

POLICY BULLETIN



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In this issue, we share the changes rippling through Government following the departure of former Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner MP. At the LGE Policy Team, we're keeping our finger on the pulse, ready to respond to implications for the East of England. This issue also highlights our recent support to councils and partners through Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution, as well as changes to NHS Integrated Care Boards in the region. You will read about our advocacy on the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy, new events focussed on the region's water scarcity, and other upcoming LGE events.

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Government Reshuffle

A major Government reshuffle took place in early September affecting MHCLG, with new appointments for:

- Steve Reed MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Alison McGovern MP, Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness, overseeing Local Government Reorganisation
- Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Devolution, Faith and Communities.

LGE looks forward to working with the new Ministers.



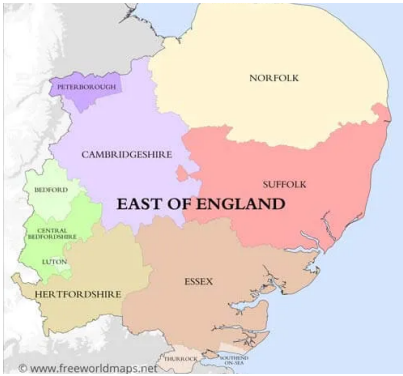
Miatta Fahnbulleh MP,
Parliamentary Under-
Secretary of State

KEYNOTE ANNOUNCED: Devolution in the East Event, 4 Nov 25

We're excited to announce that **Baroness Taylor of Stevenage OBE, Lord's Minister for Housing and Local Government** will give a keynote address at the upcoming 'Devolution Opportunities in the East of England' event on 4 November in Huntingdon. This event is hosted by Local Government East, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Huntingdonshire District Council, and Health Innovation East. **If you haven't already, book your place [here](#).**

Speakers include:

- Baroness Taylor of Stevenage OBE
- Sir Norman Lamb, former Minister for Care and Support and former MP for North Norfolk
- Paul Bristow, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Jan Thomas, Chief Executive Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board
- Mubasshir Ajaz, Head of Health and Communities, West Midlands Combined Authority
- And more!



Local Government Reorganisation - A step closer?

Councils in Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex have now published and submitted their final proposals for Local Government Reorganisation. Councils across Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire continue to work on their proposals ahead of their later deadline of 28 November 2025.

Sharing Learning

LGE Chief Executive, Cairistine Foster-Cannan, outlined LGE support on LGR and Devolution at our June Roundtable. This ranges from information and advocacy, HR and organisational development, events, regional collaboration, to professional consultancy. **Philip Simpkins, Local Government East Talent Bank Associate**, shared his experiences as former Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council, a unitary council in the region that went through LGR.

Focus: Adult Social Care

Our September Roundtable, chaired by Colin Ansell, Regional Lead Chief Executive for Adult Social Care and Chief Executive of Southend-on-Sea City Council, focussed on the implications of LGR for Adult Social Care.

Martyn Cockram, Local Government East Talent Bank Associate, shared his insights on what worked well in Northamptonshire. Chris Jones-King, Director of Adult Social Care and Housing, Cumberland Council, shared his learning and the opportunities for partnership working, reflecting on his experiences of LGR.

LGR Project and Programme Manager Regional Network

LGE and the LGA are co-ordinating a network of programme and project managers working on LGR to share ideas with colleagues across the region. This is providing valuable insights into the immediate challenges and pressures points. For further details please contact **Adam.Thorp@localgoveasteng.gov.uk**

Realising the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy in the East of England

The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy, launched on 23 June, provides a long-term framework for enhancing national productivity through innovation, clean growth, and skills development. The Strategy highlights key sectors that the Government considers crucial to the UK's growth mission. The East of England is a cutting-edge leader in several of these sectors, including agri-tech, life sciences, and offshore renewable energy. LGE is working on a refresh to **Opportunity East** to make the case for the importance of the East in achieving the UK's need for growth. This report will set out how the East is delivering the Government's missions, the opportunities for housing delivering and the vital need for investment in the region's infrastructure.



