

Leader's Update

5 May 2023

Introduction and welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update.

I am sure that many of us are looking forward to watching the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort on a screen somewhere tomorrow. This historic occasion is an excellent opportunity for friends, families and communities to come together across the nation, and the Commonwealth, to celebrate over the special three-day bank holiday weekend. I have included details of a small selection of events taking place locally. Thank you to those of you who shared your plans with me.

To mark the Coronation, the Big Help Out has been established to raise awareness of volunteering and highlight opportunities for where people can experience volunteering and make a difference in their communities. Whether you have an hour or a day to spare, and whatever your skill set, there will be volunteering opportunities in your local area, which will be rewarding and enjoyable - and not just for this weekend but for the weeks and months ahead.

Last week, I announced George Candler as the proposed Interim Chief Executive at North Northamptonshire Council. The move follows the announcement last month that the current Chief Executive, Rob Bridge, has secured the top role at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, and will leave North Northamptonshire Council in early June. George has a wealth of experience in local government. He is currently Executive Director for Place and Economy as well as Deputy Chief Executive. He was previously Chief Executive of Northampton Borough Council. The appointment is subject to Full Council approval on Thursday 25 May - the date of the Annual Council meeting. We will now be looking to fill George's role as quickly as possible, and that process has already begun.

The next Executive meeting will take place on Thursday 11 May at the Council Chamber in Corby Cube. The Executive will consider a report on the [North Northamptonshire Vision](#) based on three key priorities: proud, prosperous and proactive. The proposal will also include a 'Big 50' conference to be held this year. There will also be an update on the [Family Hub and Start for Life Programme](#) - a multi-million-pound project to improve life chances for children, young people and their families in North Northamptonshire – which is moving forward at pace.

I am delighted to report that central government has allocated North Northamptonshire over £1.1 million of funding for rural communities and businesses via the Rural England Prosperity Fund. This will be used to launch a capital business grant scheme and a capital grant scheme for local rural areas and is a top-up to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund that allocated North Northamptonshire £4.8 million in December 2022.

More than 20 organisations have been successful with their bids for grant funding totalling £100,000 from the council's Shared Prosperity Fund allocation. These organisations will now be able to deliver projects to improve lives for local residents and will include improvements to facilities and new sports equipment.

Please note that the Shirley Road Planning Appeal (Public Inquiry) will now start on Thursday 11 May at 1pm, not on Wednesday 10 May as previously advised.

Since my last Update, the council has opened two new consultations. We have made a [non-immediate Article 4 Direction](#) covering parts of Kingswood, Corby. This allows a local planning authority to withdraw certain permitted development rights, so that planning permission is required. We also want to hear your views on our proposed revision of our [home to school transport policies](#) in North Northamptonshire for 2024-2025 onwards. I have provided an overview and a link to each questionnaire below.

I would also like to say a huge congratulations to all the staff who won praise at North Northamptonshire Council's first ever Employee Awards ceremony. The event was held at Chester House Estate yesterday and celebrated the achievements of staff from across the council.

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

Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort

The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will take place at Westminster Abbey tomorrow. The service will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

It promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime display of pomp and pageantry as well as solemn religious significance. It is also expected to be a somewhat moving ceremony, especially as there will likely be comparisons drawn between the Coronation of King Charles III this weekend and the Coronation of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - his 'darling mama' - in 1953.

This historic occasion is an excellent opportunity for friends, families and communities to come together across the nation, and the Commonwealth, to celebrate over the special three-day bank holiday weekend.

Ceremonial, celebratory and community events

- **Saturday 6 May** - The Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey.
- **Sunday 7 May** - The Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle and the Coronation Big Lunch.
- **Monday 8 May** - The Big Help Out.

If you haven't made any plans to mark the ceremony yet, you can still visit the official [Coronation](#) website to find out about events happening in our parks, town centres, village squares and churches in the local area - and further afield.

