Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to the latest edition of my Leader’s Update. You may recall that two weeks ago I was writing to say that I was going to be visiting a ‘Thank You Evening’ event at Chester House. It was an amazing evening and Chester House really is a wonderful venue. If you have not yet been, do please check it out: Home - Chester House Estate (https://chesterhouseestate.org)

This evening I have the pleasure of attending Corby’s fireworks display against the backdrop of the boating lake. It is the first year North Northamptonshire Council has funded the event and it will be an honour to be involved.

On other good news, I was delighted to hear official confirmation yesterday that North Northamptonshire will receive almost £3 million of funding to help boost the local economy and launch innovation projects that help deliver the areas carbon reduction goals. This is a real boost for the area and I’m sure you will agree, very welcome news! I have included more about this exciting news further on in this update.

The above announcement, of course, comes during the COP26 Climate Change Conference. COP26 provides us all with an opportunity to take stock of what we need to do in the future to reduce our impact on the environment. To help, I am pleased to say that North Northamptonshire will be hosting its very own virtual Climate Change Conference on Tuesday 16th November. It will play host to a number of organisations operating locally who are leading the field in areas such as renewable energy and sustainable transport. You are very welcome to watch from the comfort of your home, office or anywhere your phone or computer will allow. More details can be found at www.northnorthants.gov.uk/climate

Along with the good news above, it will not, I’m sure, have escaped your attention that North Northamptonshire Council has received some bad press over the last couple of weeks. It was most unfortunate that the Council accidentally issued court summonses incorrectly to a number of residents in the Corby area and, in the same week, also took council tax direct debit payments four days earlier than scheduled from residents in the Wellingborough area, although we promptly refunded them. I felt that it was vitally important to personally apologise for both these issues as soon as we discovered them. The Council’s staff worked very hard to put things right, however, irrespective of this, the issues were most unfortunate and regrettable and I apologise again to everyone affected.

I have asked for a review to take place into the above so that we can learn from what went wrong and ensure that it does not happen again. These reviews are progressing and I will report back when we know the outcome. What I will say now is that if these issues were the result of human error, we will work to ensure that the staff concerned are supported and the relevant processes and systems are put in place. Our staff are very valuable to us and in situations like this, support will be provided to ensure that we foster a supportive, learning culture.

We then, of course, had what has been described as a ‘mini Tornado’ that ripped through North Northamptonshire last weekend. I want to thank those of you who contacted colleagues and me with information about damage and potentially dangerous structures. We are also hugely thankful to our staff as well as the work of colleagues in emergency services who did a sterling job helping keep people safe.
£3 million cash boost for North Northamptonshire

On Thursday 4th November, I was delighted to hear that a funding injection of almost £3 million into North Northamptonshire Council will be made. This investment aims to boost the local economy and launch innovation projects that will help shift the area towards its carbon reduction goals.

A number of cutting-edge enterprises have been awarded the Government money to invigorate initiatives, which include the development of local energy projects, delivering a mobile app (software application) to monitor food-waste and offering training and support to ex-offenders. The funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities under the Community Renewal Fund comes during the COP26 Climate Change Conference and shortly before the council’s very own online Climate Change Conference – NNClimate21 (more details below).

As a council we are committed to creating an area which offers prosperity for our residents while at the same time being mindful of the need to move towards net zero. Funding such as this is essential so that we can deliver on both fronts and this really is a step in the right direction.

The Community Renewal Fund was launched by the Government in March 2021 and aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK, with the council submitting bids in the summer after approval at its Executive meeting.

There are a number of funded projects in North Northamptonshire as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction Skills Programme</td>
<td>£90,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Recovery and Innovation programme</td>
<td>£507,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenway and River Ise, Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study</td>
<td>£122,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In2work</td>
<td>£758,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Exchange for Better Business (KE4BB)</td>
<td>£342,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Northamptonshire to Net Zero (NN2NZ)</td>
<td>£550,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Asset Mapping - Northamptonshire Devolution Project</td>
<td>£281,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Food Network North Northamptonshire</td>
<td>£108,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Skill Mill</td>
<td>£91,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cllr David Brackenbury

North Northamptonshire Council’s Executive member for Growth and Regeneration, said:

“This is great news for North Northants – I’m absolutely delighted that we will receive this funding to help boost some key projects in the area. These are beneficial to creating employment opportunities and boosting the local economy and there is a strong focus on initiatives that are seeking clever low carbon solutions.”

