North Northamptonshire Council

Leader's Update

Cllr Jason Smithers
Leader of the Council

9 December 2022

Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update.

It's starting to look very Wintry outside with a ground frost and the possibility of snow showers and ice on the way. Due to the freezing temperatures, the Council's SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) was activated this week and will be in place until the middle of next week. Our Rough Sleeping Team will be offering all known rough sleepers in the area emergency accommodation, so they have somewhere safe, warm, and dry to stay.

The Council is also running and supporting the North Northamptonshire Warm Spaces initiative. Warm Spaces provide a place where people can go to, for free, to enjoy warmth and have a hot drink. Thank you to all the kind organisations across North Northamptonshire who have signed up to this already. Please help us spread the message to ensure that those that need to access Warm Spaces can do so this Winter.

This Update also includes details of Sustainable Warmth, a government grant scheme designed to fund energy-efficiency upgrades for residents who are most likely to be impacted by the high cost of rising bills.

North Northamptonshire Council has also used funding received from the Government to increase payments for Homes for Ukraine hosts from £350 to £550 a month to help cover rising living costs, from November through to March 2023.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has awarded £150,000 to North Northamptonshire Council as part of its Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund. The funding will be used to recruit to two new posts to support our tree planting programme over the next two seasons.

I am pleased to see that communities across North Northamptonshire are starting to benefit from highways improvements across their local areas as the Council and Kier deliver the 'Community Enhancement Plan'. An increased investment of £1.5 million is enabling the maintenance of local roads, footpaths, signage and drainage, whilst allowing teams to find and fix potholes that would not normally be on the programme of repairs.

Following the success of the inaugural Adult Social Care Showcase in October, I am pleased to report that the Council will be holding two further showcase events in January to promote and raise awareness of our services.

With just over two weeks to go before Christmas, there are many events taking place in our local town centres. There is something for everyone including festive trails, Christmas markets and Santa's grotto. Pantomimes are in full swing in our theatres. Details of all these and more can be found on our Christmas web pages.

Please read on to find out more about all these stories.

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

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) is now active

The Council's Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) was activated on Wednesday 7 December due to the cold weather conditions. This will be in place until the middle of next week and monitored on a daily basis.

Our Rough Sleeping Team will be offering all known rough sleepers in the area emergency accommodation, so they have somewhere safe, warm, and dry to stay.

If you see someone sleeping rough in this cold weather, please contact the team on 01536 464630 or email roughsleepingteam@northnorthants.gov.uk (or call 0300 126 3000 during Out of Hours).

Please visit our website to find out more about our **SWEP policy**.

North Northamptonshire Warm Spaces needs your help

The Council recognises that it will be unaffordable for many to heat their homes for as long as they would do normally.

This is why we are both running and supporting warm spaces through the North Northamptonshire Warm Spaces initiative.

Warm Spaces provide somewhere a person who needs to get warm can go to, for free, to enjoy warmth and have a hot drink.

We have added further details and a **map of Warm Spaces** to our existing **Cost of Living web pages**, and would appreciate your help in sharing this information.

If you know someone who you think might benefit, but doesn't have access to the internet, please let them know about their nearby Warm Spaces.

This Winter will be a difficult time for many, both in terms of physical health and mental health, which is why both North Northamptonshire Libraries and Community Libraries are being supported to signpost residents to Public Health's free health and wellbeing services.

Health and wellbeing advisors will also be on hand at many of the library Warm Space sessions.

Thank you to all the kind organisations across North Northamptonshire who have signed up to North Northamptonshire Warm Spaces.

Our communities have shown time and time again how supportive they are in looking out for each other. That's why I am sure our residents will help spread the message about local Warm Spaces to others, to ensure that those who need to access them this Winter will be able to.

If your organisation is opening its doors as a Warm Space in North Northamptonshire, and you haven't yet filled in the **Warm Spaces survey**, please do so. We can promote your warm space and support you.

