Daventry District Council provides a wide range of services including waste and recycling collections, street cleaning and grounds maintenance, Council Tax collection and benefits, elections, Homechoice lettings, economic development and regeneration, community safety, planning and development control and environmental health issues such as dealing with food safety, noise, pollution and environmental crimes.

Call: 01327 871100
Email: comments@daventrydc.gov.uk
Web: daventrydc.gov.uk
Write to: Daventry District Council, Lodge Road, Daventry NN11 4FP

Other useful contacts

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)
NCC deals with various services including: roads, paths, street lighting and drainage, potholes, bus passes and bus services, Blue Badges, road gritting, social care, schools admissions, register of births, deaths and marriages, libraries, household waste and recycling centres.

Call 0300 126 1000
northamptonshire.gov.uk

Your town or parish council
Daventry District has 72 parishes and one town council covering services such as allotments, village halls and recreation grounds, grass cutting and street cleaning, cemeteries (outside of Daventry Town). To find out contact details for your parish, visit daventrydc.gov.uk/parishcouncils

Northamptonshire Police
Call 101 or visit northants.police.uk
Always dial 999 in an emergency

Harvest Money (formerly Northamptonshire Credit Union)
Call 01604 250016 harvestmoney.co.uk

Futures Housing Group
Call 0300 4562531 futureshg.co.uk

Bromford Housing Association
0330 1234034

Job Centre Plus
Call 0845 6043719

Government services and information
gov.uk
As many of you will know, our Council has joined up with six other authorities in Northamptonshire in submitting a joint proposal to the Secretary of State for Local Government Reform in the County.

This proposal is to create two Unitary Councils in 2020, replacing the existing 7 Boroughs and Districts (including Daventry District Council), and the County Council.

You can read more about the proposal to restructure Northamptonshire’s councils on Page 13.

It is unfortunate that we have been forced down this route by the failings of the County Council which, in my humble opinion, have detrimental effects for our District’s residents and taxpayers. The local consultation feedback indicated support for three Unitary Councils on the basis that the urban area of Northampton Borough would not be a good fit to join up with the two rural areas of Daventry District and South Northamptonshire. However under the guidelines set by the Government, the three unitary option – which was our preferred choice – would not be acceptable as the population criteria of “well in excess of 300,000” would not have been met.

This disappointment made us even more determined to act in the best interests of our residents by engaging in the process in a positive way and attempting to use our influence for the longer term good of our District. We believe it is vitally important that the two new Unitary Councils have a fresh start and are able to operate in a sustainable manner. Therefore we are suggesting to Government that they set up a separate residual body to deal with the historical liabilities, but this would be subject to a precept to be paid for by local taxpayers – current indications are that a potential £60-£70m revenue deficit from the County Council in the current year and a possible further gap of over £50m in the following year. There is also a large debt burden of £1.7bn which, whilst at the high end of the scale for county councils, is not deemed to be unusual.

We have highlighted to Government that creating unitary councils will not alone provide sustainable services, but could act as a springboard to drive much-needed transformation for wider public sector reform. This is something we have already advocated to Government ministers by separating out the costs of Adult and Children Services into the local NHS, thereby leaving the Council to deliver all other services. I have said before in this column, it is my belief that Adult and Children Social Care costs should be derived from National Taxation, not via the more unfair means of Council Tax, and we have suggested that Northamptonshire will be ideal to test an Integrated Care System Pilot.

We are collectively determined to work with Government to ensure there are tools to help ease the cash flow stresses that are expected to occur during what is likely to be a very turbulent transitional period ahead. The District and Borough Councils, along with the new leadership at the County Council, have made it clear to Government that we are very keen to leave the past behind, but we cannot solve the current challenges alone and will require their support to help deliver future success.

The sad truth is that despite the excellent, prudent work of our staff and councillors over many years, we are likely to experience in our District – through no fault of our own – larger increases in our Council Tax bills. This is because, in the equalisation process for the new unitary authority, we are starting from a lower tax level than our two partner Councils of Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire. Our residents, along with everyone else, will end up paying more Council Tax for less.