Cllr Harriet Pentland

Council’s Executive Member for Climate and the Green Environment, said:

“With the COP26 conference taking place at the moment, its clear aware that combatting the effects of climate change and protecting the environment is a significant piece of work for all of us. “I’m delighted that this has been recognised in the funding from the Government for these innovative projects right here in North Northamptonshire and goes to show how everyone’s focus is now fixed on reducing carbon emissions.”

More details of the council’s own virtual Climate Change Conference on November 16 can be found online: [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/climate](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/climate)

Safety at events

I wanted to provide you with a further update following the tragic murder of MP Sir David Amess. Hopefully it will give you some assurance that the local police force are undertaking rigorous checks and risk assessments for events where our MPs have been invited to attend. Safety is being carefully considered in North Northamptonshire with events such as Corby Bonfire Night and the Olympic Celebration Event.

Our teams are working with the local policing unit commanders on these events and will continue to liaise with the police, for the foreseeable future, when planning events. If you do have any concerns, then please feel free to raise them with me and we can work with our colleagues in the police force.
Grant received to improve local ‘binfrastructure’

I am delighted to say that the Street Cleansing team at North Northamptonshire Council covering Kettering and Corby, have been awarded £21,000 in UK Government funding under the Resource Action Fund to help improve the ‘Binfrastructure’ (bin infrastructure) within litter-prone hotspots.

The money received will be used to install new litter bins at known littering hotspots across Corby and Kettering. To celebrate the grant, North Northamptonshire Council will be running a competition for infant and juniors to design their own anti-littering poster, with the winning designs placed on the new litter bins.

Staff from the Council will be making contact with local schools to encourage pupils to take part. If you are aware of a school that would like to take part in the anti-littering poster competition but had not yet been contacted, the school can email: Drawingcompetition.kbc@northnorthants.gov.uk

Thirty five new bins have been installed across the two towns, including one outside Kettering Buccleuch Academy, which it is hoped will help minimise the littering problem outside the school.

Since we approved our litter strategy setting out our commitment to continue to tackle the issue of littering across North Northamptonshire, our dedicated staff have been working hard to put our plan into action. This grant funding from DEFRA will help and make a big difference at littering hotspots in Kettering and Corby.

New Advisory Board Members for Healthwatch Northamptonshire

Healthwatch Northamptonshire is the independent champion for health and social care locally. A new contract for local Healthwatch services in both North and West Northamptonshire has been awarded to Connected Together Community Interest Company (CTCIC), a partnership between the University of Northampton and Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire, for two years starting from 1st November 2021. A new Healthwatch Advisory Board has also been recruited to ensure representation across the new local authority areas of North and West Northamptonshire.

The new Advisory Board members are:

• Professor Will Pope, Interim Chair (and Chair of the CTCIC)
• Morcea Walker – West Northamptonshire (Vice Chair)
• Sheila White – North Northamptonshire
• Dora Shergold – North Northamptonshire
• Dr Marcella Daye – West Northamptonshire
• Deborah Smith – North Northamptonshire

More information about the new Advisory Board members can be found at www.healthwatchnorthamptonshire.co.uk/our-board.
On Tuesday 16th November, North Northamptonshire Council will host the area’s first Climate Change Conference - NNClimate21. The event will be virtual to reduce travel and the impact of the event on the environment. It will be broadcast live on YouTube starting at 9.30am and finishing at approx. 3.30pm.

Speakers will come from a range of organisations including the University of Northampton, Electric Corby, Chelveston Renewable Energy Park, Voi Technology, River Nene Regional Park, Brightkidz and North Northamptonshire Council amongst others.

Themes for the conference include: how climate change will impact on North Northamptonshire, the future of sustainable travel, the future of energy, preserving and rewilding the environment and ecology.

There will be three panel discussions throughout the day and those watching live will be able to email in questions to the panel if they wish.

