



New funding for East  
Midlands HKBNO  
Community projects



New phone service to  
be rolled out across  
the East Midlands



New Councillor  
Workshop coming  
soon



East Midlands  
Councils Membership  
Survey

## NEW FUNDING FOR EAST MIDLANDS HKBNO COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Organisations who help Hong Kongers coming to live and work in the UK have been awarded £2.6 million by the government.

This further year of funding for the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Welcome Programme for 2023/24 has been allocated to 47 civil society organisations, providing BN(O) visa holders with vital language, employment and mental health support.

The announcement was made at Welcoming Committee for Hongkongers annual conference on Monday, which East Midlands Councils' SMP was pleased to attend.

Since the launch of the Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Programme in 2021, over 166,000 eligible Hong Kongers and their family members have chosen to make the UK their home by applying for the BN(O) visa.

In the East Midlands, the following organisations have been funded:

- Broxtowe Community Projects (BCP)
- Groundwork Five Counties, which works across the East Midlands
- Reach (EMCF), based across Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.

Nationally, Barnardo's and Welcoming Committee for Hong Kongers have received funding to continue their programme of support, and Good Neighbour Church has received funding to provide additional support for HKBNO.

[READ MORE >](#)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The EMC Annual General Meeting will take place at 10.00am on Friday, 14th July 2023 at Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP.

All councillors in the East Midlands are invited to attend.

Refreshments will be available from 9.00am with political pre-meetings taking place at 9.30am.

The main meeting will start at 10.00am with lunch from 12.00pm.

A full agenda will be made available shortly.

## BT'S NEW HOME PHONE SERVICE TO BE ROLLED OUT ACROSS THE EAST MIDLANDS

BT recently announced plans to roll out its new home phone service, Digital Voice, on a region-by-region basis, starting with the East Midlands.

Throughout July, BT will be heading to towns and cities across the region to host a range of events where they'll have a team on hand who can tell you what Digital Voice is, why the change is necessary and what it means for you.

BT will be present in townhalls across the region in July to address customer questions on the ground. Customers will be able to speak to BT advisors, test Digital Voice products as well as take part in digital skills training.

There will also be a series of pop-up events in garden centres and libraries, as well as a demonstration vehicle which will tour the region and try out the new technology for themselves.

Find out what's taking place in your area:

[READ MORE >](#)

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## HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING – NEW COUNCILLOR WORKSHOP

**Friday 14th July 2023, 13.30 - 16.00**

East Midlands Councils is hosting a free half day workshop for newly Elected Members.

**All new councillors are invited** to this session which has been specifically designed to support newly elected members to help them “hit the ground running” in their new role.

This session aims to complement individual council's induction programmes by covering a range of national and regional issues as well as further understanding the local ward role.

This session also provides valuable networking opportunities with other newly elected and experienced councillors from across the region.

The session will include:

- Discussing your early experiences so far and the questions that still remain
- The role of the Modern Councillor
- National and Regional Priorities, challenges and opportunities
- Understanding the challenges in your ward role
- Learning and tips from experienced councillors
- How East Midlands Councils and the Local Government Association can support you

This is an informal, interactive session where you will benefit from the learning, the opportunity to ask questions and making new connections.

[BOOK NOW >](#)

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## EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

East Midlands Councils (EMC) is keen to hear from its membership to help inform our upcoming Programme of events, services and support.

Feedback from both Councillors and Officers is key to ensuring that our work is tailored to the priorities of the sector and brings value to our membership. This survey should take no more than five minutes to complete.

[SURVEY >](#)

### EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE  
Vice Chair: Cllr Sarah Russell  
Labour Group: Cllr Rob Parker  
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny  
Executive Director: Stuart Young

### East Midlands Councils

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