



Welcome to the Local Link from North Northamptonshire Council

Issue 17. Friday 20 March 2026. Featuring: North Northamptonshire Council gives unanimous approval to fresh plans for devolution deal. Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA consultation.

Top story

North Northamptonshire Council gives unanimous approval to fresh plans for devolution deal

A fresh devolution deal plan that has the potential to bring additional millions of pounds of investment to Northamptonshire will be submitted to government.

Devolution is the process where powers are moved across from central government to regions, giving areas more money and control over strategic decision-making.

An extraordinary meeting of North Northamptonshire Council saw unanimous cross-party approval for the recommendation to move forward with a bid for the creation of a Foundation Strategic Authority (FSA) for Northamptonshire.

An expression of interest for the deal will now be submitted to government by the 20 March deadline to avoid losing out on the additional funding and other benefits associated with devolution.

Although a deal for Northamptonshire is being progressed, the council still believes that a deal for the county which also covers the wider geographical area known as the South Midlands would be the best opportunity for economic growth. However, consensus for such a deal had not yet been reached among all the councils involved before the submission deadline. One of the recommendations that was approved adds the flexibility that the joint Northamptonshire councils' bid could be expanded to join with other authorities if the opportunity arose.

Read the full press release on our website: [North Northamptonshire Council gives unanimous approval to fresh plans for devolution deal.](#)



Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area consultation

North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council are jointly consulting on guidance and a mitigation strategy for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA).

The guidance will replace previous versions and provides an evidence-based, consistent approach to assessing development impacts, consulting Natural England and applying local plan policies to ensure the SPA is protected in line with the Habitats Regulations 2017.

This consultation will close at midnight on Tuesday 21 April.

Find out more and have your say online at: [Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Guidance and Mitigation Strategy](#).

Watch upcoming Executive and Full Council meetings

You can watch upcoming Executive and Full Council meetings live or on catch-up on our official [Democratic Services YouTube](#) channel.

Meeting dates, agendas and papers are available on our [ModernGov](#) meetings portal, where you can also browse upcoming sessions.

Upcoming sessions:

- [Executive Meeting \(Tuesday 14 April\)](#) from 10am.
- [Annual Council Meeting \(Thursday 21 May\)](#) from 6pm.



Easter activities across North Northamptonshire

We have an exciting programme of activities this Easter, offering something special for children of all ages.

Make the most of the school break with a fantastic range of options, including:

- [Easter-themed events](#)
- [Swimming sessions](#)
- [Sports and games](#)
- [Creative and outdoor activities](#)
- [Springtime fun at the Chester House Estate](#)

For full details, please visit our website: [Easter activities for children](#).

Supporting our communities – LIVE and the Coats for Kids project

Our LIVE Team is a specialist enabling team supporting individuals with learning disabilities, and related barriers, to access community opportunities and move towards employment. Their work focuses on four areas: [Learning, Independence, Volunteering and Employment \(LIVE\)](#).

One of their standout initiatives, Coats for Kids, provides free, good-quality clothing to families in need. The team cleans, repairs and prepares donated items, gifting 216 coats last winter alone.

Donations and browsing are available at libraries and community venues across North Northamptonshire, including [Irthlingborough](#), [Wellingborough](#), [Rushden](#), [Kettering](#) and [Burton Latimer](#), as well as [Highfield Food Bank](#) and [Wicksteed Park](#). Please check each venue's website for opening hours.

For more information, please contact the LIVE Team on: 01536 535625 (Kettering), 01536 261066 (Corby) or 01536 859235 (Wellingborough).



Your Voice Matters

View and respond to current consultations, and take part in engagement surveys and discussions

- [Best Start in Life: Working Together to Help Your Child Thrive. Survey for Parents/Caregivers](#) – Closes 22 March.
- [Young People Smoking and Vaping Survey](#) – Closes 31 March.
- [Adult Learning Service – Learner Survey](#). Closes 30 April.

Please visit the [Your Voice Matters](#) hub for further information.

Please share with family, friends, or others in your networks who may be interested in contributing their views.



More to explore

Stay informed with our latest press releases

- [Parents, carers and professionals invited to help shape the future of SEND in North Northamptonshire](#)
- [Update on the Deafconnect closure](#)
- [Update on elections for Members of Youth Parliament](#)
- [Review of charge for paid-for home to school travel service in North Northamptonshire](#)

- [North Northamptonshire Council sets out targeted fee uplifts to strengthen adult social care](#)

View all Council news and updates on our website at: [News](#).



Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. If you have any questions, please email executive@northnorthants.gov.uk.

Kind regards,

Cllr Martin Griffiths

Leader of the Council

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