

Northamptonshire
The best
place in
England
to **grow**

Sustainable Communities Strategy
for Northamptonshire

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northamptonshire. It describes our vision and ambitions for a place which is set to develop faster than anywhere else in the country over the next 15 years. Managing this change will be a big challenge. There are many potential benefits from more housing and more jobs, but there will also be more pressure on our environment, our road network and our public services.

Northamptonshire is a classic example of a shire county, with its ancient heritage and mix of market towns, peaceful villages and beautiful countryside. It has a major town, Northampton, at its heart. It is extremely well-placed geographically, being close to London and with good transport links to all parts of the country. It is no wonder that it is set to grow so fast when it has such obvious attractions for people and for businesses.

This strategy has been prepared by public service organisations in Northamptonshire, and with input from residents of the county. It sets out how public, private and voluntary organisations plan to work together to deliver and benefit from the proposed growth within the county and influence economic-investment decisions within the East Midlands. It also describes how we plan to deal with the deprivation and lack of access to services that already exist in some parts of the county, to make sure that everyone has a high quality of life.

Northamptonshire has sometimes been known for underperforming public services. We want to use the aims of this strategy, and work together to change this in the future. We will develop the partnership so that it can deliver the high-performing and efficient public services that the people of this historic and growing county deserve.

Councillor Jim Harker



Chair of the Northamptonshire Public Service Board

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1 Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northamptonshire

This is our second community strategy and provides the framework for the public organisations in Northamptonshire to work together. It is about what we must do to meet our longer-term needs and big issues that can only be tackled together. It outlines how we will work together better to make lasting improvements for the people of Northamptonshire.

We can use the strategy to save money in the work that we do now, by bringing organisations together to make sure that different organisations don't do the same work twice, and to find better solutions to shared problems. This will make sure that residents get better value for money from public services, at a time when people are facing money problems and more pressure, not least in providing for a population that is getting both larger and older.

We must make sure that the decisions we make in the strategy are sustainable (can be maintained in the long term with out harming the area for future generations). These should take into account challenges such as:

- living within environmental limits;
- achieving an economy that grows steadily;
- promoting good governance; and
- creating a strong, healthy and fair society.

To meet these aims we must make sure the strategy works together with other documents such as the sustainable community strategies for borough and district councils, the core spatial strategies for both North and West Northamptonshire (see Glossary) and the medium-term service development and delivery plans of the other organisations in this agreement. Because of this we need to make sure that our areas

of new development create truly sustainable communities (see Glossary), while making sure that our existing communities continue to do well and are not badly affected by growth elsewhere. This is a major challenge. There will be so much new development that we can use it to help shape and improve communities that exist now, but while we do this we must keep a sense of place and local identity that we want for our diverse county.

We will measure our progress towards achieving our aims each year, and will review our strategy. We will use the Local Area Agreement to measure our performance.

Everyone has a role to play in creating strong, safe and successful communities. All of the organisations involved in this strategy will work together to achieve this, by guiding communities and by listening to residents and people who use their services. We have been collecting the views of the people of Northamptonshire to find out what they want for their county, what they expect from public services, and how they want to take part in changing the county. We will carry on researching public opinion as long as this strategy continues.

To sum up, our aims in this strategy are based on the challenges that we know we face, and what residents have told us is important to them.

2 Northamptonshire - “The best place in England to grow”

‘One of the top five counties in England by 2030’



Our vision for the county

We want Northamptonshire to be recognised by everybody as a successful county where people and communities want to do well, where they take up new ideas and trends, but also celebrate history, heritage and local identity. It will be a county where people will want to invest, work and enjoy life.

- By 2020 by managing growth carefully, Northamptonshire will have become the leading economy of the East Midlands and a model example of sustainable development.
- By building on the skills and ambition of our varied and growing population, and by making the most of our location, by 2030 we aim to become one of the top five counties in England in terms of health and environmental quality of life.

We have the following aims for Northamptonshire.

- We aim to be successful through sustainable growth and regeneration, by making sure that:
 - residents live in housing that is sustainable, affordable and of good quality;
 - we have the right infrastructure such as roads and health service provision to deal with new growth; and
 - we can improve and preserve buildings and the countryside for future generations.
- We aim to develop through having a growing economy with more skilled jobs, where:
 - we encourage and support employers to create the right number, quality and distribution of jobs;
 - workers have the right skills to respond to the employment needs of a dynamic economy; and
 - residents have the opportunity to learn throughout their lives.

- We aim to have safe and strong communities, where:
 - residents have a shared identity and are involved in developing their communities;
 - levels of crime and disorder are lower in all our neighbourhoods; and
 - public services meet the needs of residents.
- We aim to have healthy people who enjoy a good quality of life. To do this we will:
 - support vulnerable people to help them lead fulfilling lives
 - help young people to have the best possible preparation to become adults; and
 - help residents to make choices that improve their health and quality of life.

We will have a detailed plan for meeting each of these aims.

‘The leading economy in the East Midlands by 2020’

Putting the county on the map

We want Northamptonshire to be known as a place where change and growth mixes well with tradition. We want residents, visitors and tourists to know it as an attractive and dynamic county. To achieve this we will promote and improve buildings and landscape that are special to Northamptonshire. These include:

- the historic towns of Oundle and Towcester;
- the outstanding countryside of the Northamptonshire Uplands;
- areas where boots and shoes used to be made; and
- areas involved in British motorsport engineering, such as Silverstone.

We want to show how our county has modernised, while making the most of its past, both in towns and in the country.

Our rural environment and landscapes are as attractive as most rural counties. We want people to know when they are in Northamptonshire, so we will develop gateways to tell people they have driven into our county.

The town of Northampton is very important to our strategy. A university town, Northampton provides the main economic drive for the county, as well as being a centre for social, cultural and leisure activities. As the largest town in Northamptonshire, the county town will grow considerably in size and importance and become large enough to serve the wider region and beyond with investment in the specialised services and facilities that larger metropolitan centres offer.

The growth of Northampton will go hand in hand with that in the rest of the county, where new developments, placed carefully, will allow all of our towns, villages and rural settlements to share in the opportunities brought about through development and will continue to shape truly sustainable communities in Northamptonshire.

Other than Northampton, (our largest town), we have identified Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough as areas where a lot of development is likely. We are controlling development in the county through ‘core spatial strategies’ – we use one in the north of the county and one is developing in the west.

Meeting the aims set out in this strategy will mean major investment in infrastructure, and will mean that public services will have to work together more closely. They will face more pressure on money and resources.



Nene Valley, Northamptonshire

Ambition 1: To be successful through sustainable growth and regeneration

Where are we now?

Northamptonshire has a population of around 686,700 residents which is set to increase quickly, as part of one of the largest and fastest growing areas in the country. It borders a number of similar 'shires' across middle-England – Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire (including Milton Keynes), Oxfordshire, and Lincolnshire. It is made up of a county town, several other towns that are areas with a lot of growth, and market towns serving widespread villages set in an attractive rural landscape.

The county's central location, midway between London and Birmingham, and midway between Oxford and Cambridge, provides easy transport links with many of the country's main towns and cities. Surveys of Northamptonshire's residents have shown that they value the village landscapes of Northamptonshire, but do not enjoy our town centres. Our central location and transport links however, also make it harder for Northamptonshire to present itself as a destination.

There is already a lack of affordable housing in some parts of the county, particularly in rural areas, and there are problems with our infrastructure, such as the road system and sewerage networks.

Residents and visitors are entitled to enjoy public spaces that are free from litter, graffiti, fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles. People also want good-quality roads and pavements, and quick and good-quality repairs and maintenance. These, along with well-kept verges and trees, are highly valued and give residents a sense of pride in their neighbourhoods and communities.

Where do we want to be?

The Government expects that over 125,000 new homes will be built in Northamptonshire between

now and 2023, at which time we expect the county's population to be around 900,000. Around 70% of these new homes will be in and around Northampton, Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough. Some will also be built in Daventry, Towcester and parts of East Northamptonshire. It is essential for the county's future that some of the new housing is affordable to local residents, and that quality can be maintained.

Northamptonshire will be an example of how to achieve growth in a sustainable manner, reducing the effect on the environment as much as possible, and creating high-quality new buildings which are very environmentally friendly. We want all our communities to have good transport and communication links, good local services, a strong local identity and a sense of community that will last.

Northamptonshire will become a county where new housing has been made a part of existing communities that have good infrastructure and economy. We will have developed and regenerated our town centres and protected the physical attractiveness of the county, building on pride in our local identities, our history and our heritage.

How will we get there?

Residents will live in housing that is sustainable, affordable and of good quality

We will manage the county's housing growth carefully, creating a mix of homes which local residents and first-time buyers can afford. These homes must meet future changes in needs and helps us to reduce homelessness. We will use growth to protect and improve our environment by encouraging developments that are carbon neutral and make use of the latest sustainable construction methods. We will use new materials and technologies if this doesn't clash with current buildings or countryside and will make sure that we manage water, waste and energy in a sustainable

way. Our communities will be planned so they are protected from damage from natural causes, such as flooding.

The physical and social infrastructure will be in place to match expected growth

We must plan new infrastructure so it can take the strain of a large increase in population, and invest in it so this is possible. We must use this knowledge to influence decision-making at national and regional levels, and to secure investment from private companies.

At the same time we need to work with developers to make sure that all new developments and the services they need are accessible. We need to take account of the limits of current and future transport systems when planning new developments. This will include making sure that we have public transport, walking and cycling facilities that people want to use, helping to reduce the number of people travelling by car.

There will not be enough space on our roads for the increased number of cars because of the new housing and jobs. We have to develop other ways to travel to reduce congestion as much as possible, through improving traffic flows, and developing high-quality alternatives to car travel. By working to roll out smart cards (Smart cards will allow Northamptonshire's residents to conveniently use public transport) across the county it will be possible to improve access to a variety of services as well as travel options.

To benefit from our growth, we need more investment in transport connections in Northamptonshire and across Britain. This will involve improving links to London and other cities, as well as connections to the East and West. We will benefit from improved rail links south and north, including the new Eurostar station at St Pancras, and will push for road investment to support our growth.

We will develop Northamptonshire's town centres so that they attract and support residents, visitors and businesses. Through the local planning system, including community-led parish plans, we will improve

main rural locations that act as centres of employment and services for villages and the more remote settlements to promote services that are easier to use. We will make the best use of community facilities and protecting and improving our market town heritage.

