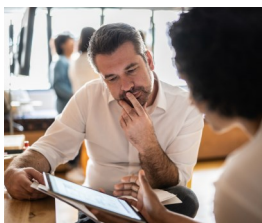


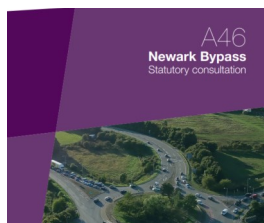
A weekly round up of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by  
East Midlands Councils

Top items this week

10 MARCH 2023



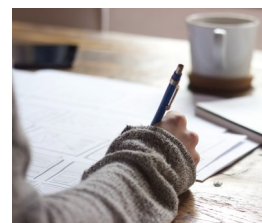
**UNIONS RESPOND  
TO NATIONAL PAY  
OFFER**



**A46 NEWARK  
BYPASS  
CONSULTATION**



**HOW AN AREA HAS  
CHANGED IN 10  
YEARS: CENSUS 2021**



**ESOL FUNDING  
FOR THE  
EAST MIDLANDS**

### Unions Respond to National Pay Offer

On Wednesday, 8 March, Unison, GMB and Unite confirmed that their national committees have rejected the final local government pay offer.

UNISON will ballot for industrial action, while GMB and Unite will now consult members, recommending rejecting the offer.

EMC provides a link between the national employers for local government and local authorities within the region, ensuring councils are consulted on the development of national pay and conditions of employment.

East Midlands Councils will keep our member councils updated on any further developments. You can also see the latest updates here:

**PAY AND  
REWARDS**



### A46 Newark bypass

#### Consultation finds support for National Highways plans

Plans for a new bypass to ease congestion on the A46 have received overwhelming support via a National Highways consultation.

More than 730 people attended consultation events, both in person and online, with 539 responses received during the consultation period at the end of last year.

The A46 Newark Bypass is expected to cost up to £500m and will fill in the dual carriageway gap between Farndon and Winthorpe, in Nottinghamshire.

National Highways is intending to submit its application to the Planning Inspectorate this summer, and the full consultation report will be made available to the public at this time.

Enhancements to the A46 corridor, including the Newark bypass, are one of the eight strategic transport priorities for the region highlighted by Transport for the East Midlands and Midlands Connect in their Shared Vision for the East Midlands.

**READ MORE**



**SHARED  
VISION**



## HS2 line between Birmingham and Crewe delayed

The government has announced the construction of sections of HS2 will be delayed by two years to save money. The high-speed railway was initially set to link London and the West Midlands with a further phase extending to cities in the North.

However, Transport Secretary Mark Harper said on Thursday: "We have seen significant inflationary pressure and increased project costs, and so we will rephase construction by two years, with an aim to deliver high-speed services to Crewe and the North West as soon as possible after accounting for the delay in construction."

The delay will affect the northwest section of HS2, from Birmingham to Crewe, and then from Crewe to Manchester.

[READ MORE >](#)

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## £49.5 million for Melton Mowbray as government funds vital new road scheme

Yesterday the Department for Transport announced a £49 million in government investment to reduce congestion, improve air quality and provide faster local journeys in Melton Mowbray.

The new road scheme – part of a £115.2 million total investment between the government, local council and private investors – will help unlock the full potential of Britain's 'rural capital of food', reducing car and lorry traffic from Melton Mowbray and making it easier for residents and tourists to access its historic town centre.

The project will generate an estimated £144 million in economic opportunities by boosting local tourism and supporting over 3,400 new jobs.

The scheme consists of a single carriageway road and extends from the A606 Nottingham Road at the north-western edge of the town to the A606 Burton Road in the south, crossing Scalford Road, Melton Spinney Road, A607 Thorpe Road and B676 Saxby Road to Burton Road.

[READ MORE >](#)

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## New Future Councils pilot programme and £2 million award to council-led digital projects announced

This week, DLUHC announced that eight councils will be taking part in the pilot of Future Councils – a new programme to deliver replicable pathways to digital and cyber security reform.