Highways contract sees improvements in North Northamptonshire's communities

Communities across North Northamptonshire are starting to benefit from improvements across their local areas as Kier and North Northamptonshire Council deliver the 'Community Enhancement Plan'.

In September this year, the Council launched a seven-year contract with Kier, a highways maintenance provider, to oversee the new highways service across North Northamptonshire.

Working in partnership, the Council and Kier have a fresh focus with increased investment of £1.5 million from the Council into the service.

This investment is enabling works such as maintaining local roads, footpaths, signage and drainage, whilst allowing teams to find and fix potholes that would not normally be on the programme of repairs.

In the first two months of the plan, Kier's community enhancement teams have worked at pace to deliver improvements for residents and road-users across the 1,838 mile network it maintains.

So far, the Community Enhancement Plan has visited 110 towns and parishes and is set to cover the vast majority of North Northamptonshire by the time it is completed in April 2023.

The Community Enhancement Teams have laid 72,835 metres of road markings, tended over 7,500 metres of vegetation and cleaned over 1,350 signs – with all activities set to enhance the appearance and safety of the highways network.

Alongside the scope of works listed in the plan, Kier has rectified 1,838 road and footpath defects, which includes over 1,000 carriageway repairs, since the contract was launched on behalf of the Council 12 weeks ago.

Alongside working through the Community Enhancement Plan, the Council has been working with Kier to prepare for the Winter season, which launched in mid-October.

With the salt barns full, the team has already been out twice to treat roads as temperatures drop.

Help is at hand to reduce energy bills and cut carbon emissions

Government grants are now available for those in North Northamptonshire who are eligible and want to make home improvements to reduce their energy bills and cut carbon emissions.

Sustainable Warmth is a Government grant scheme designed to fund energy-efficiency upgrades for residents who are most likely to be impacted by the high cost of rising bills.

The grants managed by our partner organisation, EON, can be used for energy saving technology and upgrades fitted by approved installers.

Upgrades available include:

- insulation and ventilation upgrades
- an upgrade to a low carbon heating system (the new heating system cannot include a gas or oil boiler)
- heating controls
- solar panels (that generate free electricity)
- energy efficient lighting.

Grants are available for those who own their own homes and for landlords of privately rented properties.

Eligibility for the grants is determined on criteria such as household income and the energy efficiency rating of the property.

The scheme will run until 28 December 2022.

For more details, including eligibility and how to apply, please visit the **Sustainable Warmth scheme** section of our website.

Payments to Homes for Ukraine sponsors increased

To help cover rising living costs, North Northamptonshire Council has increased payments for Homes for Ukraine hosts from £350 to £550 a month from November through to March 2023.

The Council receives direct funding from central Government for the 'thank you' payments and has recognised that hosts might be struggling to cover the additional costs, which is why the decision has been taken to increase the base payment by £200 per month, using the funding received from Government.

North Northamptonshire has received just over 500 arrivals since the scheme started, with 390 currently staying with hosts across the area.

For those not staying with hosts, some have moved into their own accommodation or moved to other areas in the UK, whilst others have returned to Ukraine.

We will continue to do all we can to help. I would like to thank everyone who has taken part in the Homes for Ukraine scheme so far - you are really making a difference to people's lives.

Please visit our website if you are interested in becoming a host or finding out more about the **Homes for Ukraine scheme**.

Green targets given a boost through

woodland creation project

Greening the North Northamptonshire landscape and meeting carbon reduction levels will be given a boost thanks to a Government funding injection.

North Northamptonshire Council has been awarded £150,000 from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as part of its Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund.

The funding will allow the Council to recruit two posts to support its tree planting programme over the next two seasons.

More than 4,500 trees have been planted across the North Northamptonshire area in the 2021/22 season including more than 3,500 planted through the **Queen's Green Canopy** initiative.

Across England 57 local authorities have received funding through the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund to kickstart tree planting activity, create new green jobs and boost access to nature.

