



# Leader's Update

**4 April 2025**

**Issue: 97**

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## Introduction and welcome

Welcome to my latest Update.

Today's edition includes:

- New contractors for household waste recycling services.
- North Northamptonshire Council reaches finals of prestigious MJ Awards 2025.
- Easter activities for children.
- North Northamptonshire's first members of the Youth Parliament appointed.
- North Northamptonshire Family Hubs welcome Strong Start for Life services.

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 contractors for household waste recycling services

Biffa Waste Services and HW Martin Waste Ltd have been confirmed as the contractors for recycling services across North Northamptonshire, following a year-long procurement process.

The previous arrangements had been inherited from the previous county council with contracts ending on 31 March 2025.

HW Martin Waste Ltd is now responsible for the operation and management of the formerly council-run Household Waste Recycling Centres in Corby, Kettering, Rushden and Wellingborough.

Biffa Waste Services has been awarded the contract for providing residual (non-recyclable) waste treatment and disposal services.

The council went through a full and thorough procurement process to ensure that the new service met the needs of the council, provided value for money and allowed for a consistent service across the local area.

It also allows for flexibility for future improvements and adaptations as the council moves forward.

Find out more about our [Bins, recycling and street cleansing](#) services on our website.

## North Northamptonshire Council reaches finals of prestigious MJ Achievement Awards 2025

North Northamptonshire Council has reached the final of the nationally recognised [MJ Achievement Awards 2025](#), with three nominations across key categories.

- Irchester Field School - Finalist for the Innovation in Public Private Partnerships Award.
- Hi-Street initiative - Finalist for the Community Engagement Award.
- Project Manager for Adults, Health Partnerships, and Housing - Finalist for the Rising Star Award.

The MJ Awards 2025 celebrate outstanding achievements in local government.

The winners of the MJ Achievement Awards 2025 will be announced at an award ceremony in London on Friday 20 June.

## **Easter activities for children**

Join us for a fun-filled Easter holiday with exciting activities for children of all ages.

- Easter events - Fun activities for children to celebrate the holiday with joy and creativity.
- Swimming - Dive into fun this Easter with swimming sessions for all ages and abilities.
- Sports - Explore a range of exciting sports available during the Easter break.
- Activities - Discover a variety of engaging activities, clubs and camps available.
- Schemes and passes - Explore our range of schemes and passes offering great value for access to leisure facilities and activities.

Please visit our website for more details of our [Easter activities for children](#).

## **North Northamptonshire's first members of the Youth Parliament appointed**

North Northamptonshire has concluded its Youth Parliament election and has now appointed two Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) to represent its young people.

Alfie Richards, 16, and Ivanna Obi, 15, received the highest number of nominations from over 1,000 votes from young people across North Northamptonshire. This marks an historic appointment for the local authority, as they will be the first Members of Youth Parliament to have been elected to represent the constituency.

As part of their manifestos, candidates were asked to highlight a local, national, and global issue affecting them and provide plans to address the issues.

Alfie's manifesto focused on safety and protection, as a local issue, education, as a national issue, and the dangerous impact of social media, as a global issue.

Ivanna's manifesto focused on amplifying young people's involvement locally, at all levels, education on a national level and the impact of people being put under pressure on a global scale.

The two new MYPs will be granted seats on North Northamptonshire's Youth Advisory Council, which was formed in January of this year, and will be invited to sit in Parliament at key periods during their terms as MYPs.

Other key activities will include campaigning locally, regionally and nationally throughout the year, delivering sessions with schools and in the community to engage young people with the democratic process.

## **North Northamptonshire Family Hubs welcome Strong Start for Life services**

Families across North Northamptonshire will benefit as the early years universal service, Strong Start for Life, is delivered from North Northamptonshire Family Hubs bases.

Aligning with the recommissioned public health services for children, young people and families, the former countywide service will be delivered as two separate contracts, for North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Councils, ensuring families receive services as close to home as possible.

Formerly known as Strong Start, the North-based team will transition from the West Northamptonshire Council Libraries Service to the North Northamptonshire Family Hubs Service as the Strong Start for Life Team. This new team, forms part of the Family Hubs offer for under 5s and will ensure that families receive comprehensive support, from pregnancy through to young adulthood, in a single, accessible location.

The Strong Start for Life Team will continue to be funded and overseen by North Northamptonshire Public Health, maintaining its commitment to delivering key public health early years priorities.

Strong Start for Life sessions started this week and are bookable in advance on the Eventbrite event page: [Strong Start for Life North Northants](#).

Please visit the [North Northamptonshire Family Hubs](#) website for more information.

## North Northamptonshire elections: Key information

We are now less than a month away from the North Northamptonshire Council elections and Town and Parish Council elections.

**Candidate lists are now available on our website: xxxx**

Here is a reminder of the key dates:

- **Friday 11 April:** [Register to vote](#). If you have recently moved home or changed your name, you may need to update your details to ensure you can take part.
- **Monday 14 April:** [Apply for a postal vote](#).
- **Wednesday 23 April:** [Apply for a proxy vote](#).
- **Wednesday 23 April:** [Apply for ID to vote \(called a 'Voter Authority Certificate'\)](#) if you don't have an accepted form of ID.
- **Friday 2 May:** The results for the North Northamptonshire Council elections will be announced.
- **Saturday 3 May:** The Town and Parish Council elections results will be announced.

Poll cards have now started landing on doorsteps. Please read yours carefully as your polling station might have changed.

We employ casual staff to help run elections. If you would like to work on election day (Thursday 1 May) or the counts, please see: [Election jobs](#).

Please visit our website for more information on [North Northamptonshire elections](#).

## Your Voice Matters

Please find below details of our other 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](#).

- [Draft Housing Strategy 2025-2030 - Have your say](#). Closes 11 April 2025
- [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment - Have your say](#). Closes 6 May 2025

## Forthcoming meetings

### Executive

- Thursday 17 April from 10am.

### Full Council

- Thursday 22 May 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):

- [Future contractor for household waste recycling in North Northants confirmed](#)
- [North Northamptonshire Council reach finals of MJ Awards 2025](#)
- [North Northamptonshire's first members of the Youth Parliament appointed](#)
- [North Northamptonshire Family Hubs welcome Strong Start for Life services](#)

## Social media: Top stories

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

### Top Facebook posts so far this week (31 March to 2 April)

- Future contractor for household waste recycling in North Northants confirmed <https://ow.ly/MOIZ50VrBYG> (Views 9,741, Reach 6,100, Interactions 13)
- With elections taking place in North Northants a month today, we're looking for staff to work on election day (1 May). Sounds like something you'd be interested in? Visit our website: <https://ow.ly/8UCZ50V4e1A> (Views 2,174, Reach 1,646, Interactions 3)
- In preparation for works starting on a ramp linking Washbrook Road in Rushden with the Greenway, minor vegetation removal works will start today and last for 5 days. Due to nesting season, extra checks will be undertaken. More about the ramp: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news/executive-approve-fundsnew-access-ramp-along-greenway> (Views 1,424, Reach 982, Interactions 8)

### Top Tweets so far this week (31 March to 2 April)

- Future contractor for household waste recycling in North Northants confirmed <https://ow.ly/cBOv50VrBYE> (Impressions 359)
- Looking for a new job? Have you considered a career in local government? Are you the final piece of the puzzle to make our team the best it can be? Check out our latest vacancies, and we look forward to welcoming you to NNC! <https://careers.northnorthants.gov.uk> (Impressions 304)
- From today we will be moving to our summertime opening hours at our cemeteries – 8am until 7.30pm <https://ow.ly/HsNz50VeQJ9> (Impressions 272)

## 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