Our buildings and countryside will be improved and protected for future generations

The county's carbon emissions (carbon dioxide released into the air) come from domestic, industrial and transport sources. These will be tackled by a combination of national measures (such as building regulations and fuel-efficiency targets for new vehicles) and local strategies. The local part of this includes strategies for sustainable building, transport, accessibility, and waste management.

We will help our residents and businesses to reduce the amount of waste they produce and increase the amount of waste that is recycled, composted and re-used. Councils are working to improve the energy efficiency of existing housing. Several large public-sector organisations are now working with the Carbon Trust to reduce their carbon emissions.

We have a large number of parks and open green spaces which improve the quality of life of local people. We will improve these public spaces and their facilities and other services. We will invest in green spaces and networks, particularly those within and between the towns where most of the development will take place, to increase the number of animal and plant species that live there. We will make the most of opportunities provided by the River Nene, other waterways and the quality of the county landscape.



Ambition 2: To develop through having a growing economy and more skilled jobs

Where are we now?

Northamptonshire's location and excellent transport links provide a competitive advantage, but also have a big effect on the jobs available. There are more logistic and distribution companies in the county than average, which means there is generally a low unemployment rate, 1.8% in 2006. These jobs are also mainly unskilled, with low pay. The Strategic Northamptonshire Economic Action Plan (2008) shows we need to create more work, and better paid jobs. If we don't, it looks like the number of manufacturing jobs will fall, and the number of specialised, well-paid jobs will only increase slowly. Employers believe that our workforce has little ability and doesn't want to do well. This means that businesses in a range of different industries think they would be more successful if they were based somewhere else.

Unfortunately, our towns haven't appealed to investors, or visitors and shoppers. We still face strong competition from other towns and cities that have better services or where people spend more money.

We have a growing further and higher education service, with a young, developing university. However, people believe that Northamptonshire does not have high-quality education, and we have to show them they are wrong.

Where do we want to be?

By 2021 our challenge is to create more than 100,000 new jobs that are skilled and well paid, and spread across the county. This will help to bring more wealthy people to the county. Successful education and skills training is at the heart of meeting this challenge. A range of opportunities must be available to help everyone get the education and training they need, at all stages of their life. We must support communities and families to encourage our young people to have the ambition to do well.

In order to train people for a growing county we need young people to go onto further or higher education

after school, and to get well-paid jobs. We should also encourage workplace learning and personal development, also, schools, colleges and our university need to educate and train young people to meet the needs of the county. They also need to be able to educate the entire population.

We want more specialised businesses such as high-performance engineering (for example Silverstone race track), creative and digital industries, and environmental technologies. We should encourage businesses which would employ local people, by showing what Northamptonshire has to offer and by helping businesses to grow. We should reuse old industrial sites, as well as using new land for development.

How will we get there?

We will encourage employers to create the right number, quality and distribution of jobs

We are already supporting employers in Northamptonshire and supporting new and small businesses. We need to focus on new and creative enterprises that bring most money to Northamptonshire and help develop stronger clusters and supply chains (See Glossary) that keep them here. We also want to bring more intelligent and creative people to live and work here through 'knowledge economy' businesses coming into the county.

We need to encourage investment in the main towns in Northamptonshire. We will encourage office development in Northampton, creating a nationally important office centre. We will also advertise the fact that Northamptonshire has low levels of business crime.

We need to encourage more people to come to Northamptonshire, and also to spend more.

We will increase the number and quality of attractions in Northamptonshire such as hotels, restaurants, conferences, events, and so on, while preserving our traditional attractions such as the landscape and heritage.

Workers will have the right skills for a changing economy

As our economy grows young people will need more skills and training. We will encourage graduates from the University of Northampton to stay in the area, and also encourage more school leavers to stay in education or get training. We will do this by improving and increasing the range of opportunities and options available. We will make sure all residents have equal opportunity for training so they can adjust to the changing demands of the world economy.

Residents will be able to learn throughout their lives

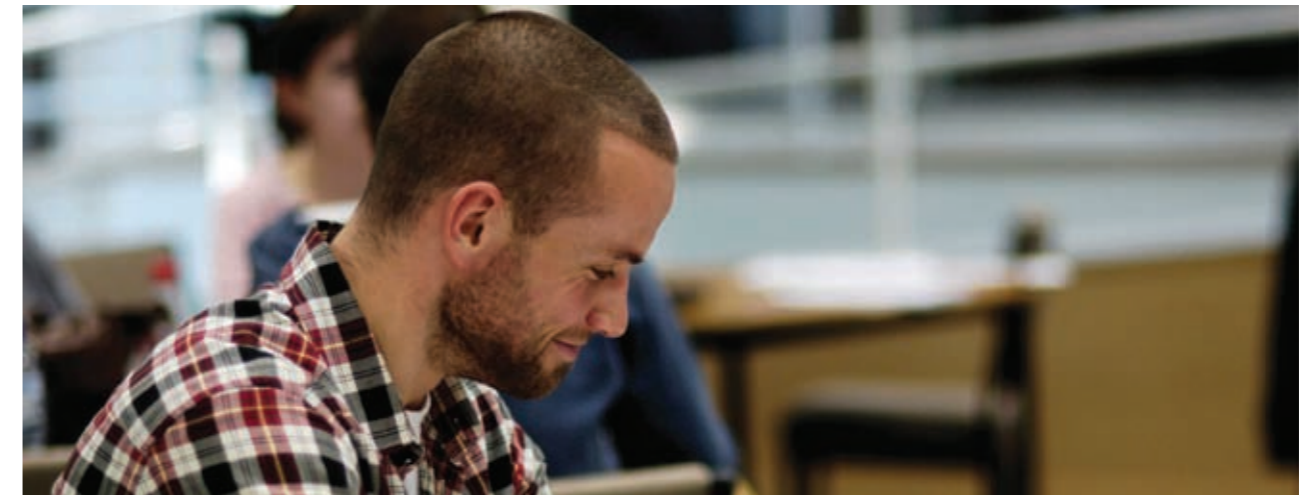
Education and training are essential to make Northamptonshire wealthy. This starts at home with families who look after young children and help them

to develop and be ambitious. To create good employees, we must start preparing people from a young age.

We are going to train our young people to be good workers. They will need to have good qualifications and training, and be ready to work when they leave school. This means they must be able to read and write, and do basic maths. We need high-performing and well-managed schools that get good results at Key Stage 4 and build on Key Stage 2. We also need to make degrees more vocational – so they train graduates for business.

In the future there will be more old people. We will give these older people the best possible training and encourage them to work for longer so they continue to have a role in society.

We will develop the University of Northampton's role in the county. This will involve creating small campuses around the county so more people can access higher level learning.



Ambition 3: To have safe and strong communities

Where are we now?

Northamptonshire is a county of contrasts, with varied communities and needs, made up of areas which are different from each other. There are many poor people in our towns, while people in the countryside are generally better off. There are also some poorer people in the countryside where high house prices, lack of public transport and difficulty in reaching services can mean life is very difficult for poor people. This can be very isolating.

In a county with more than 680,000 people there are over 100 languages, at least 14 faiths, and a mix of urban and rural communities. However, the county has a relatively low ethnic-minority population of 4.9% (compared with 6.5% in the East Midlands). The town where most people from an ethnic minority background live is Wellingborough (almost 10%). Northampton is home to a large refugee community of approximately 3500 people from various countries. According to research by emda (East Midlands Development Agency), there are a lot of foreign workers, particularly from Poland. Most of these workers live in Corby, Daventry and Northampton.

While crime rates overall have fallen consistently over recent years, there are many places in Northamptonshire that still have higher levels than similar areas elsewhere in England, and a high rate of burglaries and other theft.

We have reduced levels of violent crime even though they have been rising nationally. We still need to work on:

- reducing incidents in town centres;
- domestic abuse;
- improving crime-detection rates;
- bringing more offences to justice; and
- giving better attention to victims and witnesses.

Some people fear crime still and we need to reassure them that levels are low. Older people and people living in more isolated areas in the countryside tend

to be more worried about crime, but actually, young people living in urban areas are much more likely to be a victim of crime.

Where do we want to be?

We want Northamptonshire to have communities where people of all ages and backgrounds feel safe, have confidence to take part in community activities and can be involved in making political decisions by working with public-service providers. We need our communities to provide an environment where all people are safe and secure and can make a positive contribution to their communities throughout their lives.

How will we get there?

Residents will have a shared identity and will be involved in developing their communities

We want Northamptonshire's planned growth to lead to lively, safe places where everyone feels involved, that use resources well, promote better health and healthier lifestyles and have a small effect on the environment. When people are actively involved in developing and running their communities, setting aims and ambitions locally, they feel better about themselves. The community benefits too when people feel they have more say in what is going on. We need more people of all ages to take part in community activities, at all levels – from taking part in local joint-action groups (See Glossary) and community groups or becoming a volunteer, to taking part in decision-making, becoming a councillor, or helping with the design of public services to make sure they meet local needs and ambitions.

Voluntary and community organisations are important partners in building communities that work well together and we want these organisations to provide public services. We will research this. We will encourage more people to volunteer, as this has many

benefits for both volunteers and the communities they serve.

We will work to reduce crime in all our neighbourhoods

We will work together to reduce crime and disorder, improve confidence and protect the public. At the heart of this work will be safer community teams and crime and disorder reduction partnerships (See Glossary), which encourage local organizations and residents to reduce crime. Northamptonshire Police will work closely with residents to provide high-quality and accessible services that people can see and which meet local needs, improve confidence and help communities come together.

Two main issues in Northamptonshire are preventing crime (and improving services so crime is less likely) and protecting the public:

- Work to prevent crime will focus on: youth crime; antisocial behaviour; business crime; reducing the number of people who commit crime repeatedly; and drug- and alcohol-related crime.
- Work on protecting the public will focus on: domestic abuse; hate crime; reducing the number of people who die in road accidents; managing offenders; and developing community-based approaches to preventing violent extremism (violent extremism relates to violent activity that can result from extreme religious or political views).

Agencies will work together with young people to help prevent those at risk from getting involved in crime, to help protect them from victimisation and to make sure that they are involved in work to develop safer communities. Public organisations will work together to stop criminals committing more crimes. We will plan services so that people are less likely to commit crime. We will also carry on working with the business community to reduce business crime,

making the county a secure place for economic growth.

We will provide services that people need

We are trying to provide services where people need them most. Working through teams from several agencies, and with the communities themselves, we will aim to make sure improvements are made within these communities.

To improve public services for young people we will encourage public services to work together more closely. We want children to be involved in providing services. This will make the services better and prepare children for when they are adults.