Despite this massive negative distraction and the changes that lie ahead of us, I can assure you that in the meantime it is business as usual at Daventry District Council as we go about delivering our positive economic agenda and maintaining our many services at the lowest possible cost to you.

Councillor Chris Millar
Leader – Daventry District Council
Reviewing another year of progress

Welcome to our Annual Review and Summary of Accounts for 2017/18 - an overview of the many services, projects and activities carried out during the financial year, as well as a look at the money Daventry District Council received and spent.

All the work we do contributes to four key objectives we set to help achieve our vision to ‘Develop a Better District’ and this Annual Review highlights some of the work carried out during the 2017/18 financial year towards achieving those objectives.

These are:
- To be an Efficient and Effective Council
- To Promote Healthy, Safe and Strong Communities and Individuals
- To Protect and Enhance our Environment
- To Improve our Business Economy, Learning and Skills.

Councillor Chris Millar
Leader - Daventry District Council

To be an Efficient and Effective Council

- We held a major consultation on the Emerging Draft Settlements and Countryside Local Plan - a significant planning policy document, containing detailed guidance that will help shape local decision-making on future planning issues. Consultations were also held on a number of Neighbourhood Development Plans across the District.
- We successfully retained our Investors in People (IIP) Silver Award, a nationally recognised standard given to organisations that demonstrate their commitment to improving staff development and business performance. The Silver accolade is awarded to the top 5 percentile of organisations assessed by the international scheme.
- We made further improvements to our website, including re-styling of the site to make it fully compliant with mobile devices. More customers than ever are accessing Council services online.
- We expanded our Housing Options team to meet the new requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act – a major national legislation change which changes the way councils must deal with cases of homelessness.
- An independent examination of our Internal Audit Service judged that it was ‘highly regarded’, providing ‘useful assurance on the Council’s systems and processes’.

Our Aim

- The Council became the first authority in the county to achieve the Workplace Wellbeing Charter, a nationally-recognised status awarded to organisations which demonstrate a commitment to the health and wellbeing of their staff.
- We successfully staged elections for Northamptonshire County Council as well as a by-election for the Long Buckby Ward on Daventry District Council in May 2017. This was followed by the General Election in June 2017, when we organised and staged the count for the Daventry Parliamentary constituency.
- Our elections team also completed a comprehensive canvas of the District to ensure that the electoral register is up to date and to identify any residents who are not registered so that they can be encouraged to do so.
- We entered into a joint venture with Norse Commercial Services Ltd, creating Daventry Norse. The new joint venture provides the new 1-2-3+ waste and recycling collections to households across the District, together with a range of other environmental services including grounds maintenance and street cleaning.
- External auditors KPMG issued an ‘unqualified audit opinion’ on the Council’s accounts for the previous financial year, meaning the Council met all the criteria for providing value for money and financial resilience.
We helped 184 households save an average of £175.80 on their energy bills through our ongoing Big Switch scheme.

We worked in partnership with the Daventry & District Forum, First for Wellbeing and Northamptonshire ACRE to offer a series of free Well for Life events across the District, offering advice and information on sports, leisure and relaxation services.

We successfully staged the Grand Depart of the 2017 OVO Energy Women’s Tour, an extremely well-supported event which brought Daventry town to life and placed our District in the national spotlight.

We worked with our partners at South Northamptonshire Council, snvb (formerly South Northants Volunteer Bureau) and Daventry Volunteer Centre to put on a Funding Fair at Towcester Racecourse, helping to put more than 200 representatives from voluntary groups in touch with more than 20 funders and support agencies.

Our Community Safety team ran three Days of Action, working with communities in and around Daventry town centre to tackle a range of issues such as anti-social behaviour, arson and vandalism. The team also worked with police and fire services on Operation Unite, a campaign to tackle anti-social behaviour and arson.

Our Daventry & District Forum worked with the Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership to run The Comfort and Joy Parcel scheme, providing hundreds of essential items and gifts to people staying in refuge over Christmas.

Our Community Projects team delivered a range of events which were enjoyed by thousands of children and families, including a free Family Cinema Day at Daventry Country Park, SportFest, and events at Halloween and during the Christmas, Easter and summer holidays.

