

Mini eUpdate from Northants CALC

To Member Councils in Northamptonshire:

[Please circulate to all councillors]

New Year Honours

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is inviting councils to submit nominations for the **New Year Honours 2027** list which will be published at the end of December 2026 and is keen to receive nominations for those who have made **exceptional contributions in local government**. Nominations can be made using [this online form](#).

At least two letters of support for each nomination need to be submitted in reply to the automated acknowledgment email. The deadline for nominations is midnight on Friday **6 March 2026**. Note that these are specifically the MHCLG-sponsored nominations; honours nominations can be made at any time via the usual channels. See <https://lord-lieutenantnorthamptonshire.co.uk/awards-honours/> for details.

Free Defib Training

St. John Ambulance is offering a **FREE demonstration** on how to do effective CPR and how to use a defibrillator. It can be a scary thing, but with a brief introduction and the opportunity to 'have a go yourself' this helps to overcome the fear. There is no fee, but any donations or a collection bucket on the night are grateful accepted. If your council might be interested in organising a session, please contact Keir Stopps at keir.stopps@sja.org.uk for details.

Staffing Update

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Sharon Long** as Senior Advisory Services Manager. Sharon joins Northants CALC with extensive experience in local council governance and a strong professional legal background, having served as **CEO/Clerk at Chorleywood Parish Council** in Hertfordshire and previously worked as a **solicitor and Knowledge Management Lawyer**. She has led significant organisational change, strengthened governance and compliance, managed multi-disciplinary teams, and delivered improvements recognised through the council's 2024 Local Council Award Scheme Foundation status. Sharon's notice period at her current employment provides for a start date in mid-May and we are very much looking forward to welcoming her to the team.

Star Council Awards

On Tuesday I was in London for the NALC **Star Council Awards** and Parliamentary Reception. Congratulations to all the finalists and category winners (see <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news.html>). Northants CALC wasn't allowed to enter County Association of the Year this year (need to give the others a chance), so congratulations to our colleagues at the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils for their win and for all they do to support member councils in their patch. It is worth reading about the finalists

(<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/support/star-council-awards/finalists.html>)

for **inspiration and all sorts of wonderful ideas** that you can implement in your own councils, or to see that what you are already doing is very worthy of nomination and award. The ceremony is also an opportunity to meet MPs on their own turf, and I was delighted that **Sarah Bool, MP for South Northamptonshire** made the time to drop into the event, and we had a conversation about standards sanctions, potholes, and the amazing contribution that parish and town councils make generally. Lee Barron, MP for Corby and East Northants also intended to be there but couldn't make it in the end. The parish and town council sector does so much, so it's always good to recognise and celebrate our achievements.

What a Big Do!

This year, The Big Lunch and The Big Help Out together for **The Big Do on 5 to 8 June 2026** (<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-do>). It is an opportunity for everyone to meet, eat, and lend a hand locally in the UK's biggest celebration of community. To help your council make the most of the opportunity, organiser The Eden Project is hosting a one-hour FREE webinar on Thursday next week, **5 March 2026 from 1200 to 1300**. Find out more and book your place at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/edenprojectcommunities/2075586>

Local Council Vacancies

Staverton Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 6 Hours per week with salary SCP 18 – 31 (£16.35 - £21.65 ph). Staverton is a small village just to the southwest of Daventry. There are 440 electors and an eight-seat council. The precept for 2025/26 is £14,658. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **27 February 2026**.

Barton Seagrave Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk/RFO working 30 hours per week. The council has 5,727 electors and 8 councillors and the precept for 2025/26 is £60,000. Barton Seagrave is a growing town just to the east of Kettering and is steeped in history. This is an opportunity to get involved in a proactive and developing larger parish council. The deadline for applications is **6 March 2026**.

Higham Ferrers is a market town on the A45 east of Wellingborough and in between Rushden and Irthlingborough. There are 6,656 electors and 16 councillors. The precept for 2025/26 is £535,600. **Higham Ferrers Town Council** has two vacancies, one for a Parks, Open Spaces & Facilities Supervisor (30 hours per week, £15.31 - £16.08 per hour) and one for an Administrative & Communications Officer (30 hours per week, £13.69 - £15.31 per hour). The deadline for applications for both positions is **9 March 2026**.

Moulton Parish Council has a vacancy for a part-time Parish Operations Manager working 15 – 20 hours per week. Working under the direction of the Clerk/Executive Officer, the Parish Operations Manager plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth day-to-day operation of the council. The postholder will provide comprehensive administrative and organisational support, act as a key point of contact for residents and stakeholders and help deliver a wide range of council services and projects. Moulton is a large parish just to the north of Northampton. There are 4,203 electors and the council set a precept for 2025/26 of £489,000. The deadline for applications is **13 March 2026**.

Towcester is a large and growing town just south of the intersection of the A5 and A43 between Northampton and Brackley. **Towcester Town Council** has a vacancy for a full time Town Clerk attracting a salary of SCP46-SCP54 (£58,523 to £72,307) plus Local Government Pension Scheme. There are 9,642 electors and 16 councillors. The council set a precept for 2025/26 of £749,962. The deadline for applications is 5pm on **15 March 2026**.

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

I hope you have a good weekend.

Best regards,

Danny.