Have you unwrapped Christmas events yet in North Northamptonshire?

There's lots happening in your local town centre with something for everyone including festive trails, Christmas markets, Santa's grotto, plus much more.

Shops and businesses have created beautiful window displays. While you are in town take a look round to find Christmas gifts and local produce. Small independent shops are sometimes the best place to find a special present, something unexpected and unique for Christmas, and you'll get the feel-good factor knowing you are supporting a local business.

If you're heading out to meet friends for a festive get together, take in the Christmas lights that are decorating High Streets after dark, or take a Christmas lights tour with the children to see what you can find!

Pantomimes are in full swing at theatres in our local towns, including Jack and the Beanstalk at **The Castle Theatre** in Wellingborough and **The Lighthouse Theatre** in Kettering, and Dick Whittington is on over at **The Core at Corby Cube**, and Sleeping Beauty at the **Masque Theatre** in Barton Seagrave.

Take a look at the events page on our **website** to unwrap Christmas, and keep up to date with what's happening on a High Street near you over on our **Hi Street Facebook page**.

Unwrap the app

You can also unwrap the app, DiscoverNN, to find local businesses, events and exclusive offers for app users all in one handy place. It's free to download and simple to use, and it's waiting for you on your app store! Find the download links on our **DiscoverNN web page**.

Free car parking

In the lead up to Christmas we are offering free car parking in all North Northamptonshire Council owned car parks on:

- Thursdays after 3pm on 1, 8, 15 and 22 December.
- All day on Saturdays – 3, 10 and 17 December.
- All day on Sundays (all year round).

Many other car parks in local town centres are also offering free parking.

ICB: Managing system pressures this Winter

Health and care services continue to be under significant pressure, with challenges including timely discharge of patients impacting on patient flow within hospitals, alongside ongoing pressures in mental health services.

The Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) continues to prepare for the possibility of high prevalence of flu, based on the evidence from other countries and advice from public health experts.

In October, NHS England wrote to all ICBs to set out the **winter resilience plans,** asking them to be prepared for things to get even tougher over the coming weeks and months.

The letter set out a number of expectations to improve operational resilience, reduce pressures on services and improve bed capacity while continuing to prevent and manage infections as much as possible and deliver existing transformation programmes.

Find out more about the **local initiatives** that Northamptonshire ICB is implementing to help manage the anticipated pressures on services this Winter.

Help Mother Christmas give our vulnerable children an extra special gift – Donate by Friday 16 December

The Council is delighted to be able to support the annual Mother Christmas campaign which provides new, unwrapped gifts for the county's disadvantaged children.

The campaign has been running for almost 20 years and sees retired social worker Jeanette Walsh (AKA Mother Christmas) collect the toys in association with **Northamptonshire Newspapers**.

Gifts will be collected by Jeanette and distributed to the social work teams looking after children across the county.

We're offering a helping hand by accepting gifts in four of our offices:

- Corby - One Stop Shop on first floor at the Corby Cube.
- Kettering – Reception of the Council offices on Bowling Green Road.
- Thrapston – Reception of the Council offices on Cedar Drive.
- Wellingborough – Reception of the Tithe Barn Office on Tithe Barn Road.

As well as the Council offices, drop-off points are also located in Nando's restaurants at:

- George Street in Corby.
- Carina Road in Kettering.
- Rushden Lakes Shopping Centre.
- Wood Hill in Northampton town centre.

Volunteers at Wellingborough Museum will also be supporting the appeal once again by accepting donations.

If you would like to donate, please take a brand new, unwrapped toy to one of the collection points above.

Cash donations can also be made via **Mother Christmas's Just Giving page**.

