

# Leader's Update

1 December 2023

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## Introduction and welcome

**Welcome to my latest Update. This issue includes: New Chief Executive, temporary library in Kettering, A509 Isham bypass, Hi Santa Stops festive trail, Christmas events, SWEP, Household Support Fund, Social Worker Degree Apprenticeships, plus much more...**

North Northamptonshire Council is delighted to announce the selection of Adele Wylie as its new Chief Executive. The appointment is subject to approval at Full Council on Thursday 7 December. Adele is currently Executive Director of Customer and Governance at the council. I believe that this appointment will not only help lead our staff and services to achieve great things; it will inspire others and help attract people into a career at the council. Adele exemplifies what can be achieved if you set your heart on something and work hard to achieve it.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to our Interim Chief Executive, George Candler. I have greatly appreciated George's professionalism, advice and commitment to his role. He has done an excellent job keeping us on course, and is hugely valued by our staff, members and partners.

The council will open a new temporary library in Kettering while roof repair works are undertaken on the existing Grade II library building. This move is necessary after heavy rainfall in October damaged the roof which forced the library to close. Library services will be soon relocated to the upper floor of the modern extension of Cornerstone which is accessible from the council car park on London Road.

Preparation of plans for the A509 Isham bypass have taken a step forward after a decision by North Northamptonshire Council to commit further funding to the outline business case. We welcome the recent confirmation from the government that the construction of the Isham bypass will be fully funded by the Department for Transport. This scheme is a top priority for the council as the route would help boost the local economy, alleviate traffic pressures and improve the air quality in the village of Isham.

Tomorrow is Small Business Saturday (Saturday 2 December) where thousands of wonderful independent businesses across the country are celebrated. Our festive Hi Street campaign is asking people to 'follow their heart to their High Street' to discover local shops, restaurants, cafés and salons. You can get involved with our Hi Santa Stops festive trail - a fun Christmas activity for all the family with the chance to win £500 of local business vouchers.

With just over three weeks to go before Christmas, there are many events taking place in our local town centres with Christmas markets, farmers markets and lights switch on events. Pantomimes in North Northamptonshire theatres start tomorrow. As part of the Christmas festivities, and to support local businesses, we're offering free parking in council-owned car parks in Kettering and Corby town centres every Saturday from 2 to 23 December 2023. Full details of all these, plus information about any changes to council services over the festive period, can be found on the Christmas section of our website.

The Christmas party season may have already started for some of you but please remember that if you are going to use a taxi, only use a licensed taxi. I would strongly encourage you to think ahead and follow our safety guidance.

Due to the freezing temperatures, the council's Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) was activated this week and will be operational until at least Monday morning (4 December). Our Rough

Sleeping and Housing Options Teams are working closely to ensure that all known and verified rough sleepers have been offered accommodation. If you have any intelligence or know of anyone rough sleeping, please notify our Rough Sleeping Team. The contact details are below.

Nine grants are available to local councils and voluntary organisations currently supporting with the cost of living. The grants are an allocation of the government's Household Support Fund which is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions. The closing date for applications is Sunday 3 December.

Earlier this week, the Executive announced the joint funding of Social Worker Degree Apprenticeships with West Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire Children's Trust. Up to 55 members of staff could be enrolled onto the Social Worker Integrated Degree Apprenticeship across Northamptonshire by 2026, with the first 15 apprentices starting training in September 2024.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, James Saunders Watson, joined representatives from the council, local volunteers and pupils from Studfall Junior School this week to plant an official King's Coronation tree in Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods. This ancient woodland was chosen because of its age and royal connections.

The council will start to remove the fixed market stalls on the Market Square in Wellingborough next week to tackle anti-social behaviour. The works will begin on Monday 4 December and will take 7 to 10 days to complete. During this time access to the market square will be restricted and existing traders will be located on Orient Way. The market will continue to run as normal once this work has been completed.

North Northamptonshire Council's Safer Communities Team has joined up with partners and the local community to support the 16 Days of Activism campaign and will be holding a #jointhechorus community march on Saturday 9 December from 6:30pm to 8pm in Kettering town centre.

Thank you to those of you who watched the live broadcast on North Northamptonshire's very own climate conference, NNClimate23, on YouTube last week. It was a great success. If you missed it, the recording is available to watch on our website.

