



Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update.

I was delighted to attend the Big 50 Future Vision conference held earlier this week. Over 120 people representing local voluntary and community, business and public sector organisations attended the event to help discuss and develop a vision for North Northamptonshire for 2050. This is not a council initiative, it is an area-focused one and the importance and benefits of working together across sectors to achieve some common aims cannot be overstated.

Recent changes to the membership of the Executive were made to further enhance the Executive's way of working. Clr Mark Rowley has been appointed as the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up. The post of Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets is now held by Clr Matthew Binley, following Clr Graham Lawman's recent departure from this position.

The Executive met for the first time since these changes were announced at the Corby Cube on Wednesday 12 July. If you missed the live streaming of this meeting, please head over to our YouTube channel to watch the recording on catch-up.

With the long Summer holidays just around the corner, the council has announced a wide range of exciting activities for young people to take part in across North Northamptonshire. The fun will start on Monday 24 July with sports, arts and crafts, holiday clubs and forest schools. Throughout August, a series of free family fun days will also be on offer. Activities will include water slides, circus skills and crazy golf. Young people will be able to enjoy free swimming sessions again at the five North Northamptonshire pools.

Organisations in the more rural areas of North Northamptonshire have until Friday 31 July to apply for capital grants of up to £15,000. This rural community capital funding is financed by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Funding is available for home improvements that can make properties more energy efficient and help reduce energy costs. The ECO4 Flex grant scheme is great news for residents living in private homes (both owned and rented) with a gross household income of less than £31,000.

A report published by the British Library reveals the national impact the Business and IP Centre (BIPC) Network has had over a three-year period from April 2020 to March 2023. The Democratising Entrepreneurship 2.0 report shows how BIPC Northamptonshire has continued to support entrepreneurship and economic recovery at a local level, contributing to a payback of £6.63 for every £1 of public money spent across the BIPC Network. The BIPC in Northamptonshire Central Library and its network of BIPC Locals in Kettering, Wellingborough, Brixworth and Towcester Libraries are physical hubs where people can learn, network and access free information and support in protecting and commercialising a business idea.

The Northamptonshire Anchor Institutions Network has been launched to bring together public and private sector organisations to address important social and economic inequalities. The aim is to make Northamptonshire a great place for people to live, work and visit.

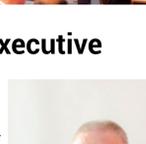
Residents of Raunds will soon see DPD delivery robots delivering their parcels, following a successful trial in Milton Keynes. DPD has worked closely with North Northamptonshire Council on this innovative scheme which uses clean and green alternatives to traditional forms of transport to reduce emissions.

I have provided details of several current consultations and engagement activities in today's update. Four of them close this month so please let us know your views on: Independent Living Schemes, Family Hubs networks, a new playground design for Barnwell Country Park and a new parking strategy for North Northamptonshire.

If you haven't already visited our online Consultation and Engagement Hub, please do so. This is your opportunity to have your say on a range of local issues and shape future plans. Please also encourage your family and friends to do the same.

Whatever your plans are, I hope you have a great weekend!

Big 50 Future Vision Conference



It was an honour to attend the Big 50 Future Vision conference held earlier this week. Over 120 people representing local voluntary and community, business and public sector organisations attended the event to discuss and develop a vision for North Northamptonshire for 2050. The Big 50 Future Vision is not a council initiative, it is an area-focused one. The importance and benefits of working together across sectors to achieve some common aims cannot be overstated.

Attendees to the conference received presentations from Kate Williams at Groundwork Northamptonshire, Lauren Toun from Ball Corporation who have invested in a multi-million pound manufacturing facility in the area, Robin Webber-Jones from Tresham College and Nick Bolton from Electric Places. Feedback from the event was very positive and lots of work was carried out on developing a vision for the future. Attendees also focused on what can be achieved together in the short, medium and long term so that we ensure collaborative progress is made now, not just in the future.

You can find out more background about the Big 50 Future Vision for Northamptonshire here: [Agenda for Executive on Thursday 11th May, 2023 – Item 434](#)



Changes to the council's Executive

Clr Mark Rowley has been appointed to the council's Executive. Mark will be the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up.

