North Northamptonshire Council

Leader's Update

Cllr Jason Smithers
Leader of the Council

16 June 2023

Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update.

It has been another busy couple of weeks with the Executive meeting taking place last Thursday (8 June) and a Full Council meeting in the diary for next Thursday (22 June). These meetings are live streamed on our YouTube channel so you can either watch them live or on catch up at your leisure. The agendas and meeting notes are displayed on the council meetings section of our website in advance of each meeting.

I hope that you have managed to keep cool and well during this recent spell of hot weather. Our website has some useful tips and guidance on staying safe in the heat. If you can, please keep an eye on those most vulnerable, particularly those who are older or have lung or heart conditions, and please report the whereabouts of any rough sleepers so that we can provide support.

North Northamptonshire Council has appointed Jane Bethea as the new Director of Public Health and Wellbeing at the authority. Jane has a wealth of experience within Public Health and is currently a Consultant within Public Health for Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust as well as being the Training Programme Director for East Midlands Public Health. She is also an honorary Associate Professor in Public Health for the University of Nottingham. I am delighted that we have been able to secure Jane into this vital role within the council. I look forward to working with Jane and the whole corporate leadership team as we continue our journey and progress as a council. It is anticipated that Jane will take up the role from September 2023.

I was delighted to hear that our Specialist Support Services for Younger Adults with Disabilities North team (SSYA) has received a 'Good' rating by sector watchdog, the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The team gives vulnerable young adults with a physical or learning disability or mental health problems the support they need to live independently in Northamptonshire. Congratulations to the team for all their hard work and dedication.

We are two weeks into Pride Month. As a council, we are proud to support the LGBTQ+ community. To help raise awareness of Pride Month, we have replaced the profile images on our website and social media pages with the rainbow flag. I have included details below about the North Northants LGBT Forum website and our LGBT+ and Allies Staff Network, whose shared aim is to help make North Northamptonshire a more inclusive place to work and live.

From 1 July 2023 the way members of the public make a complaint about primary care services (GPs, dentists, opticians or pharmacy services) is changing. The Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) will handle any complaints instead of NHS England.

North Northamptonshire Council aims to be carbon neutral by 2030. The council has been clear that climate change and looking after the environment must be the 'green thread' running through the organisation. Our Carbon Management Plan sets out a series of actions including the development of a 10-year Climate and Environment Strategy. I have included an article below that details our carbon neutral journey so far.

The council has been running a safety campaign to remind residents to think before disposing of used batteries. This follows a fire at Wellingborough Household Waste Recycling Centre last month that was found to be caused by a discarded battery in the general waste skip.

On another safety matter, following a trial at Birmingham High Court at the end of May, a developer of a builder in Kettering was ordered to demolish two storeys of a six-storey building which had only been granted planning permission for four. This was in breach of the building regulations and deemed unsafe by council officers. The council stands by its approach to protect residents and prevent non-compliant building works.

Earlier this month, we launched the first round of the Rural Business Grant Scheme (RUBI). Funded through the Rural England Prosperity Fund, rural businesses can apply for capital grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 to invest in projects which make them more resilient and support growth. The closing date for applications is Friday 21 July.

This week, we launched a survey looking at parking habits and provision across North Northamptonshire. The survey will be open for six weeks and asks a variety of questions on parking habits including parking in town centres, issues related to parking, on-street parking (not residential permit holders), electrical vehicle charging and thoughts on car parks in town centres.

I have provided details of several current consultations and engagement activities in today's update. If you haven't already visited our online Consultation and Engagement Hub, I would encourage you to do so and have your say on a range of local issues. Please also share with family and friends who may be interested in shaping future plans.

Local schools are being invited to submit 'expressions' of interest in relocating from their existing school into a new primary school at the Glenvale Park development to the north of Wellingborough. The 'relocation of an existing school' opportunity has been launched following approval to go ahead at a meeting of the council's Executive last week.

Yesterday was Clean Air Day (Thursday 15 June). As a council, we were proud to support this initiative and invite everyone to join us in creating a healthier and more sustainable environment.