We awarded approximately £227,000 of grant funding to more than 50 voluntary and community sector organisations, helping them run important local services, deliver projects, buy pieces of equipment and run fundraising events in their local communities.

We supported our leisure partners Everyone Active to host the 15th annual Daventry District Sports Awards. An incredible six winners from the District – Overstone Primary School, Rob Sharp, Michael Smallwood, Frank Hobbs, Pitsford Pumas FC and Tom Symons – went on to win awards in the county-wide Northamptonshire Sports Awards.

Work to upgrade the facilities at Daventry Sports Park in Browns Road was completed, including the installation of a new 3G pitch and improved changing facilities. Our leisure partner Everyone Active also provided a comprehensive range of sports activities throughout the District, catering for people of all ages, fitness levels and abilities.

In partnership with lottery managers Gatherwell, we launched the Local Lotto, a weekly draw with a jackpot of £25,000. More than 65 community and voluntary groups across the District are signed up to the Lotto, which donates 50% of its ticket sales to local good causes.

Hundreds of primary school pupils enjoyed a fun-packed day of activities at the Saints Rugby Ground focussing on the importance of being a good citizen during an event organised by the Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership.

The Council stepped in to seize and rehome a dog after his owner repeatedly allowed him to stray and cause a nuisance, in breach of a Community Protection Notice.

A £2million renovation and extension of the Daventry Phoenix Sports Academy was completed, with Team GB Paralympic track and field athlete Sam Ruddock cutting the ribbon on the new centre.

£227,000
The amount of money given to local voluntary and community groups through our Community Grants scheme.
A second free public charging point for electric vehicles was installed in the public car park in Lodge Road, meaning up to four electric vehicles can now be charged for free at the same time.

Reviews of conservation areas in Daventry, Brixworth, Moulton, Harlestone, Flore, Weedon, Boughton and Kilsby were carried out in consultation with local communities, helping to protect and enhance the heritage of those villages.

The villages of Crick and Welford had Neighbourhood Development Plans ‘made’ with support and assistance from the Council, helping to protect those villages from inappropriate development.

In July 2017 Daventry Country Park was awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award for the 17th time.

Our Budding Communities project provided 39 community groups and primary schools with 16kg of wildflower seed and 4,600 spring bulbs for planting.

Our Environmental Health Improvement team took enforcement action to tackle a garden in Long Buckby that had become so overgrown it was causing damage to neighbouring properties.

Daventry Country Park was improved with the installation of two pond dipping platforms at the pond near the meadow and a replacement bridge spanning the dip between the reservoir walk and the old bird hide on the western side of the water – known as the bridgehide. Park Rangers also worked with volunteers from the Rotary Club of Danetre Daventry to plant 2,500 crocus bulbs as part of Rotary’s worldwide ‘Purple4Polio’ campaign.

In July 2017 Daventry Country Park was awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award for the 17th time.

New pond dipping platforms were installed at Daventry Country Park.
A new District Guide was produced as part of our Love Daventry place marketing brand, providing information about local attractions, leisure facilities, sports clubs and events and helping to showcase the area.

Work on a new primary school on the Monksmoor housing development got underway in August 2017. The £4.275m construction work was carried out for the Council by contractors Willmott Dixon Construction using funding contributions from housing developer Crest Nicholson. The project was completed in May this year.

We launched a new Daventry District Tourism Forum with the aim of bringing together local attractions and accommodation, hospitality and entertainment venues and retailers, in order to share knowledge, skills and joint working opportunities.

Community facilities in rural areas benefited from a new £30,000 fund to make adaptations to increase their use by local businesses.

Nearly 140 businesses in Daventry District were awarded rates discounts totalling more than £147,000 under new government-funded relief schemes administered locally by the Council.

A scheme to build new food stores, shops, restaurants and a hotel with around 380 car parking spaces on land to the north west of Daventry town centre was approved by the Council’s Planning Committee.

Construction work on a new world-class aerodynamic testing facility at the Catesby Tunnel got underway. The Council is supporting the delivery of the project, which is being led by Brackley-based firm Aero Research Partners (ARP).

Contractors for the Council started work on a new £2.3m purpose-built UK sales and service headquarters for laser systems company Coherent (Rofin-Baasel UK). Once completed, rental income from the new development will be used by the Council to provide services.

