

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

Top items this week

10 FEBRUARY 2023



EMC General Meeting attended by Robert Jenrick MP



Transport Secretary affirms commitment to the rail sector



Final Local Government Finance Settlement presented to parliament



Vital train services to be restored by East Midlands Rail

EMC General Meeting

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP - Minister of State (Minister for Immigration)

The East Midlands Councils General Meeting took place this morning, Friday 10th February 2023.

Members from across the region came together to discuss key issues facing local authorities in the East Midlands, including workforce concerns, asylum and refugee resettlement, local transport, infrastructure and growth.

EMC were delighted to welcome Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP - Minister of State for Immigration to the meeting to discuss key policy updates within the Home Office, including the dispersal of migrants across the region.



Three new departments created after government reshuffle

This week, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced the creation of three new departments:

- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
- Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
- Department for Business and Trade

The move splits up the multi-focused Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), with the newly created departments now tasked with tackling soaring energy costs, driving innovation, and promoting investment, respectively.

Key moves from the reshuffle:

- Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP appointed as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
- Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP moved from DCMS to Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology
- Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP appointed as Secretary of State for Business and Trade.
- Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP appointed as Secretary of State for the newly aligned Department of Culture, Media, and Sport.

All of the new ministerial appointments can be found here: [Ministerial Appointments: February 2023](https://www.gov.uk/ministerial-appointments/february-2023)

EAST MIDLANDS CHALLENGE 2023

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO WEDNESDAY, 1ST MARCH DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

REGISTER YOUR TEAM AT [EMCOUNCILS.GOV.UK](https://emcouncils.gov.uk)



TRANSPORT NEWS

George Bradshaw Address

The Transport Secretary, Rt Hon Mark Harper MP, has affirmed his commitment to the rail sector, outlining plans to modernise the industry.

Laying out his commitment during the George Bradshaw Address at the Institute for Civil Engineers, the Secretary of State for Transport acknowledged the rail industry's frustration with the continuous diagnosing and re-diagnosing of the rail industry's problems .

One of the key commitments highlighted in the address was the confirmed commitment to the creation of Great British Railways (GBR) , saying the new public body will take "politics out of the railways".

Great British Railways will be an "arm's length body" responsible for the sector's performance by ensuring a "balanced approach to both infrastructure and operations" and enhancing the private sector's role.

The Transport Secretary also confirmed that the winner of the GBR HQ competition, of which Derby City is a shortlist candidate, will be revealed 'before Easter'.

Read the full address here: [George Bradshaw Address 2023](#).

New fund to help local authorities make improvements that enable more people to choose active travel.

Schools, high streets and main roads will benefit from improved crossings and junctions to support walking and cycling, reduce emissions and boost local economies, thanks to a £200 million fund announced this week.

Active Travel England is inviting local authorities in England to apply for funding to make improvements to enable people to choose active travel, which can help them save money and stay healthy. Schemes could include:

- creating more paths in rural areas
- developing safer routes for children to walk to school
- improved safety at junctions for people walking and cycling

Funding will also be used to support people in wheelchairs and mobility scooters by making street designs more inclusive.

Read more here: [£200 million to improve walking and cycling routes and boost local economies](#).

Vital train services to be restored by EMR

East Midlands Councils has welcomed the planned reinstatement by East Midlands Railway (EMR) of key rail services across the region in May 2023, reflecting priorities highlighted through the TfEM/DfT Rail Collaboration Agreement .

From May, EMR will be increasing daily services between Lincoln and Nottingham as well as reinstating the service which connects Nottingham and Matlock, which was suspended in 2020 and partly re-introduced in 2021, to the full seven days a week. Cllr Barry Lewis, said:

"I am extremely pleased to hear that EMR is to reinstate the full through service between Matlock and Nottingham as its withdrawal has had a major impact on the area, our residents, businesses and visitors, with a knock-on to the local economy and our tourism trade."

Moving forward, TfEM has secured an in-principle agreement to work with EMR and TfEM to develop a longer term vision for improving rail services in the East Midlands to provide a strategic context for the EMR's Annual Business Plans

HR NEWS

New law gives tens of millions more say over their working hours

The government has supported the Workers (Predictable Terms and Conditions) Bill, which will bring forward huge changes for tens of millions of workers across the UK.

The move, which would apply to all workers and employees including agency workers, comes after a review found many workers on zero hours contracts experience 'one-sided flexibility'.

With a more predictable working pattern, workers will have a guarantee of when they are required to work, with hours that work for them.

Read more: [Law to combat 'one-sided flexibility'](#).

National Pay Claim 23/24

This week, the National Employers received the 2023 pay claim for local authority Chief Officers. from GMB and UNISON.

In summary, the claim seeks:

- RPI (10.70 per cent) + 2.0 per cent
- Additional day's leave with effect from 1 April 2023
- An additional day of annual leave for personal or well-being purposes

Separate pay claims have already been submitted by the unions representing local government services ("Green Book") employees and local authority Chief Executives .

On 8th February, EMC hosted a regional pay briefing, chaired by Cllr Kate Foale, Chair of the Regional Employers Board, to enable councils to discuss the claims received so far and to feed back their views to inform national pay negotiations.

For more information visit: [East Midlands Councils— Pay and Rewards](#)

Final Local Government Finance Settlement presented to parliament

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, presented the final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023 to 2024 to Parliament this week.

The final settlement makes available up to £59.7 billion for local government in England, including a new one-off funding guarantee, ensuring all councils will see at least a 3% increase in their Core Spending Power before any local choices to increase Council Tax rates.

Read more: [Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24](#)

This week, DLUHC also published the final allocations of the New Homes Bonus for 2023 to 2024

The bonus is a grant paid by central government to councils to reflect and incentivise housing growth in their areas. It is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use. There is also an extra payment for providing affordable homes.

View the allocations here: [2023/ 2024 New Homes Bonus.](#)

EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell

Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan

Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney

Labour Group: Cllr Rob Parker

Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE

Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny

Executive Director: Stuart Young



East Midlands Councils

First Floor Offices, South Annexe

Pera Business Park

Nottingham Road

Melton Mowbray

Leicestershire

LE13 0PB

