



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

**Councillor Dermot Bambridge
Silverstone Ward
Annual Report
April 2022**

On 1st April last year, West Northamptonshire Council replaced South Northants and Daventry district councils and Northampton borough council as well as Northamptonshire County Council, merging all the services those authorities previously embraced. The new unitary authority has been making good progress on its fresh start to deliver better local public services across the whole area.

I was honoured to be elected one of its first Councillors, having been South Northants Councillor for Silverstone since 2003. I am currently Chair of the West Northants Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and on the South Northants Area Planning committee.

Silverstone Ward is the largest West Northants ward by area, stretching from the Warwickshire/Oxfordshire border in the West to the Buckinghamshire border here in the south. It is served by three councillors spread across the ward. Alison Eastwood is in the West and looks after the parishes in the 'top end', Charles Manners who lives in Woodend takes care of the central parishes and I take care of the southern Parishes, which include Syresham, Silverstone, Wappenham and Whitfield. We work as a team trying to ensure that we cover all parts and interests.

West Northants council, born from the biggest restructure of local government in Northamptonshire in over 40 years, having guided communities through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, now heads into its second year with a balanced budget and additional investment in services ahead.

Future transformation plans are also taking shape, including progressing work to join up health and social care services and working collaboratively to help people live their best lives, work on our Anti-Poverty plans and skills agenda and an ambitious new approach to making West Northants a more sustainable and environmentally friendly place to live and work, to protect and improve the local environment, economy and society for future generations.

We are fully aware of the challenges presented by the warehouse developments around Silverstone and Towcester, and HS2 which cuts right through the Silverstone Ward and are doing all we can to mitigate the impacts of these developments.

Since last April, the Council has delivered a broad range of services, projects and activities as part of its top priorities for making the area a great place to live, work, visit and thrive. These include;

- Improving children's services as recognised by Ofsted
- Joining up health and social care services
- Helping the most vulnerable
- Resettling Afghan families and helping Ukrainians
- Continuing to build high quality council homes
- To net zero WNC's emissions by 2030 and residents' and businesses' by 2045
- Improving Towcester Watermeadows and encouraging community tree planting
- Crackdown on environmental offenders, from fly-tipping and food safety
- Securing £37m funding for regenerating Northampton town centre and Market Square
- Redeveloping Brackley Library and delivering our award-winning 'For the Love of Books'
- Supporting businesses and start-ups with funding, advice and support
- Shaping future highways maintenance service and transport infrastructure
- Appointing an HS2 Marshal to liaise with affected residents and parish councils
- Re-opening the refurbished and extended Northampton Museum and Art Gallery

We are proud to serve our local communities and look forward to helping you in 2022/23

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The following is a more comprehensive list of the priorities and their individual areas and projects -

Priority: Improved Life Chances

- Supporting and guiding residents and businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic
- Continuing the improvement of children's services as recognised by Ofsted
- Progressing plans to join up health and social care services
- Helping the most vulnerable including free school meals, funds to help households with food and energy bills, resettling Afghan families and the Government's Ukraine response locally
- Developing our Anti-Poverty Strategy with partner organisations and charities
- Continuing to build high quality council homes
- Council Tax reduction scheme and improving financial support for care leavers
- Allocating school places and proposals for a new secondary school in Moulton
- Staging a range of events to celebrate our communities, equality and diversity
- Awareness and commemoration days and events such as Pride, Armed Forces Day, International Day of Disabilities etc.
- Developing the Armed Forces Covenant and establishing new armed forces hubs
- New customer experience strategy to improve how residents access our services

Priority: Green and Clean places

- Shaping our new sustainability goals - to net zero the Council's own emissions by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045
- Retaining Green Flag awards for our high-quality parks
- Improving Towcester Watermeadows and encouraging community tree planting
- £6.2m community flood protection scheme
- Installing new electric charge points across West Northants
- Crackdowns and prosecutions on environmental offenders, from fly-tipping and food safety
- New litter charter and community litter-picking initiatives
- Grants for landowners to tackle fly tipping

Priority: Economic Development

- Submitting a bid for city status for Northampton
- Securing £37m funding for regenerating Northampton town centre and Market Square
- Delivering Daventry's new cinema complex
- Redeveloping Brackley Library and delivering our award-winning 'For the Love of Books'
- Supporting businesses and start-ups with funding, advice and support

Priority: Connected Communities

- Embarking on a major roads improvement programme
- Making plans and funding bids to improve bus services
- Extending Northampton's public e-scooter scheme
- Shaping our future highways maintenance service and transport infrastructure
- Appointment of HS2 Marshal

Priority: Thriving villages and towns

- Providing accommodation and support for rough sleepers
- Localising planning arrangements and simplified, more effective planning enforcement
- Investing in a host of initiatives to make communities safer
- Distributing grant funding for community and voluntary groups
- Re-opening the refurbished and extended Northampton Museum and Art Gallery
- Showcasing heritage with open days & supporting the Go Northamptonshire tourist campaign
- Working with parishes on Neighbourhood development plans and conservation areas

Priority: Robust Resource Management

- Capping Council Tax rises at £99 per year
- On target delivering our first year on budget, and setting a balanced budget for the year ahead and making robust plans to tackle financial challenges
- Working to join up local services across the whole West Northants area, to make them better and more cost-effective