North Northamptonshire Council



Local Link

Your regular update from Cllr Martin Griffiths, Leader of the Council

Issue 34. Friday 13 November 2026. Featuring: HRH Duke of Gloucester officially reopens Alfred East Gallery and Kettering Library. Protecting services and planning for the future. Help keep North Northamptonshire's electoral register up to date. Honouring remembrance across North Northamptonshire. A bright celebration of community in Wellingborough. Universal Studios: A once-in-a-generation opportunity for North Northamptonshire. Protect yourself this winter: Get vaccinated. PFCC Precept and Public Confidence Consultation.

Top story

HRH Duke of Gloucester officially reopens Alfred East Gallery and Kettering Library

Attending the official reopening of Kettering Library and the Alfred East Art Gallery with His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester was one of the proudest moments of my 19 years in local government.

Following major restoration works, including new roofs and a two-storey extension, the site is now fully open for the first time in six years. Seeing this much-loved community asset reopened and secured for future generations was a truly special occasion, and a testament to the hard work of everyone involved.

Latest news

Protecting services and planning for the future

Local government continues to operate in an extremely challenging financial environment, and North Northamptonshire Council is not immune to those pressures. A report considered

by the Executive earlier this week highlights a forecast General Fund overspend for 2026/27, largely driven by increasing demand for adult social care and children's services.

While these challenges are significant, we remain committed to supporting our communities and delivering the services residents rely on every day. Alongside managing immediate financial pressures, we are investing in transformation and modernisation programmes that will help us work more efficiently, make better use of technology and deliver better value for taxpayers. We will continue to take a responsible and measured approach to financial management as we plan for the future.

Help keep North Northamptonshire's electoral register up to date

Each year, we contact every household across North Northamptonshire to help keep the electoral register accurate and up to date.

If you have received a canvass form and have not yet responded, please do so as soon as possible. Providing this information is a legal requirement and helps ensure everyone who is eligible to vote is correctly registered and able to take part in elections.

Responses are needed by Friday 20 November so the updated electoral register can be published on Tuesday 1 December. If you need assistance completing your form or updating your household details, please contact our Electoral Services team at elections@northnorthants.gov.uk or 01536 805115.

Thank you for taking the time to respond and ensuring everyone in North Northamptonshire can have their say through the democratic process.

Community matters

Honouring remembrance across North Northamptonshire

It was a privilege to attend Remembrance services in Rothwell, Oundle and Corby over the past few days, as communities came together to honour those who have served and sacrificed for our country. I was pleased to be joined in Corby by our Chief Executive, Adele Wylie.

At each event it was moving to see residents, veterans, serving personnel and local organisations paying their respects. Seeing young people, including uniformed groups and children as young as three, taking part so impeccably was particularly heartening.

My thanks go to everyone who helped organise these commemorations and ensure the memories of those who gave so much are never forgotten.

A bright celebration of community in Wellingborough

It was a real pleasure to attend the Wellingborough Festival of Lights with our Chief Executive, Adele Wylie, and see so many people coming together to celebrate community, culture and friendship.

The festival brought the town to life, creating a wonderful atmosphere and reminding us what makes Wellingborough such a special place.

I was delighted that North Northamptonshire Council was able to support the event and help make it possible. I was honoured to switch on the lights and share a few words with residents. It was a truly memorable evening that I will cherish for years to come.

Universal Studios: A once-in-a-generation opportunity for North Northamptonshire

With Universal Studios expected to open in 2031, North Northamptonshire businesses could benefit from new opportunities in tourism, hospitality, retail and local supply chains.

This is a hugely exciting development that has the potential to bring new jobs, investment and business growth to our area. It could mean more visitors staying locally, supporting our attractions, restaurants and businesses, as well as opportunities to supply goods and services to the resort.

To help businesses prepare, North Northamptonshire Council is inviting local firms to complete a short survey and share their views. If you run a business in North Northamptonshire, I encourage you to take part.

The Universal Resort: Business Readiness Survey closes on 30 November 2026.

Protect yourself this winter: Get vaccinated

As winter approaches, eligible residents are being encouraged to get their free flu and COVID-19 vaccinations to help protect themselves from serious illness and reduce the spread of infection in our communities.

Health leaders across Northamptonshire are urging everyone who is eligible to take up the offer, particularly those most at risk during the colder months when these viruses circulate more widely.

Please visit our November Mobile Vaccination Clinic webpage to check your eligibility and find out when and where the vaccination van will be visiting your area.

Upcoming meetings

Stay informed about Council decisions

You can watch Executive and Council meetings live, or catch up later, on our Democratic Services YouTube channel.

Agendas, reports and meeting dates are also available on our ModernGov portal.

Upcoming meetings:

- Council: Thursday 26 November, 6pm
- Executive: Tuesday 15 December, 10am

I encourage residents to follow our meetings and stay informed about the decisions that affect our communities and help shape the future of North Northamptonshire.

Your Voice Matters

Have your say to shape our future

A number of consultations are currently open, and we'd encourage you to share them with residents, family, friends and others in your networks who may wish to have their say. Please visit Your Voice Matters for more information:

- **NEW:** Public Spaces Protection Order Renewal 2026 - Rushden Town Centre – Closes 6 December 2026.
- **FEATURED:** Draft Car Parking Strategy 2026-2036 – Have your say – Closes 20 December 2026.
- **NEW:** Term Dates for North Northamptonshire schools for the 2028-29 academic year – Closes 31 December 2026.
- **NEW:** Consultation on the proposed school admission arrangements for September 2028 – Closes 31 December 2026.

PFCC Precept and Public Confidence Consultation

Danielle Stone, Northamptonshire's Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, is seeking views on proposed council tax increases for policing and fire services in 2027/28. The proposals would increase charges by £15 per year for policing and £5 per year for fire and rescue services on a Band D property. The consultation is open until 9am on Tuesday 12 January.

Please take a few minutes to share your views through the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Public Consultation: Precept and Public Confidence Survey 2027/28.

More to explore

Keep up to date with our latest press releases

Read the latest news, announcements and media releases from across the council. Please visit our News page for all the latest stories and updates.

- Free Saturday parking returns to Kettering and Corby town centres this December
- Youth Summit success as young people shape the conversation in North Northamptonshire
- Northamptonshire councils support Men's Mental Health Month and encourage men to seek help
- New community woodland to be created in Kettering
- Grants available to help new businesses get started in North Northamptonshire
- North Northamptonshire Council's winter fleet ready to respond
- Council Tax Support proposals in North Northamptonshire to be discussed at Executive

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

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