In the region, Leicester City Council was chosen due to its strong willingness to engage with the pilot, openness and honesty about their strengths, challenges and opportunities, and clear ideas about how the pilot could support them to share their knowledge and make improvements.

[READ MORE >](#)

DLUHC also announced that 16 projects across the UK have been awarded a share of almost £2 million of government funding through round six of the Local Digital Fund. The aim of the fund is to make local government services safer, resilient, and cost effective.

In the region, Nottinghamshire County Council has been awarded £95,000 for its project to help children out of long waits for adoption. This project will develop data science methods to identify the characteristics of parents who are willing to adopt sibling groups, children older than five, are of minority ethnic background or have complex needs.

[READ MORE >](#)

## How an area has changed in 10 years: Census 2021

This week, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) released change over time data on their Census maps.

Census maps is an interactive tool to explore Census 2021 data across England for different topics down to a neighbourhood level.

Councils can now also see how areas have changed between the censuses in 2011 and 2021, by selecting 'Mode' and 'Change since 2011'.

The ONS has also produced change over time articles for every council in England and Wales, that highlight particular changes in an area, alongside local context and charts.

### Key figures from the East Midlands

The population of the East Midlands increased by 7.7% between 2011 and 2021, while the population of England rose by 6.6%.

Every local authority area across the region saw a fall in the percentage of people aged 16 years and over (excluding full-time students) who were unemployed, as the regional percentage fell from 3.8% to 2.4%.

The regional percentage of people who were economically inactive because they were looking after their family or home grew from 3.6% to 4.3%.

Every local authority area across the East Midlands saw a rise in the percentage of privately-rented homes, as the regional percentage grew from 14.9% to 18.7%.

The percentage of households that owned their home fell from 67.2% to 65.5% across the region.

Across the East Midlands, the percentage of residents who described themselves as having "No religion" increased from 27.5% to 40.0%.

Every local authority area across the region saw a rise in the percentage of people who did not identify with any national identity associated with the UK, as the regional percentage grew from 5.8% to 8.5%.

Across the East Midlands, the percentage of people from the "Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African" ethnic group increased from 1.8% to 2.7%.

**CENSUS  
MAP**



**IN YOUR  
AREA**



## Illegal Migration Bill introduced to Commons

This week the government proposed a new Illegal Migration Bill which aims to detain and remove anyone who arrives illegally in the UK.

Earlier this year the Prime Minister made stopping the boats one of his five promises to the British people. The 'Stop the Boats' – or Illegal Migration – Bill aims to fulfil that promise by ending illegal entry as a route to asylum in the UK.

Under plans for the bill, people who arrive in the UK illegally will instead be detained and removed to their home country if safe, or another safe third country, such as Rwanda,. The will also be prevented from accessing modern slavery support.

Read the full bill:

[READ MORE >](#)

## Full Asylum Dispersal

On Tuesday, East Midlands Councils held a information event on Full Asylum Dispersal in the East Midlands.

The event was attended by Home Office Deputy Director of Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration, Andy Kelly, as well as colleagues from Serco, and included case studies on asylum support from Leicester City Council and Broxtowe Borough Council as well as Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland ICB and ASSIST Practice in Leicester.

The event was well attended by members and officers from across the region, who had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the Full Asylum Dispersal Model for the region.

Many thanks to all who attended.

Keep up to date with upcoming EMC events:

[EMC  
EVENTS >](#)



## ESOL Funding for the East Midlands



Funded by  
UK Government

East Midlands Councils has been rewarded over £75,000 in grant funds to deliver bespoke ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages) provisions and support individuals to access employment and services independently.

The funds will initially be used to expand EMC's ongoing TESOL (Teaching English for Speakers of other Languages) programme, offering training courses to people who have moved to the country via Government resettlement programmes and Visa schemes, including Homes for Ukraine and the HKBNO Visa programme, as well as former asylum seekers.

## 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



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