Our Health & Safety inspectors launched a new Daventry Health and Safety Forum for local businesses, providing opportunities for learning and discussion as well as an opportunity to get together and share examples of best practice.

We determined 25 major planning applications and a further 813 non-major planning applications during the year, meeting all of our targets.

£4.275m
The construction cost of the new school at Monksmoor, funded by housing development contributions.

£30,000
The fund offered to improve community facilities for use by businesses.
Our revenue spending for 2017/18

This is the money that is spent on the day-to-day running of services including employee, premises and supplies costs. Before the start of each year, the Council sets a budget to finance the services it provides.

How was this money spent in 2017/18?

The table opposite shows the net expenditure for 2017/18 compared to the previous year and what amount of this was met from local and national tax income – for example Council Tax, localisation of Business Rates and the Revenue Support Grant the Council receives from Central Government.

How much of my council tax bill went to Daventry District Council?

We received a total of £4.446m from Council Tax – which equates to £151.14 per household* and (9.3%) of your total Council Tax Bill. The remainder of the Council Tax went to Parish Councils (4.7%), Northamptonshire County Council (72.9%) and Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner (13.1%).

*based on DDC’s proportion of the Council Tax bill from an average Band D Property.

In 2017/18 we collected 98.10% of Council Tax and 99.57% of Business Rates.

Where did the revenue money come from?

After allowing for income such as rents and investments, fees and charges from services we provide, a total of £11.607m was spent on running services that were financed using local and national taxes.

The charts below shows where this money came from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we spent running our services (Revenue)</th>
<th>2016/17 £millions</th>
<th>2017/18 £millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief Executive Team</td>
<td>(2.099)</td>
<td>(0.907)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Team</td>
<td>1.321</td>
<td>2.054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Team</td>
<td>3.325</td>
<td>3.384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources Team</td>
<td>8.826</td>
<td>8.869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Cost of Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.373</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.400</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Accounting and other adjustments</td>
<td>0.804</td>
<td>(1.793)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost of Local Services met by Local and National Taxes and General Reserves</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.569</strong></td>
<td><strong>11.607</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How we paid for services
2016/17 £millions

- Local Taxes - Council Tax: 4.192m
- National Taxes - Government Grant: 3.205m
- Business Rates: 6.375m
- General Reserves: (3.203m)

How we paid for services
2017/18 £millions

- Local Taxes - Council Tax: 4.446m
- National Taxes - Government Grant: 3.571m
- Business Rates: 6.629m
- General Reserves: (3.093m)
Did we have any money left over?

The table opposite shows the net cost of services resulted in a surplus of £3.039m in 2017/18.

Future years, due to continuing central government funding cuts, show an underlying deficit position. The Council will be addressing the budget deficit, and the affordability and sustainability of future services as part of its budget preparation process and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Our Capital Spending for 2017/18

This is money that we invest in land and property, for its purchase and improvement and is accounted for separately from the day-to-day revenue expenditure.

How did we spend this money in 2017/18?

The table opposite shows the net expenditure for 2017/18 compared to the previous year.

What are we worth?

At the end of each year we draw up a balance sheet, which represents:-

- How much our property and land is worth (i.e. the value of our assets);
- How much cash and money we have invested;
- What money is due to be paid to the Council;
- What money is due to be paid out by the Council.

The table opposite shows the Total Net Worth of the Council for 2017/18 compared to the previous year.

Resources Statement

As Daventry’s statutory Chief Financial Officer, I can confirm that this year’s statement of accounts has been prepared in line with the CIPFA Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice. The figures in this summary of accounts have been compiled from the full statement of accounts, which has been audited by our appointed auditor, KPMG LLP.

A full audited statement of accounts can be viewed at daventrydc.gov.uk/accounts

Audra Statham Chief Financial Officer
New app helping people adjust to bin changes

A mobile app is helping people get to grips with the new waste and recycling collection service which was introduced across Daventry District in the summer.

The app allows people to set up notifications to remind them which bins to put out and features handy guides showing what can be put in each bin.

Available for free from Apple’s App Store and the Google Play Store, it can also be used to access the latest news from Daventry District Council as well as information about local facilities, services, shops, bars and restaurants.

Almost 4,000 people have downloaded the app since its launch at the beginning of June, when Daventry District switched to the new 1-2-3+ collection service.

Delivered by Daventry Norse, the new service comprises a weekly food waste collection, a fortnightly mixed recycling collection in a new blue-lidded wheelie bin, a three-weekly black bin collection, and an optional fortnightly garden waste collection.

People without access to a tablet or smartphone can check their bin day via www.daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling or refer to the collection calendar they were sent ahead of the launch of the service.

Councillor Wayne Howard, Access and Communications Portfolio Holder at Daventry District Council, said: “The 1-2-3+ service is a major change for our residents, so we wanted to do all we could to help people adjust. With a new system of recycling and a new collection day for every household, it can be easy to forget which bins to put out and when.

“A key feature of the app is the ability to set a reminder which will tell you which bins to put out, which people are finding really useful. The app also contains advice about what can be put in each bin, which we hope will help people to make the most of the service and recycle more.”

Got a question about the waste and recycling service?

The Council’s website at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/recycling contains information about what can be recycled in each bin, opening times for recycling centres, information about additional waste collections and a list of frequently asked questions. It also contains links to sign-up for the garden waste service, report a missed collection and order new bins.

Growing demand for electric cars

More than 60 percent of people said they would consider buying an electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle in a Daventry District Council survey.

The survey, which had 219 responses, also indicated that increasing the number of charge points across the District will encourage more people to make the transition from traditional petrol and diesel cars.

The Council offers free-to-use public charge points at its Lodge Road offices while there are a number of other points at Watford Gap services and hotels in Crick, Flore, Hellidon and Fawsley.

DDC’s next step will be to identify key villages which would benefit from new charge points and seek interest and support from Parish Councils in those areas. It will also be working on a new on-street residential charge point scheme.

View the full results of the survey at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/electric

Care service can offer help

People who are struggling to afford vital repairs or adaptations to their home are urged to get in touch with Care & Repair Daventry District.

The service, which is based at Daventry District Council, administers a number of grant schemes that aim to help older people, people with disabilities, children and vulnerable people to live in safety and with dignity in the comfort of their own homes.

The grants can be used to fund a range of work including new central heating boilers and radiators, security measures, replacement windows and doors or adaptations such as ground floor bedroom and bathroom extensions, walk-in shower rooms, stair lifts and more.

To find out more visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk/careandrepair or phone 01327 871100.
People are being asked for their views on proposals to make changes to town and parish councils in Daventry District.

The alterations are under consideration as part of Daventry District Council’s (DDC) Community Governance Review and range from changes to the number of councillors to the redrawing of boundaries, and—in some instances—the creation of new parish councils.

Proposals for changes have been submitted by Daventry Town Council together with 13 parish councils, while DDC has put forward options for the parish of Overstone in response to a significant expected population growth.

The deadline for the submission of comments is Friday 16 November 2018.

Following this, a working group of Members of Daventry District Council will review the responses and a further consultation will take place before any final decisions are made.

Give your views

While proposals have been submitted for 15 parish areas, the number of parishes affected by those proposals is greater. This is because some of the submissions ask for boundaries with neighbouring parishes to be redrawn, while others propose mergers with neighbouring parishes.

The areas affected by the proposals include Daventry and the parishes of Boughton, Byfield, Brixworth, Creaton, Crick, Farthingstone, Great Oxendon, Guilsborough, Harlestone, Hollowell & Teeton, Kelmarsh, Kilsby, Lilbourne, Newnham, Norton, Overstone, Ravensthorpe, Spratton, Stowe IX Churches, Weedon Bec, Welton, West Haddon, Winwick and Yelvertoft.

Hard copies of the proposals and reply slips will also be made available in village shops and community buildings or can be requested by phoning 01327 302507.

New primary school welcomes first intake

Youngsters have been taking the first steps of their educational journey at Daventry’s new Monksmoor Park CE Primary School.

The Church of England school, which is run by The Diocese of Peterborough, welcomed its first pupils into Reception class in September.

It follows the completion of a £4.275 million project led by Daventry District Council and funded by contributions from Monksmoor’s housing developer Crest Nicholson, as part of its planning obligations on a site within the development.

The new building is a Sunesis Kenyes 1.5FE build, which provides a versatile, single-storey school. Built by Willmott Dixon Construction to high environmental standards, it includes a range of teaching spaces alongside general classrooms and school hall, as well as staff, welfare and administrative rooms and an outside learning area.

Councillor David James, Economic, Regeneration and Employment Portfolio Holder, said: “Improving local learning facilities is a priority for our Council so it is very pleasing to see this wonderful new school open its doors.

“This is an excellent educational facility that will serve both Monksmoor and the wider community for many years to come and I wish everyone involved all the very best on their exciting new journey.”

Club boosted by new facilities

Moulton Football Club has made a fantastic start to the football season with the opening of its new floodlit artificial 3G pitch.

Daventry District Council provided £375,000 of forward funding for the project, which will be repaid using developer contributions from housing developments which are being built in the area.

The project also benefited from a £499,000 grant from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund, which is delivered by the Football Foundation.

The new facilities will enable Moulton FC to double in size, taking the number of teams at the club up from 20 to 40. It will also benefit disabled footballers in the local area as Northampton Town Football in the Community Trust will use the site to deliver disability sessions.

For more information about the club visit www.moultonfc.co.uk
Reprieve for rural buses

Daventry District Council (DDC) has stepped in to rescue important rural bus routes which were set to come to an end this summer following the removal of their subsidy.

The Council has agreed to pay £30,000 to keep the route 59 from Welford to Market Harborough and the number 60 service from Northampton to Welford going up to the end of March 2019.

The number 60 service carries more than 28,000 passengers per year from a number of Daventry District villages including Welford, Naseby, Cold Ashby, Thornby, Guilsborough, Hollowell, Creaton, Spratton, The Bramptons and Brixworth, into Northampton.

The 59 service takes residents from Welford, Naseby, Clipston, Sibbertoft, Marston Trussell and East Farndon into Market Harborough.

Both were due to cease in July after Northamptonshire County Council decided to remove support for bus services county-wide as part of budget savings.

DDC’s temporary funding for the services will allow them to continue – on a slightly reduced timetable – until the end of March 2019, giving parish councils along the routes time to put in place long-term solutions, should they wish.

Councillor David James, Economic, Regeneration and Employment Portfolio Holder on Daventry District Council, said: “Bus services are vital to many people in our rural communities and these routes in particular were very well-used. “We are pleased to step in and offer this support, which will keep these important routes running while we work with the parishes concerned to find a permanent solution.”

Major planning document set to shape our district

People living and working in Daventry District have been having their say on a key strategic planning document for the area.

Daventry District Council (DDC) has been consulting on the proposed submission version of its Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2 – a significant planning policy document that will help shape local decision-making on future planning issues.

The Plan sets out where new homes and businesses could go, to best meet future need, as well as identifying areas which should be protected.

It takes forward an emerging draft version consulted on in December and January which followed an earlier ‘Issues and Options’ consultation in 2016.

The Plan is broadly similar to the emerging draft but has been further shaped with the help of public feedback given during that consultation.

This is the version that the Council intends to submit to the Secretary of State for an independent examination into whether it is sound and complies with all legal requirements. At this stage comments can only be made on the duty to co-operate, the Plan’s legal compliance, and the tests of soundness.

After the consultation has closed, the Council will consider the responses and submit the Plan to the Secretary of State for examination. It is anticipated that there will be a public examination into the Plan in spring 2019 and that adoption will follow later in that year.

The consultation started in August and runs until 4.30pm on Friday, 5 October 2018. People can find out more and have their say at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/localplan

People have been having their say on the Local Plan

Hard copies of the Plan, together with the response forms which must be used when commenting, are also available at all libraries in the District or at the Daventry District Council offices, in Lodge Road, Daventry.
Focus on

Government considering restructure of councils

A proposal to replace councils in Northamptonshire with two new unitary authorities has been submitted to the Government for consideration.

The submission has been made by seven councils in the county, including Daventry District Council (DDC), after the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asked for proposals to restructure local government in Northamptonshire.

