



## Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

**Issue 11. Friday 19 December 2025.** Featuring: Christmas message. Council approves Corporate Plan. Executive approves draft revenue budget for consultation. And more...

This is the final edition of Local Link for 2025. I appreciate your continued interest and will return with further updates in January.



### Christmas message

Our Chief Executive, Adele Wylie, and I have recorded a short [festive video](#) to express our heartfelt thanks to all our valued partners, colleagues in the voluntary and community sector, council staff and members for their incredible support throughout 2025.

Your dedication and collaboration have made a real difference, and we're excited to share this message of appreciation with you.



### Top story

#### North Northamptonshire Council approves Corporate Plan

North Northamptonshire Council has formally adopted its Corporate Plan (Our Plan for the Future) 2025-29 following approval at the Full Council meeting last week.

The plan sets out a clear vision for improving residents' lives through four priorities: Family, Community, Prosperity, and Smarter, Faster, Fairer Public Services.

Grounded in feedback from the recent Residents' Satisfaction Survey, and backed unanimously by Full Council, the plan focuses on safer neighbourhoods, better roads, housing, jobs and investment.

Please visit our website for more information on the [Corporate Plan \(Our Plan for the Future\) 2025-29](#).



### **Executive approves draft revenue budget for consultation**

On Tuesday 16 December, the Executive approved North Northamptonshire Council's draft revenue budget for consultation.

This marks an important stage in planning how we deliver services for the year ahead and beyond.

Our proposals set out a spending strategy for 2026/27 and a medium-term financial forecast for the following three years. The focus is on protecting and investing in frontline services against a backdrop of continued national financial uncertainty.

The [North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2026/27 Consultation](#) runs until midnight on 23 January 2026, and it's vital that we hear from as many people as possible. Please take the time to have a read through the proposals and have your say.

You may also want to have a quick look at the [Our Budgets video](#) that was created for the current financial year to help explain how we receive funding, what we spend our money on and how we're facing up to future challenges. Please click on the image above to view.

### **Consultation on community governance**

The [North Northamptonshire Community Governance Review](#) will assess whether current arrangements for town and parish councils – such as boundaries, parish areas and the number of councillors – remain effective and reflect local communities.

This is the first stage of a two-stage process.

The review cannot:

- Change the number of councillors on North Northamptonshire Council or change ward boundaries for the North Northamptonshire.
- Influence or change how much money an existing town or parish council raises through council tax (the precept) or change individual parish councillors.

Recent electoral boundary changes, along with new housing developments, have resulted in some inconsistencies across parish boundaries. This makes now an appropriate time to carry out the review.

### **Bid to secure New Town status for Corby**

Corby's strong track record in regeneration and job creation positions it to support Government housing and sustainability goals.

With over 10,000 homes built or planned and major investment like Nike's UK base, inclusion in the New Towns programme would deliver quality homes, infrastructure, and green spaces – boosting economic growth and opportunities for local people.

We are committed to working with Government to ensure Corby continues to thrive as part of the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor.



### **Kingswood sports facilities get major upgrade**

Kingswood Estate in Corby has received £57,572 from Sport England's Place Partnership programme to upgrade its multi-use games area (MUGA).

The investment, secured through North Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire Sport, provides a safer, high-quality space for football, basketball, and other activities, with a new surface and full perimeter fencing.

This enhancement builds on the success of the Kingswood Urban Development Project, which has doubled youth activity attendance in two years, supporting health and wellbeing through physical activity.

Find out more on our website at: [Leisure and sports](#).

### **New Rushden Greenway ramp opens**

A new access ramp connecting Washbrook Road to the Greenway in Rushden officially opened in November, improving active travel and community connectivity.

Funded through Section 106 contributions, the Council's Capital Programme and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the ramp was a priority in Rushden's Neighbourhood Plan. It now gives around 600 households easier access to the Greenway, linking to Rushden High Street and beyond.

Dedicated to former Greenway Board Chair Cllr Sarah Peacock, whose vision inspired the project, the opening was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by local dignitaries, community members and Sarah's family.

### **Christmas art competition winners announced**

A winter wonderland featuring Thrapston's Nine Arches Bridge has taken the top prize in our Christmas art competition.

Children and young people were invited to create a festive scene of their favourite North Northamptonshire location, and judges praised the high standard of entries.

#### **Overall winner:**

- Ava (Thrapston) – Nine Arches Bridge (Prize: £50 voucher and framed print).

#### **Category winners:**

- Reception–Year 2: Sophie (Oundle) – Snowy Barnwell Country Park.
- Year 3–Year 6: Haiden – Festive Croyland Park, Wellingborough.
- Year 7–Year 11: Anastasia (Wellingborough) – Christmas tree on Wellingborough High Street.

Each category winner received a £20 voucher.

You can view the winning entries on our website at [Christmas art competition](#).

## Your online guide to council services over Christmas and New Year

**Opening times:** Council offices will be closed from 5pm on 24 December until 9am on 2 January. A limited phone service will operate on 29 to 31 December (9am to 5pm) but you can access our online services 24/7 for [payments, reporting issues and applications](#).

**Christmas web pages:** Visit our [Christmas](#) web pages for local information on [bin collection days](#), free [car parking](#) and [leisure facilities](#) opening hours. [Country parks](#) will be open every day (normal parking charges apply).

**Warm Spaces:** Our Warm Spaces are open to all residents, offering 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](#).

**Health and wellbeing:** The festive season can be joyful, but it can also feel busy or a little overwhelming at times. If you need support, please make use of the [Health and wellbeing](#) resources available on our website. Take time to look after yourselves and one another.

### Keeping it local – Ways to show your support

Christmas is a special time for our local businesses and cultural facilities, and we can all play a part in supporting them.

If you haven't seen it yet, please watch our [Hi Street Christmas advert 2025: What Does Christmas Mean to You?](#)

It showcases the charm of our high streets and the amazing small businesses that make our towns unique. Don't forget to enjoy the fantastic shows at our local theatres too.



## 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

- [Local community celebrates young talent at SHAPE Dance shows at Corby Core Theatre](#)
- [Winners of festive art competition announced](#)

- [New youth councillors step up to represent young people](#)
- [Have your say on North Northamptonshire Council's spending plans](#)
- [New Greenway ramp officially opened in Rushden](#)
- [Council partners with AgilityEco and Aran to deliver grants to keep homes warm](#)
- [Shape the future of local democracy in North Northamptonshire](#)
- [New secondary school for Kettering's Hanwood Park development welcomed](#)
- [Bondi Beach - Message of condolence from the Leader of North Northamptonshire Council](#)
- [Greenway Project earns Special Recognition at Chamber of Commerce Business Awards](#)
- [North Northamptonshire Council approves Corporate Plan to improve lives over the next four years](#)
- [Reminder - be aware after Avian flu detected in North Northants](#)
- [Vital services protected as North Northants budget tackles the challenges of a tough economic climate and increasing demand for services](#)
- [New cycle route - connecting Corby station with the town centre - officially unveiled](#)
- [Organisations urged to sign up for new wave of funded Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training](#)

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).

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kind regards,

**Cllr Martin Griffiths**

**Leader of the Council**

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