



Working together on a bright new future

Update from Cllr Ian McCord Leader of West Northants Shadow Authority

Welcome to the first bulletin of the revised Future Northants programme.

This comes hot on the heels of our very first West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority meeting which was truly an historic occasion. Opened by the High Sherriff of Northamptonshire, it was a chance for us all to reflect on our great history as a county and to plan for the future as we look to create a new West Northants Council for our residents and businesses.

It was an honour to be appointed as leader of the shadow authority and with Chris Millar selected as chair and the support of the many councillors from the Daventry District, Northampton Borough, South Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire County Councils, we have a great network in place to deliver the West Northamptonshire Council.

We know that we also have the support of our many partners



Opportunities and challenges – [view the video here](#)

including parish and town councils, the voluntary and community sectors, the health and emergency services and local businesses, all of whom have joined together to respond magnificently to the public health pandemic. The Northamptonshire response, in particular, is proof that we can all work together to do things differently, to operate in a new way. I'm looking forward to developing these improved relationships and newly adopted ways of working so that our residents really feel the benefit and live better lives as a result.

Please read on to keep yourself up to date on the very latest work in the programme and if you have any questions, let me know.

Programme updates

Click on the links below to read the latest updates from across the revised Future Northants 'Safe and Legal Plus' Programme:

[Place programme](#)

[Finance programme](#)

[ICT and Customer](#)

[Corporate Programme](#)

[Adults Programme](#)

[Children's Programme](#)

First shadow meeting an online success

It was great to see the involvement in the first meeting of the West Northants shadow authority, as the next chapter to create our new Council got under way.

The inaugural meeting took place on 2 June via Zoom video-conferencing and was live-streamed to the public on Youtube, shortly followed by the first Shadow Executive meeting on 9 June.

Thanks to these two meetings we have now adopted our Constitution, Code of Conduct, appointed our interim statutory officers, received and endorsed the membership of the new Shadow Executive and decided the membership of other shadow committees for



Overview and Scrutiny, Standards and Senior Appointments as well as agreeing the Task and Finish Groups for the Programme.

For more information on future meetings visit <https://cmis.northamptonshire.gov.uk/cmis5live>

Shadow Executive	
Ian McCord (Leader)	SNC
Jonathan Nunn (Deputy Leader)	NBC
Richard Auger	DDC
Lizzy Bowen	NCC
Rebecca Breese	SNC
Adam Brown	DDC
Matt Golby	NCC
Phil Larratt	NBC

Senior Appointments Committee
Ian McCord (Chair)
Jonathan Nunn (Deputy Chair)
Matt Golby
Mary Markham
Chris Millar
Richard Auger
Danielle Stone
Chris Lofts

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Jane Birch (Chair)
Jamie Lane (Deputy Chair)
Ann Addison
Dermot Bambridge
Penny Flavell
André Gonzalez de Savage
James Hill
Ian Morris
Ken Pritchard
David Smith
Allen Walker
Mike Warren
Mark Wesley
Enam Haque
Emma Roberts
Ken Ritchie
Dennis Meredith
Julie Davenport

Who's who on our committees
Here's a recap of the membership of the Executive and committees

Standards Committee
Daniel Cribbin (Chair)
Sandra Barnes (Deputy Chair)
Roger Clarke
Tim Hadland
Suresh Patel
Graham Walker
Wendy Randall
Brian Markham

All systems go for our new Task and Finish Groups

Colleagues from across our councils and their different political parties will soon be rolling their sleeves up and getting involved in the work of the new Shadow Authority Task and Finish Groups.

Membership and Terms of Reference for each of the 11 groups were agreed at the recent Shadow Executive meeting on 9 June, with nominations sought from each of the political groups.

The aim of the Task and Finish Groups are to:

- Facilitate a wider understanding of the issues being dealt with through the Future Northants Programme, including interdependencies.
- Broaden political ownership of the issues, recommendations and decisions.
- Enable Members in the Groups to hold each other to account and to test out ideas informally with each other and officers.
- Spread the workload (for Members) - when there is so much to do and so many meetings to attend.

Full membership of the new groups is set out opposite.

Council Governance
Adam Brown (Chair)
Phil Larratt (Vice Chair)
Charles Manners
Michael Clarke
Sally Beardsworth

Council Tax Harmonisation
Rebecca Breese (Chair)
Malcolm Longley (Vice Chair)
John Sheppard
Brandon Eldred
Chris Lofts

Budget and MTFP
Rebecca Breese (Chair)
Malcolm Longley (Vice Chair)
John Sheppard
Brandon Eldred
Chris Lofts

Senior Appointments
Ian McCord (Chair)
Jonathan Nunn (Vice Chair)
Mary Markham
Matt Golby
Richard Auger
Chris Millar
Danielle Stone
Chris Lofts

Vision and Culture
Ian McCord (Chair)
Jo Gilford (Vice Chair)
Jonathan Nunn
Cecile Irving-Swift
Danielle Stone

Transformation
Matt Golby (Chair)
Stephen Hibbert (Vice Chair)
Fiona Baker
Colin Morgan
Stephen Dabbs

Civic Functions
Phil Larratt (Chair)
Pindar Chauhan (Vice Chair)
Rosie Herring
Daniel Cribbin
Gareth Eales

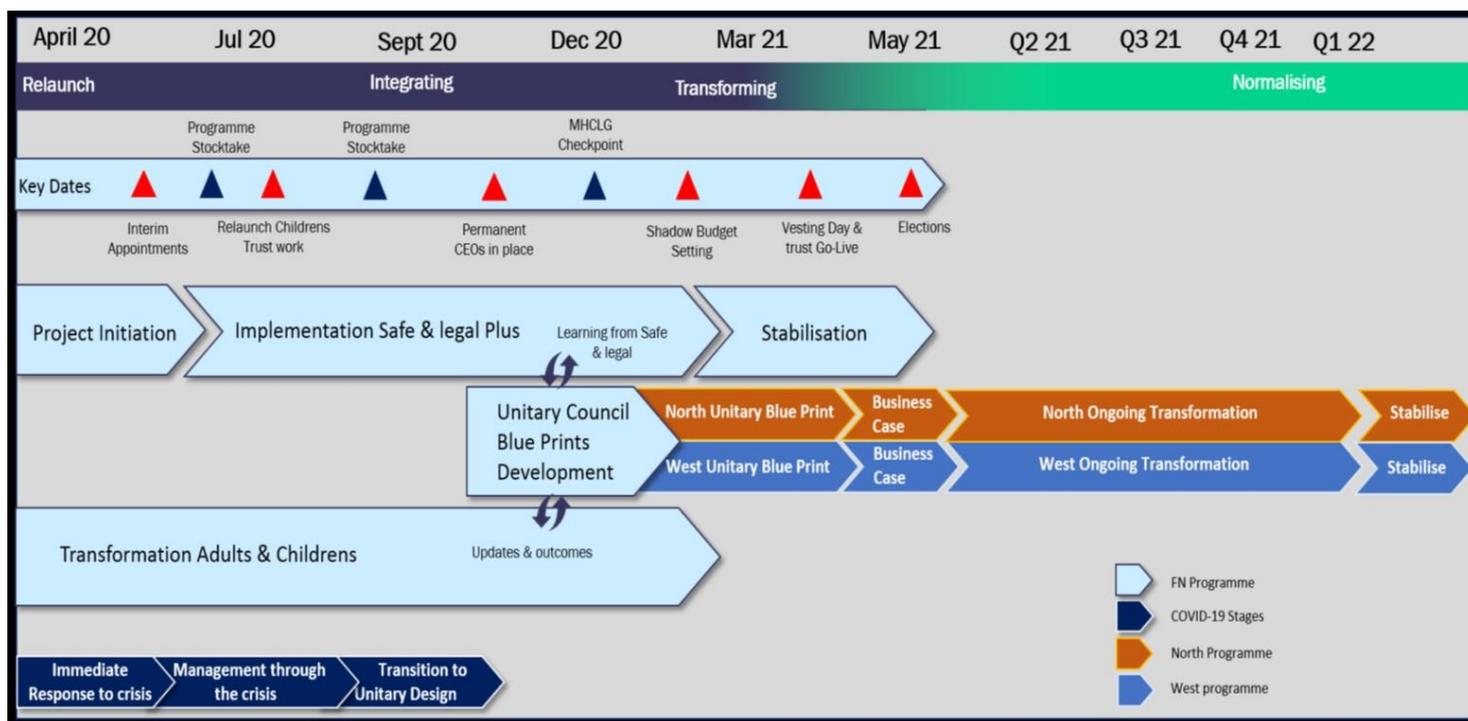
Equalities
Phil Larratt (Chair)
Pindar Chauhan (Vice Chair)
Rosie Herring
Daniel Cribbin
Gareth Eales

Disaggregation
Lizzy Bowen (Chair)
Phil Bignell (Vice Chair)
Kevin Parker
Suresh Patel
Cathrine Russell

Communications & Engagement
Jonathan Nunn (Chair)
Lauryn Harrington-Carter (Vice Chair)
Karen Cooper
Sam Rumens
Wendy Randall

Day One Accommodation
Richard Auger (Chair)
Tony Baggott Webb (Vice Chair)
Andy Kilbride
Anna King
Paul Joyce

Timeline for change: Safe & Legal Plus in stages



Revised programme emphasises priorities

A key part of redesigning the Future Northants Programme for the new Safe and Legal Plus approach has focused on changing its scope and structure to ensure that Day One Readiness is at the forefront of our activities.

The previous 13 portfolio and programme teams have been restructured into a series of new programme areas, reflecting the new priorities. These are:

- **Place** – the remit for this programme includes environmental and regulatory services, communities and leisure and Day One accommodation, with North and West programme teams being set up to support its delivery.
- **Finance** – key work streams include disaggregation and aggregation of budgets, Council Tax harmonisation and Revenues and Benefits.
- **ICT and Customer & Digital** – ICT will be ensuring the infrastructure, technology and software is in place for Day One of the new councils.

Update from Paul Helsby Programme Director

Customer & Digital will focus on customer contact and digital services for the new councils including the websites and intranets, CRM systems, telephony and email.

- **Corporate** – programme areas includes HR services, such as staff transfer and payroll set-up, as well as communications and engagement, corporate services structures, legal support and member training.
- **Adults** – continuing the transformation work already well under way for adults services alongside ensuring Day One readiness.
- **Children's** – continuing the work towards establishing the new Northamptonshire Children's Trust and ensuring Day One readiness for social care and education services.

Working with all these areas is **the Day One Programme**

Manager, Stuart Hill. His focus is on ensuring everything is in place safely and legally for go-live day by developing the critical path and his priority is to set up and make operational a new assurance framework to help achieve this that brings together all the other programme plans.

You can read more about the work of these programme areas and who's involved in this month's updates using the links on the front of the bulletin.

Work is under way to fully establish these revised programme areas, such as realigning resources and staffing and setting up new programme boards.

This also means that a review of the work streams and working groups, which some members of staff have been involved in as Subject Matter Experts. Some may change and others may continue as they did previously, depending on how they are prioritised under the revised programme.

We'll continue to keep you updated on this work.

Interim officers of expertise and experience

The two new interim Heads of Paid Service, monitoring officers and chief finance officers are now in place for the Shadow Authorities.

For the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority, Liz Elliott has been appointed Interim Head of Paid Service, with Glenn Hammons as Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151) and Bhupinder Gill as Interim Monitoring Officer.

Liz is also Managing Director of the Borough Council of Wellingborough, Glenn is Resources and Commercial Executive Director at East Northants Council and Bhupinder is Monitoring Officer for East Northants, Wellingborough and Deputy at Kettering councils. He is also the chief legal officer for the shared legal service, District Law at Kettering. For the West Shadow Authority George Candler is appointed Interim Head of Paid Service, with Susan Zeiss as Interim Monitoring Officer and Martin



**North
Shadow
Authority
Statutory
Officers**

Liz Elliott, Bhupinder Gill and Glenn Hammons

**West
Shadow
Authority
Statutory
Officers**



George Candler, Susan Zeiss and Martin Henry

Henry as Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151).

George is also Chief Executive of Northampton Borough Council, Susan holds the role of General Counsel at Northamptonshire County Council and Martin is Executive Director for Finance at

South Northamptonshire Council.

Glenn, Martin, Susan and Bhupinder will carry out the interim statutory roles in addition to their responsibilities at the sovereign councils, until the permanent statutory officers are appointed later this year.

Key dates for your diary: our future meetings

1. Shadow Executive – 23 June
2. Overview & Scrutiny – 30 June
3. Shadow Executive – 21 July
4. Shadow Council – 28 July
5. Shadow Executive – 25 August
6. Overview & Scrutiny – 8 September
7. Shadow Council – 15 September.

Shadow Council meetings will start at 7pm and Shadow Executive and Overview & Scrutiny meetings will start at 6pm.

Meeting information and agendas are available at <https://cmis.northamptonshire.gov.uk/cmis5live/NorthNorthamptonshireShadowAuthority.aspx>

Recruitment starts for permanent unitary roles

A national recruitment drive is underway to find and appoint the senior managers that will head the two new unitary councils.



Legislation requires that by the end of December this year, a permanent Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Finance (Section 151) Officer must be in place ahead of the councils being created on 1 April 2021.

Recruitment is also taking place for a Director of Children's Services as a joint appointment for both North and West unitary councils to assure Children's outcomes through the countywide Northamptonshire Children's Trust; as well as a Director for Adult Social Care, for each new authority. Interviews are scheduled to take place in July and August. Application details available at www.shapethefuturenorthants.co.uk