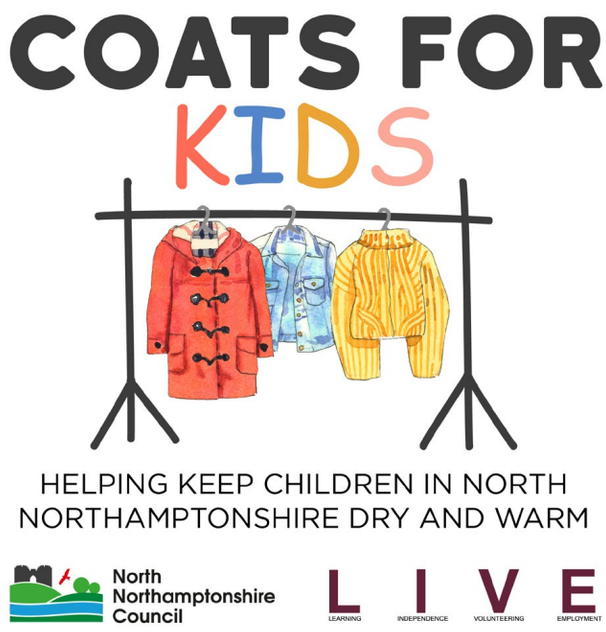
LIVE Team appeal to keep kids warm this Winter

Since our LIVE Team launched their first Free Coats for Kids rail in Wellingborough, children in the area are not going cold this Winter. Thank you to everybody who has supported Free Coats for Kids.

The team is now looking for donations of new or quality pre-loved items including shoes, boots, trainers, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, jeans, joggers, hoodies, jumpers and sweatshirts.

Learning, Independence, Volunteering and Employment (LIVE) is a specialist team operating within North and West Northamptonshire Councils.

They provide bespoke support to individuals with learning disabilities and other related barriers to employment.



They aim to provide meaningful opportunities, raise aspirations, and empower individuals to fulfil their potential and exceed expectations.

To donate items, please call 01604 362820 or drop off at Drovers Hall in Kettering from Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm.

For more information, please call:

- Kettering: 01604 362820
- Corby: 01536 261066
- Wellingborough: 01604 362197

Urgent safety warning over lethal baby self-feeding pillows

North Northamptonshire Council's Trading Standards are making people aware of an urgent safety alert that has been issued regarding baby self-feeding pillows.

People are being urged to stop using them immediately and to dispose of them safely following an Office for Product and Safety Standards investigation.

Baby self-feeding pillow products are designed to be attached to a bottle so that the baby may be positioned on its back to self-feed without the assistance of a caregiver holding the bottle and controlling the feed. This is inconsistent with **NHS guidance** in relation to safe bottle feeding.

When used as intended, even whilst under the supervision of a caregiver, it could lead to immediate, serious harm or death from choking or aspiration pneumonia.

Businesses selling these products must immediately remove them from the market as they cannot comply with the safety requirements under the General Product Safety Regulations 2005.

CONSUMER SAFETY ALERT

Baby Self-Feeding Pillows

Risk of serious harm or death

Baby self-feeding pillow products are designed to be attached to a bottle so that the baby may be positioned on its back to self-feed without the assistance of a caregiver holding the bottle and controlling the feed. This is inconsistent with NHS guidance in relation to safe bottle feeding. When used as intended, even whilst under the supervision of a caregiver, it could lead to immediate, serious harm or death from choking or aspiration pneumonia.

Consumers should immediately stop using these products and dispose of them safely.

Businesses must immediately remove these products from the market as they cannot comply with the safety requirements under the General Product Safety Regulations 2005.

Office for Product Safety & Standards

Office for Product Safety and Standards
4th Floor Cannon House
18 The Priory Queensway
Birmingham B4 6BS

Following initial contact from Lancashire Trading Standards and the Child Accident Prevention Trust concerning the safety of baby self-feeding pillows, OPSS undertook an investigation and product risk assessment in relation to this issue.

