



Cllr Jason Smithers
Leader of the Council

Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update. I hope you found time to enjoy the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend. There were some fabulous Jubilee events that took place and, apart from Sunday, we were all blessed with pretty good weather which always helps. It was unfortunate that the Sunday was accompanied by a Yellow Weather Warning from the Met Office and, understandably, a number of events across the area had to be cancelled. The Big Picnic Lunch event still took place at Wicksteed Park - thank you to those of you who braved the weather to attend.

In other news, I thought it would be useful to provide a reminder that we currently have two public consultations open. One on the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** which closes on 22 June. The other is on the **North Northamptonshire Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and Conditions** which closes on 27 July. Please take part in these consultations if you would like to have your say.

North Northamptonshire Council is proud to be celebrating Pride Month throughout June. This is a significant year for the Pride movement and the LGBT+ community as we celebrate 50 years since the first Pride took place in the United Kingdom. We are flying the flag on our website homepage and have given our social media platforms a makeover.

This Update includes news about the Council's future highways service provider as well as details about the forthcoming installation of new pedestrian bridges over the River Nene at Chester House.

Last, but by no means least, here are a couple of dates for your diaries. The Council's Executive will be meeting at the Council Chamber in the Corby Cube on Thursday 16 June at 10am. There are a number of items on the **agenda** that are important to the local area. On Thursday 23 June at 2pm, the Full Council will meet. The agenda will be displayed on the **website** the week before the meeting.

North Northamptonshire Council identifies Kier as their future highways service provider

Following a thorough procurement process, we have now identified Kier as the preferred bidder for our new highways contract.

This will be the first highways contract to be awarded since North Northamptonshire Council came into existence in April 2021.

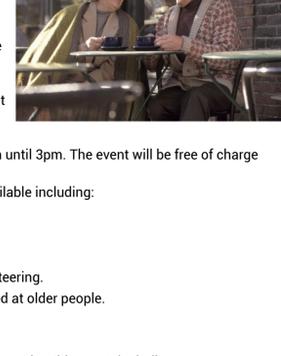
Worth approximately £30m a year, it is one of the highest value contracts awarded by the Council and is set to run for seven years, with the potential to extend to a maximum of 14 years.

Highways maintenance has been delivered Northamptonshire-wide by KierWSP under arrangements inherited from the previous county council. Starting afresh from the previous arrangement, the new contract has been significantly updated to align with the challenges faced today and over the next decade and beyond.

The deal has been drawn up to ensure that there is provision for a safe, legal, customer-focused and value for money service while also making tangible contributions to the Council's commitment to social value and its response to climate change and protecting the environment.

The new contract is due to start on 12 September 2022.

Please **visit the website** to find out more.



North Northamptonshire to host its first ever Older People's Fair

Next month, the Council will host its first ever Older People's Fair.

Our social inclusion and advice teams are working together with local community groups, health and care providers, pension credit and debt advisers. The aim is to help people plan for and live a more fulfilling retirement. Carers and family members are welcome to come along too and learn more about how they can help.

Making people aware of the support and advice that is available will be a key theme of the event.

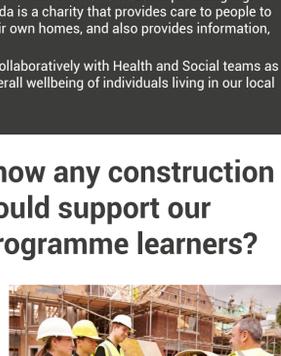
The Older People's Fair will take place at the Corn Market Hall in Kettering on Friday 1 July from 10am until 3pm. The event will be free of charge and open to everyone.

There will be a range of advice and information available including:

- Debt, money and pension credit information.
- Advice on accessing adult social care.
- Health advice and access to healthy activities.
- Information on social activities, clubs and volunteering.
- Advice on how to avoid scams and fraud targeted at older people.
- Transport and travel advice
- Plus more!

We are delighted that a range of partners will be supporting this event, including Age UK Northamptonshire, Citizens Advice and Northamptonshire Police. We would be delighted if you could come along and have a look at the information that is available. It could be really useful in helping families, friends and even yourself!

Please **visit the website** for more information.



New short-term home care service to commence in July

North Northamptonshire Council's Adult Social Care Commissioning Team is pleased to announce and introduce TuVida as the service provider awarded to deliver what was formerly known as the H2H service.

TuVida will be supporting hospital discharges, assisting with hospital avoidance, and providing short-term enabling care and support to older people living in their own homes.

