



Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

Issue 10. Friday 5 December 2025. Featuring: Full Council to consider adoption of Corporate Plan. Council to publish draft budget proposals for 2026–2027. Hi Street Christmas advert.....



Top story

Full Council to consider adoption of Corporate Plan

North Northamptonshire Council's Corporate Plan for 2025–2029 will be presented to Full Council for adoption at its meeting on Thursday 11 December.

The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's vision, priorities and commitments for the next four years, focusing on key themes such as Family, Community, Prosperity, and Smarter, Faster, Fairer Public Services.

The plan reflects feedback from residents and stakeholders gathered during recent consultations, ensuring that it aligns with local needs and aspirations.

If adopted, the Corporate Plan will guide decision-making and resource allocation across all services, helping to deliver better outcomes for residents and businesses.

For more details, please visit [Full Council on Thursday 11 December](#).

Watch the meeting as it happens or on demand on our [YouTube](#) channel.



Latest news

Council to publish draft budget proposals for 2026–2027

The Council will soon unveil its detailed proposed spending plans for the next financial year.

These draft budget proposals for 2026-27 will be published on Monday 8 December and discussed at the Council's [Executive meeting on Tuesday 16 December](#).

The report outlines plans for day-to-day spending and provide a financial overview for the next few years. Full details will be available on our website once the papers are live.

Subject to Executive approval, these proposals will then go out for public consultation before returning to Executive in February. Final approval needs to be given by Full Council later that month.

We will share updates when the consultation opens, including how and where you can have your say.

Our Hi Street Christmas advert is here

I am thrilled to share our festive campaign video.

Filmed in local towns, it celebrates small businesses and the spirit of shopping local.

The advert features a nostalgic, spoken word poem, “What Does Christmas Mean to You?” written by talented local poet Jazmine Cartwright of Rushden Rhymes.

Please click here to watch it: <https://youtu.be/0TAS--JPSgo>

Please spread the word if you see it on social media and help make this Christmas magical for our local businesses.

Council to review Cornerstone branding

North Northamptonshire Council will rebrand the Cornerstone site in Kettering, which includes the library, art gallery, museum and gardens.

The move follows public feedback and aims to ensure the site reflects Kettering’s cultural heritage as it enters a new chapter.

The building is undergoing major works, including a Grade II listed roof replacement and a new extension, with full reopening planned for summer 2026. The project is under budget, returning £2 million to the council’s central funds.

A local design agency will be appointed to develop the new identity with input from key stakeholders and community groups.

Support for families receiving free school meals

North Northamptonshire Council is working with the UK Government’s Household Support Fund to give extra support to families who need it.

If your child receives free school meals, they will also be eligible for:

- **A Free School Meal Holiday Voucher:** £90 per student (combined voucher for Christmas, February Half Term and Easter.)
- **A Back-to-School Essentials Voucher:** £15 per student.

Vouchers will be issued directly by schools via email – there's no need to apply.

Vouchers must be redeemed by 31 January 2026.

Find out more: [Household Support Fund](#).

Please contact HSFNorth@northnorthants.gov.uk with any questions.

Apply now for Winter Energy Support

North Northamptonshire residents on means-tested benefits who use pre-payment meters or non-standard fuels (heating oil, LPG, biomass) can apply for a £250 one-off payment funded by the UK Government's Household Support Fund.

- Apply online by 12 noon on 20 February 2026.
- No internet? Visit your local library for free access.
- Evidence required: National Insurance number, recent bank statement and proof of up-front energy payment.

Find out more and apply online: [Winter Energy Support](#).



Community matters

Warm Spaces are open across North Northamptonshire

North Northamptonshire Council has partnered with 43 local organisations to create a network of Warm Spaces.

These spaces, including churches, village halls, community centres and libraries, are open to all residents.

They offer a safe, warm and welcoming environment, free hot drinks, opportunities to socialise and access to support information.

Find a Warm Space and their opening times: [Warm Spaces](#).

Your guide to festive services in North Northamptonshire

North Northamptonshire Council has published a helpful online guide to changes over the festive period.

- Check your [bin collection days](#).
- Find out about free [car parking](#) in the local area.
- See [leisure facilities](#) opening hours.
- [Country parks](#) will be open every day, normal parking charges apply.
- Council offices will be closed from 5pm on 24 December until 9am on 2 January.
- Limited phone service on 29-31 December (9am to 5pm).

- Access online services 24 hours a day for [payments, reporting issues and applications](#).

For further information, please visit our [Christmas](#) web pages.

Chester House Estate continues to go from strength to strength

North Northamptonshire Council has published a report highlighting the success and impact of Chester House Estate since its opening in 2021.

The [Chester House Impact Report](#) details benefits to the county across visitor engagement, education, heritage, community activities, volunteering and tourism.

The estate, overseen by North Northamptonshire Council, has organised a packed schedule of Christmas activities for all the family, including the Father Christmas Experience, outdoor Christmas market, festive treats, Christmas trees for sale, alpacas, carol singers and some SEND-friendly sessions.

Find out more and book your tickets on the [Chester House Estate](#) website.



Your Voice Matters

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

- [Consultation on the proposed school admission arrangements for September 2027](#)
– Closes 31 December 2025.
- [Term Dates for North Northamptonshire schools for the 2027-28 academic year](#)
– Closes 31 December 2025.

View all consultations and engagement activities on our website at: [Your Voice Matters](#).



More to explore

Stay informed with our latest press releases

- [New Christmas advert unwrapped - Celebrate the gift of shopping local](#)
- [Council highlights free support for local businesses ahead of Small Business Saturday](#)
- [Kingswood Secures Sport England Investment to Upgrade Youth Sports Facilities](#)
- [Bid to secure New Town status for Corby](#)
- [Event held to celebrate Raunds Library - a community managed library](#)
- [Valuable contributions to SEND workshops praised](#)

- [North Northamptonshire Council reports continued progress in cutting carbon emissions](#)
- [Corby Growing project is 'Best of the Best'](#)
- [Council celebrates recently-launched Parent Portal milestone](#)
- [Partnership to protect Northamptonshire's wildlife celebrates one year milestone](#)
- [Road Safety Week marked with training at Creating Tomorrow College](#)

View all Council news and updates on our website at: [News](#).



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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