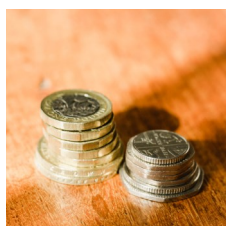


A weekly round up of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by  
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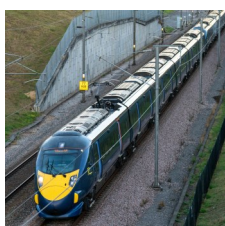


### Top items this week

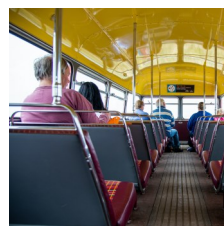
22 DECEMBER 2022



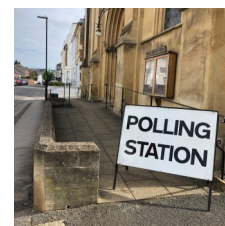
**Provisional Local  
Government Finance  
Settlement**



**Ukrainian Onward  
Travel Scheme  
extended**



**DfT announces £2 bus  
fare cap for millions of  
commuters**



**Voter ID  
legislation update**

## Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2023-2024 revealed

This week, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, presented the Local Government Finance Settlement 2023-24 to Parliament.

The settlement announced an increase in Core Spending Power of nine percent for councils in England in 2023-24, which will make available almost £5 billion in additional funding. This includes around £2 billion in additional grant for social care.

### The Provisional Finance Settlement includes:

- £60 billion funding package for the next financial year – marking an increase of 9% on 2022-23.
- The most relatively deprived areas of England will receive 17% more per household through this year's settlement.
- £2 billion of additional grant funding for social care.
- One-off funding guarantee which will see every council sees at least a 3% increase in core spending power next year before any local decisions to increase council tax rates.
- £100 million of additional funding for local authorities to support the most vulnerable households in England.

### Core Spending Power in 2023/24 consists of:

- Settlement Funding Assessment (Revenue Support Grant, and the baseline funding level)
- Income from council tax assuming that the tax base grows, and councils increase council tax by the maximum possible
- Compensation for under-indexing the business rates multiplier
- The New Homes Bonus
- The Social Care Grant
- The Improved Better Care Fund
- Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund
- Adult Social Care Discharge Fund
- Rural Services Delivery Grant

This includes Council Tax increase (without the need for referendum) up to 3%, which applies to county councils and unitary authorities; district councils up to 3% or £5, whichever is higher.

Social care authorities will be able to set a 2% adult social care precept.

The consultation for the settlement is now open and will run until the 16 January 2023.

[Respond to the consultation.](#)

[Read the full provisional finance settlement.](#)

## Second round of levelling-up funds faces new delay

In a letter to MPs on Monday, Minister for Levelling Up, Dehenna Davidson, stated that the announcement on successful bidders for round two of the Levelling Up Fund is to be delayed, with the announcement now expected to take place in January.

The letter stated: “Having received such a high number of quality applications, the announcement has been delayed until the New Year to allow us to allocate the funds—meaning up to £2.1 billion will be granted to successful bids in this round.

“It is vitally important that we give ourselves enough time to consider the outcome of assessments carefully before the final decision on applications is made.”

[Read more information on round two of the Levelling Up Fund.](#)

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## Ukrainian Onward Travel Scheme extended

The Transport Secretary has announced the extension of a travel scheme helping Ukrainian evacuees reach safety in the UK.

For a further six months, the free onward travel scheme will continue to grant all Ukrainian evacuees arriving in the UK one free journey either by rail, coach, tube or bus to reach their final destination.

The scheme is providing vital support to those who need it the most and this extension means passengers will continue to be protected should the situation in Ukraine escalate any further.

Transport Secretary Mark Harper said: “We know, for those who have had to flee their homes in Ukraine and find sanctuary in the UK, this support has been vital, making the difficult journey to safety in some part easier.

“We will continue to do all we can to stand with Ukraine and Ukrainians, and this scheme is an important first gesture on their arrival in our country.”

So far, over 2,900 Ukrainian evacuees have used the vital scheme, which has made it easier for Ukrainians fleeing war to reach safety and sanctuary in the UK.

[Read more.](#)

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## Platinum Jubilee fund now open for applications

This week, the government announced that the Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund had opened for applications.

The fund is managed by the charity Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and village halls in England can now apply for grants to improve and modernise their facilities.

Village halls interested in applying can request grants from £7,500 to £75,000, and up to a maximum of 20 per cent of eligible project costs. Capital grants will be allocated to support infrastructure improvements, the refurbishment of facilities, such as kitchens and toilets, and measures to improve energy efficiency.

The application window will close on 20 January 2023.

[Find out more.](#)

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## Upcoming EMC events and training:

- **East Midlands Regional Pay Briefing— Wednesday 8th February 2023—3pm—5pm—Online**
- **East Midlands Challenge 2023— Thursday 16th March 2023—9am—5pm—In person**

## DfT announces £2 bus fare cap

The DfT has announced that single bus fares will be capped at £2 from January 1 to March 31 for millions of travellers.

The scheme, backed by £60 million of government investment, will help families, commuters and other passengers save money this winter, as well as get more commuters on buses and helps to reduce emissions and congestion by taking an estimated 2 million cars off the roads.

Over 130 bus operators are taking part in the 'Get around for £2' scheme. Operators taking part in the East Midlands include:

- Arriva Midlands Ltd - Fox
- Brylaine Travel Ltd
- Cogenhoe & Whiston Parish Council
- Kinchbus
- Leicester CityBus Limited (trading as First Leicester)
- Lincolnshire Road Car Company Limited (trading as Stage Coach East Midlands)
- Marshalls of Sutton on Trent Ltd
- Nottingham City Transport
- Notts & Derby Traction Co Ltd
- Stagecoach Midlands
- TM Travel
- Trentbarton - Barton Buses

[Read more information about the scheme.](#)

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## Government proposes extension to licensing hours for the Coronation

Pub licensing hours are set to be extended under proposals published by the government to mark His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen Consort's Coronation.

The consultation will propose extending licensing hours from 11:00pm to 1:00 am from Friday 5 to Sunday 7 May in pubs, clubs and bars in England and Wales.

[Read more.](#)

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## Voter ID legislation update

Legislation mandating voter ID for elections in Great Britain passed through the House of Lords last week.

The voter ID provisions are due to be in place for local elections in England May 2023 and at any UK Parliamentary election held after that date.

This week, DLUHC published guidance which outlines the methodology taken to calculate the value of new burdens funding to be paid to councils to implement the introduction of voter identification and accessibility.

The guidance sets out the modelling approach undertaken to estimate these costs and allocate funding to councils to support the delivery of elections and electoral registration activities.

[Read more about Voter ID legislation.](#)

[Read DLUHC new burdens guidance.](#)

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## 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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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

