

# Leader's Update

24 January 2025

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## Introduction and welcome

Welcome to my latest Update.

This issue includes:

- New Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets appointed.
- Cllr Harriet Pentland replaced by Cllr Helen Harrison on council's Executive.
- Corby area: Changes to bank account details.
- Launch of our Activity Buddy scheme.
- Inspirational Fit Cobblers programme returns.

In addition, you will find below some useful information about forthcoming meetings, Your Voice Matters (our consultation and engagement hub), all the latest press releases and our top social media posts.

Whatever your plans are, I hope you have a great weekend!

## New Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets appointed

A new Member for Highways, Travel and Assets has been appointed to the council's Executive.

Cllr Macaulay Andrew Nichol, who represents the Corby Rural ward, has taken on the prestigious position.

The portfolio covers a range of services including highways and transport; on-street and off-street parking; refuse, recycling and waste; and property and estates management.

Macaulay has shown great determination and dedication since our authority came into being in April 2021 and very much deserves his place at the table to help the team make key decisions on making the council and the whole area the best it can be.

Cllr Nichol said: "It's a tremendous honour to be appointed to the council's Executive and I'm thrilled to be working with everyone on creating policies that take North Northamptonshire forward."

## Cllr Harriet Pentland replaced by Cllr Helen Harrison on council's Executive

Cllr Harriet Pentland has stepped down from North Northamptonshire Council's Executive due to a change in work commitments. She has been replaced by Cllr Helen Harrison, who has a wealth of knowledge and experience and has previously had an Executive position at the council.

Cllr Pentland has sat on the Executive since the creation of the council with responsibility for the Climate and Green Environment. She has led on several major projects including the NN Climate conferences and the introduction of green strategies and policies that positively impact on the whole of North Northamptonshire, including the council's Carbon Management Plan.

Cllr Pentland will remain committed to her duties as a ward councillor for Higham Ferrers.

Harriet has been a vital member of the Executive, bringing forward a massive amount of change. Her tremendous work on the council's Carbon Management Plan is a real stepping stone that we can now build on and grow as the baton passes to Helen.

It is great to welcome Helen back onto the Executive and I know that the Climate and Green Environment portfolio is in a capable, experienced pair of hands.

I think it is really important to have women in senior positions at the council and on the Executive and I am keen to attract more women into senior roles.

## **Corby area: Changes to bank account details**

We have recently changed our bank account for paying by bank transfer and have sent out a letter to residents impacted in the Corby area. This is part of the harmonisation of services across North Northamptonshire Council.

The letter is on North Northamptonshire Council headed paper from the Revenues and Benefits team. It was sent to residents in the Corby area who pay their council tax by standing order, card payment or bank transfer to the old Corby Borough Council NatWest account.

The letter includes the new bank details for North Northamptonshire Council's Barclays account (new account number 13629015 and sort code 20-17-68) which will need to be used going forward.

The old Corby Borough Council NatWest account will soon be closed down.

The new account details can also be found on our [council tax](#) web pages.

If you have any questions about this change, please [contact us](#).

## **Launch of our Activity Buddy scheme**

Would you like to make 2025 the year that you become more active, meet new friends and explore new activities, but unsure how to make this happen? It could also be that it is a while since you have spent time with people or engaged in hobbies or activity of any kind.

Taking part in activities can:

- boost your self-confidence and improve communication skills,
- combat feelings of loneliness and isolation,
- improve physical health,
- reduce stress, boost your mood and increase your happiness.

Our Leisure Team has investigated this and launched the Activity Buddy scheme.

The scheme, funded by North Northamptonshire Council Public Health for three years, can help if you're an adult experiencing mental wellbeing, motivational or physical challenges that stop you from participating in sport or active wellbeing sessions.

After joining the scheme, you will be matched with a like-minded buddy in an activity of your choice, supporting you to be more active and providing a friendly, safe and fun atmosphere to build your confidence. Activities include walking, golf, swimming, gym, studio-based exercise class, gardening, community-based activities and arts and crafts.

It is free to register. Activities are paid for as per session admission charges.

Joining the scheme is very easy. Please visit our [Activity Buddy](#) web pages for more details or to register. If you need further support or have any questions, please email [activitybuddy@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:activitybuddy@northnorthants.gov.uk) or text BUDDY to 07483 130234.

## Inspirational Fit Cobblers programme returns

Help is at hand for men in North Northamptonshire who want to make healthier lifestyle choices in the New Year and beyond.

North Northamptonshire Council has teamed up with Northampton Town Football Club Community Trust to bring back a 12-week programme which is aimed at men aged between 30 and 65 with a body mass index (BMI) over 28kg/m2.