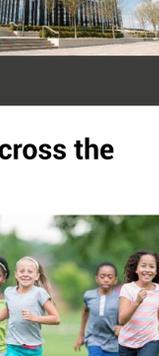
Clr Matthew Binley will take up the position of Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, following Clr Graham Lawman's recent departure from this position.

The council's Executive make important decisions that affect the whole area of North Northamptonshire.

We are now in our third year as a council and I wanted to make some adjustments to our Executive to further enhance its way of working.

I welcome Clr Mark Rowley to the Council's Executive and Mark's knowledge and previous experience as an Executive Member will serve both the Executive and council well.

I would also like to thank Clr Graham Lawman for his positive contribution to the council since its inception in 2021.



Forthcoming meetings

- **Extraordinary Executive:** Thursday 3 August from 10am.
- **Executive:** Thursday 17 August from 10am.
- **Full Council:** Thursday 31 August from 6pm.

The meetings will be live streamed on our [YouTube channel](#). Please visit the [council meetings](#) section of our website in the week before the meetings to view the agendas and papers.



Activities for local children across the Summer holidays

North Northamptonshire children will have a Summer to remember with the council's fun-packed programme of activities that will start on Monday 24 July.

Our leisure centres, community centres, parks and open spaces will play host to a wide range of events to help keep communities healthy and connected.

- Holiday clubs and summer camps.
- 'Turn up and play' sessions.
- Family fun days.
- Arts and crafts.
- Free swimming sessions.
- Sports including football, table tennis, diving and cricket.

For further information, please visit the [Summer activities](#) section of our website.



Take the plunge with free under 18s swimming sessions

Young people are invited to make a splash and enjoy free swimming sessions across the North Northamptonshire Council area again this Summer holiday.

The offer will be applicable during four weeks of the Summer holiday between:

- Monday 31 July 31 and Friday 4 August.
- Monday 7 August 7 to Friday 11 August.
- Monday 14 August 14 to Friday 18 August.
- Monday 21 August 21 to Friday 25 August.

The swimming sessions will take place at the five North Northamptonshire pools and can be booked one week in advance:

- **Corby:** Corby East Midlands International Pool, Parkland Gateway, George St, Corby NN17 1QG.
- **Kettering:** Kettering Pool, London Rd, Kettering NN15 7QA.
- **Rushden:** Splash Leisure Pool, Station Road, Rushden NN10 9SJ.
- **Thrapston:** Nene Leisure Centre, Cedar Drive, Thrapston NN14 4JY.
- **Wellingborough:** Waendel Leisure Centre, Thomas Street, Wellingborough NN8 1DZ.

The sessions are available to anyone under the age of 18, however under eights will need to be accompanied by a paying adult.

Swimming is a fun activity for all and making the sessions free is a superb way of making them accessible. Improving the lives of young people is a priority for us and swimming is a tremendous way of boosting their wellbeing.



Free summer fun days to keep children entertained

Water slides, circus skills and crazy golf are just some of the activities that will be on offer at free family fun days across North Northamptonshire this Summer.

Organised by North Northamptonshire Council, the events will take place on Wednesday afternoons throughout August in Corby, Wellingborough, Kettering and Rushden.

- **Corby:** Wednesday 2 August from midday to 4pm at West Glebe Park, Corby NN17 1SZ.
- **Wellingborough:** Wednesday 9 August from midday to 4pm at Castlefields Park, Wellingborough NN8 1LW.
- **Kettering:** Wednesday 16 August from midday to 4pm at North Park, Kettering NN16 9JT.
- **Rushden:** Wednesday 23 August from midday to 4pm at Spencer Park, Rushden NN10 6UL.

Other activities include arts and crafts, giant garden games, basketball and football, archery and a bubble station.

Not only do these fun days provide entertainment to keep children happy and healthy, but they are also great ways of bringing communities together too. I'm delighted that we're able to offer these across the North Northamptonshire area.



Rural community capital funding now available

Organisations in the more rural areas of North Northamptonshire are encouraged to apply for capital grants of up to £15,000.

