**EMC POLICY BRIEF**

**A weekly roundup of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by**

**East Midlands Councils**

**21 February 2025**

**“A RAILWAY FIT FOR BRITAIN’S FUTURE”**

DfT is seeking views on new policies to be included in the forthcoming Railways Bill, which will enable the establishment of Great British Railways (GBR). GBR is intended to be ‘a single directing mind’ that will run our rail infrastructure and passenger services in the public interest. The proposed reforms include: the establishment of a new passenger watchdog, reform of fares and online retail of tickets, a new statutory role for devolved leaders in governing, managing, planning and developing the rail network, streamlining processes and reducing regulatory burdens to empower GBR to deliver the best service for railway users, ensuring the private sector continues to play a key role, including a statutory duty for GBR to promote rail freight.

Transport for the East midlands Board (TfEM) will consider the consultation when it meets on 10 March. The closing date for responses is 15 April 2025.

[**A railway fit for Britain's future - GOV.UK**](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/a-railway-fit-for-britains-future)

**NEW INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY AND COHESION**

British Future is supporting a new, Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion this spring, which seeks to understand the challenges to cohesion in our society and how we can rebuild community connection. The deadline for submissions is Friday 28 March 2025.

[New Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion - British Future](https://www.britishfuture.org/new-independent-commission-on-community-and-cohesion/)

**EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE WITH DARREN NEWMAN**

EMC’s popular Employment Law Update facilitated by Darren Newman will take place on 5 March 2025. In the session we will look at the latest employment law developments affecting local government. This will include the new duty to prevent sexual harassment, five game changing reforms in the Employment Rights Bill, dismissals following a breakdown in the employment relationship and what happens when an employee objects to a TUPE transfer.

[Employment Law Update](https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/events/employment-law-update-894/)

**EMC COUNCILLOR DEVELOPMENT**

**The Role of the Civic Head - 20th May 2025 10am - 3pm, North Kesteven District Council**

This session will benefit Elected Members who anticipate election to the office of Mayor or Chair of Council at Annual Meetings in May 2025.

[The Role of the Civic Head](https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/events/the-role-of-the-civic-head-589/)

**Chairing Skills for Members - 18th June 2025 - 6pm - 8.30pm on-line**

This 2.5-hour session has been developed for Councillors in the East Midlands, who are interested in developing their chairing skills in face to face, virtual and hybrid settings.

Look out for the following learning events too!

**Regional Induction Session for New Councillors**

We are planning a regional induction session for new councillors in early July 2025 to help them hit the ground running! The date and further details will follow shortly but the aim is to complement your own council’s induction programme by covering a range of national and regional issues as well as further understanding the local ward role.

[Chairing Skills for Members](https://www.emcouncils.gov.uk/events/chairing-skills-for-members-337/)

**Save the date on 5th June 10am – 4pm at Devonshire Place in Leicester**, where councillors and officers can meet to hear an update on the latest government policy reforms regarding the devolution framework, national planning policy and housing and to consider the impact for councils and communities. This event will be bookable soon on our website.

**LGC AWARDS 2025**

Good luck to the following East Midlands authorities who have been shortlisted for LGC Awards:

* Digital Impact Award North Northamptonshire Council - Digital Front Door to Children's Services
* Diversity & Inclusion Award West Northamptonshire Council - Well Northants: Empowering communities and transforming lives
* Development Award Leicester City Council - Workspaces for growth
* Environmental Services Nottingham City Council - Nottingham Clean Champions
* Health & Social Care Award Leicester City Council, Leicestershire CC, Rutland CC with LLR Integrated Care Board and These Hands Academy - Connected Care Programme
* Housing Award Broxtowe BC - Affordable Housing Programme
* Innovation Award North Northamptonshire Council - The Chester House Estate
* Large Team of the Year Award North Northamptonshire Council - Public Health Team
* Medium Team of the Year Award South Kesteven DC - East Midlands Building
* Consultancy Public/Private Sector Partnership Award South Derbyshire DC with Olio and Chilled Pubs—Redistribution of food in partnership with the private sector
* Public/Private Sector Partnership Award Leicester City Council with Leicestershire Police and Turning Point