

Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

Issue 12. Friday 9 January 2026. Featuring: Have your say on our 2026/27 draft revenue budget. Improving planning performance through a new Transformation Programme. Pride in Place.



Top story

Have your say on our 2026/27 draft revenue budget

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

This budget is fundamental to how we continue delivering the services our communities rely on and how we progress our ambitions for North Northamptonshire.

This year's proposals are particularly complex, shaped by the Government's Fair Funding Review, which aims to allocate funding based on actual community need rather than historic levels. It also marks a shift to a multi-year financial settlement for the first time in many years.

The consultation is open until midnight on Friday 23 January. Please take a moment to read the proposals and share your views online: [North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2026/27 Consultation](#).

Next steps:

- **Executive to consider final proposals:** Tuesday 10 February.
- **Full Council decision:** Thursday 19 February.



Latest news

Improving planning performance through a new Transformation Programme

The Council is making strong progress in improving its planning service, despite high demand and complex workloads.

Executive members and senior officers are implementing robust strategies, with a major focus on modernising systems by consolidating four legacy databases into one to improve access to information and efficiency.

Performance continues to rise, with most applications decided within agreed timescales and ahead of national and regional averages.

A resilient planning service is essential to delivering the [Corporate Plan](#) and supporting growth and cohesive communities.

My thanks go to all our planning staff for their hard work and commitment as we continue to build a service that is effective, efficient and ready for the future.

Pride in Place: Major investment in local communities

Three neighbourhoods in North Northamptonshire will each receive £20 million funding over the next 10 years to support long-term regeneration plans.

Avondale Grange (Kettering), Kingswood (Corby) and Queensway (Wellingborough) have been selected to benefit from the Government's Pride in Place Programme.

As part of the programme, each area will establish a Neighbourhood Board – made up of the local MP, ward councillors and community representatives – to create a shared 10-year vision and a regeneration plan. These plans will focus on building stronger communities, creating thriving places and empowering local residents.

Further information is available on our website: [Pride in Place Programme](#).

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) activated due to sub-zero temperatures

The Council works year-round to help rough sleepers access accommodation and support as quickly as possible.

Extreme cold significantly increases the risk of serious illness, so the Council has recently activated its [Severe Weather Emergency Protocol](#) (SWEP) due to the sub-zero temperatures.

Our Rough Sleeping and Housing Options Teams are actively engaging with all known rough sleepers to offer shelter. Weather conditions are being reviewed daily and updates will be issued as needed.

If you are aware of anyone sleeping rough, please report it so we can offer help:

- **Telephone:** 01536 464630.
- **Email:** roughsleepingteam@northnorthants.gov.uk.
- **Out of hours (evenings, weekends, bank holidays):** 0300 126 3000.

Watch upcoming Executive and Full Council meetings

You can watch upcoming Executive and Full Council meetings live or on catch-up via the Council's official Democratic Services YouTube channel.

Watch here: [YouTube – Democratic Services North Northamptonshire Council](#).

Meeting dates, agendas and papers are available on our [ModernGov](#) meetings portal, where you can also browse upcoming sessions.

Upcoming sessions:

- **Executive:** Tuesday 20 January from 10am.
- **Full Council:** Thursday 22 January from 6pm.



Community matters

NHS Health Checks – Supporting the wellbeing of our communities

Looking after our health has never been more important, and I'm pleased to highlight that free NHS Health Checks are available to eligible residents aged 40 to 74.

The checks help identify early signs of conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease – supporting you to take proactive steps to stay well.

Most appointments take place at [Lodge Park Sports Centre](#) in Corby, which is managed by North Northamptonshire Leisure in partnership with the Council. The team also attends community events and can offer support in local settings. Each check takes around 30 minutes and is delivered by our friendly, dedicated staff.

If you or someone you know would like to book an appointment, please complete the form on the [NHS Health Checks](#) website.

Health-related pledges top the list of New Year resolutions

As we begin the new year, many of us feel pressure to make big, sweeping resolutions. But often, it's the small, realistic habits that make the greatest difference to our everyday wellbeing.

Taking a short walk at lunchtime, drinking an extra glass of water, eating more fruit and vegetables, finishing work on time or simply pausing to breathe before a busy meeting – these small actions can help us feel more balanced and energised.

For anyone thinking about going alcohol-free or smoke-free this January, Alcohol Change UK's [Dry January challenge](#) and our local [Stop Smoking service](#) offer valuable support and guidance.

Small steps really do add up. What matters most is choosing what feels right for you – not following a trend or striving for perfection. This January, let's be kind to ourselves and focus on habits that support our health, happiness and resilience throughout the year ahead.

New Year Honours 2026 – North Northamptonshire recipients

The New Year Honours 2026 lists have been published, celebrating the achievements and service of extraordinary people across the UK.

I am delighted to share that several individuals from North Northamptonshire have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to our communities.

Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

- Jane Charlton-Jones (Kettering) – For services to the community in Northamptonshire.
- James Clark Noble (Corby) – For services to the community in Corby.
- Rosalind Mary Stoddart (Kettering) – Founder and Artistic Director, Fermyn Woods Contemporary Art and Deep Roots Tall Trees. Recognised for services to the visual and performing arts.

Medallists of the Order of the British Empire (BEM)

- Pamela Weatherington (Oundle) – For services to young people in Oundle.

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

- [North Northamptonshire Community Governance Review](#) – Closes 20 February.

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



More to explore

Stay informed with our latest press releases

- [Transformation programme aims to boost planning performance in North Northamptonshire](#)
- [Update on hackney carriage and private hire licensing in North Northamptonshire](#)
- [Essential upgrade to White Mills Bridge, Earls Barton to start](#)

- [Childhood vaccinations and when to have them - immunisation schedule from 1 January 2026](#)

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 2026



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**