



Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

Issue 19. Friday 17 April 2026. Featuring: Local Government Chronicle Awards – Progress recognised on national stage. Reports approved by the Executive. Record first-choice school offers.

Top story

Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 2026 – Progress recognised on the national stage

Five years on from becoming a new council, we are proud of how far we've come and committed to building on this strong foundation in the year ahead.

I am certainly very grateful for all the work of our committed employees, councillors, volunteers and partner agencies. I look forward to continuing to work with everyone as the Leader of the Council as we continue our exciting journey in North Northamptonshire.

Earlier this week, Adele Wylie, Chief Executive, and I presented to a panel of senior local government experts as part of the judging process for the prestigious Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 2026. The council has been selected as a finalist for Most Improved Council and shortlisted in three additional categories – a notable achievement for a young council.

The panel assessed our projects in detail, focusing on the impact, innovation and progress demonstrated across our work. The next step will be final shortlisting, ahead of the awards ceremony on 10 June at Grosvenor House in London, where the winners will be announced.

Latest news

Highway Maintenance Inspection and Response Framework report – Approved by the Executive

The Highway Maintenance Inspection and Response Framework (HMIRF) (April 2026) sets out how the council will inspect and respond to highway defects using a proportionate, risk-based approach aligned with the nationally recognised Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice. It clarifies investigatory triggers, strengthens quality

assurance and confirms maximum response times by priority. Overall, it improves safety and consistency, reduces repair times and supports permanent repairs through the 'Right First Time' approach.

Read the full report or watch the recording on our ModernGov meetings portal: [Executive – Tuesday 14 April 2026](#).

Speed Management Policy report – Approved by the Executive

The Speed Management Policy sets out an evidence-led approach to setting and managing speed limits to improve road safety, protect vulnerable users and support community wellbeing. Aligned with Department for Transport Circular 01/2013, it promotes consistent, self-explaining limits that encourage compliance. Delivery is based on education, engineering and enforcement, working with Northamptonshire Police and the Safer Roads Alliance.

Mean (average) speed is the primary measure used to assess traffic speeds. The policy sets out a practical framework for introducing 20mph schemes, including clear governance arrangements for speed limit changes. It also provides guidance on signage, community-led initiatives and the appropriate use of traffic calming measures.

Read the full report or watch the recording on our ModernGov meetings portal: [Executive – Tuesday 14 April 2026](#).

Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) report – Approved by the Executive

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) is a national three-year programme bringing Crisis Payments, Housing Payments, Financial Resilience Services and Community Coordination into a single multi-year model. It replaces multiple, short-term schemes, promoting a cash-first, person-centred approach with proportionate evidence and warm referrals.

The council will deliver Crisis Payments through a single front door with Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) partners, supported by clear governance, audit arrangements and annually allocated funding. Housing Payments will be delivered by a specialist team, supporting early help and prevention.

Read the full report or watch the recording on our ModernGov meetings portal: [Executive – Tuesday 14 April 2026](#).



Community matters

Record year for first-choice school offers

A total of 3,744 Reception places have been allocated across North Northamptonshire for 2026, with a record 94.1% of children offered their first-choice school – the highest ever locally. Overall, 99.07% received a place at one of their preferred schools.

For Year 3, all 906 on-time applicants (100%) were allocated their first preference, matching last year's outcome.

I would like to wish every pupil starting a new school this September the very best.

Have your say: Support for mums-to-be and new mums

North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council, working in partnership with Northamptonshire Sport, are developing targeted services to support expectant and new mums to remain physically active during pregnancy and after birth. Physical activity offers important health and wellbeing benefits throughout pregnancy, childbirth and the post-partum period.

To help tailor programmes to local needs, we are seeking views from pregnant women, new mums and parents of children under five. Feedback will help shape safe, inclusive and welcoming opportunities, facilities and support, and will be treated confidentially. The [Mums-To-Be and New Mums survey](#) closes on 28 April 2026.



Corporate Plan

Our plan for the future

If you haven't read our [Corporate Plan](#), here's a brief summary.

The plan focuses on what matters most – supporting families, strengthening communities, growing prosperity, and delivering smarter, faster and fairer public services. Shaped by feedback from our 2025 consultation and residents' satisfaction survey, it responds directly to key priorities such as tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, improving jobs and the local economy, and providing better housing.

By working closely with partners across the voluntary and community sector, education, health, policing and local councils, we will turn these ambitions into action.

This practical, forward-looking plan is focused on real outcomes that improve everyday life and build confidence in the council, helping to make North Northamptonshire an even better place to live, work and visit.



Your Voice Matters

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

- [Local Transport Plan \(LTP\) - Integrated Sustainability Appraisal](#) – Closes 24 May 2026.
- [Healthy lifestyles – Food and nutrition: Views of children and young people](#) – Closes 19 June 2026.

- [Healthy lifestyles – Food and nutrition: Views of parents and carers](#) – Closes 19 June 2026.

Please visit the [Your Voice Matters](#) hub for further information. Please share with family, friends, or others in your networks who may be interested in contributing their views.



More to explore

Stay informed with our latest press releases

- [Places allocated for children starting in Primary and Infant schools in North Northamptonshire in September 2026](#)
- [North Northamptonshire Council publishes its first Local Area Energy Plan](#)
- [Northamptonshire Heritage Fair returns for 2026](#)
- [Over 10,000 new trees planted across North Northamptonshire this season](#)
- [Contractor appointed for multi-use building project in Corby - the final Towns Fund project](#)
- [Plans to develop a new grant scheme aimed at younger residents of North Northants](#)
- [Council to consider strengthening children's SEND support](#)

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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**North
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Council**
