

Mini eUpdate from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please circulate to all councillors]

Section 137 Expenditure Limit

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) confirmed on Tuesday an increase in the Section 137 expenditure limit for parish and town councils in England for the 2026/27 financial year. The **new limit is £11.60 per elector**, up from £11.10 in 2025/26. Section 137 is the power that parish councils use (if they haven't got the General Power of Competence) to spend money on something that there isn't another specific legal power to do. It is not, as is often thought, the power that all grants are made under; those should be made under whatever legal power applies to the grant purpose.

The King's Speech

The next and long-awaited King's Speech is likely to be in **May 2026**, just after the local elections (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd9zvkd4n54o>). This one could be very relevant to the parish and town council sector because we are expecting it to announce much-needed legislation, including **powers to suspend and disqualify councillors** for bad behaviour, and the reintroduction of **remote attendance at council meetings**. Look out for the headlines, but we will include the highlights in the Friday mini eUpdates at the time.

It's All About Highways

Yesterday was **National Pothole Day**, led by Northamptonshire's own Mr Pothole (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mr-pothole-698ba1235/>). National Pothole Day highlights the state of Britain's roads and the new technologies and methods that could be used to make a difference (<https://tinyurl.com/y64zb2e6>). On Monday, the Department for Transport (DfT) published a new red, amber, green map of each highway authority in England and how well it is doing on potholes. North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) was rated **amber**, while West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) was rated **red**, a rating that it says is unfair (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c07xp8j2x85o>). Government funding for highways is now partly performance based, so highway authorities not performing well may get less money.

Shining A Light on Parish Councils

The BBC Sunday Politics East programme focuses mainly on the principal councils in the area, but **this Sunday** it is going to be talking about parish councils and what they do. Jackie Weaver will be on the programme, but presenter Amelia Reynolds was parish and town councils to get in touch with her with their **biggest achievement or biggest challenge**. Email amelia.reynolds@bbc.co.uk today to shine a light on the brilliant things your council is doing. You can watch the programme on Sunday morning at 1000 or catch up afterwards at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000dk0v>.

An Opportunity to Work for Northants CALC

We are recruiting for a **Senior Advisory Services Manager** - a pivotal role at the heart of supporting and empowering parish and town councils in Northamptonshire. Do you have a passion for local government, a knack for problem-solving, and a drive to make a real difference? This is your chance to join a dynamic, forward-thinking team and **help shape the future of local councils** in our county. This is senior, full-time role with a competitive salary and excellent benefits. You will lead our advisory service and deliver real impact for member councils. We offer flexible, home-based working with occasional travel across Northamptonshire and will provide ongoing training, support, and professional development. Find out more and apply at: www.northantscalc.gov.uk/sasm.

Local Council Vacancies

Old Stratford is a large village on the A5 approximately 8 miles northwest of central Milton Keynes. There are 1,822 electors and the council has 11 seats. The precept for 2025/26 is £90,000. **Old Stratford Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 15 hours per week. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **23 January 2026**.

Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council has a vacancy for a Family and Young Persons' Support Officer. The position is part time at 4 hours per week. The role includes planning a fun and engaging weekly programme before leading the Stay and Play each Thursday in term time. The salary is £13.05 per hour and the deadline for applications is **31 January 2026**.

Welton is a small village 2 miles north of Daventry. The council has 9 seats and there are 495 electors. **Welton Parish Council** has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 6.9 hours per week at £15.06 per hour. The council set a precept for 2025/26 of £18,485. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **20 February 2026**.

Glapthorn Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 20 hours per month. Glapthorn is a small village with just 272 electors two miles northeast of Oundle in east Northamptonshire. The council has seven seats and it set a precept for 2025/26 of £19,000. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **6 February 2026**.

Full details of all vacancies are at <https://northantscalc.gov.uk/council-vacancies>.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best regards,
Danny.