



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

Top items this week

15 DECEMBER 2023



Government minded to appoint commissioners at Nottingham City Council



Labour announces rail and transport infrastructure review



Free courses bring more English language tutors to the region



Final round of Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 now open

GOVERNMENT MINDED TO APPOINT COMMISSIONERS AT NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

DLUHC SoS has confirmed that he is minded to appoint commissioners to oversee the running of some aspects of Nottingham City Council. A letter from local government minister Simon Hoare to the council's improvement board said there was a need to 'escalate' intervention at the authority.

Levelling up secretary Michael Gove will consider representations until January 2 before confirming the decision to appoint commissioners.

Nottingham issued a section 114 notice last month after finding it could not balance its in-year budget deficit of £23m.

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LABOUR ANNOUNCES RAIL AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW

Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary, Louise Haigh, has announced a new rail and transport infrastructure review.

The independent review will be led by former Siemens CEO Juergen Maier CBE and will "explore how rail infrastructure delivery can be better managed to boost jobs, improve value for money, and drive investment and economic growth across the country".

The review will make recommendations to Labour's top team on key changes which could be made to the planning system; the capacity of public bodies to effectively deliver infrastructure; the opportunities to unlock wider growth around projects, deliver value for money, and how to boost the British supply chain and attract private investment.

We will update colleagues when the call for evidence has been launched.

FREE COURSES BRING MORE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TUTORS TO THE REGION

40 migrants and refugees across the East Midlands have gained qualifications in teaching English in a programme funded by East Midlands Councils.

The programme aims to support access to training and certification in Teaching of English for Speakers of Other Languages ('TESOL') for beneficiaries of managed migration and visa programmes in the region.

Click the link below to hear the stories of Jennifer and Astrid, who are both working as English tutors in the East Midlands after successfully completing their CertTESOL qualification via this programme.

WATCH NOW >

## FINAL ROUND OF BROWNFIELD LAND RELEASE FUND OPEN

This week, DLUHC announced that councils in England will be able to bid for a share of £80 million funding from the final round of the Brownfield Land Release Fund 2.

The £180m Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 was launched in July 2022 and is designed to help bring council-owned land back into use, by turning redundant industrial sites, disused car parks and derelict buildings into land for new homes.

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## THE EAST MIDLANDS CHALLENGE IS BACK IN 2024!

The East Midlands Challenge is returning in April 2024!

Teams of six aspiring leaders from councils across the region will get the opportunity to gain exposure to issues outside of their normal work, balancing priorities and politically sensitive issues while maintaining a customer focus and determining how to provide the public with the best service possible—despite limited resource!

Do you want to enter the challenge, or know someone who should—find out more by clicking the link below!

[READ MORE >](#)

## IN MEMORY OF CLLR ROB PARKER

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Cllr Rob Parker, a dedicated public servant whose career spanned over 30 years.

Rob was a stalwart figure in Lincolnshire County Council, acting as Leader of the Council between 1993 and 1997. He remained leader of the Labour Group until 2013 - a role he took on again in 2017, until his resignation earlier this year.

In addition to his work throughout Lincolnshire, Rob served as Leader of the EMC Labour Group and contributed to the EMC Executive Board and Regional Employers Board.

Rob has left an enduring impact throughout the region, and will be remembered as a thoughtful, hard working and dedicated individual.

We extend our sincere condolences to Rob's family.



## 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 Matthew Relf  
Executive Director: Stuart Young



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