We have some exciting events coming up soon. Our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) workshops start on Monday 19 June, our next Discover Adult Social Care showcase event will take place on Wednesday 28 June and Northamptonshire's Employment and Disability Service (EADS) is hosting a recruitment event on Friday 30 June.

His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, James Saunders Watson Esq, is inviting schoolchildren across Northamptonshire to enter the Coronation Art Competition. The best works of art, inspired by the King's Coronation, will win a cash prize of £100 per category. The top ten contestants in each category will be invited to display their artwork at an exhibition at The Stables at Lamport Hall in October.

In other news, according to the latest 2021-22 data from Sport England, adults in North Northamptonshire are exercising more with 61.1% now classed as 'active' and 24.5 classed as 'inactive'. This active lifestyle is likely to affect staff at Rushden Lakes soon; they have been offered free four-week trials of e-bikes throughout June as part of a council initiative to enable more locals to cycle to work. The trials are designed to encourage a greener and healthier mode of transport.

Whatever your plans are (and however you travel) I hope you have a great weekend!

Forthcoming meetings

- **Full Council:** Thursday 22 June from 6pm. The meeting will be live streamed on our **YouTube channel**. The **agenda and meeting notes** are on our website.
- **Executive:** Thursday 13 July from 10am. The agenda and papers will be displayed on the **Council meetings** section of our website in the week before the meeting.

New Director of Public Health appointed

North Northamptonshire Council
PUBLIC HEALTH
NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

North Northamptonshire Council has appointed Jane Bethea as the new Director of Public Health and Wellbeing at the authority.

Jane has a wealth of experience within Public Health and is currently a Consultant within Public Health for Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust as well as being the Training Programme Director for East Midlands Public Health. She is also an honorary Associate Professor in Public Health for the University of Nottingham.

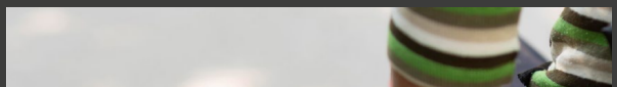
I am delighted that we have been able to secure Jane into this vital role within the council. The past few years has shown just what an important role Public Health play and I am pleased we will now have Jane leading the existing, fantastic Public Health teams we have here at North Northamptonshire Council.

I look forward to working with Jane and the whole corporate leadership team as we continue our journey and progress as a council.

It is anticipated that Jane will take up the role from September 2023.

North Northamptonshire team that helps vulnerable adults live independently praised for good work

Our **Specialist Support Services for Younger Adults with Disabilities North team** (SSYA) has been noted



for its good work by sector watchdog, the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The team, which gives vulnerable young adults the support they need to live independently, received a 'Good' rating in all areas after a recent inspection which included interviews with service users, family members and staff.

The SSYA team is a registered domiciliary care service providing personal care to younger adults to live independently in Northamptonshire. These younger adults (classed as aged between 18 and 65), have a physical or learning disability or mental health problems.

The council's **Reablement North team** also received a 'Good' rating from the CQC after an inspection in July last year.

The CQC inspection ensures care providers are meeting the legal requirements and regulations of providing personal care to clients, assess the quality of the service provided and award an official rating.

Helping our vulnerable adults live active, independent lives is important to us as a council so I am delighted that this team is delivering a quality service. I'd like to offer my congratulations for all their hard work and dedication.

Pride Month

North Northamptonshire Council is proud to support the LGBTQ+ community. To help raise awareness of Pride Month, we have replaced the profile images on our **website** and social media pages with the rainbow flag.

Pride is celebrated in the month of June, as that was the month when the Stonewall riots took place. The Stonewall riots were important protests that took place in 1969 in the USA, that changed gay rights for many people in America and around the world.

Pride is a celebration of people coming together in love and friendship, to show how far LGBTQ+ rights have come, and how in some places there's still more work to be done.

We are working with partnering organisations on the **North Northants LGBT Forum** website to help make North Northamptonshire a more inclusive place to work and live.

