

# Mini *eUpdate* from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please read and circulate to all councillors]

## Local Government Pay

Negotiations on local government pay for 2025/26 are reaching a critical stage. The unions claim, tabled back in January, was for an extra £3,000 on all Spinal Column Points (SCPs), which would have been roughly equivalent to a 10% increase. In addition, the unions asked for one extra day leave per year and a reduction in the standard working week from 37 hours to 35 hours with no reduction in pay. This week, the Employer's Side responded with a **"full and final" offer of 3.2%** on all SCPs (so roughly a third of what the unions wanted) and no additional leave or reduction in hours. The unions will now meet with their members to discuss next steps, and ballots or even industrial action seem likely over the summer and into the autumn. I will keep you posted.

## Polling Day Success

With one or two minor issues, Polling Day went well yesterday across Northamptonshire and now the unitary councils begin the awesome job of counting the votes. The count for unitary councillors is today and for parish and town councillors it is tomorrow. **By tonight** we will know the political makeup of the two unitary councils. Thanks go to the hundreds and hundreds of polling station staff and those that help with the count. Elections couldn't happen without them.

## Technology to Tackle Fly-tipping

On Tuesday, the government announced measures to tackle fly-tipping vehicles and clean up streets, lanes, and rural areas. Principal councils will work with the police to identify, seize and crush vehicles. **Drones and mobile CCTV cameras** will be deployed to identify cars and vans belonging to fly-tippers so they can be destroyed. The government has launched a rapid review to reduce red tape blocking councils from seizing and crushing vehicles. The Environment Agency will also carry out identity and criminal record checks on operators in the sector. They will now be able to fund the cost of policing the industry through permits, increasing their powers to revoke permits, issue enforcement notices and fines. For further information, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/councils-to-seize-and-crush-fly-tipping-vehicles-to-clean-up-britain>.

## 2025 Parish and Town Elections

The Democracy Club has provided an interesting overview of the nominations for parish and town council elections in 2025. 1,274 local councils across 12 principal local authorities in England were up for election, including **3 city councils, 133 town councils, and 1,138 parish councils**. Despite the large number of councils involved, a significant portion of seats - 65.7% - have been filled without a poll. Only 356 wards saw a poll yesterday, leaving 21.5% of seats vacant due to a lack of candidates. Interestingly, 70 wards had no candidates at all, and 31 councils

are in quorate (but none in Northamptonshire!). Political party representation remains low, with only 17.4% of candidates affiliated with registered parties. This highlights the grassroots nature of these elections, where community involvement and independent candidates play a crucial role. To read the full article, please visit <https://democracyclub.org.uk/blog/2025/04/28/the-2025-parish-and-town-elections>.

## Co-option Advice & Guidance

Parish and town council annual meetings start next week. If you haven't already seen it, have a look at our Annual Meeting Q&A ([click here](#)). 161 of 220 parish and town councils have vacancies to fill following the elections, so there will be a lot of co-opting going on at the May meetings! Consequently, we have updated and reissued our handy **Guide to Co-opting Councillors Following Local Elections**. To download your copy, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/fwevka5>.

And remember that **ALL** councillors must complete a **Register of Interests** within 28 days of taking office (a legal requirement). North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) has an electronic form and West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has a paper form which, once completed, should be sent by email to [registerofinterests@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:registerofinterests@westnorthants.gov.uk). You'll find both forms at <https://northantscalc.gov.uk/councillor-forms-and-documents>. Please note that NNC/WNC **do not** need copies of the councillors' Declarations of Acceptance of Office forms.

## VE Day Commemorations

Thursday next week is VE Day 80. There are events and commemorations going on across the county. Good luck to all parish and town councils that have organised beacon lighting, street parties, and flag raising. For all the latest news and details, please see <https://northantscalc.gov.uk/ve-day-80>.

## Local Council Vacancies

**Northampton Town Council**, the largest parish council by population in England, is seeking a dynamic and enthusiastic **Civic Events Officer** working 37 hours per week to play a key role in shaping its civic life. Based at Northampton Guildhall, the Civic Events Officer will manage and coordinate all Civic/Mayoral functions and related activities on behalf of the Town Council, as well as leading on a number of civic events and will be advisor and personal assistant to the Mayor, providing comprehensive support and relaying all engagements with accuracy, discretion, diplomacy, and confidentiality. Some evening and weekend working will be required. Salary £35,235 (SCP25) plus other benefits. For all the details please visit [www.northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk/work-for-us](http://www.northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk/work-for-us). The deadline for applications is **5 May 2025**.

East Farndon is a small, vibrant village just two miles southwest of Market Harborough. **East Farndon Parish Council** has 258 electors and seven seats. The precept for 2025/26 is £13,516. The council has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 25 hours per month. The deadline for applications is **31 July 2025** but the council has said it may make an offer of employment for the right candidate before the deadline, so if you are interested, get your application in soon!

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

I hope you have a good bank holiday weekend!

Best regards,

Danny.