Who are TuVida?

As a charity that has been delivering care for over 30 years, they operate as a 'not-for-profit' organisation, which means they put monies back into the care delivered, pay higher wages and give greater benefits where possible. They offer themselves as a leader in providing high quality, at-home care services to individuals. TuVida is a charity that provides care to people to help them live independently in the comfort of their own homes, and also provides information, guidance and support for unpaid family carers.

The service will commence in July and will work collaboratively with Health and Social teams as well as voluntary sector partners to ensure the overall wellbeing of individuals living in our local communities.



Do you work with, or know any construction companies who could support our Construction Skills Programme learners?

The recently launched Construction Skills Programme is well underway in North Northamptonshire.

Many learners have started the short training programme which is helping them do the groundwork to build a career in construction, giving them the essential skills, experience and industry recognised qualifications needed including:

- Health and safety, manual handling and first aid qualifications.
- Work experience at a live construction site.
- Training courses tailored to the trades they are interested in.
- CSCS card accreditation.
- Employability skills training.

We aim to support our graduates with opportunities to gain further qualifications, training and job prospects. We are looking for construction companies with projects happening in the North Northamptonshire area to build a partnership with and to help achieve this.

Do you work with, or know any construction companies? We are looking specifically for those that could offer:

- Work experience.
- Apprenticeships.
- Information about job vacancies and access to job interviews.
- Site visits.
- Short training sessions.

If so, please get in touch with the Construction Skills Programme project team at constructionskills@northnorthants.gov.uk.

For more information about this fantastic training programme, please **visit the website**.



National changes to bus lane enforcement to affect North Northamptonshire

Fines for the illegal use of bus lanes have increased from £60 to £70 as part of a change in national legislation introduced by the Government.

The increase, from May 31, will affect all Council areas which issue Penalty Charge Notices for the contravention of traffic regulations in bus lanes.

In North Northamptonshire, this applies to the Gloucester Place bus gate linking Church Street to Cambridge Street/Market Street and the bus lane in Sheep Street in Wellingborough town centre.

Additionally, the initial period during which the payment of fines is discounted has increased from 14 days to 21 days.

Both changes bring the rules regarding bus lane contraventions into line with legislation regarding civil parking enforcement.

The measures were brought in locally to reduce congestion in Wellingborough so that bus journey times could be more reliable and hence more attractive for the travelling public.

Encouraging people to use more sustainable modes of transport is one component of reducing carbon emissions in North Northamptonshire and creating a cleaner, greener environment.



Do Summer Safely. We're supporting Counter Terrorism Policing's summer vigilance campaign

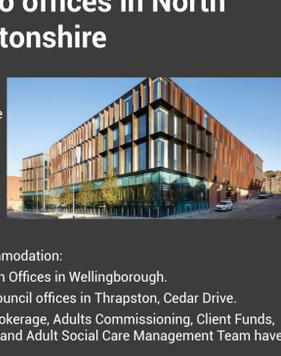
This campaign aims to encourage the public to report anything which 'doesn't feel right' and to 'trust their instincts'. The key message is 'Let's look out for each other, so whilst you're out and about this summer, stay vigilant.'

Key advice

- If you see something which doesn't feel right, report it on the **Counter Terrorism Policing web page** or to a member of staff/security. You can also report suspicious activity by contacting the police in confidence on 0800 789 321. In an emergency dial 999.
- Trust your instincts, you won't be wasting our time.

Counter terrorism guidance can also be found on the **Protect UK website**.

#CommunitiesDefeatTerrorism



Work starts soon on Chester House river bridges

KierWSP Northamptonshire Highways, working on behalf of North Northamptonshire Council, will soon start work to install the two much needed and long-awaited pedestrian bridges over the River Nene at Chester House, Little Irchester, Wellingborough.

Destroyed by arson years ago and closed to the public since 2015, designers from highways have been working with a number of associated parties to agree the design of the two new metal structures that will complete the important links between Wellingborough, Irchester and Rushden at this nationally significant heritage site.

Chester House opened in 2021, however, due to the nature of the site and the consents required for any change to the existing layout and structures, it has taken some time to get to this point and agree both the design and obtain all the required permissions.

Funded by the Department for Transport, the bridges are currently being manufactured and will arrive on site later in the summer.

Visitors will start to see works in early June as the team installs a works compound and haul road which will have the capacity to carry heavy vehicles and plant.

The scheme is expected to take 12 weeks and, as soon as the work is safely completed, the bridge will open to the public.