Local events

In my last Update, I mentioned that the Big Help Out will start on Monday 8 May. It seems there will be some exciting events taking place in the local community. I have provided a small selection here:

- **Great Addington Parish Council**
Join the villagers of Little and Great Addington for the Addingtons' Coronation Celebrations on Sunday 7 May from 2pm until late. Events include a tea party in the Memorial Hall, photographic exhibition of the villages through the ages, cake and crown decorating competitions, face painting, bouncy castle, fun and games in the marquees outside The Hare and Hounds and an evening disco. Food and refreshments will be available throughout the day. Follow [Great Addington Parish Council](#) on Facebook.
- **Easton-on-the-Hill Parish Council**
Easton-on-the-Hill Parish Council is holding a Village Clean-up Day on Monday 8 May. Residents will assemble at the Spring Close Pocket Park and be allocated tasks such as cleaning signs, painting benches, clearing the pond, trimming branches, litter picking, etc. There is also the possibility of starting to help rebuild the Polish War Memorial that got demolished by a poplar tree that blew over in the very high winds last year. The Polish community are very helpful and assisting financially and practically, and are keen to involve the residents in the war memorial's rebuild for a special service in September. Visit the [Easton-on-the-Hill Parish Council](#) website.
- **King's Cliffe Parish Council**
The Coronation programme of events and activities runs from today until Monday 8 May. These include a heritage village trail, yarn bombing, crown making competition, live bands, tug-of-war, church service, quiz, village fete, open gardens, plus much more. The Coronation will be shown on the big screen. The full programme is available on the [King's Cliffe Active](#) Facebook page.

The Big Help Out

To mark the Coronation, the Big Help Out has been established to raise awareness of volunteering and highlight opportunities where people can experience volunteering and make a difference in their communities.

King's Cliffe Parish Council is looking for volunteers with an interest in many different areas, from singing and bell ringing to theatre design and stewarding at events.

Whether you have an hour or a day to spare, and whatever your skill set, you can find volunteering opportunities in your local area by contacting your local town or parish council or visiting the [Big Help Out](#) website.

Further information

Please visit the official [Coronation](#) website and the [Coronation](#) section of our website.

Proposed Interim Chief Executive announced at North Northamptonshire Council

Last week, I announced George Candler as the Interim Chief Executive at North Northamptonshire Council.

The move follows the announcement last month that the current Chief Executive, Rob Bridge, has secured the top role at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, and will leave North Northamptonshire Council in early June.

George has a wealth of experience in local government. He is currently Executive Director for Place and Economy as well as Deputy Chief Executive. He was previously Chief Executive of Northampton Borough Council.

George has already been key in driving through new policies since vesting day in April 2021 and been pivotal in transforming services to make sure they deliver for the people of our area.

An internal process then followed for the interim role, culminating in interviews last week.

The appointment is subject to Full Council approval on Thursday 25 May - the date of the Annual Council meeting. If approved, George will assume the role of Chief Executive when Rob leaves in early June. If approved, George will assume the role of Chief Executive when Rob leaves in early June.

We will now be looking to fill George's role as quickly as possible, and that process has already begun.

Forthcoming meetings

- **Executive:** Thursday 11 May from 10am.
View the [agenda and papers](#). Watch the live streaming on our [YouTube](#) channel.
- **Full (Annual) Council:** Thursday 25 May from 6pm.
The agenda and papers will be displayed on our [website](#) in the week before the meeting.

Vision for the future of North Northamptonshire to be discussed at Executive

The aspirations for the future of the area of North Northamptonshire will be on the agenda for next week's meeting of the council's Executive.

A report will update councillors on the rationale, thinking and work undertaken so far with partners to create a [North Northamptonshire Vision](#) for the future.

The Council, alongside partners, is looking ahead and imagining the place that North Northamptonshire can be in 2050 - somewhere that residents deserve to live in.

The proposed vision for the best life in North Northamptonshire in 2050 has been based around three initial key priorities:

- **Proud place** - A place with clear goals and a plan of how to get there, where people feel inspired and safe.
- **Prosperous place** - A place full of thriving businesses and a skilled population who can achieve their ambitions.
- **Proactive place** - A place which understands the issues its people face and how to address them early, so everyone can live the best life.

As we enter our third year as a unitary authority, we believe we now have a great opportunity to look to the future and to imagine the place that North Northamptonshire can be in 2050.

The North Northamptonshire vision now needs further refinement and wider ownership. To do this, we are proposing that a conference is held to bring together key stakeholder that have an important role to play in this process.

This is a really exciting time for us and the whole of North Northamptonshire. I am looking forward to discussing the vision with my fellow Executive members.