We have an LGBT+ and Allies Network that our staff can join. This offers a safe and inclusive space for members of the LGBTQ+ community, and its allies, where colleagues can be themselves without judgement. The aim of the network is to share information, work with the council to be more LGBTQ+ inclusive, support one another and increase awareness on LBGTQ+ issues. We also help to promote events such as Corby Pride last weekend

If you're LGBTQ+ and need support, or an ally wanting to know more, please visit the **North Northants LGBT Forum** website.

How to make a complaint about primary care services is changing on 1 July 2023

From 1 July 2023 the way members of the public make a complaint about primary care services (GPs, dentists, opticians or pharmacy services) is changing.

After 1 July 2023 members of the public who want to make a complaint about primary care services to the commissioner should contact the Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) instead of NHS England.

Patients who want to make a complaint directly to the provider of the primary care service, can still do this - that does not change on 1 July 2023.

Members of the public with ongoing complaints received on/after 1 July 2022 will receive a letter from NHS England informing them that the ICB is now handling their complaint with confirmation of their case handler.

Members of the public with any ongoing complaints received before 1 July 2022 will receive a letter from NHS England informing them that their complaint is being retained by NHS England with confirmation of their case handler.

For further information please visit the **Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board** website.

Our carbon neutral journey

North Northamptonshire Council aims to be carbon neutral by 2030. As an organisation, we believe that climate change and looking after the environment must be the 'green thread' running through our mission.

- **Fleet:** All of our Winter gritting fleet are using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) instead of diesel.
- **Carbon storage:** 20 urban parks identified in Wellingborough suitable for a variety of living things and capturing and storing carbon.
- **Biodiversity:** 6,524 trees planted during 2022/23 across North Northamptonshire.
- **Behaviour:** 37 members and 64 staff completed a Carbon Literacy course.
- **Highways:** 35% of our power-driven hand tools are now electric.

If you would like to know more about **Our carbon neutral journey**, please visit our website.

Think before you bin your batteries

Following a fire at Wellingborough Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in May, the council is reminding residents to think before disposing of used batteries.

An investigation, following the skip fire on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, revealed that the fire had been started by a battery in the general waste skip.

Batteries thrown into general rubbish or recycling bins, or left inside old electrical items, have caused several fires in bin lorries and at recycling centres locally and nationally recently.

When waste and recycling bins are collected by crews, any batteries inside can be squashed, punctured or shredded, which could cause batteries to get very hot and ignite, resulting in a fire or explosion in the bin lorry or at the waste facility.

But batteries can be recycled, easily and safely for free - at places such as supermarkets and DIY stores which all have battery bins. All North Northamptonshire Household Waste Recycling Centres also have battery bins, where you can take your old batteries for recycling.

The **Recycle Your Electricals** website has a postcode checker where residents can find their nearest battery recycling point.

Developer ordered to demolish two storeys of Kettering building

The developer of a building in Job's Yard, Kettering will have to demolish the top two storeys and rectify the other issues with the site, following a trial at Birmingham High Court at the end of May.

The case was brought by North Northamptonshire Council following serious concerns about the building work taking place and a lack of adherence by the developer to building regulations. The result from the court case shows that the council was justified in their approach and have warned they will take other similar matters to court, if necessary.

After two days, the judge adjourned the trial and approved an order from the court compelling the developer to arrange for a specialist contractor to demolish the top two storeys and appoint experts to work with the council's Building Control team to identify all issues with the building that need to be resolved for the building to be considered safe.

A strict timeline has been put in place for the developer to action, and if this is not met, the council will reapply to the court for the total demolition of the building.

The planning permission for the site allows for a four-storey building following an appeal decision, not a six-storey building which has been built on the site and was deemed unsafe by council officers.

Due to the current unsafe nature of the building, a cordon has been in place since June 2022 and once the building has been reduced to four storeys, the council will be able to review the current size of cordon.

Our officers work tirelessly across North Northamptonshire tackling issues that are important to residents. As this case shows, we take enforcement cases seriously and will send cases to the court, if necessary, to protect residents and prevent non-compliant building works.

Rural Business Grant Scheme launched

We have launched the first round of the **Rural Business Grant Scheme** (RUBI).

