



## Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

**Issue 20. Friday 1 May 2026.** Featuring: Executive role changes. National recognition for council-run leisure facilities. Refurbished play area opens in Corby Old Village.

### Top story

#### Executive role changes

Cllr Graham Cheatley has been appointed as the council's new Deputy Leader and will continue in his role as Executive Member for Finance, Efficiency and Change.

Cllr Chris Kellett has been confirmed as the new Executive Member for Adults and Health Partnerships, moving from his role as Chair of the Planning Committee.

The roles were previously held by Cllr Eddie McDonald, who will continue to serve as councillor for the Gretton and Weldon ward.

### Latest news

#### National recognition for council-run leisure facilities

Lodge Park Sports Centre and Corby East Midlands International Pool have both achieved high national ratings under [Quest Plus](#), the national quality standard for leisure services.

Lodge Park received overall "Excellent" rating, while Corby International Pool was rated "Very Good" – reflecting the professionalism and commitment of the teams at both sites.

Both centres also achieved the Exercise Referral Standard, recognising the high quality and safety of the health and wellbeing programmes supporting local residents.

These results demonstrate the consistently high standards delivered across our council-run leisure facilities. My thanks and congratulations to everyone involved.

## Refurbished play area opens in Corby Old Village

A newly refurbished play area in Corby Old Village has now been officially opened.

Designed for children aged 1 to 14, the upgraded space offers a range of modern equipment that encourages imaginative, physical and social play.

Accessibility and inclusivity have been central to the redesign, ensuring the area can be enjoyed by as many families as possible.

New features include swings, equipment for both younger and older children, as well as accessible picnic tables and seating. New trees have also been planted to provide natural shade as they mature, alongside sensory planting to support children with a range of needs.

I am grateful to Corby Old Village Neighbourhood Association, whose fundraising efforts will help to fund an additional play feature later this year.



### Community matters

## Emergency heating oil support now open for North Northamptonshire residents

Applications are now open for emergency heating oil support for North Northamptonshire residents who rely on oil as their main or only heating source.

Low-income and vulnerable households not on mains gas, with oil tanks at 30% or below and unable to afford a minimum delivery, may apply.

Successful applicants will receive a £150 prepaid heating oil card via the [HUGGG platform](#).

The fund, part of the government's Crisis Resilience funding, responds to sharp oil price rises and targets the rural communities most affected. Support is for emergency situations only, where low oil levels put health and safety at risk.

For more information and to apply, please visit our website: [Heating Oil support](#).

## NHS launches spring COVID-19 vaccination programme

The NHS in Northamptonshire has launched its spring COVID-19 vaccination programme to help protect those most at risk as immunity wanes over time.

The programme focuses on eligible groups including adults aged 75 and over, residents of older adult care homes, and people aged six months and over with weakened immune systems.

The NHS will invite all eligible individuals to book a vaccination appointment. You can book an appointment online through the [NHS National Booking Service](#) or by calling 119, where you can also check your eligibility.

Please visit the Integrated Care Northamptonshire website for more information: [COVID-19 Vaccine](#).



## Upcoming meetings

### Stay informed: Watch upcoming council meetings

You can watch Executive and Full Council meetings live, or catch up afterwards, via our official [Democratic Services YouTube channel](#).

Full details for each meeting – including dates, agendas and papers – are available on our [ModernGov meetings portal](#), where you can also view future sessions.

#### Upcoming meetings:

- [Executive Meeting – Tuesday 12 May from 10am](#).
- [Annual Council Meeting – Thursday 21 May from 6pm](#).



## Your Voice Matters

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

- [Rothwell Neighbourhood Plan: Regulation 16 Consultation](#) – Closes 7 June 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

### Keep up to date with our latest press releases

- [Call for young people to represent Youth Parliament](#)
- [Road closures planned for essential works on the A6](#)
- [Plans for Rothwell library to be run by Rothwell Town Council](#)

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](mailto:executive@northnorthants.gov.uk).

Kind regards,

**Cllr Martin Griffiths**

**Leader of the Council**

© North Northamptonshire Council 2026