We will research the different communities in Northamptonshire to find out their needs. This information will be available to all public services, to help them improve their services.



Ambition 4: Healthy people who enjoy a good quality of life

Where are we now?

In general, Northamptonshire is not a deprived county, but some areas are much worse off than others. Two areas – Northampton and Corby – have among the worst levels of alcohol-related harm (in relation to health, crime and disorder) in England. There is a significant difference in life expectancy between the poorest areas in Northamptonshire and the most wealthy. For example men are expected to live five and a half years longer in South Northamptonshire than in Corby. The main factors which affect life expectancy are: diet; exercise; the amount of alcohol that people drink; smoking and access to health screening and treatments.

There are also significant differences in levels of deprivation within districts. The poorest areas are likely to need health and social-care services most. This demand, combined with the increase in the number of old people, will have an effect on the way we provide public services such as social care and health services. By 2021 we expect that 40% of the county's population is likely to be over 50, compared with 33% in 2008.

We have a number of well-known cultural organisations. However, compared to the rest of the East Midlands, there aren't many cultural organisations, and they don't receive much funding. As the population grows, people will expect better cultural organisations.



Where do we want to be?

We want people to have good health and wellbeing, receive appropriate and accessible services and to be able to make informed choices on healthy lifestyles. We want children and young people to be healthy and grow into fit and active adults, and as citizens age to carry on being active and happy.

To reduce inequality, health services should be run together by doctors and other health professionals; local authorities; voluntary and community workers and local businesses. The health services try to help patients as much as possible, by moving services closer to the people that use them, or concentrating and improving more specialised services in larger towns. To deal with inequality in healthcare, we need to tackle the reasons why poorer people get ill, not just treat their symptoms. We need:

- employment and housing that meets the current and future needs of the population;
- services available where people live and work;
- services that will help people to live independently and give them choice and control over their lives;
- safe and strong communities; and
- an environment that will promote health and wellbeing.

Culture and sport can improve people's health, lifestyles and communities. They are linked to our personal, community, regional and national identities, which are a vital part of developing a 'sense of place'. Culture links with the way we live, work and play. We need to invest more in this in Northamptonshire.

How will we get there?

Vulnerable people will be supported when necessary to help them lead a fulfilling life

To help people and families maintain their health and wellbeing, it is better to stop them becoming ill, or help them as early as possible. This saves them from having to get more serious treatment. To achieve this we will need services to work together closely. In Northamptonshire there are a number of areas where we are working to prevent illness:

- children, young people and their families;
- adults with increasing social-care needs; and
- people or groups with health conditions or disabilities.

The following agencies are all responsible for keeping families and especially children healthy by providing information, advice, support and services.

- Local authorities
- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Health care
- Voluntary and community organisations

We will look to provide services that meet the needs of local people as much as is possible. In the future we will help people live independently at home, using local services to provide medical support. This will make it easier for people to get medical help. We will also help people get benefits, housing advice and help to find employment.

We will help young people to prepare for adulthood

We will develop children's centres and provide better services through schools, from before children are born and as they grow up, to help reduce youth offending, antisocial behaviour, abuse and neglect. For factors that affect the health of young people (such as teenage pregnancy, nutrition, alcohol and drug use, self-esteem, and mental health) we

continue with successful approaches such as the healthy schools initiative, and provide support for carers.

Some groups of children and young people need more help to do well, in education and in later life, for example those with mental health difficulties or disabilities, children in care, or children from very poor backgrounds. To concentrate on these groups helps both them and the community and also means that people from these backgrounds will be able to work.

Residents will have more choice to improve their health and wellbeing

We will teach people how to live healthily. For instance we need to make people do more exercise and encourage healthy eating. We want to reduce smoking, drinking alcohol and drug use in people of all ages. All public-service providers will have to help to achieve this.

We will help families keep their children healthy, encourage people to cycle and walk more and make it easier for people to do this. We will provide safe walking and cycling routes where they are needed and good quality leisure, sport, and cultural facilities across all our communities to promote physical activity and sport.

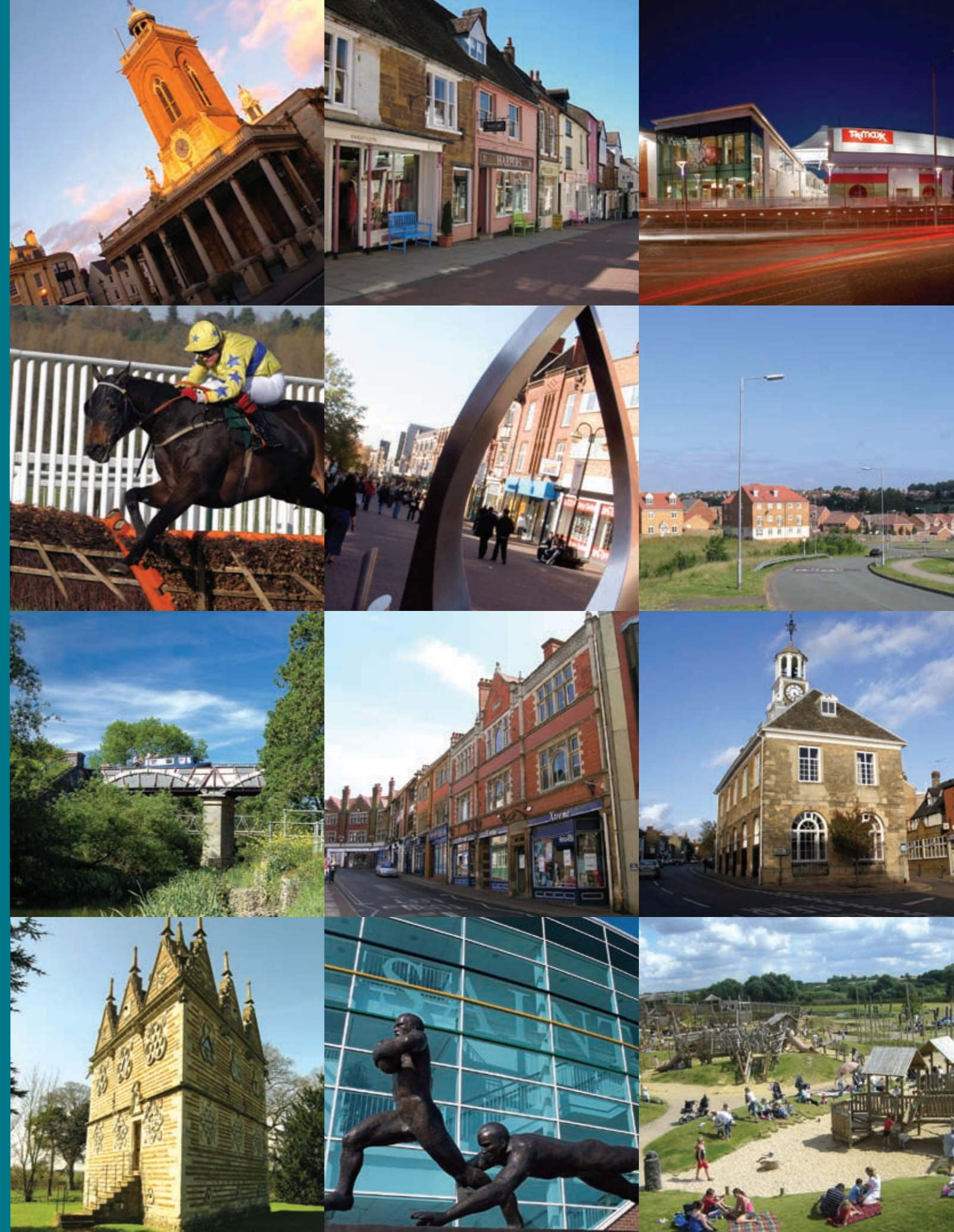
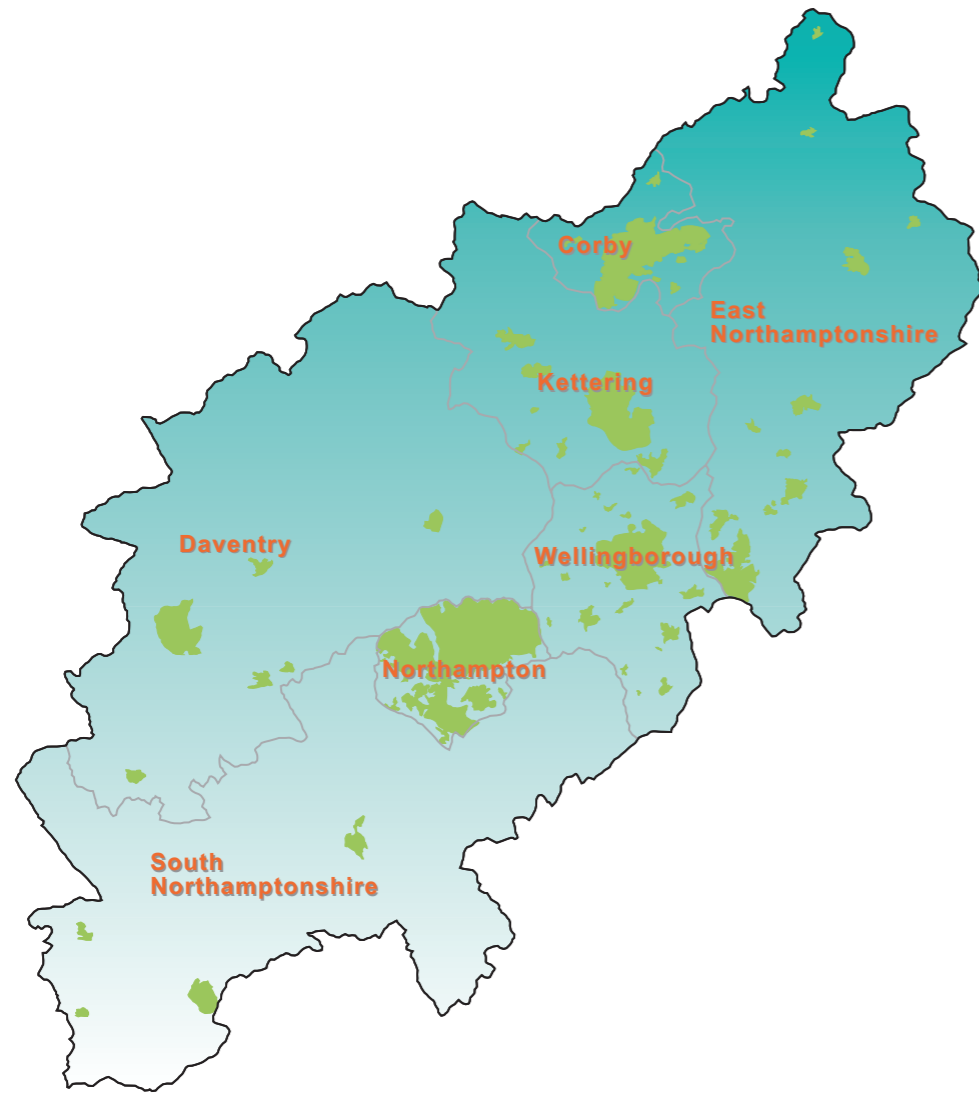
Northamptonshire is a county with a strong cultural and sporting heritage. Culture and sport help people get experiences, knowledge and information that will inspire them. To do this we will advertise our heritage, arts, sports and recreational activities locally, regionally and nationally and develop 'cultural centres' that include places where creative businesses can start up, such as advertising, public relations and marketing firms, and publishers, film and recording studios.

Over the next 10 to 20 years we will be able to develop infrastructure so that more people can take part in culture and sport to make them healthier and happier and to bring people together. This development won't just make money. It will help to make Northamptonshire an attractive place to live, work and visit.

3 District Priorities

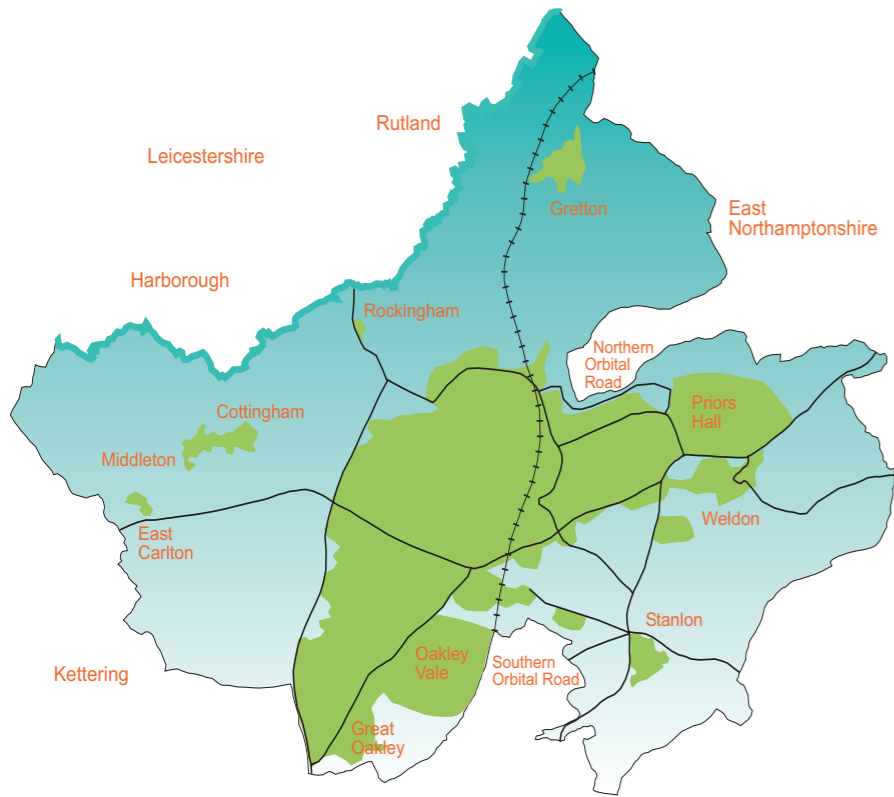


Each local authority in Northamptonshire has a duty to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy for its area. This strategy has been influenced by, and links to, others in Northamptonshire. This section provides a summary of the different priorities for these areas.



You can get a copy of the Sustainable Community Strategies for these areas from the relevant local authorities

Area	Website	Phone
Corby	www.corby.gov.uk	01536 464000
Daventry	www.daventrydc.gov.uk	01327 871100
East Northamptonshire	www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk	01832 742000
Kettering	www.kettering.gov.uk	01536 410333
Northampton	www.northampton.gov.uk	01604 837837
South Northamptonshire	www.southnorthants.gov.uk	01327 322322
Wellingborough	www.wellingborough.gov.uk	01933 229777



Corby is in the centre of England and has excellent road links to the A14, M1, M6 and A1. The population is about 57,700 and because of people moving into the area, it is set to grow. Corby has ambitious plans to double its population by 2031. Corby is transforming and its housing development is recognised as the fastest growing in the region.

The aims of the community have changed over recent years. This is because we have: completed the first part of the town centre development; started work on the Corby Cube; built a swimming pool; and built the train station, which will be open early 2009. Now communities are asking that our partners deliver high-quality services. Our other aims focus around building extra facilities such as a cinema, bowling alley and other things for young people to do.

Redevelopment and growth

Where are we now?

The new Corby railway station, which will go direct to London, will open early 2009. The first phase of Corby town centre development is complete, and we are currently working on the next part. The borough council have invested in the new Civic Hub (Corby Cube) and the international swimming pool. These developments will create more jobs, offer more retail services and generally improve people's experience of Corby town centre. Corby has the fifth fastest growing housing market in the county, but we aim to make it the fastest by 2012. Around £2billion has been invested from the private sector, and we will use this money to develop the Urban Extension (see Glossary) at Oakley Vale, Priors Hall and Little Stanion. We use the money we make from these developments to

redevelop and improve housing estates. We have changed our affordable housing target from making 20% of homes in Corby affordable to 30%, and are working to make this happen.

Where do we want to be?

By 2021, we want to develop priority areas for housing by making them affordable, and create over 13,000 new jobs that need a mix of skills. We will make sure that we have the facilities to meet these developments, especially those that relate to: transport; the environment; health; education; employment; visual and performing arts and entertainment; and sport.

How will we get there?

We will develop a technology centre between the new railway station and town centre. To support our growth, we aim to:

- develop a waste management programme that is sustainable;
- use energy in a more efficient way; and
- make sure everyone has access to all of our services.

Economic development, jobs and skills

Where are we now?

Education results are now above the county average, but we are continuing to invest in the Children's Centre (See Glossary), facilities for 14- to-19 year olds and services that help young people to develop. Corby has had one of the highest increases in the number of people gaining qualifications.

Economic activity has increased. Average wages have generally increased across all areas of employment. The number of registered businesses has continued to increase. The overall effect is that the number of businesses successfully trading in Corby has risen by 22%. The following planned or current developments will create more job opportunities: Corby Station Gateway, Southern Business Park, Corby Enterprise Centre, Centrix Park and The Euro Hub.

Where do we want to be?

Our aim is to continue making it possible for people to gain higher and better qualifications. We aim to secure university education facilities in Corby and to continue improving people's skills so we can meet the demand created by planned growth.

How will we get there?

We will also make sure we continue to improve results in our schools. We will continue working with partners to create more jobs by attracting businesses into Corby and increasing the number of new businesses. Also, we will develop opportunities in Corby for people who want to get involved in businesses.

Safer and stronger communities

Where are we now?

Crime in Corby has fallen significantly over the past four years. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has done better than expected, and achieved the highest reduction in crime in Northamptonshire. We have introduced Neighbourhood Management Teams and Safer Community Teams, and have upgraded CCTV systems and control room. We have increased opportunities and activities for young people, so they are less likely to get involved in crime, and have introduced 20 designated public place orders, which help us to tackle anti-social behaviour problems to do with drinking alcohol in public places. We have also made an effort to protect vulnerable people who have repeatedly been victims of crime.

Where do we want to be?

Corby CDRP and the Local Strategic Partnership are committed to working with the community to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour, and to improve the quality of life for everyone in Corby. They will do this by focusing on the priorities that people feel strongly about, such as:

- preventing children from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour;

- reducing harm caused by misusing of drugs and alcohol;
- focusing on helping offenders, so they do not commit more crime; and
- reducing repeated victimisation, particularly domestic violence.

How will we get there?

We will support our residents to make our neighbourhoods stronger. This will include work to make sure both new and current communities work well together, by supporting residents to get involved in the community.

Health and wellbeing

Where are we now?

Overall in Corby, people's health is worse than average when compared with England and the East Midlands. But, we want to focus on young people and exercise. We want to make sure that fewer children are obese; fewer children are living in poverty; and there are more opportunities for 14 to 19 year-olds to develop their education.

Where do we want to be?

We need to continue to provide high-quality facilities and improve the health of the community by working with partners in all areas of the community and promoting healthier living and reducing inequalities in health.

How will we get there?

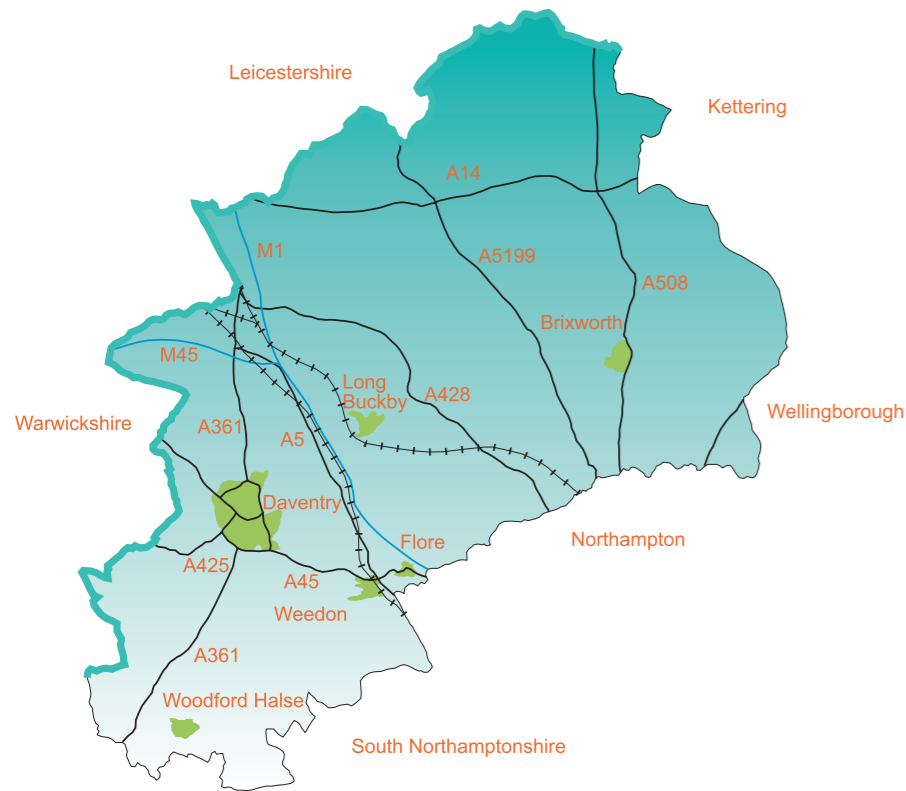
We will encourage sport as a way to improve the community and we will support residents to live independently. The development of the £30million Willowbrook Health Centre and exciting new schools at Corby Business Academy, Kingswood School, Exeter and Oakley Vale, will provide education and raise awareness of issues to help improve health. We will make sure that Corby becomes an increasingly friendly place where every child and young person is encouraged and supported to achieve the best they can.



The Corby Cube

'13,000 new jobs by 2020'

Daventry



Daventry District is mainly rural and the population is fairly small. However, it is in the centre of the national transport network. Figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) for 2006 give a district population of about 76,000. Daventry, the only town, has a population of about 25,000. However, there are a number of other larger towns that lie just outside the district, which are able to meet the needs of residents living close to them. So any development plans for our district must be made with this in mind. As part of the Milton Keynes South Midlands (MKSM) growth area, Daventry town is planned to grow significantly over the next 20 years, and the population will be 40,000 by 2021. The growth of Northampton will also spill over into Daventry District, so we need to work closely with other local authorities to manage this.

Redevelopment and growth

Where are we now?

Young people are finding it hard to get onto the property ladder, particularly in some of our villages where prices are higher than the national average. There is a fear and risk that Daventry town could grow, without the facilities we need to support the new and current populations, and that the local environment will suffer. Carbon emissions could increase significantly if we do not manage this growth properly.

Where do we want to be?

Villages in Daventry will keep their distinct character while providing housing that a wide range of people (of all ages and incomes) can live in. Daventry town will offer a range of employment, housing,

retail, cultural and leisure opportunities. Public spaces will be cleaner and greener and we will improve the public-transport system within the town and across the district, which will make people rely less on cars. The new housing developments will be largely carbon neutral (See Glossary) and be able to cope with climate change. We will protect the local environment and improve it by increasing biodiversity (different types of plant and animal life), to cope with the rapid growth.

How will we get there?

We will make sure that the right mix of housing and community facilities is available in the town and villages. We will improve the town centre and increase the retail and cultural facilities on offer. This will include things such as a new stretch of canal, waterfront development and a boat lift on the way into the town centre. We will look into other solutions for public transport, and we will try out a Personal Rapid Transit (PRT), which will offer on-demand, non-stop transport. We will also look into ways of producing energy for housing developments that do not have a negative effect on the environment. A biomass-fuelled power station (See Glossary) could be a part of this solution. We will try to produce less waste and be more energy-efficient, to help tackle climate change. Many of our redevelopment projects will help to deliver our Biodiversity Action Plan.

Economic development, jobs and skills

Where are we now?

Current skill levels are fairly low and a higher than average number of local jobs are in the low-skilled warehousing and distribution sector. Our more deprived neighbourhoods have very low skill levels and a high number of young people not in education, employment or training. Many people travel in and out of the district for work and study.

Where do we want to be?

We want Daventry to have a population that has high levels of skill and education, to match the increased range of businesses that use different types of technology. We will continue to accommodate the distribution and logistics industry that is mostly in the north of the district.

How will we get there?

In Daventry town we will build a new education centre to increase and widen the educational opportunities on offer. This project will be led by the Daventry Learning Partnership. We will also build a modern centre of excellence for the construction industry in Daventry which will be called the ICoN. This will be supported by five of our regional universities and will contain spaces for new businesses to work in. A Knowledge Park will be developed in the Marches area of Daventry and a Transport Technologies Park developed with the PRT system. We also aim to attract a Resources Recovery Park to the town to help make us more environmentally friendly.

Safer and stronger communities

Where are we now?

People are currently happy with where they live, but we are worried that as Daventry grows, current and new members of the community will not get along. Some of our neighbourhoods have high levels of deprivation and anti-social behaviour, particularly among young people. This is a big problem for the police and the general public. Many people feel that they have no say in decisions that affect their lives.

Where do we want to be?

We want Daventry to be a place where new and current communities are happy and mix well together. We want the gap between the most disadvantaged and the 'better off' communities to be smaller, and for people of all ages to feel safe and be able to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

How will we get there?

We are going to work with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to improve community safety. We will focus on prevention and work with schools and other partners to increase the facilities and opportunities for everyone. We will work together to get rid of crime and create safer environments for people to live in. We will improve how we work with our residents so that local communities can have a say in the services we provide and are even able to provide services for themselves. We will also make Daventry town more visually attractive, so it is a place that people are proud of.

Health and wellbeing

Where are we now?

Young, elderly and economically disadvantaged people do not have enough access to our services, and this is a big problem. Latest information from the NHS shows that the number of physically active children in Daventry is significantly lower than the England average, and this could have a significant effect on the health service in the future. There is also a significantly higher than average number of serious injuries and deaths caused by road accidents.

Where do we want to be?

Daventry District will be a place where everyone can access the services they need to improve their health and wellbeing. We want there to be better facilities and we want young and elderly people to get involved in the full range of sport, leisure and recreation activities. We also want there to be fewer health problems associated with our most disadvantaged communities.

How will we get there?

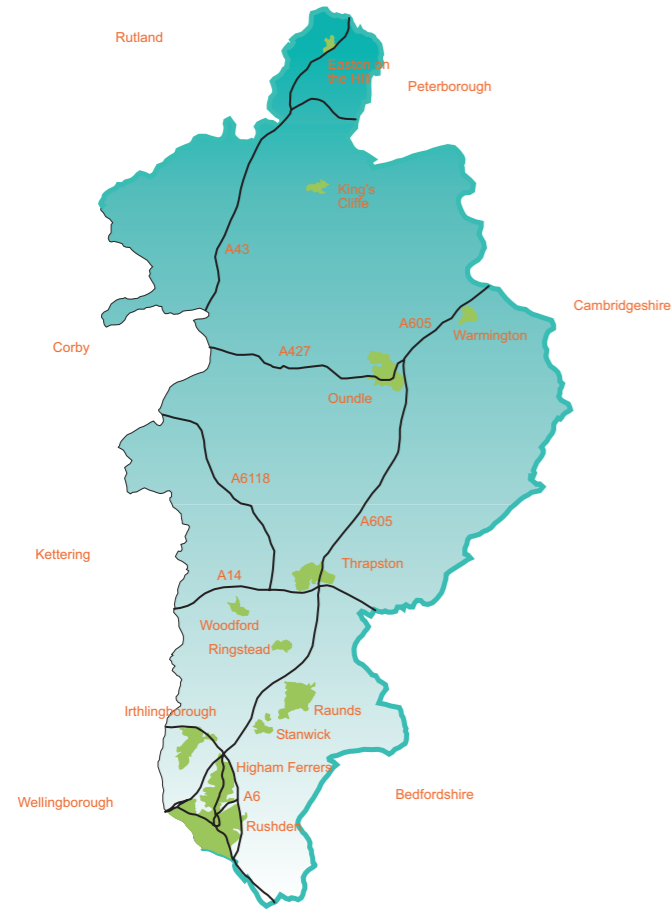
We will continue to develop and support new and better schemes for community and public transport, and look at ways of bringing services to the people where this is possible, for example the mobile play ranger scheme and free youth transport. We will continue to develop and increase the range of opportunities for sport, leisure and recreation, paying particular attention to targeting the next generation. Children's centres and schools will play an important role in this process. Planning policies will demand safer road facilities, so that it is safer to walk and cycle.



The ICoN project, Daventry

'Significant growth planned over the next 20 years'

East Northamptonshire



East Northamptonshire is mainly rural, with an area of 51,013 hectares. There is growing population of around 85,800, spread out among 45 parishes and six towns. Rushden is the largest town with a population of 29,200. The other towns are Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough, Oundle, Raunds and Thrapston. The surrounding villages range in size from about 44 to 1,950 residents.

Redevelopment and growth

Where are we now?

Some of the towns in East Northamptonshire need better facilities to support any future growth. There are well-developed facilities for

walking, cycling and leisure activities that make the most of natural resources. We are working hard to make sure we make the most of natural resources throughout all of our work. There is a lack of good-quality employment premises for start-up and small businesses.

Where do we want to be?

We want to make sure that local facilities can support a high level of employment opportunities and manage the growing population in a sustainable way. We want to make our beautiful countryside, market towns and villages and extensive heritage to attract tourists to the area.

How will we get there?

We will be implementing the town centre master plans, marketing important employment sites and working with our main partners to develop redevelopment projects that will support the growing population. Proposals for redeveloping the town centres, protecting employment areas and finding new employment land will be an important part of our three area plans within the Local Development Framework. We will work with the North Northants Development Company to bid for funding to provide the facilities we need to support new and existing communities.

Economic development, jobs and skills

Where are we now?

East Northamptonshire has a lower level of knowledge-based employment (See Glossary) than the national average and relatively high levels of employment in industries which are in decline, such as manufacturing and agriculture. Over 88% of businesses employ less than nine people. The district suffers from people who have low aims and a shortage of skills, with an increasing number of residents in low-skilled jobs, relatively low levels of qualification achievement and a high number of graduates moving out of the area. There are limited employment opportunities in some parts of the district and over half of the working population commute to destinations outside the district.

Where do we want to be?

We want to make sure that East Northamptonshire is known as a place with the right facilities and support that will encourage new and existing businesses to have the confidence to invest, grow and respond successfully to local and global economic changes. One of our main priorities is to support and develop the local economy, including activities that provide support for 'start-ups' and current businesses.

How will we get there?

We will encourage a wide range of businesses and find the potential of appropriate knowledge-based businesses, to help towards the higher-value economy. We will support the development of technology businesses to create greater links with education to increase skill levels in the local workforce. We will work on initiatives for start-up businesses, focussing on mentoring, funding and network schemes to support new business development. The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan will support and promote environmentally-friendly facilities and tourism, and make the most of opportunities provided by the River Nene and the Rockingham Forest. We will focus on improving our six town centres and work with partners to increase local employment opportunities.

Safer and stronger communities

Where are we now?

There is a big fear of crime and an increase in worries about antisocial behaviour. However, actual levels of crime and antisocial behaviour are not particularly high. Anti-social behaviour is usually caused by people under the influence of alcohol. It seems that young and older people do not understand each other and do not feel that they can relate to each other. Also there aren't enough facilities for young people.

Where do we want to be?

East Northamptonshire should be a place where residents and visitors feel safe and do not have to put up with antisocial behaviour and crime. The district should be a place where existing and new communities can live side by side in a happy environment. All ages will benefit from better access to services and increased opportunities for community activities.

How will we get there?

We will work with local communities to deliver the East Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership Plan, which focuses on:

- dealing with antisocial behaviour;
- reducing the number of young people who become victims of crime;
- tackling crime related to drugs and alcohol;
- making sure people are happy with how we deal with environmental crime in targeted areas;
- reducing other types of crime;
- offering help and support to victims of domestic abuse; and
- getting more people involved in community activities.

Health and wellbeing

Where are we now?

Currently the people of East Northamptonshire are generally in better health than the English average. However, the health of the community is not as good as it should be in an area of such generally low deprivation. Work-based clinics to help people stop smoking are available to local businesses, and 33 awards have been given to businesses that provide healthy food. We support the area-based initiative in Rushden which promotes improved health and wellbeing and local health services.

Where do we want to be?

We want to make sure the overall health of the people in East Northamptonshire continues to improve. We want easy access to health services and facilities in our communities, and we want to support the priority areas in Rushden and Irthlingborough.

How will we get there?

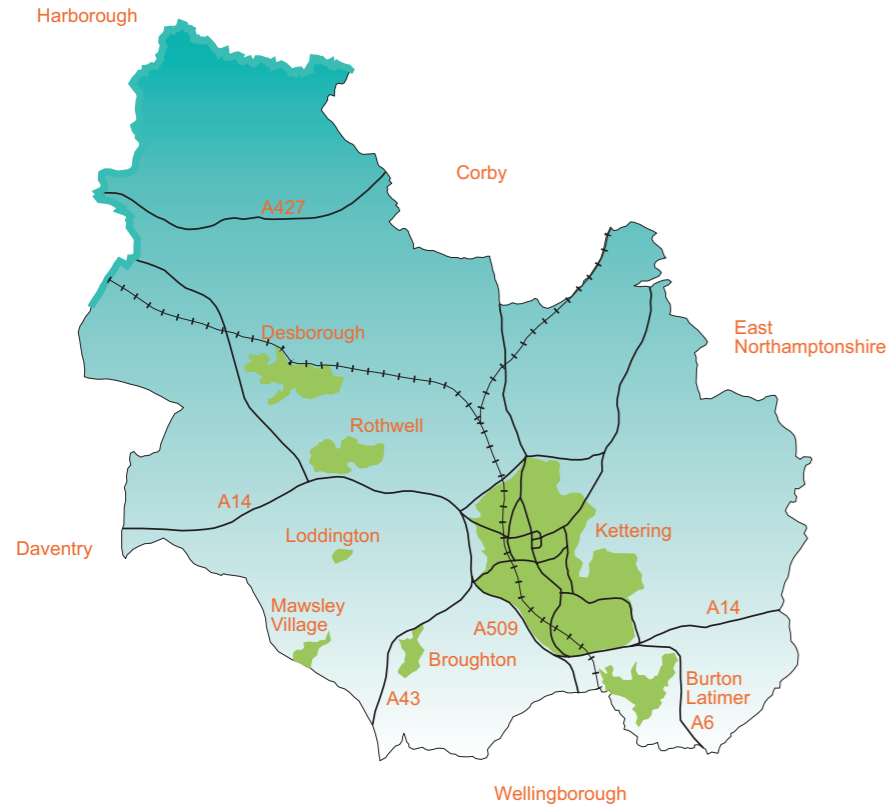
We will continue to listen and respond to the needs of local people. We will concentrate on taking health services out to priority areas. We will set up clinics to help people to stop smoking, and work in schools and businesses to prevent people from starting smoking.



Top: Rushden High Street
Bottom: Canoeing on the River Nene

'A high quality of life'

Kettering



Redevelopment and growth

Where are we now?

The Government needs Kettering to produce more than 13,100 new homes and 16,200 new jobs by 2021. There are plans to redevelop areas of Kettering town centre, which will attract new development, while building on the character and heritage that the town already offers.

We are preparing planning policies which will guide the development in all of our towns, and will influence the quality and design of this development. The development will also provide new public open space. We are working with the relevant organisations to get major investment in both the A14 and our railway services.

Kettering covers an area of about 23,000 hectares and is in the centre of England. It has beautiful countryside and market towns, and a population of almost 90,000. The main town of Kettering has a population of 55,000 and is surrounded by three smaller towns on the A6. There are another 27 villages in the borough, mostly with small populations. Kettering is on the A14 between the A1 and M1, and has excellent road and rail links to the rest of the country.

Where do we want to be?

Our vision for the town centre is to be a fun place that is distinctive. The growth agenda provides opportunities to help us achieve this. In particular, we want to use growth to:

- make improvements to all our town centres, especially Kettering's, and particularly in retail, services, leisure and entertainment and employment;
- develop the education and skills we offer;
- increase the amount of affordable housing; and
- improve the quality of open spaces and sports, leisure and community facilities.

How will we get there?

Our vision for the town centre is set out in a draft Area Action Plan. We will improve the town centre using funding from the public and private sector. We will work to deliver community benefits and make sure new communities are sustainable and the people in them can mix with people in current communities. Our planning policies will influence all new developments in and around Kettering. We are working to get funding from developers and the Government to help us improve the jobs and facilities we offer.

Economic development, jobs and skills

Where are we now?

Kettering has a healthy local economy that is mainly based on manufacturing, retail and health. Unemployment is less than the national average at 2.7%. We have good transport links with the A14 which provides an east-west link between the M1 and A1. Kettering railway station provides easy access to central London. With our partners we support new businesses at the Business Exchange and the Satra Innovation Centre.

Where do we want to be?

Kettering is experiencing significant housing growth, but we also need to increase the number of jobs available. Kettering benefits from an excellent location, but jobs need to be focused on all sectors and on increasing skills and encouraging activities that will help do this. We want to increase earnings to at least the national average and encourage more people to achieve higher-level qualifications.

How will we get there?

We are working to improve the university and support the development of academies to replace two secondary schools. We are working with others to support new businesses and to develop an office hub around the station. We will open Chesham House as a design technology centre linked to the University of Northampton. Our partners will support new businesses using Business Start-up support.

Safer and stronger communities

Where are we now?

Crime has dropped by over 20% over the past three years (up to April 2008), and incidents of anti-social behaviour have also started to reduce as a result of setting up Safer Communities Teams. These teams are working with Neighbourhood Renewal Teams to tackle areas people are worried about. In the last three years we have focused on:

- reducing crime in the highest crime areas;
- reducing the problems of violence resulting from bars, clubs and pubs; and
- supporting people who have been victims of crime.

Where do we want to be?

Kettering will be an even safer place to live, work and visit. The current three-year community safety plan aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

To do this, we need to: get more local people involved in what we do; tell people about what we are doing; and ask the community what is effective and what we need to do to improve. By doing this, we hope to develop strong communities that work and communicate well together and are less likely to put up with crime or anti-social behaviour.

How will we get there?

Our approach is based on the idea that prevention is better than cure and will focus on:

- Issues – for example, how we tackle drug and alcohol abuse, support vulnerable young people and their families and how we manage offenders.
- People – for example, supporting communities which are at risk of crime and antisocial behaviour, and individuals and families who are likely to commit crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Places – for example, areas which are particularly at risk of crime and disorder.

Health and wellbeing

Where are we now?

The health of people in Kettering is generally better than the England average. But there are inequalities in health which are a result of a person's sex, ethnic background and the level of deprivation that they live in. Keep Healthy@ Kettering provides a range of services to reduce health inequality. Early deaths from cancer, heart disease and stroke have gone down over the last 10 years. However, smoking still kills about 130 people in Kettering each year, and the number of people who get involved in sport and leisure activities is low.

Where do we want to be?

Kettering will have improved overall levels of health and fewer health inequalities. We will give appropriate support to vulnerable people, and more people will be getting involved in the facilities we offer.

How will we get there?

Our work will focus on:

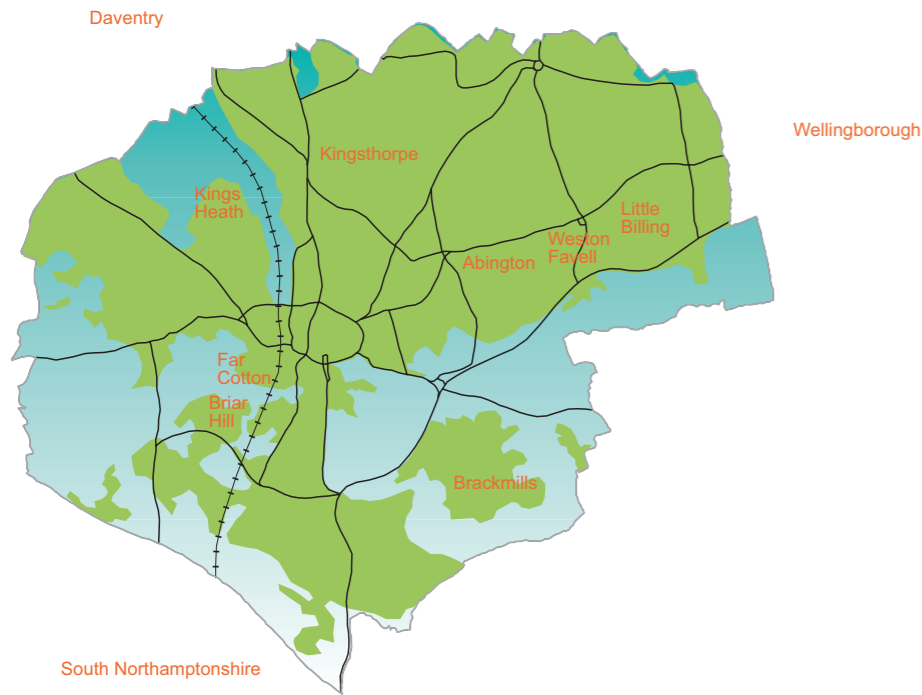
- getting more people to be active and use the leisure pass;
- increasing Keep Healthy @ Kettering projects;
- expanding Smoke Free Homes; and
- setting up food hubs linked to the Green Patch



Proposed redevelopment of Kettering Town centre

‘Crime has Dropped by over 20% in the past three years’

Northampton



Redevelopment and growth

Where are we now?

Northampton has already shown that it has the ability to be economically successful, with the population growing significantly. We need new areas of housing to deal with this growth. But, we must plan developments in ways that are sustainable to make sure that the community is happy and working well together.

Where do we want to be?

Northampton is unique and we are ambitious for its future. We plan to transform Northampton into a world-class place that has an important role in leading how Northamptonshire grows and contributes to the UK economy. Its location at the centre of the country

means that it is ideally placed to drive growth, enterprise and productivity across the country. With a population of nearly 240,000, over the next 15 years Northampton will become the size of a city, so we will need to develop facilities that make sure that during this time of growth there are enough schools, health-care services, emergency services, roads, affordable good-quality housing and open spaces to support the rest of our vision for the future. We want residents to be healthy, skilled and proud of where they live. We also want them to aim to improve their lifestyle and help us to improve the opportunities that all children and young people have for the best start in life, so they can develop their ambitions and talents in a supportive environment.

How will we get there?

Our partners will continue to work on redeveloping the town centre, improving neighbourhoods and green spaces and planning for future growth of the area with neighbouring councils. We will make sure we invest in infrastructure (roads, schools, utilities, communities and health) and develop opportunities for cultural and leisure activities which are accessible to everyone. We will focus on improving educational achievement and reducing the numbers of young people not in education or training and make sure that we look at issues relating to mental health, childhood obesity and youth crime.

Economic development, jobs and skills

Where are we now?

Northampton has an economic regeneration strategy which aims to make it a sustainable town that makes the most of its central location, and attract business and residents because of its individual character, heritage and sporting history.

Where do we want to be?

Northampton will be a major regional and cultural economic centre with traditional architecture and high-quality new designs. Northampton will:

- have a cultural quarter;

- a riverside development;
- be known nationally as a centre for education;
- have a wide range of employment opportunities;
- have excellent sustainable transport; and
- be a place that people want to visit.

How will we get there?

We will work with other organisations to make sure we can develop:

- the town centre;
- specialist shops;
- the market square;
- creative areas in the town to keep students, add character and promote creativity;
- investment from major industries to increase knowledge-based and technological industry sectors; and
- leisure, cultural and tourism opportunities.

Safer and stronger communities

Where are we now?

Crime levels in Northampton have fallen. However, it is important that we focus on people's opinions of crime. Some of our neighbourhoods have high levels of deprivation (according to information from the Office for National Statistics (ONS)) and anti-social behaviour, particularly among young people. This is a big problem for the police and the general public.

Where do we want to be?

Quality of life and safety in the town are the most important things that make the town a place where people want to live. Northampton will be a place where new and current communities will mix with each other and respect and understand people of all ages, different family situations and ethnic backgrounds. We will invest in, support and promote all types of communities so that there is the opportunity and desire to stay together and learn from and support each other.

How will we get there?

The Safer Stronger Northampton Partnership will help to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and the effect that drugs and alcohol have on the town. We will also make sure that any planned development will benefit new and current communities, so that communities across the town can work well together.

Health and wellbeing

Where are we now?

There are differences in health experiences within the town, and quality of life is affected by a wide range of issues including where people live, levels of education and whether people are in employment. We aim to make sure that access to services and leisure facilities will help get rid of the health inequalities in our most deprived neighbourhoods. Northampton has high levels of teenage pregnancy and obesity among schoolchildren. There are also worries about the number of young people involved in crime and antisocial behaviour.

Where do we want to be?

Northampton will be a place where everyone is able to access the services and facilities they need to improve their health and wellbeing. There will be fewer health inequalities associated with our most deprived communities, and we will get more people involved in sport, leisure and recreational activities across all communities.

How will we get there?

We will build on learning from initiatives to improve health and quality of life, and we are offering support and information to help people make decisions about whether to smoke, what to eat and drink and what level of activity is best for them. We will work to make sure that advice and support is available for people to make positive lifestyle choices and that they have consistent information on how to access services. We will also make sure that young people have an influence on future developments in the town, and that

we improve facilities and opportunities for young people to get involved in our communities.



Top: New Avon building
Bottom: Marefair, Northampton

‘In the next 15 years Northampton will be the size of a city’

South Northamptonshire



South Northamptonshire is mainly countryside and has about 88,800 residents in 35,000 households. The population may increase to over 90,000 by 2012, depending on how quickly housing develops in the area. The district covers a large area, with two historic market towns – Brackley and Towcester and many villages and parishes. About 60% of the population are aged between 16 and 65 and currently 90% of people have jobs. About 25% of people work at or from home and 47% travel outside the district to work. Many of the main services and voluntary-sector services are based in major towns outside the district, such as in Milton Keynes, Northampton and Banbury.

The area is one of the country's most financially comfortable. However, some people are disadvantaged within communities, due to lack of public and private transport, low incomes and lack of access to facilities, information and advice. All of these lead to people

becoming isolated. In many ways, these issues are hidden by the overall figures and the image of the area. It is a challenge for public organisations to deal with this, as only a relatively small number of people are affected.

The challenge for our partners is to deal with these issues and to continue to improve services and facilities, to make sure that the new, growing and changing communities are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. This is particularly important for Towcester where we think there will be significant growth between now and 2021. This growth will only be possible if we have the right facilities to support it.

Redevelopment and growth

Where are we now?

There is a risk that the quality of our facilities will fall and that traffic will increase in Towcester. A lack of public transport is an issue, as this does not allow for easy access to town centres from other villages, unless you use a car. South Northamptonshire has one of the highest house price-to-income ratios in the region (the difference between the average house price and the average family income in an area), and affordable housing, especially for key workers, is a major issue.

Where do we want to be?

We want to have improved town centres with appropriate facilities which can act as service centres for surrounding villages. We need to improve levels of public transport so we can improve access, reduce dependency on the car and reduce congestion and pollution. We need affordable housing with good links to high-level employment opportunities.

How will we get there?

South Northamptonshire needs to make strong market-town partnerships with all appropriate organisations. We will deal with the issues in Towcester by making sure that plans for growth include a bypass, and the town centre will be improved by redeveloping Moat Lane. We will work with partners to create an effective Local Development Framework, which recognises the unique character of Northamptonshire and considers the sustainability of villages. We will also make sure that we have the facilities in place to support new and current communities. Using planning, consultation, education and promotion we will support action to help all residents access essential services. We will also make sure developments are well designed to encourage cycling, walking and using public transport.

Economic development

Where are we now?

There are limited employment opportunities in some parts of the district and the tourism potential of South Northamptonshire is underdeveloped.

Where do we want to be?

South Northamptonshire should have local employment at a level which meets local need and that will sustain and help businesses in the area grow.

How will we get there?

We will focus on improving Brackley and Towcester town centres and work with partners to create more jobs. Work will continue with the British Racing Drivers Club (BRDC) to produce a renewed Silverstone circuit, which will work well with its surroundings and provide employment and education for the district and beyond. South Northamptonshire has to become a place that people like to visit, as this will benefit the economy. Promoting Towcester Racecourse and other tourist attractions will help us to do this.

Safer and stronger communities

Where are we now?

Our market towns are changing, with increasing populations having an effect on providing new opportunities for growth and development, and also bringing challenges to the current levels of service. People are more aware of anti-social behaviour and tensions with young people and the associated fear of crime.

Where do we want to be?

South Northamptonshire should be a district where new and current communities mix well together. Our children and young people will have places to go, things to do and people to

talk to when they need to. There should be less fear of crime and improved safety on our roads.

How will we get there?

We will combine the Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership with Daventry and develop local plans using the five theme groups.

- Alcohol and drugs
- Working together as a community
- Environment
- Vulnerable young people
- Managing offenders and victims of crime

We will also work with schools and communities to increase the facilities and services available locally, in particular those used by young people. We plan to improve how we: provide our services; make decisions; and help hard-to-reach groups access our services. We will do this by listening to residents and understanding their needs, using the community engagement plan. We will continue to support communities and other organisations to help them provide services and improve the quality of their communication.

Health and wellbeing

Where are we now?

When we plan our services, we need to think about the needs of elderly people, children and young people. We can do this by getting people involved in what we do.

Where do we want to be?

We need to make sure that services and facilities are easily accessible for elderly people in our communities, so they can access health services and recreation and leisure and learning opportunities. We also have to involve young people when we make decisions, and try to develop services and opportunities for children and young people in a way that we can achieve the aims of Every Child Matters (See Glossary).

How will we get there?

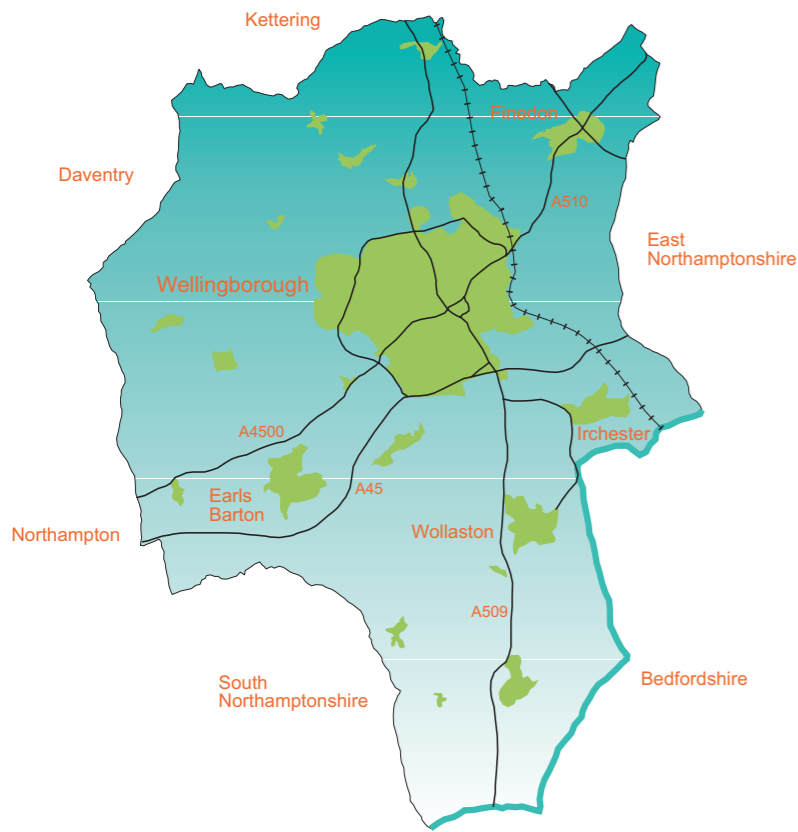
We will develop a local community cohesion plan that will make sure elderly people have opportunities to give us their opinion. We will also deliver all the short-term actions in the Play and Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy action plans.



Stoke Bruerne

'90% of people in the area have jobs'

Wellingborough



The borough is Wellingborough town surrounded by 19 villages. It has a population of about 75,000, two-thirds of whom live in the town of Wellingborough. Through planned housing growth the population will increase by about 31,000 in the next 20 years. The borough lies at the centre of the arc between Oxford and Cambridge.

Redevelopment and growth

Where are we now?

An Area Action Plan for Wellingborough town centre has been written. Public transport needs to improve to allow for easy access to the town centre, particularly in the evenings and from surrounding areas. House prices are below the national average but are still not affordable for many.

Where do we want to be?

We need to:

- improve our town centre with appropriate facilities;
- improve public transport to reduce dependency on the car and reduce congestion and pollution;
- encourage and improve neighbourhood centres, reducing the need to travel;
- continue to provide enough affordable housing with good links to high-level employment opportunities; and
- make sure that growth areas are sustainable.

How will we get there?

Wellingborough is due to have 12,800 new homes by 2016, mainly in two growth areas to the east and north of the town. The Local Development Framework covers this and the Town Centre Action Plan covers the improvements in the town

centre. This will maintain and improve the unique features of the town and surrounding areas. If we expand any of the villages, we will only do this to meet local housing needs and improve the village. These will be influenced by parish plans.

The Government have said that it is essential that we have facilities to cope with growth. We will need to improve health, education, transport and other service facilities. To grow successfully, we will need residents to get involved. We will make sure that developments are well designed to high standards, and encourage cycling, walking and using public transport.

Economic development

Where are we now?

There are now fewer jobs in the manufacturing industry, the majority being in light manufacturing, retail or distribution. Unemployment is below the national average, but many adults have no qualifications and low skills.

Where do we want to be?

Wellingborough should have local employment at a level which not only meets the local need and supports and grows businesses in the area, but will drive the growth agenda.

How will we get there?

We will create more high-skilled employment using the new development areas, and we will improve the retail services in the town centre. We will encourage young people to do the best they can by working with the Education Partnership in schools and colleges. We will create opportunities for people to increase both skills levels and education results.

Safer and stronger communities

Where are we now?

Across the borough, 7% of the population are from an ethnic minority, with 11% in the town itself. There are four areas in the top 20% of the country's of most deprived areas. We are preparing for growth and plan to use this as a way of developing the older areas. There is more awareness of antisocial behaviour and tensions with young people. Reducing the level of crime is the first priority for improving life for the local residents.

Where do we want to be?

Wellingborough should be a place where diverse communities are supported in both new and existing areas. It should also be a place that people are proud of and want to be. Everyone will have places to go, things to do and people to talk to when they need to. There should also be lower levels of actual crime and less fear of crime.

How will we get there?

In our community plans, we will focus on the priorities for the residents of the borough. We are working with schools, using the Education Partnership, and with local businesses, using the Town Centre Partnership, to develop the town centre. We are including the ideas and aims of young people in the action plan, so we can improve how we:

- provide our services;
- make decisions;
- work with 'hard to reach' groups; and
- listen to and understand the needs of the community.

We will continue to support people in the community to get involved and continue to work with local organisations to provide our services. We are also working with the voluntary and community sector to strengthen it and help it improve.

Health and wellbeing

Where are we now?

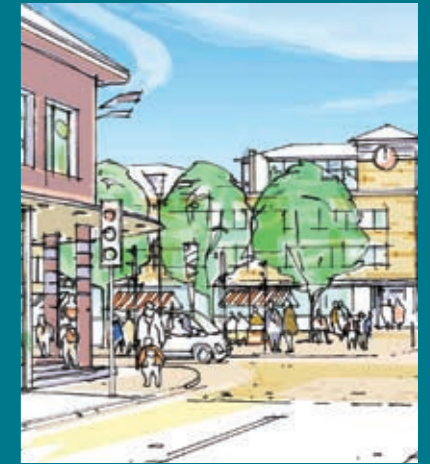
When we assessed what people needed and wanted in the borough, we found that reducing the number of vulnerable children, young people and adults was an important issue. Although we have ways of listening to the views of the community, not everybody responds to the methods we use.

Where do we want to be?

We need to make sure that services and facilities are easily accessible for everyone, and that everyone has recreation, leisure and learning opportunities. We also want to involve young people in the decisions we make to develop appropriate services and opportunities for children and young people so that we can achieve the aims of Every Child Matters. We also need to involve adults, by working with neighbourhoods, so they can tell us about the services they need. We will be trying to reduce inequalities in health across the borough.

How will we get there?

Our new community strategy will have an action plan. We will be focusing our activities on the areas and people who need most help. We will be improving the health services we offer. We will also be trying to find ways to listen to and involve those who are 'hard to reach'.



The Neighbourhood Centre development



Stanton Cross

'12,800 new homes by 2016'

4 Glossary

Biomass-fuelled power station –

Power stations that produce electricity from burning biomass (plants, such as garden waste or trees that have been grown to provide fuel).

Business start-up support –

programmes of help available to people who are starting up small businesses, which could include help with planning, legal advice or marketing.

Carbon neutral –

If a person or organisation is carbon neutral, this means that all of the carbon dioxide they produce (for example by driving, using resources which require a lot of energy to create or have been transported a long way, using electricity and so on) is balanced by taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere (mainly by planting trees).

Children's centres –

Children's Centres provide services for young children and their families. These will include pre-school learning, care, family support, health services, and access to training and employment advice for parents. These services will be provided by a variety of organisations in one centre.

Clusters and supply chains –

A cluster is a spatial concentration of businesses that have an inter-connection, not necessarily as part of the same sector, but in terms of their customers, suppliers, workforce, and associated institutions. Motorsport is a good example of a cluster – it has R & D and production aspects, it transfers into other sectors (fuel technology, material science, advanced engineering, etc), and has strong customer, supply and labour linkages within the local economy.

A supply chain is simply the relationship between different parts of the process of production from raw materials through to end product or service. By aiming to develop our supply chains we may want to focus on any existing business activity, and strengthen it or keep it in the local community, by bringing in suppliers or customers.

Corby Cube –

The Corby Cube is a cube-shaped building that will provide a focus for the town centre in Corby. It will contain an access point for public services, a library, a theatre, café, restaurant and the Council Chamber for Corby Borough Council.

Core spatial strategies –

A Core Spatial Strategy (CSS) sets out the strategic plans for the development of an area, looking at the necessary housing, and infrastructure. In Northamptonshire there will be two – one for the north of the county and one for the west.

Crime and disorder reduction partnerships –

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act set out guidelines for partnerships between the police, local authorities, probation service, health authorities, voluntary organisations, and local residents and businesses.

These partnerships work to reduce crime and disorder in their area by working out how much crime there is in each area, getting the views of local people, and working to make people less likely to commit crime as well as tackling crime itself.

Cross cutting issues –

these are matters which are of interest to more than one organisation or sector.

Cultural centres –

places where businesses that are involved in cultural activities can come together to provide a more joined up approach.

De-registrations –

the number of businesses who are taken off the register of businesses, usually because they have failed to survive.

Economic activity –

the production, distribution or supply of goods and services.

Engagement strategy –

a plan which outlines how an organisation will listen to, react to and inform its customers and communities.

High-level employment –

High level employment refers to jobs that require specific skills and/or educational training, and, as such, are relatively well-paid.

Infrastructure –

Infrastructure usually refers to the technical structures that support a society, such as roads, water supply, wastewater, power grids, flood management systems, and communications (internet, phone lines, broadcasting).

Joint action groups –

several organisations working together across a small area to tackle crime, disorder, and drugs in communities and neighbourhoods.

Joint Action Groups are established to learn about and tackle the issues that most matter to and affect local communities. Joint Action Groups also depend on input from members of local communities.

Key workers –

workers in the public sector who provide critical services for communities, such as teachers or nurses.

knowledge-based employment –

jobs that are based around information and/or technology.

Safer community teams –

Safer Community Teams (SCTs) provide communities with a dedicated team of officers who are visible, accessible and known to local people. They work closely with partner agencies and the local community to tackle the crime and disorder concerns and issues identified within the neighbourhood.

Sustainable community –

The Government’s Sustainable Communities Plan states that some of the key requirements of sustainable communities are:

- A flourishing local economy to provide jobs and wealth;
- Strong leadership to respond positively to change;
- Effective engagement and participation by local

people, groups and businesses, especially in the planning, design and long-term stewardship of their community, and an active voluntary & community sector;

- A safe and healthy local environment with well-designed public and green space;
- Sufficient size, scale and density, and the right layout to support basic amenities in the neighbourhood and minimise use of resources (including land);
- Good public transport and other transport infrastructure both within the community and linking it to urban, rural and regional centres;
- Buildings – both individually and collectively – that can meet different needs over time, and that minimise the use of resources;
- A well-integrated mix of decent homes of different types and tenures to support a range of household sizes, ages and incomes;
- Good quality local public services, including education and training opportunities, health care and community facilities, especially for leisure;
- A diverse, vibrant and creative local culture, encouraging pride in the community and cohesion within it;
- A “sense of place”;
- The right links with the wider regional, national and international community.

Sustainable development –

giving people a good quality of life without damaging the environment in a way that will affect the quality of life of future generations.

Urban extension –

an area designated to allow for growth on the edge of a town.

Environmental means (living within) –

ensuring the impact on the environment and the natural resources available are considered as plans are developed to ensure these are protected for future generations.

Every child matters –

a Government programme for a national framework to support the “joining up” of children’s services including education, culture, health and social care.

5 Northamptonshire Public Service Board

Jim Harker, Leader of Northamptonshire County Council



Tony Woods, Leader of Northampton Borough Council



Pat Fawcett, Leader of Corby Borough Council



Sandra Barnes, Leader of South Northamptonshire Council



Andy Mercer, Leader of East Northamptonshire Council



John Bailey, Leader of Borough Council of Wellingborough



Chris Millar, Leader of Daventry District Council



James Hakewell, Leader of Kettering Borough Council



William Pope, Chair of Northamptonshire Teaching PCT



Deirdre Newham, Chair of Northamptonshire Police Authority



Ann Tate, Vice Chancellor of University of Northampton



Peter Maddison, Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police



David Reynolds, Chair of North Northamptonshire Development Company



John Markham, Chair of West Northamptonshire Development Corporation



Paul Southworth, Chair of Northamptonshire Enterprise Limited



Dominic McClean, Chair Northamptonshire Infrastructure Consortium Representing the Voluntary Sector

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