The Armed Forces Community Hubs are an informal and welcoming space for any members of the Armed Forces community and are a great place to go for advice and support. The December dates and locations are detailed below.

This Update includes an article from Integrated Care Northamptonshire about their plans to prepare local health and care services for the Winter ahead, which you might find of interest.

The council is now consulting on proposed term dates for community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2025-26 academic year. The council is also co-ordinating an annual school admissions consultation on behalf of schools of all types in the local area, should they request to be included. Both consultations close on Sunday 31 December. Full details of these, and our other current consultation and engagement activities, can be found on the Your Voice Matters website.

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

## **Council announces new Chief Executive**

North Northamptonshire Council is delighted to announce the selection of Adele Wylie as its new Chief Executive. The appointment is subject to approval at Full Council on Thursday 7 December.

Adele is currently Executive Director of Customer and Governance at the council.

She started at North Northamptonshire in November 2020 as part of a new Senior Leadership Team recruited to deliver the council's ambitious plans for the area.

Adele is a lawyer by profession and has had an impressive career. She has held various leadership positions at Rutland County Council and Melton Borough Council prior to North Northamptonshire. She was appointed as Deputy Chief Executive earlier this year and has also held the statutory role of Monitoring Officer for the council.

The role of Chief Executive is vitally important to ensure that services are delivered to residents. It is critical in turning the council's policy objectives into reality. It is key to implementing decisions made by the Executive on issues that impact everyone in the area. The Chief Executive will inspire staff to be their best and will be an ambassador for achievement both within the organisation, and further afield.

The proposed appointment followed a national recruitment campaign and rigorous recruitment and selection process which led to a unanimous vote from all members of the Employment Panel.

Adele is very talented, and I'm absolutely delighted that she has been selected for this key role. Adele exemplifies what can be achieved if you set your heart on something and work hard to achieve it.

The council's ambition to become an Employer of Choice is key to our success and 'growing our own talent' is essential to this. We recognised Adele as a talent with the skills to continue building a modern council, with residents at its heart and her ability to bring people together. Her passion for North Northamptonshire was evident throughout the process. I am proud that we have developed an exceptional leader to accelerate the next stage in our journey and become an exemplar in local government.

I believe that this appointment will not only help lead our staff and services to achieve great things; it will inspire others and help attract people into a career at North Northamptonshire Council.

We are entering the next phase of our journey in improving public services. The challenges ahead are significant. Adele brings a bold and creative approach that will help the council work in new and imaginative ways. This fresh thinking will be critical in taking the innovative leap required to deliver our challenging aspirations for the area.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to our Interim Chief Executive George Candler. I have greatly appreciated George's professionalism, advice and commitment to his role, and he has done an excellent job keeping us on course and is hugely valued by our staff, members and partners.

Adele commented:

"I am delighted to be recommended for appointment as Chief Executive for North Northamptonshire Council. I am excited to be able to work with elected members and my leadership colleagues as Chief Executive on delivering excellent people-centred services and creating the best opportunities for everyone in North Northamptonshire.

"We have hugely talented and committed staff and ambitious elected members; combined with our partners and communities, we have the opportunity to make a difference for both our current and future residents."

## **Library services in Kettering to be temporarily relocated**

The council will open a new temporary library in Kettering while roof repair works are undertaken on the existing library.

Library services will be relocated to the upper floor of the modern extension of Cornerstone, adjacent to the existing Grade II listed library building. Once open, the temporary library entrance will be clearly signposted and accessible from the council car park on London Road.

The move is necessary after heavy rainfall in October damaged the roof which forced the library to close.

Library staff will be on site to offer support and guidance to customers, alongside a full range of services:

- Browsing and lending
- Request service
- Group activities including Rhyme Time
- Warm spaces
- Drop ins for bus passes.

Blue badge appointments will be offered from the council's Bowling Green Road offices for two full days per week.

Further provision including People's Network computers, free Wi-Fi and printing will be available from a later date.

Although water ingress from the leaking library roof is impacting the lower floor of the Cornerstone extension, the upper floor is usable with no damage from the water ingress. With this in mind, the decision to move the library provision into the extension has been taken while works are completed to make the library building watertight. After the building is made watertight, steps will be taken (subject to health and safety checks) to move the library services back to their usual home and then fully open Cornerstone.

