026

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, presented her Spring Forecast to Parliament on Tuesday, responding to the latest economic and fiscal projections from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR).

The Spring Forecast 2026 and supporting documents can be found on GOV.UK.

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National Consultations

Consultation on a new set of planning reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework

In December 2025, MHCLG launched a consultation seeking views on a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

A draft NPPF has been published alongside this consultation and both documents should be read together. The consultation closes on **10 March**.

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Consultation seeking views on major measures to protect children on social media, gaming platforms and AI chatbots

This week, the government has launched a consultation on social media seeking views from parents, guardians, and young people in the UK to help shape the country's next steps on children's digital wellbeing.

The consultation will gather insights from the public on how to keep children safe online across social media, AI chatbots and gaming platforms.

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Government review launched into park homes commission charge

MHCLG have launched a review on the 10% commission fee charged on the sale of park homes. The Mobile Homes Act 1983 requires park home residents to pay a site owner a commission of up to 10% of the sale price of their home. The call for evidence will seek to establish: The reasons given initially for charging a commission; What the commission pays for and how it is calculated; How the commission is linked to other aspects of the Mobile Homes Act 1983; A better understanding of the sector's business model.

The consultation closes on 29 May.

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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.

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EMC Leadership

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Vice Chair: Cllr Elly Cutkelvin

Vice Chair: Cllr Tricia Gilby

Conservative Group: Cllr Phil King

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Independent Group: Cllr Ashley Baxter

Lib Dem Group: Cllr Gale Waller

Reform UK Group: Cllr Martin Griffiths

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