Funded through the [Rural England Prosperity Fund](#), rural organisations that meet certain criteria can make an application if they can demonstrate that the funding will be used to support one of the following:

- creation and improvements to local rural green spaces,
- existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions, or
- active travel enhancements (e.g. community transport).

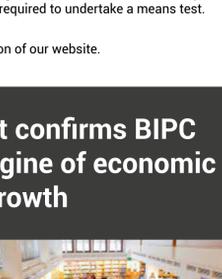
Organisations including parish councils, charities, community groups and school Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) are advised to check their eligibility and apply online.

The applications process is open until 31 July 2023.

For further guidance (including eligibility criteria) and application instructions, please visit the [Rural community capital funding](#) section of our website.

This project is funded by the UK government through the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#).

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.



Grants available to help residents heat homes and reduce energy bills

Residents living in private homes (both owned and rented) with a gross household income of less than £31,000 are encouraged to apply for a government grant to help improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

ECO4 Flex is a government scheme funded by energy companies that supports households on lower incomes or those particularly vulnerable to the impact of living in a cold home.

Funding is available for measures that can improve the energy efficiency of homes such as insulation and heating systems.

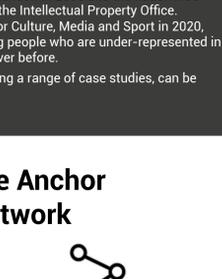
Improving the energy performance of properties could save residents hundreds of pounds in fuel bills each year. For example:

- Loft insulation - up to £500.
- External wall insulation - up to £350.
- Energy efficient boiler - up to £200.
- Cavity wall insulation - up to £250.

Residents who are more vulnerable to the cold are encouraged to speak to their GP, who may be able to complete an NHS Eco Flex referral. You will not be required to undertake a means test.

Further information

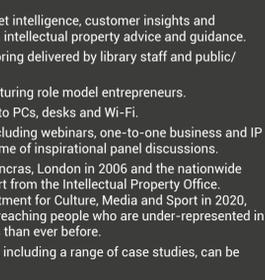
Please visit the [ECO4 Flex energy efficiency scheme](#) section of our website.



New British Library report confirms BIPC Northamptonshire is an engine of economic recovery and growth

Between April 2020 and March 2023, BIPC Northamptonshire:

- Helped to create 336 new businesses and 91 additional jobs.
- Generated £3,631,857 Gross Value Added (GVA).
- Supported a range of entrepreneurs, of which 68% were women, 23% identified themselves as from a minority ethnic community, 11% were disabled, 29% were aged 35 and under and 11% were from the most deprived areas.



Published by the British Library, [Democratising Entrepreneurship 2.0](#) reveals the national impact the Business and IP Centre (BIPC) Network has had over a three year period from April 2020 to March 2023. The report shows how BIPC Northamptonshire has continued to support entrepreneurship and economic recovery at a local level, contributing to a payback of £6.63 for every £1 of public money spent across the BIPC Network.

The BIPC in Northamptonshire Central Library and its network of BIPC Locals in Kettering, Wellingborough, Brixworth and Towcester Libraries are physical hubs where people can learn, network and access free information and support in protecting and commercialising a business idea. The service comprises:

- Free access to high-quality UK and global market intelligence, customer insights and company data (worth over £5m), combined with intellectual property advice and guidance.
- Free workshops, one-to-one support and mentoring delivered by library staff and public/private sector business experts and partners.
- Topical and inspirational networking events, featuring role model entrepreneurs.
- Accessible and welcoming spaces with access to PCs, desks and Wi-Fi.
- A comprehensive package of online support; including webinars, one-to-one business and IP advice sessions and screenings of our programme of inspirational panel discussions.

The first BIPC opened at the British Library in St Pancras, London in 2006 and the nationwide BIPC Network was established in 2012, with support from the Intellectual Property Office.

Following a [£13 million investment](#) from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 2020, the BIPC Network expanded to over 100 locations, reaching people who are under-represented in business in more urban, rural and coastal locations than ever before.

The full [Democratising Entrepreneurship 2.0](#) report, including a range of case studies, can be downloaded from the [British Library's website](#).

