



Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

Issue 30. Friday 18 September 2026. Featuring: Changes to Executive roles. Budget planning underway for the year ahead. KGH meeting strengthens strategic partnership. Orange Button Scheme... A visible network of support. Sexual Health Week 2026: Supporting healthier, informed communities. Northamptonshire Day 2026: Celebrating the very best of our county. Watch democracy in action.



Top story

Changes to Executive roles

I would like to thank Councillor Ken Harrington for his dedication and contribution to North Northamptonshire Council during his time as Executive Member for Assets, Waste and Environmental Services.

While I am sorry to see him step down from the Executive, I fully understand his decision to focus on his health and spend more time with his family. I am delighted that he will continue serving the residents of Hatton Ward as a councillor.

As we continue to deliver our ambitions for North Northamptonshire, I have reviewed Executive responsibilities to ensure we remain focused on our priorities. By redistributing these responsibilities across our existing Executive team, we can maintain strong leadership and continue driving forward improvements for our residents, communities and businesses. I am confident that these changes will support the Council's ongoing work and future ambitions.

Find out more: [Changes to Executive announced.](#)



Latest news

Budget planning underway for the year ahead

I recently met with the Deputy Leader, Councillor Graham Cheatley, and our Chief Executive, Adele Wylie, to review progress on setting the Council's budget for the year ahead.

Significant work is taking place across the Council to develop a responsible and sustainable budget that balances rising financial pressures with the need to deliver vital services.

Like many councils, we face ongoing challenges, and understanding these pressures is a key part of our planning. At the same time, we are identifying savings and efficiencies to ensure we make the best use of public money.

Through careful planning, strong financial management and collaboration across the organisation, we remain focused on delivering a balanced budget that supports our communities and priorities for North Northamptonshire.

Meeting with Kettering General Hospital strengthens strategic partnership

I was pleased to meet with our Chief Executive and Group Chair, Andrew Moore, at Kettering General Hospital (KGH) to discuss priorities and opportunities.

The meeting provided valuable insight into the services being delivered for our communities and the plans in place to meet future healthcare needs.

Strong partnerships are essential to achieving the best outcomes for residents, and our ongoing collaboration with the hospital helps ensure we are working together on shared priorities. By understanding each other's challenges, ambitions and future plans, we can strengthen this important strategic relationship.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with Kettering General Hospital and supporting the vital work of its dedicated staff in serving communities across North Northamptonshire.

Orange Button Scheme: A visible network of support

I'm pleased to support the launch of the Orange Button Scheme across Northamptonshire, helping to create a network of trained people who can offer support and guidance to those affected by suicide.

Orange Button holders have completed accredited suicide prevention training and can provide a safe, non-judgemental space for conversations, as well as signpost people to appropriate support services. They can be found in a variety of community settings, including schools, health services, local organisations and workplaces.

This important initiative will help raise awareness, reduce stigma and ensure more people know where to turn for support. By working together, we can build stronger, more compassionate communities and help ensure that nobody feels they have to face difficult times alone.

Find out more: [Orange Button Scheme](#).



Community matters

Sexual Health Week 2026: Supporting healthier, informed communities

I'm pleased that North Northamptonshire Council is supporting Sexual Health Week 2026 and working with Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) to promote trusted advice, information and support for residents.

Sexual Health Week is an opportunity to raise awareness, challenge stigma and remind people that sexual health is an important part of overall wellbeing. By working with our NHS partners, we are highlighting the confidential services available locally and encouraging residents to access reliable information from trusted sources.

We also want young people, including those starting college or university, to be aware of the support available and feel confident making informed choices.

By promoting awareness and access to local services, we can help more people take positive steps to protect their health and wellbeing.

Find out more: [NHFT Sexual Health Services](#).

Northamptonshire Day 2026: Celebrating the very best of our county

I'm delighted that Northamptonshire Day is returning on Sunday 25 October, giving us the opportunity to celebrate everything that makes our county special.

Delivered in partnership with West Northamptonshire Council, the event will bring together communities, businesses, heritage organisations and local talent for a day of entertainment, culture and community spirit.

Visitors can enjoy live performances, heritage attractions, family activities, local food and drink, and community showcases, alongside opportunities to discover the people, places and traditions that shape Northamptonshire.

We're also encouraging local organisations and groups to get involved and help showcase the very best of our county.

Find out more: [Northamptonshire Day](#).



Upcoming meetings

Watch democracy in action

Watch democracy in action by tuning in to our Executive and Full Council meetings live, or catch up at a time that suits you, via our Democratic Services YouTube channel.

You can also find meeting dates, agendas, reports and future sessions on our ModernGov portal.

It's a great way to stay informed and see how decisions affecting North Northamptonshire are made.

Upcoming meetings:

- [Full Council – Thursday 24 September, from 6pm](#)
- [Executive – Tuesday 13 October, from 10am](#)



Your Voice Matters

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

- [Community Governance Review – Stage 2 Consultation](#) – Closes 4 October 2026.
- [Your voice matters - Help shape our approach to consultation and engagement](#) – Closes 4 October 2026.
- [Statement of Licensing Policy: Licensing Act 2003](#) – Closes 9 October 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

- [New suicide prevention strategy aims to save lives across Northamptonshire](#)
- [North Northamptonshire Council highlights major investment and maintenance programme for local roads](#)
- [Draft North Northamptonshire-wide car parking strategy on Executive agenda](#)
- [Councillors set to receive update on High Street Rental Auction powers](#)

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



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**