Updates will be provided via Twitter @nnhighways and @ChesterHouse_UK as well as on **Chester House Estate - Facebook**.



Students are on board to create gateway to the Greenway

Students from Moulton College are joining forces with North Northamptonshire Council as the Out to Water-Into History (OTWIH) project goes full steam-ahead with its next Greenway milestone.

Funded by the Heritage Lottery, through the Nenescape Partnership, the OTWIH corridor provides a clear link and nicer green corridor, linking the new and old Rushden. Using part of the old railway line in the town, the project includes the installation of a welcoming gateway.

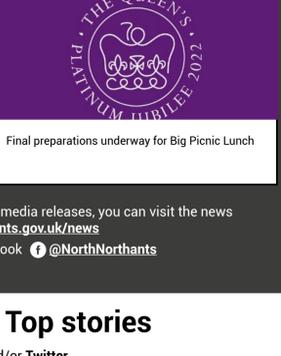
Some 78 students from Moulton College are jumping on board the project to help design and create the gateway to the Greenway. Situated at the entrance to the pathway, near Dove Motors at Crown Park Rushden, the gateway is a collaborative piece of art inspired by the Greenway users and Rushden communities.

The project team held a consultation with Greenway users in September 2021 to help influence how the gateway should look. This invaluable feedback is the foundation for what the students will use to design and create the artwork, due to be installed later this year.

Using their skills in bricklaying, plumbing, carpentry and horticulture, the first and second year students will be part of a project that will celebrate the rich heritage of the town and how it has evolved into one of North Northamptonshire's most beautiful locations.

We are extremely proud of the Greenway, it is a brilliant community asset that we continue to work on and build, but we couldn't do so without the help of our dedicated team of volunteers and our partners.

For the latest updates on the project, please follow the **OTWIH Facebook page**.



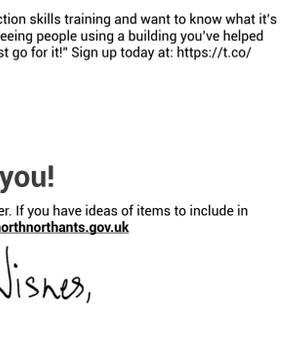
Nationally recognised anti-violence sculpture wowed those who saw it

Corby had the honour of welcoming the extremely striking and thought-provoking sculpture, the Knife Angel. Designed by artist, Alfie Bradley, it aims to raise awareness around knife violence and the devastating impact it has on victims, families and communities.

The sculpture, made from over 100,000 seized blades, was specifically created to highlight the negative effects of violent behaviour and act as a memorial to the victims and families affected by knife crime and other forms of violence/aggression.

The sculpture travels across the UK to educate children, young people and adults about the harmful effect violence has on communities.

The Knife Angel visited Corby town centre in May, here many passers-by lost for words. By you missed the visit, here are some photos taken at the welcoming event which took place upon its arrival.



Homes for Ukraine Support Network

Another Homes for Ukraine Support Network session will take place on Saturday 11 June at Irthingborough Library. Previous sessions have been very successful and provide the opportunity for people to come along to share experiences and socialise with others who are housing individuals and families from Ukraine. It is also a great opportunity for guests to meet when they arrive in the country.

The Council has set up an **Ukraine webpage** which provides more information on the help that is available.

Council moves members of staff from One Angel Square to offices in North Northamptonshire

North Northamptonshire Council has recently moved a number of teams that had continued to be based at One Angel Square in Northampton to office accommodation in North Northamptonshire. The moves were part of a planned process and the staff involved have been very supportive in helping the process run smoothly.

Customers should continue to access services as they have done previously unless they are informed of any specific changes.

The moves involved the following teams and accommodation:

- Education Health Care Team moved to Tithes Barn Offices in Wellingborough.
- Emergency Planning colleagues moved to the Council offices in Thrapston, Cedar Drive.
- The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Adults Brokerage, Adults Commissioning, Client Funds, Financial Assessments, Monitoring & Payments and Adult Social Care Management Team have moved to Haylock House in Kettering.
- The Registration Service and Customer Call Centre have moved to Haylock House in Kettering.

A number of colleagues will also work in line with the Council's Future Ways of Working strategy. To assist, some hot-desking arrangements have been implemented in the offices to ensure that all staff get adequate time to work in the office and network with colleagues, which is really important for wellbeing.