Free of charge for those taking part, the Fit Cobblers programme is offering 25 places for the weekly sessions which take place between 6pm and 8pm at the Hemmingwell Community and Skills Centre in Wellingborough.

In the first hour of the sessions, participants will take part in classroom-based activities looking at topics such as nutrition, exercise, alcohol and food, using strategies such as SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) goal setting to help build long-term healthy habits.

In the second hour the participants will take part in a physical activity session such as walking football, circuit training, yoga or long walks.

While it's easy to have positive intentions at the start of a New Year towards a healthier lifestyle it's not always so easy to maintain the dedication required. That's where programmes such as this are a tremendous benefit and real-life examples have shown that the course has made a big impact on people's lives.

Please visit the [Fit Cobblers](#) website for more information or to sign up.

## Your Voice Matters

Please find below details of our current consultations and engagement activities. Please use the links below to provide your feedback and inform council decisions and share with family and friends who may be interested in shaping future plans.

Details of all open and closed consultation and engagement activities are available on the North Northamptonshire Consultation and Engagement Hub, [Your Voice Matters](#).

- [Great Addington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Proposal](#). Closes 4 February.
- [Prescribed Alteration Statutory Proposal - Alfred Lord Tennyson School](#). Closes 17 February.

## Forthcoming meetings

### Executive

- Budget Executive - Thursday 6 February from 10am.
- Thursday 13 February from 10am.

### Full Council

- Budget Council - Thursday 20 February from 10am.
- Thursday 6 March from 6pm.

The agenda and papers will be published on the [council meetings](#) section of our website in the week before the meeting.

The meetings will be live streamed on our [YouTube](#) channel.

## Press releases

To help you stay abreast of the key things the council has been doing, I have included some links to the latest press releases below (starting with the most recent):

- [Get more active, meet people and explore new activities in 2025 with North Northamptonshire Council's Active Buddy Scheme](#)
- [Inspirational Fit Cobblers programme returns for those making healthy lifestyle choices in North Northamptonshire](#)
- [New Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets appointed at North Northamptonshire Council](#)
- [Are your electoral registration details up to date?](#)
- [Changes to bank account details](#)
- [Cllr Harriet Pentland set to depart North Northamptonshire Council's Executive](#)

## Social media: Top stories

Follow our social media accounts and share our [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#) posts when you can.

### Top Facebook posts so far this week (20 to 22 January)

- Are electoral registration details correct for your household? We've almost finished checking for this year. If you've not responded to your Canvass Form, please follow instructions on the form. #YourVoteMatters <https://ow.ly/LUpw50UJs5H> (Views 1,336, Reach 789, Interactions 0)
- (Shared post from the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service) Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have today come together with partners in the latest County Water Safety Partnership meeting to discuss their joined-up approach to keeping people safe in the water. Prevention Team Leader Darren Carson chaired the meeting and was joined by partners from West Northamptonshire Council, North Northamptonshire Council, Royal Life Saving Society UK - RLSS UK, University of Northampton, Northamptonshire Search and Rescue, RNLI and the Canal & River Trust. Thomas Okyere, the father of Ronalds Abele (In Memory Of Ronalds) who died after getting into difficulty in the water in Wellingborough last year, also joined the discussion to learn of the work being done by all partners across Northamptonshire to make water safety activities accessible to as many people as possible. The meeting was a chance to plan events and campaigns for the summer months and to make sure all partners are working to help people enjoy the water safely. (Views 1,177, Reach 752, Interactions 3)
- Still got the New Years blues? This time of year can be a struggle for some people. We have a page dedicated to improving and supporting your health and wellbeing <https://ow.ly/IgLC50Qmwe8> (Views 883, Reach 645, Interactions 4)

### Top Tweets so far this week (20 to 22 January)

- Are electoral registration details correct for your household? We've almost finished checking for this year. If you've not responded to your Canvass Form, please follow instructions on the form. #YourVoteMatters <https://ow.ly/IRZI50UJs5G> (Impressions 258)
- Still got the New Years blues? This time of year can be a struggle for some people. We have a page dedicated to improving and supporting your health and wellbeing <https://ow.ly/IgLC50Qmwe8> (Impressions 251)
- We're launching a satisfaction survey today (20 January) for our social housing tenants. Our partner, Acuity, will be contacting selected tenants by phone to hear your views. For any queries about the survey, please e-mail: [tenantssurvey@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:tenantssurvey@northnorthants.gov.uk) (Impressions 240)

## Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have any ideas for items to include in future updates, please email me at [executive@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:executive@northnorthants.gov.uk).

With Best Wishes,  
Jason