The rooms being used to temporarily house the library can then be returned to their intended use and provide income generation through bookable spaces and catering facilities.

Following Executive approval, Full Council will discuss whether to approve the funds for the roof replacement on Thursday 7 December.

As part of the wider works on site, the Art Gallery doors are currently being refurbished. Subject to Full Council approving the funds for the roof repair project, the tree canopies around the building will be raised in preparation for the erection of the scaffolding and the tent.

Further details about the library move and exact opening date will be published on the [Kettering Library Facebook page](#).

## **North Northamptonshire Council commits further funding to developing Isham bypass plans**

Preparation of plans for the A509 Isham bypass have taken a step forward after a decision by North Northamptonshire Council to commit further funding to the outline business case.

I took the decision as an urgent decision, in accordance with the council's decision-making rules, to ensure that the project was not delayed. It will see the council use an additional £790,000 of capital money to update traffic modelling for the outline business case for the scheme as well as for progressing work on obtaining planning permission.

Final approval to use the funds in this way will be sought at a meeting of Full Council on Thursday 7 December.

Funding for construction is currently being sought from the government's Major Road Network initiative, which follows a number of key gateway stages:

- Strategic Outline Business Case
- Outline Business Case
- Full Business Case
- Construction.

The A509 Isham Bypass forms the first part of a strategy to dual the whole A509 between the A14 south of Kettering and the A45 at Wellingborough.

The Strategic Outline Business Case was prepared and submitted to the Department for Transport in November 2020.

As reported to Executive in November 2021, the council secured £1.859m from the Department for Transport (DfT) towards the development of the Outline Business Case (OBC) and planning application for the scheme.

It subsequently became clear that the work to prepare the Outline Business Case and planning application was more extensive than previously thought, so in March 2023 Full Council agreed additional funding of £1.573m.

The DfT has now requested that the traffic modelling for the scheme is updated to reflect the latest version of the National Trip End Model - a database maintained by the DfT that is used to estimate the future growth in travel.

This requires sections of both the Outline Business Case and planning application to be updated, causing a delay in the timescale for submission of the planning application and Outline Business Case to May 2024, and at additional cost.

We welcome the recent confirmation from the government that the construction of the Isham bypass will be fully funded by the Department for Transport.

This scheme is a top priority for the council as the route would not only help boost the local economy, enabling growth of both our housing and commercial sectors but also alleviate traffic pressures and air quality in the village of Isham, for whom this has been a long campaign. It is important that we do everything we can to progress it as quickly as possible.

## Follow your heart to your High Street this Small Business Saturday

Launched in the UK in 2012, this year marks the 11th anniversary of the [Small Business Saturday](#) campaign where thousands of wonderful independent businesses across the country are celebrated.

The aim is to raise awareness of how incredible small businesses are, and to encourage people to shop and support local on the day itself and beyond.

Small Business Saturday takes place tomorrow (Saturday 2 December). As part of our festive [Hi Street campaign](#), we are asking people to 'follow their heart to their High Street'.

Local businesses are made with love and care and are run by passionate, talented, and dedicated people. We have been showcasing this by sharing features on a variety of businesses this week on our social media channels.

We encourage residents to explore their local town to discover shops, restaurants, cafés, salons and more by getting involved with the [Hi Santa Stops festive trail](#) - a fun Christmas activity for all the family with the chance to win £500 of local business vouchers. There is also a chance to win a £10 gift voucher for Butterwick Bakery in our [Facebook](#) giveaway.

'Support, shop and love' local messages will be shared all over North Northamptonshire on Small Business Saturday thanks to a van which features digital advertising screens. This will be travelling across the area and stopping at local towns and festive events to raise awareness of this important day. Look out for it in Kettering, Corby, Thrapston and Oundle.

Content will also be shared about [Build Your Business](#) which is run by the Business and IP Centre (BIPC), and local businesses will be encouraged to sign up to a webinar for the launch of a new [Retail Support Programme](#) which will offer free mentoring, advice and support. Along with the Hi Street campaign, these projects are funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

Follow our campaign for Small Business Saturday and more on the [Hi Street Facebook](#) and [Hi Street Instagram](#) pages. Please share the messages with your followers to help raise awareness of the huge range of amazing small businesses that North Northamptonshire is home to. You can also find out more on the [Hi Street](#) section of our website.

## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

With just over three weeks to go before Christmas, our website includes all the information you need to know about events, free parking and changes to council services over the festive period.

### Events

There are many [events](#) taking place in our local town centres with Christmas markets, farmers markets, lights switch on events, carol singing and, as already mentioned, our [Hi Santa Stops festive trail](#).

Pantomimes in our local theatres start tomorrow:

- Cinderella at the [Castle Theatre, Wellingborough](#) (2 to 31 December)

- The Wizard of Oz at the [Lighthouse Theatre, Kettering](#) (15 to 31 December)
- Cinderella at [The Core at Corby Cube](#) (16 to 31 December).

### Free car parking

As part of the Christmas festivities, and to support local businesses, we're offering [free parking](#) in council-owned car parks in Kettering and Corby town centres on the following Saturdays:

- 2 December
- 9 December
- 16 December
- 23 December.

Parking is free all year round in council-owned car parks in the former Wellingborough and East Northamptonshire areas.

### Changes to council services

Details about changes to council services can also be found on our website:

- [Bin collection service](#): Collection date changes and what to do with Christmas trees and excess waste.
- [Country parks](#): Opening times for car parks, toilets and cafes.
- [Customer Services](#): Operating as normal between Christmas and New Year, excluding Bank Holidays.
- [Household waste recycling centres](#): Opening times for local tips.
- [Housing](#): Information about the Keyways housing register and drop-in sessions for rough sleepers.

Please visit the [Christmas](#) section of our website for further information.

### Stay safe when you're out celebrating this Christmas

The Christmas party season may have already started for some of you but please remember that if you are going to use a taxi, only use a licensed taxi.

All licensed taxis that are registered with the local council must display a licence plate and their number on the front plates, rear plates and a smaller licence in the front windscreen. Please check this before getting in the taxi to make sure that the driver has followed the correct and legal processes.

Please think ahead and follow our safety guidance:

- Plan how you're going to get home from your night out - arrange a lift or book a taxi in your name and leave the taxi booking details with a friend.
- Always keep the number of a reliable taxi firm with you.
- When you make a booking, ask if you can pay by card. It is worth agreeing the fare in advance, so you can make sure you have the correct cash to pay, if necessary.
- Avoid taxis that tout for business and are unlicensed.
- When the taxi arrives, check it is the one you booked by asking for the name that it was booked in. If in doubt, don't get in.
- Always sit behind the driver in the back seat.
- If you feel uneasy, ask to be let out.
- Stick with your friends and choose a meeting point for if you get separated.
- Never accept a lift from a stranger.

## Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) is now active

Due to the weather forecast predicting sub-zero temperatures across North Northamptonshire, the council has this week triggered its Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP). SWEP is likely to remain operational until at least Monday morning (4 December), but this will be kept under daily review.

The Rough Sleeping and Housing Options Teams are working closely to ensure that all known and verified rough sleepers have been offered accommodation.

The whereabouts and identity of any person sleeping rough should be reported to the Rough Sleeping Team during office hours, and to the Council's Out of Hours Service at all other times, as follows:

- **Rough Sleeping Team Hotline:** 01536 464630
- **Rough Sleeping Team Email:** [roughsleepingteam@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:roughsleepingteam@northnorthants.gov.uk)
- **Out of Hours Service:** 0300 126 3000.

North Northamptonshire Council is still operating the 'Everyone In' initiative and has a commitment to offer suitable accommodation to verified and genuine rough sleepers, regardless of the weather, as quickly as possible. If you have any intelligence or know of anyone rough sleeping, please notify our Rough Sleeping Team using the contact details above.

Our Rough Sleeping Team is holding drop-in sessions to help rough sleepers in the area:

- **The Daylight Centre, Wellingborough:** Rough sleeping surgery every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 11:30am.
- **St Edwards Soup Kitchen, Kettering:** The Rough Sleeping Team attends every Tuesday from 3pm to 5pm.
- **Big Blue Bus, Corby Cube car park:** The Rough Sleeping Team attends every Friday from 7pm to 9pm.
- **Teen Challenge, Wellingborough:** The Rough Sleeping Team holds a drop-in session every Wednesday from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

For further information, please visit the [Homelessness and rough sleeping](#) section of our website.

## £545,000 grant funding available to organisations offering cost of living support

North Northamptonshire Council is offering nine grants to local councils and voluntary organisations currently supporting with the cost of living.

The grants are an allocation of the government's Household Support Fund which is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Applications will need to demonstrate that the funding will be used to support low income and vulnerable households across town and rural communities in North Northamptonshire.

The council can award grants to organisations who help our community with:

- Home improvements
- Food poverty
- Tenancy support
- Benefits advice
- Budgets and finance
- Winter support and warmth
- Energy support
- Supporting the Gypsy, Romany and Traveller (GRT) community
- Winter meal programmes.

Town and parish councils, charities, community and voluntary groups, clubs and non-profit organisations are invited to apply.

Before applying, read the [Household Support Fund Grant Framework](#) and [individual grant project briefs](#) that outline the principles and criteria for these grants.

We encourage organisations to work together when making applications to make sure support can be offered across all areas of North Northamptonshire in both town and rural communities.

To apply for funding, please visit the [Voluntary sector grants - HSF](#) section of our website.

The closing date for applications is Sunday 3 December 2023.

For queries relating to the Household Support Fund Grants Framework please email [HSF4North@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:HSF4North@northnorthants.gov.uk).

## **£1.23 million funding for social worker degree apprenticeships announced**

Earlier this week, the Executive announced the joint funding of Social Worker Degree Apprenticeships with West Northamptonshire Council and Northamptonshire Children's Trust.

At a cost of £1.23 million, the project will be led by North Northamptonshire Council, and the money will be split three ways, coming from each organisation's Apprenticeship Levy fund.

Up to 55 members of staff could be enrolled onto the Social Worker Integrated Degree Apprenticeship across Northamptonshire by 2026, with the first 15 apprentices starting training in September 2024.

The scheme offers those already working in social care the chance to embark on a new and rewarding career and make a difference to the lives of local children. Longer term, it is anticipated that the scheme will help to retain employees within the county.

The council will aim to open bid opportunities in time to award a contract in February 2024.

## **Tree to mark the King's Coronation planted in Corby**

The Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, James Saunders Watson, joined representatives from North Northamptonshire Council, local volunteers and pupils from Studfall Junior School to plant an official King's Coronation tree in Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods.

The planting coincided with National Tree Week.

Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods was chosen by the council because of its age and royal connections.

The 75-hectare complex of ancient woodland, woodland, scrub and grassland is located in the centre of Corby. It is surrounded completely by built development including Corby town centre and the Corby Parkland Gateway civic quarter. The woodland, largely composed of ash and oak trees, is estimated to date back to 800AD.

In 2022, the woods were chosen to be part of a nationwide network of 70 ancient woodlands to be dedicated to the late Queen Elizabeth II in celebration of her Platinum Jubilee.

The woodland is actively managed by the council through the [Woodland Project](#) with support from the Friends of Thoroughsale and Hazel Woods. Much of the practical management work is undertaken by the Woodland Manager, two Parks and Woodland Rangers and regular volunteers.

## **Removal of fixed market stalls on Wellingborough Market**

Due to anti-social behaviour on the Market Square in Wellingborough, the council will start to remove the fixed market stalls next week.

This follows a review with partners, and a recommendation from Northamptonshire Police, who highlighted anti-social behaviour as part of their environmental audit of Wellingborough.

The works will begin on Monday 4 December and will take 7 to 10 days to complete. During this time access to the market square will be restricted and existing traders will be located on Orient Way.

Drop-down bollards will be installed, large photo boards will be removed and relocated, and work will be completed to repair any trip hazards.

The market will continue to run as normal once this work has been completed. Space will be available to hire through the council's market team, with gazebos and tables also available.

## **16 Days of Activism community march to be held in Kettering**

North Northamptonshire Council's Safer Communities Team has joined up with partners and the local community to support the 16 Days of Activism campaign and will be holding a #jointhechorus community march on Saturday 9 December from 6:30pm to 8pm in Kettering town centre.

The march 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. The meeting point for the march is the corner of Northfield Avenue and Meadow Road, Kettering with the march finishing at the Market Place, where there will be a programme of speakers and a remembrance event to remember survivors and victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Partners include Northamptonshire Rape Crisis, Northamptonshire Voice, Kettering Women's Centre, Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Services, EVE, Kettering Street Pastors, and other organisations and community groups from across North Northamptonshire. The following local organisations can also provide counselling, guidance and general support to anyone experiencing gender-based violence, domestic abuse or sexual abuse:

- [Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service](#) (NDAS)
- [Northamptonshire Voice](#)
- Northamptonshire Rape Crisis Helpline – 0300 222 5930
- EVE - text 07827 239496

16 Days of Activism is an international campaign calling for the elimination of all form of gender-based violence and this year runs between 25 November and 10 December, with more than 6,000 organisations in 187 countries taking part.

