



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

Top items this week

28 MARCH 2025



East Midlands—Level 4 Town Planning Assistant Apprenticeship



Strategic Road Network: Interim Settlement 2025 to 2026



Community Sponsorship Event Raises Awareness in Derby



Funding to support social and affordable housebuilding announced

EAST MIDLANDS—LEVEL 4 TOWN PLANNING ASSISTANT APPRENTICESHIP

East Midlands Councils, Nottingham Trent University, and Bolsover District Council are working in partnership to explore the development of a Level 4 Town Planning Assistant Apprenticeship.

A recent stakeholder event provided an opportunity to discuss the scope of the programme and gather insights from local planning authorities. The next stage of the project involves assessing regional interest from local planning authorities and other planning organisations. To support this, a further in-person stakeholder event will take place on **Thursday 10 April** at the NTU University Centre in Mansfield.

Representatives from local planning authorities are encouraged to attend to hear more about the development of the course and consider the potential apprentices who may benefit from this new training route.

For organisations within the EMCCA area, there may be an opportunity to secure bursary support if a first-year cohort of at least 12 apprentices can be formed.

Those interested in attending the event or discussing next steps are encouraged to contact Sarah Kay at Sarah.Kay@bolsover.gov.uk.

STRATEGIC ROAD NETWORK: INTERIM SETTLEMENT 2025 TO 2026

The strategic road network, which includes England’s motorways and major A-roads, is funded through the Road Investment Strategy (RIS). The current investment period, RIS2, will conclude on 31 March 2025, and until a new strategy is set, an interim settlement has been announced to govern investment in the network for 2025-2026.

The interim settlement outlines a £4.842 billion investment plan, including statutory directions for National Highways, strategic priorities for the SRN, and performance expectations for the year. It also details how funds will be allocated across maintenance, renewal, and enhancement projects to ensure the network continues to operate efficiently.

For the East Midlands, the A46 Newark Bypass and A38 Derby Junctions remain under review, with future delivery dependent on the 2025 Spending Review. Meanwhile, work on the A52 Nottingham Junctions is currently listed as "in construction,"

[READ MORE](#)

LOCAL COUNCILS AND BUSINESSES PROVIDE EVIDENCE TO APPG

On Tuesday, representatives from councils and businesses across the East Midlands provided evidence to the East Midlands APPG on the regional priorities ahead of the 2025 comprehensive spending review. MPs will review the evidence presented, alongside the 36 written submissions, to inform a forthcoming report. Many thanks to all of those who attended this session, and provided evidence.

COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP EVENT RAISES AWARENESS IN DERBY

East Midlands Councils, in collaboration with Reset, recently hosted a Community Sponsorship event in Derby to raise awareness of the Community Sponsorship scheme.

Representatives from Reset shared insights into their work, explained the sponsorship process from application through to supporting families once they arrive, highlighting the impact that local communities can have in helping refugees integrate and build successful futures.

The event provided a valuable platform for discussions, with attendees sharing experiences and learning more about the practical elements of this scheme.

FUNDING TO SUPPORT SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSEBUILDING ANNOUNCED

The government has announced £2 billion in funding to support the construction of up to 18,000 new social and affordable homes across the country. This investment serves as an initial allocation from HM Treasury, with further long-term funding expected later this year to support housebuilding beyond 2026-27.

New affordable homes will start construction by March 2027 and will complete by the end of this Parliament. The government is encouraging providers to come forward as soon as possible with projects and bids to help increase the delivery of new housing supply.

[READ MORE](#)

GUIDANCE FOR COUNCILS ON FLEXIBLE USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS

MHCLG has updated the direction and statutory guidance on flexible use of capital receipts. This extends the freedom for councils to use eligible capital receipts to fund the revenue costs of projects that deliver ongoing savings or improved efficiency.

Capital receipts are the money councils receive from asset sales, the use of which is normally restricted to funding other capital expenditure or paying off debt. The receipts cannot usually be used to fund revenue costs.

The direction extends the flexible use of capital receipts to 2030. Since 2016, this direction has allowed councils to use the proceeds from asset sales to fund the revenue costs of projects that result in ongoing cost savings or improved efficiency.

[READ MORE](#)

MIDLANDS MAYORS SIGN COMPACT

West Midlands CCA Mayor Richard Parker and East Midlands CCA Mayor Claire Ward formally launched the West and East Midlands Compact at an event held at the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) in Coventry. This agreement aims to deliver economic and social benefits for businesses and communities while reinforcing the Midlands' role in the UK's economic landscape.

[READ MORE](#)

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 Ashley Baxter

Executive Director: Stuart Young



East Midlands Councils

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB