



## Silverstone Ward Annual Report – April 2022

The unitary authority replaced the previous district, borough and county councils on 1 April last year and has since been making good progress on its fresh start to deliver better local public services across Daventry, Northampton and South Northants areas.

Born from the biggest restructure of local government in Northamptonshire in over 40 years, the Council, 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 in Towcester and HS2 in the north of the Ward, and are doing everything 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 six top priorities for making the area a great place to live, work visit and thrive;

### ***Priority: Improved Life Chances***

- Supporting and guiding residents and businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic
- Continuing the improvement journey in 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 Proposal for Moulton
- Staging a range of events to celebrate our communities, equality and diversity
- Awareness and commemoration days and events – IDAHOBIT, Pride, Armed Forces Day, International Day of Disabilities and Black History Month
- 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 our heritage with open days and supporting the Go Northamptonshire
- Working with parishes on Neighbourhood development plans and conservation areas

**Priority: Robust Resource Management**

- Capping Council Tax rises at £99 per year
- On target deliver 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

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

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