Trading Standards services are being asked to identify and take appropriate action against businesses that sell baby self-feeding pillows as they do not comply with the safety requirements set down in the General Product Safety Regulations, 2005. These types of products may also appear in second-hand shops and baby banks.

More information on the **Product Safety Alert: Baby Self-Feeding Pillows / Prop Feeders (PSA3)** can be found on the Government website.

Have your say on a new political map for

North Northamptonshire Council

A new pattern of wards is being developed for North Northamptonshire Council.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has decided that the number of councillors in North Northamptonshire should be 70. This is a change from the current Council which has 78.

The Commission wants to hear what residents and organisations think about their local area. A 10-week consultation on the proposals will run until 6 February 2023.

The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing North Northamptonshire to make sure councillors represent about the same number of electors, and that ward arrangements help the Council work effectively. It wants to be sure that its proposals reflect community ties and identities.

The Commission is interested in views on which communities should be part of the same ward.

For example:

- What facilities do people share, such as parks, leisure centres or schools and shopping areas?
- What issues do neighbouring communities face that they have in common, such as high numbers of visitors or heavy traffic?
- Have there been new housing or commercial developments that have changed the focus of communities?
- Are there roads, rivers, railways or other features that people believe form strong boundaries between neighbourhoods?

The Commission will use local views to help it draw up proposals for new ward boundaries. There will be a further round of consultation once the Commission has drawn up those proposals.

The Commission has a **dedicated section on its website** where people can give their views.

People can also email their views to reviews@lgbce.org.uk and by post to:

Review Officer (North Northamptonshire) LGBCE, PO Box 133, Blyth NE24 9FE.

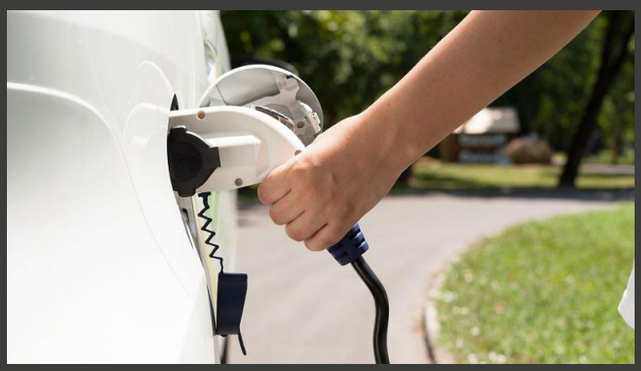
This consultation relates to the arrangements for local government elections. It is separate from consultations that are currently taking place across England on arrangements for parliamentary elections.

Community Briefing

There will be an online Community Briefing (via Zoom) on Wednesday 14 December at 6pm where the Commission will be giving more information about the review and answering questions.

Anyone wishing to attend should register their interest by emailing elections@northnorthants.gov.uk with a subject heading of LGBCE Community Briefing as soon as possible and by no later than 2pm on 13 December 2022. Details on how to access the Zoom call will then be sent to those who have registered to attend. We will aim to send the access information the day.

Electric vehicle charging points consultation launched



A survey has been launched on potential locations for on-street electric vehicle charging points in seven towns across North Northamptonshire.

Ten sites are being considered in Corby, Easton on the Hill, Irthlingborough, Kettering, Rushden, Thrapston and Wellingborough and residents living nearby will receive a letter inviting them to have their say on the proposed sites.

The letter will be from Liberty Charge, who are running the project on behalf of North Northamptonshire Council.

The consultation is also open to wider members of the public and can be completed online: **Survey on proposed on-street electric vehicle charging points in North Northamptonshire – December 2022**.

All feedback will be reviewed by the Council and before installation can go ahead, residents will have a further opportunity to comment on the designation and operation of the bays through the Traffic Regulation Order process.

The closing date for the survey is 29 December 2022.

The surveys being conducted are separate to the **engagement on 21 proposed sites** which ran from September to November 2022.