We really do hope you can watch some or all of the event. More details of NNClimate21 can be found on the Council’s website: [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/climate](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/climate)

Carers Rights Day – 25th November

Carers have the right to discuss flexible working options, protection from discrimination, request a free flu jab, receive a Carer’s Assessment, be identified as a carer and be consulted on hospital discharge.

If you are caring for family and friends, or if you know someone who is, find out more about carers’ rights and the full range of support services available at [https://www.carersuk.org/crd](https://www.carersuk.org/crd)
North Northamptonshire Council is working to help raise awareness of safeguarding. We believe that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and we all have a duty to support those at risk of serious harm or death.

If you have a concern about someone with complex needs who is at high risk and you work for another public sector agency, you can raise an ARM. By raising an Adult Risk Management meeting (ARM) you can, and will, not just change lives but potentially save lives.

Did you know that concerns can be raised by any agency, not just Adult Social Care? We are urging all practitioners to have the confidence and to feel empowered to do so. If you’re still unsure, speak with your agency safeguarding lead.

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) has put together a toolkit of materials to help practitioners in undertaking an Adult Risk Management (ARM) meeting. The toolkit is made up of a variety of materials including guidance, pro formas to be used during meetings and a video detailing what the ARM process is, when an ARM should be used, together with how the ARM oversight panel can support.

We all have individual responsibility to raise safeguarding concerns about an adult at risk of harm or abuse. Never assume that someone else is reporting a safeguarding concern. If you are in any doubt at all, report it! The updated toolkit is available on the NSAB website - Policies and procedures (northamptonshiresab.org.uk) and a link to the video on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wU8pk29ZBJ4&t=3s

Q & A

What is an ARM?
An ARM is a multi-agency meeting put in place to support those at high risk, who often have very complex needs.

Is it necessary to involve the individual?
No, you can still go ahead, but it's great if they can be included to ensure their wishes and feelings are heard first-hand.

How do I start an ARM?
You call together representatives from partner organisations you know/believe to be supporting the individual, and ensure minutes are taken and shared. If you’re unsure, speak to your agency safeguarding lead for support.

What if I’m not sure who to invite to the ARM meeting?
Speak to your agency safeguarding lead who will support and guide you through the process. An example of agencies that might be involved could include: the GP, adult social care, housing, drug and alcohol support agencies such as Substance to Solutions (S2S), police, probation, hospitals, mental health, the Hope Centre.

What happens at the ARM meeting?
The ARM proforma takes you step by step through the meeting process and what’s needed to develop a risk enabling plan to help reduce risk. There is some pre-meeting preparation needed. Again, if you’re unsure, speak with your agency’s safeguarding lead.

Where can I find more information about the ARM process?
You’ll find the ARM Toolkit with lots of supporting information on the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adult Board (NSAB) website - policy & procedures page.

I don’t work for an agency but have a safeguarding concern?
You can report concerns on North Northamptonshire Council’s website using this link: Safeguarding adults - Adult social services (northamptonshire.gov.uk)
Media Releases

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):

- **Consultation launches on electric vehicle charging points across North Northamptonshire** - https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news/consultation-launches-electric-vehicle-charging-points-across-north-northamptonshire

- **Marta Chmielcka inquest to open** - https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/news/marta-chmielcka-inquest-open


Social media: Top stories

To follow our social media account you can find us on Facebook North Northamptonshire Council - Home | Facebook and Twitter by following @NorthNorthantsC

Top tweets and posts for week commencing 5 November:

Facebook: (measured by reach and post clicks)
- The A45 closure. (16,923 reach, 874 post clicks).
- Don’t forget you can recycle your Halloween pumpkins. (11,002 reach, 613 post clicks).
- Persistent waste offenders given Criminal Behaviour Orders & banned from Northants (10,549 reach, 903 post clicks).

Twitter: (measured by impressions and engagements)
- Experiencing issues with our telephone systems. (888 impressions, 41 engagements)
- Not sure what should be going in your bin? (842 impressions, 38 engagements).
- Take part in ‘Plant a tree for the Jubilee’ and celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in 2022 by helping create the Queen’s Green Canopy. (744 impressions, 31 engagements).

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