Northamptonshire Anchor Institutions Network

A new network has been launched to bring together organisations who have a significant impact in the county to work together to address important social and economic inequalities.

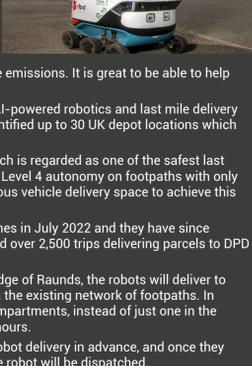
The aim of the Northamptonshire Anchor Institutions Network is to make Northamptonshire a great place for people to live, work and visit.

The network will work together to seek best practice, measure impact, hold each other to account and actively commit to the following:

- Empowering the next generation.
- Employment opportunities.
- Social value gained from local investment.
- Enhancing sustainability.

This is an exciting step forward for Northamptonshire, bringing together public and private sector organisations in a new way of working towards one shared goal. Together, the network will work towards improving the wellbeing of our residents and create strong, safe, resilient and inclusive communities. The network will meet regularly in-person to discuss and set out actions to address the agreed priorities.

In total, there are currently 23 members including: North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Children Trust, Northamptonshire Community Foundation, Northampton Hospital Group, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board, St Andrews Healthcare, Police, Fire, Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, University of Northampton, Northampton College, Tresham College, Moulton College, Velumarty Impact Northampton, NNBN, Barclays, Northamptonshire Chamber, Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils, Saints Foundation, and Northampton Town FC Community Trust.



Raunds becomes DPD's second robot base following successful Milton Keynes trial

Following a successful trial in Milton Keynes, leading parcel delivery company DPD has confirmed plans to expand autonomous robot deliveries to 10 UK towns and cities in the next 12 months, starting with Raunds in Northamptonshire.



DPD has worked closely with North Northamptonshire Council on the introduction of the delivery robots in Raunds. The council is committed to the environment and supporting clean and green alternatives to traditional forms of transport to reduce emissions. It is great to be able to help bring this innovation to North Northamptonshire.

The announcement extends DPD's relationship with AI-powered robotics and last mile delivery specialists, Carthen and follows work by DPD that identified up to 30 UK depot locations which could potentially deploy robots.

Carthen's Level 4 autonomy and leading navigation tech is regarded as one of the safest last mile delivery solutions on the market and enables full Level 4 autonomy on footpaths with only cameras - one of the only companies in the autonomous vehicle delivery space to achieve this with a purely vision-based system.

DPD first introduced the Carthen robots in Milton Keynes in July 2022 and they have since travelled almost 500 miles and successfully performed over 2,500 trips delivering parcels to DPD customers.

Based at DPD's depot at Warth Park on the western edge of Raunds, the robots will deliver to nearby residential areas within a mile of the depot, via the existing network of footpaths. In Raunds, the robots will have three separate parcel compartments, instead of just one in the original trial, and an extended battery life of up to 12 hours.

DPD parcel recipients in Raunds will be notified of a robot delivery in advance, and once they confirm that they are at home to accept the parcel, the robot will be dispatched.

Customers will then be able to track the robot's progress on a map and will be notified when it reaches their property. They will then use a code to open the secure compartment and access their parcel. Once the compartment is closed, the robot will either return to its next delivery or return to the depot.

Open activities on the Consultation and Engagement Hub

Please find below details of several current consultations and engagement activities. Please use the links below to provide your feedback and inform council decisions - and share with family and friends who may be interested in shaping future plans.

Barnwell Country Park - Playground design. We are creating a FCC Community Action Fund - England for funding to create a new playground area at Barnwell Country Park. Residents are being asked to express a preference on four separate design options which will be developed if the funding bid is successful. Closes 17 July 2023.

North Northamptonshire Council Parking Strategy Survey. We are consulting on a new parking strategy which identifies parking demand and supply across the council area over the next 20 years. We are seeking an understanding of parking habits, experience and provision across North Northamptonshire. Closes 23 July 2023.