Funded through the **Rural England Prosperity Fund**, rural businesses can apply for capital grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 to invest in projects which make them more resilient and support growth.

Projects which support innovation or a transition to Net Zero will be prioritised for funding.

Eligible capital expenditure includes (these examples are not an exhaustive list):

- Equipment or machinery suitable for commercial use.
- Infrastructure improvements, such as fitting out business premises, shops, pubs and cafes.
- Farm machinery.
- Commercial catering equipment.
- Items that provide new or additional accommodation for tourism operators.

For further guidance (including eligibility criteria) and an application form, please email ukspf@northnorthants.gov.uk. If you meet our eligibility criteria and would like to apply for funding, please return your completed application form by 5pm on Friday 21 July.

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.

Have your say on parking in North Northamptonshire

A survey looking at parking habits and provision in North Northamptonshire has been launched this week.

The survey will be open for six weeks and asks a variety of questions on parking habits including parking in town centres, issues related to parking, on-street parking (not residential permit holders), electrical vehicle charging and thoughts on car parks in town centres.

The results of this engagement stage will help develop a parking strategy for the area. The proposed parking strategy will then be consulted on later in the year and look at ensuring suitable levels of car and other vehicle type parking facilities are available to support town centre regeneration and access to towns in North Northamptonshire over the next 20 years.

The outputs of the strategy will provide a series of high-level objectives and actions for the council to take forward and inform its approach to a range of subjects, including electric vehicle charging infrastructure, car park signage and charges. Work on these actions will be undertaken following adoption of the strategy and include additional consultation, where appropriate.

The engagement runs until midnight on 23 July 2023. Anyone can take part in the following ways:

- Completing the online **North Northamptonshire Council Parking Strategy Survey**.
- Writing to: Parking Strategy Survey Response, North Northamptonshire Council, Swanspool House, Doddington Road, Wellingborough NN8 1BP.

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.

Commissioning of Healthwatch 2023. Healthwatch is an independent consumer champion for people who use health and social care services. Its job is to ensure that local voices are heard, and that people's views and experiences are used to improve existing services and to help shape future services. North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Councils would like to understand how you feel about local Healthwatch services in Northamptonshire. Closes 18 June 2023.

Permit Application under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulation 2016 – as amended. Local authorities have a statutory duty to consult potential affected parties on any application made for a permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulation 2016 – as amended. The company known as Marsh Industries Limited, Units 3-13 Addington Park Industrial Estate, Little Addington, Northamptonshire, NN14 4AS has applied to North Northamptonshire Council for a permit to operate an installation for the polymerisation or co-polymerisation of any pre-formulated resin or pre-formulated gel coat which contains any unsaturated hydrocarbon, where the activity is likely to involve, in any period of twelve months, the polymerisation or co-polymerisation of 100 tonnes or more of unsaturated hydrocarbon. Closes 20 June 2023.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Have your say on a new political map for North Northamptonshire Council. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is asking for your views on proposed new electoral arrangements for North Northamptonshire. New boundaries are being proposed for council wards. LGBCE is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing North Northamptonshire to make sure councillors will represent about the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements will help the council work effectively. The Commission has published proposals for changes to North Northamptonshire. It is proposing that there should be 68 councillors representing five single-member wards, twelve two-member wards and thirteen three-member wards. All wards will have different boundaries. Closes 7 August.

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.

Expressions of interest invited from local schools to move to new primary school at Glenvale Park, Wellingborough

Local schools are being invited to submit 'expressions' of interest in relocating from their existing school into a new primary school at the Glenvale Park development to the north of Wellingborough.

The 'relocation of an existing school' opportunity has been launched following approval to go ahead at a meeting of the council's Executive last week. You can read the **full report** online.

Glenvale Park will provide an additional 3,000 new homes and in preparation for new families moving into the area, the school, which has been built by the developer Glenvale Park LLP, is due for completion this Autumn.

As the estate grows and the need for school places arises, primary aged children from the Glenvale Park development will be able to apply for a school place as part of the normal admissions process for places for September 2024.

However, with an appropriate number of primary school places currently available in Wellingborough, it is not envisaged that demand to open a new school, and receive Department for Education funding, would be high enough until the start of the school year in September 2025.

This relocation opportunity will enable a local primary school which has poor or unsuitable accommodation to move to a purpose-built facility from September 2024 and the vacated smaller site could be re-purposed for other educational uses.

Expressions of interests are invited from local primary schools commencing on Monday 12 June through to Friday 30 June before a shortlisting and interviewing stage takes place between 3 July and 14 July.

It is envisaged that a panel decision will take place during the week beginning 17 July, followed by returning to the Executive in September. The process is scheduled to be fully completed by December 2023.

More information about how to express an interest in applying, is available on the **Schools and education** pages of the council's website.

Clean Air Day in North Northamptonshire

North Northamptonshire Council celebrated **Clean Air Day** yesterday (Thursday 15 June). This national event focuses on raising awareness about the importance of clean air, encourages individuals, communities and organisations to take actions towards improving air quality.

Clean Air Day highlights the way we can all work together to clean up our air - something which has been shown to have benefits for our physical health and environment but can also protect our mental and brain health.

The council takes its responsibility of reducing emissions in the local area seriously, and we take care to ensure our impact on the environment is as little as possible, whilst monitoring nitrogen dioxide air pollution across the area.

Actions taken to reduce carbon emissions can also assist to improve local air quality. Since committing to be carbon neutral in July 2021, officers have been working on various initiatives and the council's **Carbon Management Plan** was approved in December 2022.

Initiatives currently being undertaken by the council include the Voi e-scooter and e-bike hire scheme and the introduction of Starship Delivery robots in Wellingborough, Rushden and Higham Ferrers.

The council has enabled the installation of on-street charging points at 12 locations across 6 towns as well as in some of its car parks. Further work is planned with an additional 18 locations scheduled to go ahead this year.

Development of a strategy is underway which will set out plans for a step-change in charging infrastructure to keep pace with expected growth in electric vehicle (EV) ownership.

The council is also developing plans for improved walking and cycling facilities in our towns. Consultation has recently taken place on a Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan for Kettering, with similar plans for Corby and Wellingborough following over the coming months.

But it is also about everyone working together and we are encouraging residents to get involved by learning more about the impact air pollution can have on our mental and physical health and taking manageable steps to help improve air quality.

Voi are offering free 30 minutes of free travel by e-scooters to users across the UK with code CLEANAIRDAY23 (valid from Clean Air Day, 15 June, until 30 June). Also, central government's **£2 bus fare cap scheme** has been extended until October 2023.

SEND workshops to be held across North Northamptonshire

A series of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) workshops will start next week.

The council is collaborating with parents, carers and professionals in co-producing and delivering improved SEND services across North Northamptonshire.

If you are a parent/carer of a child or young person with SEND - or a professional working with children and young people with SEND - please join one of the sessions.

All children and young people can find transitions really challenging - this can be more difficult for children and young people with SEND. In this series of workshops, we want to know what your experience of transitions have been, what have the challenges been and what has supported you through.

The workshops will cover:

- Supporting your child to be 'school ready'.
- Making sure that schools are 'ready to receive'.
- Supporting children and young people during planned and unplanned transition periods.

All workshops are free to attend and can be booked online via Eventbrite at **North Northants - SEND Workshops June 2023**.

- Online Workshop (Zoom) – Monday 19 June from 8pm to 9:30pm.
- Higham Ferrers Workshop – Wednesday 21 June from 9:30am to 12:30pm.
- Kettering Workshop – Friday 23 June from 9:30am to 12:30pm.
- Wellingborough Workshop – Monday 26 June from 9:30am to 12:30pm.
- Corby Workshop – Thursday 29 June from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

The council is running these workshops in partnership with the Northamptonshire Parent Forum Group, Northamptonshire Children's Trust and Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board.

Discover Adult Social Care showcase events

The council is holding several Discover Adult Social Care showcase events over the coming months to promote and raise the awareness of local adult social care services.

The next event will take place on Wednesday 28 June from 10am to 3pm at Morrisons Supermarket, Lower Street, Kettering NN16 8AN.

Members of staff will be on hand at the events to provide information and advice about adult social care in North Northamptonshire.

Further events are planned between now and next Spring.

- Wednesday 20 September 2023
  Wellingborough Library, 7 Pebble Lane, Wellingborough NN8 1AS.
- Thursday 12 October 2023
  The Hub at Fletton House, Oundle, PE8 4JA.
- Wednesday 8 November 2023
  Corby Library, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, NN17 1QG.
- Tuesday 16th January 2024
  Irthlingborough Library, High Street, Irthlingborough, Wellingborough NN9 5PU.
- Wednesday 20 March 2024
  Rushden Library, Newton Road, Rushden NN10 0PT.

EADS recruitment event to celebrate National Employability Day

Northamptonshire's **Employment and Disability Service** (EADS) is hosting a recruitment event on National Employability Day (Friday 30 June) at the Corby Cube from 11am to 2pm.

EADS is a countywide service, working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), local job centres and local businesses. It provides bespoke support to individuals facing barriers to employment, helping them work towards their goals to start, stay and succeed in employment.

EADS also supports employers to create inclusive and accessible recruitment pathways to support true diversity in the workplace.

The LIVE Changing Room and Cornerstone Project will be there on the day to support with clothing essentials and interview or work clothes.

If you are thinking about a return to work, please come along and find out how we can help.

Coronation Art Competition for schoolchildren across Northamptonshire

His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, James Saunders Watson Esq, is inviting schoolchildren across Northamptonshire to enter the **Coronation Art Competition**.

The challenge for four to 16-year-olds is to create a work of art inspired by the King's Coronation.

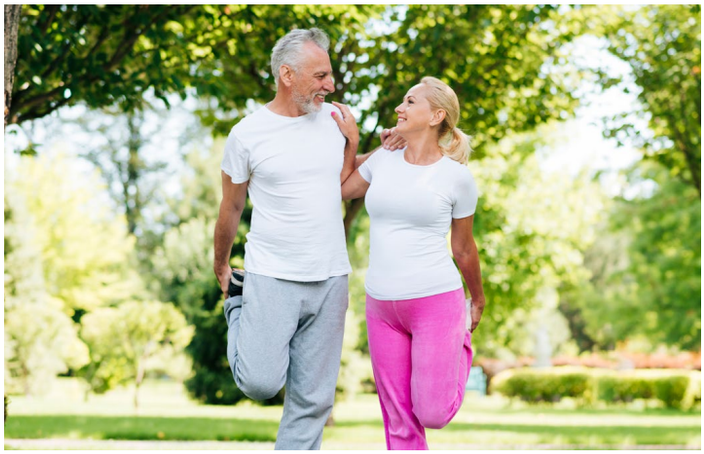
An image of the work of art must be sent to coronationart@outlook.com by Wednesday 30 August and include the entrant's name, age, school and school's postcode.

There will be four age categories with a cash prize of £100 per category, to be awarded at the final exhibition.

The top ten contestants in each category will be invited to exhibit their artworks at the final exhibition at The Stables at Lamport Hall on Thursday 26 October.

All entrants and their families will be welcome to visit the exhibition, which will run over the weekend until Sunday 29 October.

Moving on up! More North Northamptonshire adults exercising each week



Adults in North Northamptonshire are increasing the amount they exercise with six in 10 now classed as 'active'.

The latest data from Sport England revealed that 2021-22 has seen an increase in the number of active adults in the Council area to 62.5% from 57.4% in 2020-21.

This equates to 181,200 adults meeting guidelines of doing more than 150 minutes of exercise each week, beating the East Midlands average of 61.1%.

North Northamptonshire in 2021-22 has also seen a decrease in the number of inactive adults to 24.5% in 2021-22 from 30.6% in 2020-21.

This means there are now fewer inactive adults (an average of 2 out of 10) in North Northamptonshire - or those taking part in less than 30 minutes of physical exercise per week.

This is lower than the East Midlands average of 27.5% and the England average of 25.8%.

Rushden Lakes staff take part in

free e-cycle loan scheme

Staff at Rushden Lakes have been offered free four-week trials of e-bikes throughout June as part of a council initiative to enable more locals to have a go at cycling to work.

Twenty e-bikes are being loaned to staff working at any of the Rushden Lakes stores, restaurants and other organisations based at the site. Although intended for journeys to work, staff signing up for the scheme can also use the e-bikes in their leisure time too. The current round of successful applicants received their loan e-bikes today.

The scheme is part of a wider initiative across North and West Northamptonshire by the two local authorities in collaboration with local workplaces to enable staff to try out electric cycles. Previous organisations which have successfully trialled the scheme include the University of Northampton, Kettering General Hospital, Ball Corporation and Delapre Abbey.

Staff are able to choose an e-bike to suit their size and needs. This includes a small supply of foldable options so it can be stored safely in a flat or building with no cycle storage.

Rushden Lakes is already leading the way in supporting alternative modes of transport to the car. Since 2019 they have reduced the number of staff travelling by car alone to work by nearly 18%. Other initiatives they have completed include annual 'Let's Go Green' one-day events with free drinks for those who come by non-car modes, free cycle repairs and promotion of coach trips to the area. The site was recently awarded the Modeshift STARS Silver accreditation for their green travel plan and activities which are supported by Brightwayz, a local social enterprise specialising in sustainable travel schemes.

Although the loan is for a four-week period for each rider, it is hoped it will inspire staff to try cycling to work as a longer term habit and potentially purchase their own e-bike. Not only will this help reduce traffic congestion, wear and tear on the roads and carbon emissions but will also have health and mental well-being benefits for staff.

Large local employers interested in offering the free e-bike loan scheme to their staff for future rounds of the scheme can find out more information from e-bikescheme@northnorthants.gov.uk as well as the **SmartMove Northamptonshire** website.

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):

- Expressions of interest invited from local schools to move to new primary school at Glenvale Park, Wellingborough
- Clean Air Day in North Northants
- Children and young people asked to get involved in the Coronation Art Competition
- Serial fly-tipper fined over £6,000
- Have your say on parking across North Northants
- North Northamptonshire team that helps vulnerable adults live independently praised for good work
- Moving on up! More North Northamptonshire adults exercising each week
- "Think before you bin your batteries" warns NNC
- Developer ordered to demolish two storeys of Kettering building
- Road closure on A6 near Desborough for essential bridge maintenance works
- Rural business grant scheme launched
- Avian Flu in North Northants - latest updates
- SEND workshops to be held across North Northamptonshire
- Consultation to close soon on proposed revisions to the home to school transport policy in North Northamptonshire for 2024-2025 onwards
- Executive to discuss the council's draft budget position for 2022/23

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 (12 to 14 June)

- Have your say on parking across North Northants: https://ow.ly/ybzT50OMEKs (Post Reach 10,700, Link Clicks 250, Engagement 1,114)
- Serial fly-tipper fined over £6,000: https://ow.ly/axaQ50ONRoE (Post Reach 8,051, Link Clicks 690, Engagement 3,544)
- Grants of £10,000 - £50,000 are now available for rural businesses across North Northamptonshire. To find out more and how to apply, visit: http://ow.ly/tFhF50OGv2K (Post Reach 1,380, Link Clicks 22, Engagement 44)

Top Tweets so far this week (12 to 14 June)

- Attention local job seekers! Come to our job fair today to meet employers, get employment advice, and learn about training opportunities to boost your skills. It's taking place at Tresham College in Kettering from 4pm to 6pm. Find more details at https://t.co/xTVmjPghQT
(Post Impressions 968, URL Clicks 1, Engagements 24)
- Time for an MOT lads? For Men's Health Week (12-18 June) it's time for men everywhere to check under the bonnet and make sure everything is working how it should be. Don't turn into a clapped-out banger https://t.co/dgIEoFVykw
(Post Impressions 891, URL Clicks 8, Engagements 16)
- Serial fly-tipper fined over £6,000: https://t.co/NZHvbKSkWP
(Post Impressions 887, URL Clicks 35, Engagements 65)

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

0300 126 3000

www.northnorthants.gov.uk