Open activities on the Consultation and Engagement Hub

Please find below details of our open consultation and engagement activities. I would welcome your feedback on the following:

- **New powers to enforce moving traffic offences in North Northamptonshire:** North Northamptonshire Council wants to be amongst the first local authorities outside London with powers to enforce moving traffic offences. Closes 18 December 2022.

- **Consultation on school admission arrangements for September 2024 intakes:** When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Closes 31 December 2022.
- **Term Dates for North Northamptonshire schools for the 2024-25 academic year:** North Northamptonshire Council is now consulting on proposed term dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for the 2024-25 academic year. Closes 31 December 2022.
- **Transforming North Northamptonshire Council's Adult Social Care Provider Services:** North Northamptonshire Council are reviewing how we can deliver our in-house adult social care provider services. Closes 15 January 2023.

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.

Adult Social Care Showcase events to be held in North Northamptonshire

Following the success of the inaugural **Adult Social Care Showcase** in October, the Council will be holding two further events in the New Year.

Two Adult Social Care Showcases are being organised to promote and raise awareness of the services that Adult Social Care provide across the local area.

The events will take place at:

- Irthlingborough Library on Wednesday 18 January from 10am to 3pm.
- Rushden Library on Wednesday 25 January from 10am to 3pm.

There will be a chance to speak to members of staff and ask questions about the service.

Recruitment opportunities will be advertised on the day for those interested in a career in Adult Social Care.

Our Adult Social Care services make such a difference to people's lives across North Northamptonshire.

I am pleased that residents will be able to find out more about the important work being done.

16 Days of Activism candle-lit vigil to be held in Kettering

North Northamptonshire Council's Safer Communities Team has joined up with partners to support 16 Days of Activism and will be holding a #jointhechorus vigil on Saturday 10 December from 6:30pm on the Market Place in Kettering.

The candle-lit vigil aims to bring the community together in supporting everyone's right to live a life free from fear of abuse, as well as remembering both victims and survivors of violence. Anyone wishing to join the vigil is encouraged to bring their own candles, torches and placards.

Throughout the vigil, there will be speakers and a one-minute silence to remember survivors and victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The event will be led by Dawn Thomas, CEO of Northamptonshire Rape Crisis, alongside Kettering Women's Centre and supporting partners include VOICE Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Services and organisations from across the community.

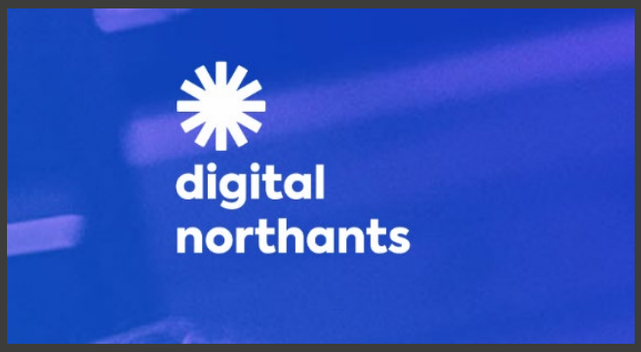
The following local organisations can also provide counselling, guidance and general support to anyone experiencing gender-based violence or domestic abuse:

- **NDAS – Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service**
- **Northamptonshire Voice**
- Northamptonshire Rape Crisis Helpline – 0300 222 5930
- Kettering Women's Centre – 07715 312106

16 Days of Activism is an international campaign calling for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence and this year runs between 25 November and 10 December, with more than 6000 organisations in 187 countries taking part.

Showcase event demonstrates how digital technology can be used to improve lives

Ways of how digital technology can help transform the lives of vulnerable people have been showcased at an event.



Bridging the Digital Divide demonstrated how tech – including virtual reality – can create solutions for identified issues, resulting in positive outcomes for people.

Support Northamptonshire, in partnership with Café Track, VR Therapies, The University of Northampton and Digital Northants, hosted the event.