Changes to NHS Regions and Integrated Care Boards

Integrated Care Boards
East of England



From 1 April 26, the new ICB footprints will be:

- 1.** NHS Essex ICB – abolishing Mid and South Essex ICB, incorporating West Essex and North East Essex
- 2.** NHS Norfolk and Suffolk ICB - abolishing Norfolk and Waveney ICB and Suffolk and North East Essex ICB
- 3.** NHS Central East ICB – abolishing Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB, Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes ICB, and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICB

Significant structural changes are underway across NHS bodies. In September, the Model Region Blueprint for the NHS was published setting out the changing function of NHS regions. This follows the Government's 10 Year Health Plan which sets out a vision for a more devolved healthcare system that shifts resources from acute hospital into communities. Our LGE briefing on the plan and response from LGE Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing and Leader of Maldon District Council, Cllr Richard Siddall is [here](#).

LGE is bringing together NHS and local government regional leads for Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Public Health to consider the risks and opportunities of the changing structural and policy landscape, chaired by Regional Lead Chief Executive for Strategic Health Partnerships and Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council, Laura Church.



National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme

The first six places selected for the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP) for the East of England are:

- Fenland, Peterborough and East, and Peterborough Partnerships
- West Essex
- South and West Hertfordshire
- West Suffolk
- Ipswich and East Suffolk
- North East Essex

New LGE Event Series: Water Scarcity in the East

LGE has welcomed working with the Regulatory Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Developments (RAPID) to design a series of water events. The first event on 23 September highlighted that water scarcity is a critical, growing issue in the East of England, with projections showing an 800 million litres per day shortfall in the region by 2050.

Speakers included Paul Leinster, former Chief Executive of the Environment Agency and current Chair of the Cambridge Water Scarcity Group and Water Resources East, and Cheryl Steventon, Director of Programme and Engagement at RAPID. We heard that major investment – over £100 billion nationally in the next five years – will fund new reservoirs, desalination plants, water recycling, and smart metering, while also driving down leakage and promoting water efficiency.



LGE is working together with regulators, water companies, and regional planning groups to secure resilient water supplies, enable sustainable growth, and protect the environment for future generations in the East of England.

The next water event on 29 November will focus on codesign, collaboration and partnership working. If you're interested in taking part please book [here](#).

Maximising the Social and Affordable Homes Programme

A raft of recent government policy on housing has been welcomed by local councils and the wider housing sector including the £39bn in housing grant, 60% for social rent. The East of England Housing Delivery Group meeting in October, chaired by Alice Macdonald MP, will consider the delivery opportunities of the Social and Affordable Homes Programme in the region.



Home Office Update: Mis Dis and Mal Information Process

The Strategic Migration Partnership has updated councils that from 22 September mis/dis/mal information about local asylum seeking populations should be emailed to **CounterEmergingThreats@homeoffice.gov.uk** using the required template and cc. to **Louise.Gooch@localgoveasteng.gov.uk**. A Home Office led Task and Finish Group will take place weekly to share feedback and solutions.

What We're Reading ...



Besides the LGR plans that have been published across the region this month, I have just finished reading the slightly macabre “Goliath’s Curse” – a study of state formation, degeneration, and collapse across human history. Trying to apply its findings to local government, I think the main message is that resilience is crucial, and that if an organisation is to thrive, it has to be able to survive political, environmental, and technological shocks.

**Matthew Stewart, Policy and Programme Manager,
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Upcoming LGE Events

- **Devolution Opportunities in the East of England, Civic Suite, Huntingdon, 4 Nov 2025, 09:30 - 14:00. Booking [here](#).**
- **LGE Roundtable: A Return to Energy Provision? Building Energy Resilience and the Role of Local Government, MS Teams, 12 Nov 2025, 10:00 - 11:30. Booking [here](#).**
- **Water Futures: Codesign, Collaboration, and Partnership Working in the Water Space, MS Teams, 27 Nov 10.00 - 12.00. Booking [here](#).**
- **LGE Roundtable: Project Finance – How do you get your plans off the ground, MS Teams, 2 December 2025, 10:00 - 11:30. Booking [here](#).**
- **LGE Roundtable: Temporary Accommodation Solutions in the East, MS Teams 13 January 2026, 10:00 - 11:30. Booking [here](#).**

Key Dates

- **Autumn Budget on 26 November 2025**
- **Schools White Paper expected Autumn**
- **Published Local Government Outcomes Framework by the end of 2025**

To subscribe to LGE bulletins, please email the following:

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