



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

Top items this week

1 MARCH 2024



TfEM responds to
Midlands Rail Hub
Announcement



Local Transport Funds
allocated to East Midlands



EMCCA given final go
ahead



LGiU report warns
councils at risk of
bankruptcy

TRANSPORT FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS RESPONDS TO MIDLANDS RAIL HUB ANNOUNCEMENT

Plans for the Midlands Rail Hub have received a boost after Ministers released an initial £123m funding injection to increase services between Birmingham and Cardiff, Bristol, Cheltenham, and Worcester.

The announced MRH enhancements relate to the West Midlands.

A spokesperson for Transport for the East Midlands, said: “Whilst we welcome this funding, there must also be investment to improve rail services between the West Midlands and Derby, Leicester, and Nottingham.”

“Existing services from the East Midlands to Birmingham are slow and infrequent and there are no direct trains to Coventry at all.”

“The East Midlands continues to receive the lowest level of transport funding per head of any UK region or nation and has the highest level of car dependency in the country.”

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LOCAL TRANSPORT FUND ALLOCATIONS RELEASED

This week, the Department for Transport announced the new £4.7 billion Local Transport Fund (LTF), proposed to improve transport connectivity in the North and the Midlands.

Announced as part of the DfT’s Network North, the Midlands is set to see £2.2 billion of the total £4.7 billion fund over seven years from April 2025 until March 2032.

The East Midlands will receive just over £1.02 billion in additional LTF funding over that time:, broken down as follows:

- Leicester £159,559,000
- Leicestershire £238,154,000
- Lincolnshire £262,339,000
- North Northamptonshire: £149,208,000
- Rutland: £49,341,000
- West Northamptonshire: £162,831,000

The East Midlands Combined County Authority, which includes Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, will receive a City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, allocations for which have not yet been confirmed by DfT.

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EAST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY GIVEN FINAL GO AHEAD

This week, the last legal step to establish the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) has been signed and made into law.

Jacob Young MP, Levelling Up Minister, has signed the regulations that allow for EMCCA to be created.

The authority will now be able to begin hiring and making administrative decisions in preparation for the East Midlands Mayoral election on Thursday 2 May 2024.

Once the mayor is elected, the authority will be able to start making decisions across its range of new powers currently held by Westminster, including public transport and housing.

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LGIU REPORT WARNS COUNCILS AT RISK OF BANKRUPTCY

According to a new report from the Local Government Information Unit, more than half of the country's senior council figures have warned that their council is likely to go bankrupt within the next parliament unless funding changes.

Chief Executive of the LGIU, Jonathan Carr-West, who last month presented at the East Midlands Councils General meeting, said: "With over half of councils warning us they are at risk of bankruptcy within the next parliament, it is no longer possible to blame individual governance issues.

"There clearly is a systemic issue and rather than bunging local government panicked injections of cash, whoever wins the next election will need to reform the entire system, bringing back multi-year settlements based on an area's need and developing new ways of revenue raising."

The full State of Local Government Finance in England 2024 report can be found here:

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THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S RESETTLEMENT FUND

The Children and Young People's Resettlement Fund is a £2.5 million fund facilitating projects in England until March 2025 that support young people, aged 21 and under, on the Ukraine, Afghan and Hong Kong BN(O) pathways.

The following 11 organisations will be funded a total of £2.2 million:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Barnardo's £300,000 | • Hong Kong Well UK £226,748 |
| • Beacon Family Services CIC £45,191 | • International Rescue Committee UK £234,522 |
| • Bradford Foundation Trust £193,116 | • PATH Yorkshire Ltd. £298,330 |
| • Catalyst Psychology Community Interest Company £159,770 | • St. Mary's Ukrainian School Limited £323,725 |
| • HealthProm £199,700 | • Stoke-on Trent and North Staffordshire Theatre Trust Limited (New Vic Theatre) £162,369 |
| • Wiltshire Council £47,602 | |

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NEW LOOK FOR EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS

East Midlands Councils is pleased to announce the launch of its new website.

EMC is committed to keeping members up to date on the latest news which can affect our authorities, and providing insight into the impact of these changes.

Click on the link below to visit our website and explore:

- Our 'Hubs' for more information about the latest updates in that work area
- Our 'News' page to see a summary of the latest updates from EMC and across the region
- Our 'Events' page to see the latest training and events opportunities available to everyone who works within a local authority based in the East Midlands.

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EAST MIDLANDS CHALLENGE 2024

The East Midlands Challenge returns in April and is a fantastic opportunity for aspiring leaders to gain exposure to issues outside of their normal work and giving them a taste of what senior management is really like, identifying priorities and dealing with politically sensitive issues, all while maintaining a customer focus and delivering services.

If you're considering entering this year, watch this short video by participants from last year's winning team, Newark and Sherwood District Council!

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

There's still time to enter into this year's Challenge taking place on Tuesday 23 April 2024.

The Challenge is open to teams of six from Public Sector organisations across the East Midlands, and this year we're also offering the option to enter combined teams of one or two organisations, so more people can participate in the Challenge and split the cost!

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EMC HR BULLETIN

The latest EMC HR Bulletin is now available.

This month the HR bulletin covers:

- Employment Law Event on 5th March 2024
- 2024 pay claim for local government services ('Green Book') employees
- Tri-Sector Leadership Challenge on 23 April 2024
- A roundup of National Developments including Chief Executives' Pay Claim
- An article from Darren Newman, Employment Law expert focusing on the Government's proposal to re-introduce Employment Tribunal Fees

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EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell

Vice Chair: Cllr Tricia Gilby

Conservative Group: Cllr Phil King

Labour Group: Cllr Jewel Miah

Liberal Democrat Group: Cllr David Bill MBE

Independent Group: Cllr Matthew Relf

Executive Director: Stuart Young



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