



Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

Issue 13. Friday 23 January 2026. Featuring: Council welcomes positive LGA progress report. Keeping North Northamptonshire moving. Shaping the future of Wellingborough town centre. And more....

Top story

Council welcomes positive LGA progress report

I am delighted to share some fantastic news with you.

The Local Government Association (LGA) has completed its Progress Review following our Corporate Peer Challenge last year, and the feedback is extremely positive.

The LGA has confirmed that North Northamptonshire Council has made real and meaningful progress across all seven recommendations, with 100 per cent of the 31 agreed actions either completed or actively being progressed. This is an excellent achievement and a strong endorsement of the positive direction we are taking as a council.

It reflects the outstanding hard work, commitment and professionalism of our Members and officers, working together to deliver real and lasting improvements for our communities.

More on this story: [North Northamptonshire Council Praised for strong progress in LGA Review](#)

Latest news

Keeping North Northamptonshire moving: Updated Network Management Plan approved

The Council's Executive has approved an updated Network Management Plan, which sets out how we look after the roads and paths residents use every day.

The plan explains how we keep journeys safe and reliable, reduce disruption, and support travel by car, cycling, walking and public transport.

As North Northamptonshire continues to grow and budgets remain tight, it sets out how limited funding will be prioritised to keep people moving safely and efficiently.

Read the [Network Management Plan](#) on our ModernGov meetings portal.

Shaping the future of Wellingborough town centre

The Council's Executive has approved the development of a masterplan for Wellingborough town centre, following a review of town centres across North Northamptonshire.

This is the first step in creating a clear vision for the town centre's future and how it can best serve local people.

An independent review of the four growth towns – Corby, Kettering, Rushden and Wellingborough – identified Wellingborough as offering the greatest potential for a masterplan, based on its existing assets and limited recent external investment.

This work will help guide future improvements, with further phases planned subject to available funding. A similar masterplan for Kettering is proposed to follow.

Read the [Growth of Town Centres – Masterplan Development report](#) on our ModernGov meetings portal.

Over 1,500 new EV charge points planned across North Northamptonshire

A major expansion of electric vehicle charging is coming to North Northamptonshire, with over 1,500 new charge points planned across the area.

The project is co-funded by Connected Kerb and supported by £2.9 million from the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund. The LEVI project forms part of the Council's wider commitment to supporting cleaner, more sustainable transport and is a key element of the North Northamptonshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy (2024–2030).

To find out more, please visit our website: [More than 1,500 New EV chargepoints to future-proof infrastructure across North Northamptonshire](#) or email ev@northnorthants.gov.uk.

Celebrating our Achievements Awards

I was very proud to attend the recent Celebrating Our Achievements Awards earlier this week.

It was a wonderful event and a powerful reminder of the talent, dedication and passion shown by colleagues across the council every day.

North Northamptonshire Council is a special organisation, and I'm excited about the journey we are on together as we continue striving to be exemplary for the communities we serve.



Lodge Park Sports Centre wins prestigious national award

Lodge Park Sports Centre in Corby has been crowned Best Performer in Sports and Leisure Facility Management 2025 by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE).

This national award places Lodge Park among the very best leisure facilities in the UK and recognises the high standard of service delivery, efficiency and community engagement on offer.

I would like to congratulate the team at Lodge Park Sports Centre and the wider North Northamptonshire Council Leisure Team on this fantastic achievement, and thank them for their continued commitment to supporting our residents.

This recognition reflects both the dedication of the team and the strong support of the local community, helping people stay active, improve wellbeing and enjoy valuable social connections.

Free Tree Giveaway scheme to support greener communities

The council is giving away free packs of young trees for local groups and residents to plant and care for across North Northamptonshire, with saplings kindly supplied by The Woodland Trust.

The Free Tree Giveaway scheme is open to schools, parish councils, community groups, private landowners, charities, businesses and residents.

It's a great opportunity to support nature, boost biodiversity and help create greener, healthier communities.

If you would like to get involved, please make sure you apply by the end of February 2026.

To find out more and apply, please visit our website: [Free Tree Giveaway](#).

A further New Year Honours congratulations

In the last issue of Local Link, we were proud to celebrate the achievements and service of extraordinary individuals from North Northamptonshire who were recognised in the New Year Honours 2026 list.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Rosalind Mary Willatts, of Market Harborough, who was awarded a Medal of the Order of the British Empire (BEM) for her services to the community in Wilbarston in Northamptonshire.

We apologise for not including this recognition previously and are delighted to acknowledge Rosalind's well-deserved honour.

To view the full list of recipients, please visit GOV.UK: [The New Year Honours 2026](#).



Your Voice Matters

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

- [Raunds and Stanwick Children and Young People Activity Survey](#) – Closes 13 February 2026.
- [North Northamptonshire's Empty Homes Strategy](#) – Closes 1 March 2026.
- [North Northamptonshire Community Governance Review](#) – Closes 12 March 2026.

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



More to explore

Stay informed with our latest press releases

- [R1 bus service refreshed following joint council investment](#)
- [Update on seventh round of Household Support Fund](#)
- [Demolition of buildings to reduce anti-social behaviour levels to be discussed by Executive](#)
- [Executive approval sought on tree management plan for North Northamptonshire](#)

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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