Multi-million-pound Family Hub and Start for Life Programme set to establish first two networks

The [Family Hub and Start for Life Programme](#) - a multi-million-pound project to improve life chances for children, young people and their families in North Northamptonshire - is moving forward at pace.

A report before North Northamptonshire Council's Executive next week will hear how the initiative is now being rolled out across the area.

The project – which will see networks established to boost the provision of services aimed at families - has received £4million from government between 2022 and 2025 to help families build resilience and thrive.

Key areas where support will be provided are for:

- Mental health – during pregnancy and beyond.
- Parenting.
- Infant feeding.
- Home learning – to promote early language and literacy development.

Although the council is the lead organisation for the programme, it is also working with other partners who deliver services to children and young people, including Northamptonshire Children's Trust, health partners, the Police, education settings and the voluntary and community sector.

In mid-February this year, the Department for Education confirmed that the council was successful in its application as one of the 75 local authorities which would receive funding.

Family Hubs aim to help families with children aged 0-19 or up to 25 if they have a special education need or disability.

The focus is listening to families and providing a localised accessible central point for services and information to help give children the best start in life.

The first two networks are set to be established in Wellingborough and Corby, while further work will take place to create networks in Kettering and East Northamptonshire over the life of the programme.

Next steps

The programme will use a 'test and learn' approach to establish services, which means working with families to see what support they need, and how this support can be delivered.

The development of Parent Carer Forums which will be established in each locality will be instrumental in shaping the programme – ensuring Family Hub Networks are listening to local voices.

The Wellingborough hub network will principally focus on families with children up to five years old. Currently there is minimal access to services for those aged between birth and five, particularly universal children's centre activities.

Data markers reveal that Wellingborough faces significant issues regarding early learning, with those rated with a 'good' level of development at 58.5%, the lowest in North Northamptonshire and below the national average of 65.2%.

Corby already has a strong provision for children aged up to five which will be strengthened. Utilising learning and best practice the Corby network will focus on the five to 19-year-old age group. Data for Corby shows that those with a 'good' level of development is at 63.5%.

Any parents, carers or professionals who would like to be added to the North Northamptonshire Family Hubs mailing list to receive updates and news about how they can be involved, should email FamilyHubs@northnorthants.gov.uk.

Rural communities and businesses receive funding boost of £1.1m

North Northamptonshire Council has been successful in its bid for over £1.1 million of funding for rural communities and businesses.

Central government has allocated £1,161,812 to North Northamptonshire Council via the Rural England Prosperity Fund. This will be used to launch a capital business grant scheme and a capital grant scheme for rural areas.

North Northamptonshire has been classified by central government as a 'rural' area, and therefore eligible for the funding, with the exception of the larger towns of Corby, Desborough, Kettering, Higham Ferrers, Rushden and Wellingborough.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund provides capital funding to:

- Support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams.
- Support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund runs to March 2025 and is a top-up to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund that [allocated North Northamptonshire £4.8 million](#) in December 2022.

As with our main Shared Prosperity Funding, we are working closely with key stakeholders to ensure this allocation reaches those most in need, and those with great ideas to support the local economy.

More than 20 community projects to benefit from share of £100,000

A variety of projects across North Northamptonshire are set to benefit from grant funding totalling £100,000.

Projects that will benefit the community, which include improvements to facilities and new sports equipment, will now receive grants of up to £5,000 from the council's Shared Prosperity Fund allocation.

More than 20 organisations were successful with their bids and will now be able to deliver projects to improve lives for local residents.

This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Open activities on the Consultation and Engagement Hub

Please find below details of several current consultations and engagement activities. I would welcome your feedback.