COVID Additional Relief Fund

The Government has provided funds to give business rates relief for businesses impacted by COVID-19, but who are not eligible for existing relief schemes such as the Extended Retail Discount and Nursery Relief schemes. The deadline for making an application is Monday 13 June 2022 and all information can be **found online**.

Reminder: Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay to visit Corby

I just wanted to flag the exciting news, in case you missed the last edition of my Update, that the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay is confirmed to visit Corby during its final journey through England this summer, as the full route is revealed.

Birmingham 2022 is hosting the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay - a journey which brings together and celebrates communities across the Commonwealth during the build up to the Games. In England, the Queen's Baton Relay will provide the opportunity for communities to experience the excitement for Birmingham 2022, as the 11 days of showstopping sport never closer.

The Queen's Baton Relay is set to travel the length and breadth of England for a total of 29 days, before culminating at the Opening Ceremony for Birmingham 2022 on 28 July 2022.

It kicked off in London on Thursday 2 June, where it spent four days, coinciding with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend. The baton will resume the international journey and then return to England on Monday 4 July to commence a 25-day tour of the regions.

On Sunday 10 July, Corby will officially welcome the baton. A busy schedule of activities and events is planned for the Queen's Baton Relay, with opportunities to highlight untold stories from 'Batonbearers' who are striving for change in their communities.

During its time in Corby, the Queen's Baton Relay will visit Corby East Midlands International Pool and experience exciting pool side displays from local divers and cheerleaders.

Scam Awareness Fortnight

Scams Awareness Fortnight takes place from 13 to 26 June. With many people facing increased financial pressures, there is a high chance that scammers will take advantage. For example, we have already seen instances of scammers pretending to be energy companies offering 'too good to be true' deals and others sending out phishing emails offering fake Government rebates.

Anyone can fall victim to a scam. People of all ages and backgrounds get scammed.

It's important to be on your guard. If you're not sure about something, take your time and get advice. If you think someone might be trying to scam you, it's important to act straight away.

If you need advice and support you can call the Citizens Advice consumer service on 0808 223 1133 or **visit their website**. You should also report scams or suspected scams to **Action Fraud**.

Press 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).

North Northamptonshire Council identifies Kier as their future highways service provider

Chester House river bridges - work on long-awaited replacement to start soon

National changes to bus lane enforcement to affect North Northamptonshire

Final preparations underway for Big Picnic Lunch

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 @NNNorthants 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 (6-8 June 2022)

- *****Update***** Big Picnic Lunch at Wicksteed Park. Entertainment will continue from 12.00 - 2.30pm but unfortunately the live stream of the Jubilee Pageant will not take place due to technical weather related issues. Shire Sounds Radio Northants Telegraph BBC Radio Northampton (Reach 5,788. Post Clicks 689)
- Despite the weather, the #PlatinumJubilee "Big Picnic Lunch" is still going ahead at #wicksteedpark! It will be cooler & there may be rain so plan ahead with warmer layers, waterproofs & suitable footwear. Fun remains compulsory! @NTElegraph @BBCNorthampton @ShireSoundsRad (Reach 4,307. Post Clicks 42)
- Thinking about joining our FREE construction skills training and want to know what it's like to work in the industry? Jack said: "Anyone can work in construction, there's something suitable for everybody's skills and abilities. The sense of achievement you get when your building projects are complete is overwhelming, it feels brilliant seeing people using and enjoying a building you've helped create. If you're interested, definitely go for it, this training is a great opportunity!" There's not long left to sign up to the courses, see what's involved and how to join at: <http://ow.ly/TIQ759J93jt> (Reach 4,165. Post Clicks 51)

Top Tweets so far this week (6-8 June 2022)

- ****AMAZING OPPORTUNITY**** We're looking for an Assistant Director of Commissioning and Performance to lead our hard-working team. Working Hours: FT 37 hours p/w. Salary: SM3 £85,478 - £95,939. Location: Multi-site. Closing date: Mon, 13 June 2022. <https://t.co/xRXX0VUEs1> (Impressions 489. Engagements 29)
- Today is the start of #CarersWeek2022 and we want to begin by saying 'thank you' to the amazing carers across North Northamptonshire. Your dedication to the people you care for is simply amazing. Thank you. (Impressions 488. Engagements 7)
- Thinking about joining our FREE construction skills training and want to know what it's like to work in the industry? Jack said: "Seeing people using a building you've helped create is amazing. If you're interested, just go for it!" Sign up today at: <https://t.co/dThus63AM> (Impressions 403. Engagements 1)

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