



Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

Issue 4 - 8 August 2025. Featuring: Cross-party member advisory group set to be established to support new Local Plan. New Family Hubs open in Oundle and Rushden. £7 million for highways..... And more...

Top story

Cross-party member advisory group set to be established to support new Local Plan

The Council is set to establish a cross-party member advisory group to oversee the development of a new Local Plan for the area. This initiative marks a shift from the four separate local plans currently in place, aiming to create a unified plan that reflects the entire geography of North Northamptonshire.

The Executive will meet on Tuesday 12 August at the Corby Cube to discuss and potentially approve the Local Plan Advisory Group. The meeting will be live streamed via the [council's YouTube channel](#) from 10am.

More on this story: [New North Northamptonshire Local Plan cross-party member advisory group set to be established.](#)

Latest news

New Family Hubs open in Oundle and Rushden

The Council has officially launched two new Family Hub sites in Glapthorn Road, Oundle and Newton Road, Rushden, expanding its support network for families across the region.

Family Hubs are welcoming, safe spaces where babies, children, young people, and their parents or carers can access help and support tailored to their needs.

Improving the lives of all our residents is a big priority for the council. These new hubs are part of a wider initiative to ensure every child has the best start in life, and every family feels supported in their journey.

More on this story: [Family Hub network expands with new sites in Oundle and Rushden.](#)

£7.728 million in highways improvements confirmed for North Northamptonshire

The list of projects that will benefit from the £7.728 million Local Transport Grant for 2025/26 has been confirmed. This funding will support a wide range of schemes aimed at improving road safety, infrastructure, and accessibility across the region - and will make a considerable impact in communities.

They include: Carriageway resurfacing (£5.095m); Bridge deck replacement on Station Road, Earls Barton (£1.2m); Waterproofing works on Irthlingborough viaduct (£500k); Pedestrian crossing on the A509 in Wilby (£350k) and many more.

These improvements form part of a broader £54 million programme running until 2029/30, focused on maintaining and enhancing transport infrastructure across North Northamptonshire.

More on this story: [£7.7m of highways schemes confirmed for across North Northants.](#)

Official launch of Kettering Sports Park

I was delighted to attend the official launch of Kettering Sports Park earlier this week, alongside Cllr Brian Benneyworth, Executive Member for Health and Leisure, local dignitaries, council officers, works contractors, and representatives from the Northamptonshire Football Association and the Football Foundation.

The event marked a celebration of the park's transformation into a premier sporting facility, designed to inspire and support future generations of athletes, including aspiring Lionesses.

More on this story: [Launch of Kettering Sports Park boasts new facilities for future Lionesses.](#)

Gold Award for Council's support of the Armed Forces community

The Council has been awarded the prestigious Gold Award in the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS), recognising its exceptional and sustained support for the Armed Forces community. This honour reflects the Council's ongoing commitment to:

- Supporting Reservists, Veterans, and Military Families.
- Offering additional paid leave for Cadet Force Adult Volunteers.
- Providing discretionary grants to local cadet units.
- Hosting commemorative events such as Armed Forces Day and VE Day.
- Enhancing internal policies and training to better support military-connected staff.

More on this story: [Gold award for North Northamptonshire Council's continued commitment to the Armed Forces community.](#)



How to apply or reapply for a Blue Badge through North Northamptonshire Council

If you have a disability or a health condition that makes it difficult to travel, you may be eligible for a Blue Badge.

A Blue Badge lets you use more accessible parking options, including disabled parking spaces. Blue Badges are issued for up to 3 years.

If you already have a Blue Badge you will need to reapply eight weeks before your current badge expires. Please note that you will not receive an automatic reminder to reapply.

Please visit our website to [Apply or reapply for a Blue Badge](#).

Council no longer accepting cheque payments

The Council will no longer accept cheque payments directly. For residents who previously paid by cheque, there are several alternative [payment options](#) available:

- Set up a Direct Debit.
- Use the 24-hour automated payment line: 0300 126 3000.
- Pay tenancy charges using [Allpay cards](#).

You can still pay by cheque at your local Post Office branch or PayPoint or Payzone location.

If you need help or have questions, please contact our [Customer Service Team](#) for support.

Libraries offering support to help residents use the NHS App

North Northamptonshire libraries are now offering one-to-one support to help residents sign up to the [NHS App](#), making it easier for people to access digital health services.

Help is at hand in the following libraries: Corby, Irthlingborough, Kettering, Oundle, Rushden and Wellingborough. Just drop in and ask for help - or contact your local library in advance, via telephone or email. Contact details can be found on our website at [Our libraries](#).

Integrated Care Northamptonshire: Update on neighbourhood care

Integrated care is about giving people the support they need, joined up across the NHS, local councils, voluntary and community organisations, and other partners.

Senior system leaders from all providers (including primary care) across Northamptonshire recently met to discuss how plans for providing integrated neighbourhood care can be developed to improve outcomes for the population and bring care closer to home.

For more information, please read: [Update on neighbourhood care](#).



Your Voice Matters

View and respond to current consultations, and take part in engagement surveys and discussions

Local Elections Voter Experience Survey

Following the local elections in May, we would like to understand your experience of the voting process. Your feedback will help us review and improve future election planning.

The [Local Elections Voter Experience Survey](#) focuses on accessibility in polling stations, ease of voting, voter participation and awareness of elections.

This survey closes at 11:59pm on 24 August 2025.



More to explore

Stay informed with our latest press releases

- [Applications for supermarket vouchers re-open](#)
- [New initiative launched to help businesses reduce energy use](#)
- [Butterfly boom: North Northamptonshire Country Parks and Woodlands flourish with biodiversity](#)
- [Executive to discuss service transformation plans and development of in-house Enablement Service](#)
- [Consultation launched on harmonisation of cemetery regulations](#)
- [Children and teens in North Northamptonshire to benefit from free silent discos and wellbeing days throughout summer](#)
- [Drowning prevention event held on the Embankment](#)



Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. If you have any questions, please email executive@northnorthants.gov.uk.

Kind regards,

Cllr Martin Griffiths

Leader of the Council

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