Independent Living Schemes - Share your views. We are seeking views from residents, those 50 years and above (with or without current care and support needs) regarding the support required for the future within Independent Living Schemes (also known as Extra Care or Assisted Living) across North Northamptonshire, which will shape future commissioning. Closes 31 July 2023.

Have your say on the new Family Hub network. We are collaborating with partners to develop Family Hubs networks and want families to play a key part in improving services provided to them. We have commissioned the University of Northampton to help us understand what is working well and areas for improvement. While there is some focused activity in Wellingborough, we want to hear from everyone across North Northamptonshire. Closes 31 July 2023.

Public Spaces Protection Order - Dog Control. We are consulting on proposals to review the content of current PSPOs for dog control into one overall PSPO across North Northamptonshire. The main proposed changes are removing the requirement that dogs must be kept on a lead no more than 1.5m in length in prescribed areas, remove the restriction that a person may not take more than 6 dogs onto any land at any time and incorporate the former Corby Borough Council area. Closes 3 August 2023.

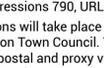
Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Have your say on a new political map for NN. We are promoting The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBC) activity asking for views on proposed new electoral arrangements for North Northamptonshire. New boundaries are being proposed for council wards, and to ensure that councillors will represent the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements will help the council work effectively. Closes 7 August 2023.

Further information

Details of all open and closed consultation and engagement activities are available on the [North Northamptonshire Consultation and Engagement Hub](#).

If you have any questions, please email the Consultation and Engagement Team at CET@northnorthants.gov.uk.

Press releases



North Northamptonshire Council
LATEST NEWS

To help you stay abreast of the key things the Council has been doing, I have included some links to the Council's press releases below (starting with the most recent):

- [Free summer fun days to keep children entertained in North Northamptonshire](#)
- [Take the plunge with free under 18s swimming sessions this Summer](#)
- [Grants available to help residents heat homes and reduce energy bills](#)
- [Grants for rural organisations in North Northants now available](#)

If you would like stay up to date with the Council's media releases, you can visit the news section of the Council's website: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news

Or follow Twitter [@NNorthantsC](#) and/or Facebook [@NorthNorthants](#)

Social media: Top stories

Follow our social media accounts and share our [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#) posts when you can.

- **Top Facebook posts so far this week (10 to 12 July)**
 - From Monday 24 July, summer holiday activities are taking place across North Northants. From free swimming to turn-up and play sessions, there will be plenty to keep kids entertained. Find activities near you: <https://ow.ly/r70350P3Y4Y> (Post Reach 6,035, Link Clicks 155, Engagement 343)
 - It's #BeesNeedsWeek! NNC are committed to feeding our local bees and pollinators and have introduced a pollinator strategy. You can read the strategy and the actions we are taking online: <https://ow.ly/qiY50P5a5K> (Post Reach 2,905, Link Clicks 22, Engagement 270)
 - The North Northamptonshire Greenway is a 16-mile network of green corridors for cycling and walking, running all the way from Higham Ferrers and Rushden to Irthlingborough. Find out more <https://ow.ly/tjx350P7iYF> (Post Reach 1,628, Link Clicks 44, Engagement 207)
- **Top Tweets so far this week (10 to 12 July)**
 - We are seeking views from residents, 50 years and above (with or without current care and support needs), regarding the support required for the future within Independent Living Schemes across North Northamptonshire. Have your say <https://t.co/kh1QaW6hde> (Post Impressions 1,116, URL Clicks 9, Engagements 29)
 - Clr Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation is presenting a report on the council's performance for May 2023 (Period 2). Watch the meeting LIVE <https://t.co/qPtbdXfJVI> (Post Impressions 790, URL Clicks 5, Engagements 15)
 - By-elections will take place on 10 August for Councillors to Irchester Parish Council and Finedon Town Council. To find out more, including key dates and deadlines to apply for postal and proxy votes: <https://t.co/Dz63NK7RgQc> (Post Impressions 739, URL Clicks 10, Engagements 17)

Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have ideas of items to include in future updates please let me know at: executive@northnorthants.gov.uk

With Best Wishes,
Jason



North Northamptonshire Council

Follow me on Twitter [@SmithersJason](#)

Contacting North Northamptonshire Council

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