

Mini eUpdate from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please read and circulate to all councillors]

Local Plan Delay

The Planning Policy Committee of West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) meets on Wednesday next week (18 September 2024) to consider a response to **the new government's proposed reforms to the planning system**. The report, which is available to read at <https://tinyurl.com/yvukejw4>, recommends that the committee "Notes the implications of the proposed changes for the planning service and for progressing the Local Plan, agrees that the current timetable in the Local Development Scheme cannot be adhered to, and agrees that a revised Local Development Scheme shall be prepared for consideration by this Committee." There is a possibility that previous consultations on the Local Plan, which many parish and town councils responded to, will have to be repeated, and/or reviewed. The delay is caused largely by the fact that WNC will need to find land for an additional 11,000 houses in the plan period over and above the housing growth figure previously used. Similarly, North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) planned to go to public consultation on its Local Plan in early 2025 but that may now need to be reviewed. The delays in creating the new Local Plans in Northamptonshire are important because it means the old Local Plans are still being relied on as the basis for determining planning applications, and the older a plan gets, the less robust it becomes.

Northants CALC Membership Survey 2024

Thank you very much indeed to all those who took part in our Membership Survey earlier in the summer. It was the best ever response, so I am very grateful for your feedback, which helps us to understand the sector, make our services fit for purpose, and provides evidence for our advocacy and representation activities. There is a full article in the bi-monthly eUpdate newsletter, due to be published on 27 September 2024. As a teaser though, one of the questions we asked was "**What is your relationship with the principal council?**" and the results reveal a decline towards ambivalence since our last survey in 2022. The results for 2024, with numbers in brackets for the 2022 results, were that those responding "Neither good nor poor" or "No opinion" totalled 64% (60%) for West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) and 85% (72%) for North Northamptonshire Council (NNC). Those saying that they had a "Very good" relationship with the principal council were just 6% (8%) for WNC and 0% (1%) for NNC. **The relationship between the tiers of local government is vital for the residents of Northamptonshire**, so we all – parish councils, unitary councils, and Northants CALC - have a responsibility to try to turn these trends arounds in time for our next survey in 2026!

Local Council Vacancies

Silverstone is a large village between Brackley and Towcester and is home to the world-famous circuit. **Silverstone Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 20 hours per week. There are 2,112 electors in Silverstone and the council has 11 seats. The precept for 2024/25 is £79,707. The deadline for applications is **17 September 2024**.

West Haddon Parish Council has a vacancy for an Administrative Assistant working 15 hours per week. West Haddon is 8 miles northeast of Daventry and the parish has 1,448 electors. The precept for 2024/25 is £185,426 and there are 10 councillors. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **20 September 2024**.

Norton is a small village just to the east of Daventry. **Norton Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk working 32 hours per month. The council has 8 seats and set a precept for 2024/25 of £19,000. There are 312 electors. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **20 September 2024**.

The villages of Deene and Deenethorpe lie just to the north-east of Corby and the parish includes Deene Park and Deenethorpe Airfield, a former RAF station. **Deene and Deenethorpe Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 20 hours per month. There are 163 electors, 7 councillors, and the precept for 2024/25 is £10,497. The closing deadline for applications is **5pm on 14 September 2024**.

And finally, **Abthorpe Parish Council** is looking for a new Clerk. Abthorpe is near Towcester and has 251 electors. Please note, the position is advertised at 2 hours per week, which is less than half the minimum recommended hours for the smallest council. The precept for 2024/25 is £5,400. The deadline for applications is **30 September 2024**.

All the details for council vacancies are at <https://www.northantscalc.com/council-vacancies>.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best regards,

Danny.