Talks included:

- Support Northamptonshire showed how digital technology can enable collaborative case management and wellbeing outcomes for vulnerable people.
- Café Track discussed how they are using digital technology to help create employment opportunities for autistic people.
- VR Therapies demonstrated how virtual reality has been used to transform the lives of people with mental health issues and physical disabilities.

This event aimed to inspire delegates from the voluntary sector to further their own digital strategies and their use of digital technology to provide better outcomes for the people and groups they support.

The event was part of the **Digital Northants** initiative, a collaboration between North and West Northamptonshire Councils and the University of Northampton which aims to build a community of people interested in how digital technology can help to transform their organisations.

Steel bridges on the River Nene formally opened and in use for Chester House Estate visitors

Two much-needed pedestrian bridges have been formally opened and are now fully in use.

Communities in the north of Northamptonshire have been reconnected for the first time since an arson attack forced the former wooden bridges to be closed and deemed unsafe to cross.

The new steel structures, opened to the public in October, were formally unveiled by North Northamptonshire Council (who oversee Chester House Estate) and partners on 25 November.

The bridges, which cross the main River Nene and a backwater and link Wellingborough, Irchester and Rushden with Chester House Estate, have been completed and installed after more than a year of consultation, planning, designing and construction - just in time for the Estate's second Christmas since officially opening to the public.

This project was made possible thanks to funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) and was led by North Northamptonshire Council.

Kier Highways, which secured highways maintenance contracts with the Council earlier this year, started works on the historical Chester House site while part of a joint venture with WSP in 2021.

Since then, the provider has overcome a range of obstacles – such as transporting the structures across the floodplains at the site of special scientific interest (SSSI) while protecting archaeological findings.

Chester House Estate is overseen by North Northamptonshire Council and opened to the public in October 2021, following an extensive £17m National Lottery Heritage Funded restoration project.

New Ofsted rating for children's services in North Northamptonshire as improvements highlighted

Significant improvements continue to be made to children's services in North Northamptonshire according to a report published by Ofsted on 25 November 2022.

In a letter to North Northamptonshire Council, Ofsted highlighted the good work of Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) and rated children's services as 'Requires Improvement to be Good' lifting it out of the 'Inadequate' category it had been rated since 2019.

After a number of monitoring visits, October this year saw the first full inspection of children's services by Ofsted since the unitary authorities came into being in April 2021.

In the report, Ofsted noted that inspectors recognised: 'Children in need of help and protection in North Northamptonshire receive much better support than they did at the time of the inspection in 2019.'

It continued: 'Early help support has been strengthened, children at risk of harm are identified and timely protective action is taken.'

Ofsted acknowledged that help was now at hand for children and families who were just beginning to have problems, making sure that these small problems did not grow.

Inspectors also highlighted that when children were at risk of very serious harm, social workers acted quickly to make sure they were as safe as possible and social workers completed assessments so that they could plan the best ways to help children and families.

Social workers were also praised for finding the right families for most children who cannot live with their own families, and that they are well cared for.

Senior leaders who have worked hard to improve services for children and families since the previous inspection of Northamptonshire in 2019 were also commended.

However, although services have got much better, Ofsted recognised that there was still more to do.

The predecessor authority, Northamptonshire County Council delegated its children's social care statutory functions and transferred the provision of children's social care services to Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) on 1 November 2020.

The trust now delivers children's social care and targeted early help services on behalf of North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire councils.

The Ofsted letter is available to view in full on the **Ofsted website**.

Our children are our future and it's essential that children's services are in the best shape possible to deliver for the most vulnerable in our area.

I'm delighted that improvements continue to be made and we now need to work even harder to drive forward further positive change.

Kick Start grant winners

Last week the Business and IP Centre (BIPC) Northamptonshire, Federation of Small Business (FSB) and NatWest held a celebration networking event for the BIPC's 2022 Kick Start grant winners.