## **North Northamptonshire's NNClimate23 online conference**

NNClimate23 took place on Wednesday 22 November and was a tremendous success.

The online conference focused on three sessions:

- From Farm to Future - Bridging Agriculture and Sustainability.
- Innovation for Impact - Shaping Our New Green Economy.
- Empower, Engage, Enact - North Northamptonshire Youth and Community in Climate Action.

Thank you to those of you who watched the live broadcast on YouTube.

The recording is available to watch on our website: [NNClimate23](#).

Thank you to the [keynote speakers](#) representing Village Farm, West Lodge Farm Park, Eat Curious and Syan Farms, Cadent Gas, TopHat (modular housing), Cranfield University, Brightwayz, Chester House Estate and Tresham College.

Thank you also to Councillor Harriet Pentland (Executive Member for Climate and Green Environment, Chair of EAP Sustainable Communities) for your reflections on COP28 in Dubai and to Graeme Kane (Executive Director Place and Economy, Interim) for co-hosting the panel discussions.

The conference was a great opportunity to showcase much of the good work happening on the ground in the North Northamptonshire area, and some exciting opportunities ahead offered by the transition to Net Zero, such as shifting from fossil fuels to hydrogen for major energy users.

However, climate change presents us with some significant challenges, and we are mindful that we, and our collaborative partners, need to do so much more.

We hope the conference inspired people to come together and help find solutions to combat the causes of global warming and mitigate the effects of climate change.

## Armed Forces Community Hubs - December dates

Armed Forces Covenant Northamptonshire provides information and advice on support services available within the county for the Armed Forces community and their families.

The Community Hubs offer the chance to have a cup of tea and a chat with friends - and an opportunity to seek help and advice in a relaxed setting.

- **Monday 4 December**  
2pm to 3:30pm at Daventry Library (Abbey Centre, St John's Square, Daventry NN11 4XG).
- **Wednesday 6 December**  
12 noon to 1:30pm at The Bridge (63c Gold Street, Northampton NN1 1RA).
- **Tuesday 12 December**  
2pm to 3:30pm at Towcester Library (The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD).
- **Friday 15 December**  
9:30am to 11am at Corby Library (The Corby Cube, Parkland Gateway, George Street, Corby NN17 1QG).

### Further information

Please visit the [Armed Forces Covenant Northamptonshire](https://www.armedforcescovenantnorthamptonshire.org.uk) website, email [Covenant.NCC@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:Covenant.NCC@westnorthants.gov.uk) or call 07741 684647.

## How your NHS is preparing for Winter

**From ICN Today (Issue 11: November 2023) and reproduced with the permission of Integrated Care Northamptonshire.**

In July 2023, NHS England published its [plan](#) for Winter earlier than ever before, setting out actions systems and providers should take to build resilience ahead of what is likely to be another challenging Winter.

These preparations build on the measures set out in the NHS Urgent and Emergency Care Recovery Plan. More than £1bn revenue and £250 million of capital funding has been invested since the recovery plan was published to boost capacity and speed up discharge.

Ten high impact priority interventions have been identified nationally, which support a safe and effective service for patients and systems have been asked to deliver these. They include:

- Increasing availability of Same Day Emergency Care.
- Boosting frailty services.
- Improving acute inpatient flow and length of stay.
- Improving community bed productivity and flow.
- Ensuring Care Transfer Hubs are operating effectively.
- Ensuring sufficient capacity to meet demand intermediate care.
- Increasing availability of virtual wards.
- Providing urgent community response to avoid unnecessary hospital transfers.
- Creating a single point of access for referring patients to urgent and emergency care.

- Providing Acute Respiratory Infection Hubs for same-day urgent assessment.

In addition, the NHS is rolling out the COVID-19 and flu vaccination programme, which provides vital protection to eligible individuals over Winter, preventing people from developing serious illnesses, and helping to minimise hospitalisations during busy Winter months.