- [Kettering Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan](#). Following earlier consultations with local residents and stakeholders North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) has drafted a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Kettering, in collaboration with WSP and Brightwayz. Closes 19 May 2023.
- [Kettering Energy Park - Masterplan Consultation](#). North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) is promoting First Renewable Developments' public consultation on the draft Masterplan for Kettering Energy Park to ensure residents and other interested parties can fully input into its development. Closes 22 May 2023.
- [Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities - Engagement 2023](#). Have your say on the new short breaks model which was co-produced with families and professionals. We want to hear the views of families, staff and other professionals on the future shape of the way short breaks are provided for children with disabilities. Closes 29 May 2023.
- [Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan - Scope and Options](#). We are consulting on the plan to address the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers. The Scope and Options consultation invites views on what should be included in the plan. Closes on 31 May 2023.
- [Non-immediate Article 4 Direction: Kingswood, Corby](#). Permitted development rights allow certain types of building work or changes of use without the need for planning permission. An Article 4 Direction allows a local planning authority to withdraw certain permitted development rights, so that planning permission is required. We are proposing to withdraw the permitted development right to convert houses to houses in multiple occupation, and planning permission will be required instead. Closes 5 June 2023.
- [Home to school transport policy review consultation 2023](#). We want to hear your views on our proposed revision of our home to school transport policies in North Northamptonshire for 2024-2025 onwards. Closes 12 June 2023.

Further information

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

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

Change of date for Shirley Road Planning Appeal - Public Inquiry

Please note that the Shirley Road Planning Appeal (Public Inquiry) will now start on Thursday 11 May, not on Wednesday 10 May as previously advised.

The in-person public inquiry is due to take place at the Thrapston Council Chamber, Cedar Drive, Thrapston NN14 4LZ. The public inquiry will start at 1pm on Thursday 11 May and last six working days.

The proposal relates to the construction of 133 dwellings, internal roads, public open space, landscaping and other ancillary works, including the creation of a new vehicular and pedestrian access from Prospect Avenue and pedestrian access from Shirley Road.

If you wish to attend, please email appeals.enc@northnorthants.gov.uk and include your name and email address. This means we will be able to contact you if the meeting has to be held on Microsoft Teams and give us an indication of the numbers attending.

Further information

Please visit the [Shirley Road Planning Appeal - Public Inquiry](#) web page.

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):

- [Multi-million-pound Family Hub and Start for Life Programme set to establish first two networks](#)
- [Vision for the future of North Northants to be discussed](#)
- [Avian Flu restrictions introduced in Ringstead area](#)
- [Statement regarding Kettering Leisure Village](#)
- [Proposed Interim Chief Executive announced at North Northamptonshire Council](#)
- [More than 20 community projects to benefit from share of £100,000](#)
- [Have your say on proposed revisions to the home to school transport policy in North Northamptonshire for 2024-2025 onwards](#)
- [Latest Avian Flu update](#)
- [North Northants allocated £1.1m of funding for rural communities and businesses](#)

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 (1 to 3 May)

- We've been delayed collecting garden waste in Irchester. We'll be back tomorrow (Wednesday 3 May), so please leave your garden bin out to collect from the following streets: • Arkwright Road • Austin Close • Chapmans Close • Denton Close • Evelyn Way • Manor Close • Norman Way • Parsons Road • Roman Way • Saxon Rise • Wantage Road • Warren Close.
(Reach 6,577, Post Clicks 786, Reactions 686)
- May is #NationalWalkingMonth, so make sure you visit Discover Northamptonshire at Rushden Lakes to find your next adventure. Those boots were made for walking!
(Reach 5,050, Post Clicks 183, Reactions 165)
- Following the success of phase one of the legal team's recruitment campaign, we are now moving to phase two and are looking to recruit the wider team. Find all the latest opportunities on our website: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/careers-our-legal-team/current-vacancies-our-legal-team>
(Reach 4,275, Post Clicks 628, Reactions 544)

Top Tweets so far this week (1 to 3 May)

- We've been delayed collecting garden waste in Irchester. We'll be back tomorrow so please leave your garden bin out to collect from the following streets: Arkwright Road, Austin Close, Chapmans Close, Denton Close, Evelyn Way, Manor Close, Norman Way, Parsons Road, Roman Way, Saxon Rise, Wantage Road, Warren Close.
(Impressions 964, URL Clicks 0, Engagements 34)
- May is #NationalWalkingMonth, so make sure you visit Discover Northamptonshire at Rushden Lakes to find your next adventure. Those boots were made for walking! @Discover_N_ @RushdenLakesSC
(Impressions 961, URL Clicks 0, Engagements 21)
- The Coronation is just days away, and many of you are organising great events that will require your street/road to be closed off over the Coronation weekend. We've created a list for you to check so you have no disruption to your journey: <https://t.co/1N7zGkmb2A>
(Impressions 912, URL Clicks 30, Engagements 38)

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.

With Best Wishes,
Jason