Congratulations to the successful North Northamptonshire businesses: Wine Chateau (Constantin Paunoiu), Higham Refill (Laura Curling), Village Green Blossoms (Lucy Broster) and Carpathia Operational Consultants (Mike Caughey).

The businesses were selected to receive a business grant from the BIPC Northamptonshire to support them further in their business journey, following a wider BIPC Kick Start programme of events and webinars and a 'Dragons' Den' style pitching competition, supported by FSB and NatWest.

As well as the business grant, the winners also secured a year's FSB membership and ongoing business support, to help them succeed.

You can find more information on the programme and winners on the **BIPC website**.

Executive meeting on Thursday 22 December

The next Executive meeting will take place in the Council Chamber at Corby Cube on Thursday 22 December.

The meeting will be live streamed on our **YouTube channel** from 9am.

The **agenda and papers** will be published on our website the week before the meeting.

Meeting dates for your 2023 diary

Executive: Thursday 12 January 2023 from 10am.

Full Council: Thursday 26 January 2023 from 2pm.

The agendas will be displayed on our website the week before the meetings.

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):

- North Northamptonshire Warm Spaces needs your help
- Electric vehicle charging points consultation launched
- Payments to Homes for Ukraine sponsors increased
- Highways contract sees improvements in North Northamptonshire's communities
- Showcase event demonstrates how digital technology can be used to improve lives
- Adult Social Care Showcase events to be held in North Northamptonshire
- Urgent safety warning over lethal baby self-feeding pillows
- Green targets given a boost through woodland creation project
- Help is at hand to reduce energy bills and cut carbon
- 16 Days of Activism candle-lit vigil to be held in Kettering
- Avian Flu in North Northants - latest updates
- Have your say on a new political map for North Northamptonshire Council
- Steel bridges on the River Nene formally opened and in use for Chester House Estate visitors
- New Ofsted rating for children's services in North Northamptonshire as improvements highlighted
- Amalgamation of two Rushden schools
- North Northamptonshire Boundary Review - Community Briefing

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 on **Facebook** and/or **Twitter**.

Top Facebook posts so far this week (5 to 7 December 2022)

- A recent report has shown that batteries thrown in household rubbish bins cause around 700 fires every year in waste trucks and waste-processing centres. Please ensure you dispose of batteries properly, using the battery bins found at shops and supermarkets near you. The full report can be found on the BBC https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-63809620 Can't get to a supermarket, ask a neighbour if they will take them for you.
(Reach 7,935, Post Clicks 156)

- Since our LIVE team launched their first Free Coats for Kids rail in Wellingborough, children in the area are not going cold this winter. But they need more donations. Thank you to everybody who has supported us, but please keep bringing in your donations. Call us for more information: Kettering: 01604 362820, Corby: 01536 2 61066 or Wellingborough: 01604 362197.
  (Reach 3,990, Post Clicks 31)
- Not sure who your local councillor is? Want information on future committee meetings? Find everything on our Democratic pages http://ow.ly/L6j250KfQ14
  (Reach 3,672, Post Clicks 241)

Top Tweets so far this week (5 to 7 December 2022)

- Have your say on electoral wards in North Northamptonshire. @LGBCE are currently consulting on electoral wards across the areas and need your views before 6 February 2023: https://t.co/Er1SIlAyzS
  (Impressions 1,349, Engagements 70)
- Since our LIVE team launched their first Free Coats for Kids rail in Wellingborough, children in the area are not going cold this winter. But they need more donations. Thank you to everybody who has supported us, but please keep bringing in your donations.
  (Impressions 569, Engagements 16)
- Our LIVE team is looking for new or quality pre-loved items, including shoes/boots/ trainers, coats, hats, scarves and gloves, jeans, joggers, hoodies, jumpers and sweatshirts. To donate items, call 01604 362820 or drop off Mon-Fri between 9am-4pm at Drovers Hall in Kettering.
  (Impressions 514, Engagements 15)

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

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