Strengthening mental health support is also a key element of our Winter plans, and locally we are looking to improve ambulance responses to mental health calls and avoid long lengths of stay in mental health inpatient settings.

The NHS is also introducing a number of new services this Autumn and Winter to improve capacity in General Practice and make it more convenient for patients with conditions like conjunctivitis and UTIs to receive treatment quickly and easily without the need for an appointment at participating pharmacies.

Read the full story on the Integrated Care Northamptonshire website: [How your NHS is preparing for Winter](#).

## Forthcoming meetings

- **Full Council:** Thursday 7 December from 6pm.
- **Executive:** Thursday 21 December from 10am.

The agenda and papers will be published on the [Council meetings](#) section of our website in the week before the meeting.

These meetings will be live streamed on our [YouTube](#) channel.

## Your Voice Matters

Please find below details of our 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.

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

- [Corby Station to Town Centre link road and Smart and Connected Corby projects consultation](#). In September 2022, North Northamptonshire Council conducted engagement activities regarding the proposed Corby Station Link Road and Smart and Connected Corby projects. These two projects are part of the programme of projects being funded through the Corby Towns Fund which the council was awarded £19.9m from the government to deliver. Closes 22 December 2023.
- [Term dates for North Northamptonshire schools for the 2025-26 academic year](#). North Northamptonshire Council is now consulting on proposed term dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for the 2025-26 academic year. Closes 31 December 2023.
- [Public Spaces Protection Order - Rushden Town Centre](#). North Northamptonshire Council is considering making a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to cover Rushden town centre. A PSPO is made under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Closes 31 December 2023.
- [Consultation on school admission arrangements for September 2025 intakes](#). North Northamptonshire Council co-ordinates an annual school admissions consultation on behalf of schools of all types in the council area, should they request to be included. The consultation aims to raise awareness of any proposed changes to school admission arrangements and invites comments from interested parties. Closes 31 December 2023.
- [North Northamptonshire Hackney Carriage de-zoning and byelaw review](#). On 14 September 2023, the council's Executive agreed to carry out a consultation process to inform the decision making in relation to the matter of the potential removal of hackney carriage administration and enforcement zones within the North Northamptonshire area. Closes 21 January 2024.

## Press releases

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

- [16 Days of Activism community march to be held in Kettering](#)
- [North Northamptonshire Council commits further funding to developing Isham bypass plans](#)
- [Free parking for Christmas shoppers](#)
- [Council announces new Chief Executive](#)
- [Removal of fixed market stalls on Wellingborough Market](#)
- [Tree to mark the King's Coronation planted in Corby](#)
- [Library services in Kettering to be temporarily relocated](#)
- [£1.23 million funding for social worker degree apprenticeships announced](#)
- [Total demolition ordered on dangerous building in Kettering town centre](#)
- [Countdown to North Northamptonshire's NNClimate23 online conference](#)
- [£545,000 grant funding on offer to organisations offering cost-of-living support](#)

## 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 (27 to 29 November)

- Now we are fully into the Winter season, make sure you are following North Northamptonshire Highways updates on when gritters will be out on the roads.  
(Reach 7,220, Link Clicks 0, Engagement 516)
- Library services in Kettering to be temporarily relocated: <https://ow.ly/l2ks50QbSJU>  
(Reach 5,810, Link Clicks 157, Engagement 265)
- Free parking for Christmas shoppers: <https://ow.ly/Bv4x50Qcmul>  
(Reach 5,732, Link Clicks 218, Engagement 784)

### Top Tweets so far this week (27 to 29 November)

- Now we are fully into the Winter season, make sure you are following NNC Highways for updates on when gritters will be out on the roads @nnchighways  
(Impressions 529, URL Clicks 0, Engagements 14)
- Attention local job seekers! Don't miss our event tomorrow. You can hear about local jobs available, get employment advice and support, and learn about training opportunities to boost your skills. Join us at Kettering Learning Centre tomorrow (28 November) from 3pm to 6pm.  
(Impressions 492, URL Clicks 0, Engagements 4)
- Tree to mark the King's Coronation planted in Corby: <https://t.co/HgwPoghZiD>  
(Impressions 462, URL Clicks 3, Engagements 17)

## Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have any ideas for items to include in future updates, please email me at [executive@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:executive@northnorthants.gov.uk).

With Best Wishes,  
Jason