It is the conclusion of a process initiated following Government inspector Max Caller’s investigation into finances at Northamptonshire County Council. He proposed in his Best Value Report that two new authorities be formed, one for the west of the county and one for the north and that these be in place by 2020.

The Secretary of State then wrote to the county’s eight local authorities inviting them to explore options for reform and to submit one proposal, stating that a range of options would not be accepted.

A joint public consultation was held this summer, focusing on the two-unitary model – the only option which met all of the Government’s criteria.

The proposal is for two unitary councils: West Northamptonshire, comprising the current area of Daventry District, Northampton and South Northamptonshire; and North Northamptonshire, comprising the current areas of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough.

It would replace the current two-tier system of eight councils – the county council and seven district/borough councils including Daventry District Council.

Councillor Chris Millar, Leader of Daventry District Council, said: “We are a well-run, ambitious and prudent council that has been reluctantly forced down this route as a result of the failings of others.

“We have responded to the Government’s request and join six other authorities in submitting this two-unitary proposal with a heavy heart, but we now need to put the history behind us. It is important that we move forward in the right way, engage in the process for change and influence it positively to ensure the best interests of our residents are always put first.”

The proposal has been agreed by DDC, South Northamptonshire Council, East Northamptonshire Council, Kettering Borough Council, Northampton Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council and Wellingborough Council. Corby Borough Council decided not to support the proposal.

It has now been submitted for consideration by the Government as it was not a requirement for all councils in the county to agree to it.

A response is expected from the Government in the Autumn and early discussions are being sought with Ministers to agree how the councils and the government can work together to ensure that the two new councils will be financially sustainable and provide high-quality services from the moment they are created in April 2020.

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A joint public consultation was held this summer, focusing on the two-unitary model – the only option which met all of the Government’s criteria.

The proposal is for two unitary councils: West Northamptonshire, comprising the current area of Daventry District, Northampton and South Northamptonshire; and North Northamptonshire, comprising the current areas of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough.

It would replace the current two-tier system of eight councils – the county council and seven district/borough councils including Daventry District Council.

Councillor Chris Millar, Leader of Daventry District Council, said: “We are a well-run, ambitious and prudent council that has been reluctantly forced down this route as a result of the failings of others.

“We have responded to the Government’s request and join six other authorities in submitting this two-unitary proposal with a heavy heart, but we now need to put the history behind us. It is important that we move forward in the right way, engage in the process for change and influence it positively to ensure the best interests of our residents are always put first.”

The proposal has been agreed by DDC, South Northamptonshire Council, East Northamptonshire Council, Kettering Borough Council, Northampton Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council and Wellingborough Council. Corby Borough Council decided not to support the proposal.

It has now been submitted for consideration by the Government as it was not a requirement for all councils in the county to agree to it.

A response is expected from the Government in the Autumn and early discussions are being sought with Ministers to agree how the councils and the government can work together to ensure that the two new councils will be financially sustainable and provide high-quality services from the moment they are created in April 2020.

Steps must be taken to address challenges

The councils worked with consultants ORS and PriceWaterHouseCoopers on the consultation process.

Feedback from the consultation showed that while there were differences of opinion across the county, with a strong preference among many respondents in the West for a three-unitary solution, ORS concluded that “the government requirement for the proposal for two unitary councils to command “a good deal of local support as assessed in the round across the whole area of the proposal” is more than satisfied”.

PricewaterhouseCoopers’ evaluation of this option concluded that:

“The analysis in this report has identified that whilst local government reorganisation can achieve a level of cost savings, in itself, it will not lead to the creation of two new sustainable unitary local authorities. Indeed, it potentially risks only redistributing the existing financial instability across two new organisations, unless steps are taken to address the existing cost and income challenges.”
Marking centenary of war’s end

A range of local organisations have come together to put on events and activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

A number of commemorative benches are being installed in public places across the District after parish councils took up Daventry District Council’s (DDC) Memorial Benches offer, while poppies have also been blooming thanks to DDC’s Big Poppy Project.

Daventry & District Forum recently held a special First World War-themed tea dance, while Daventry’s Holy Cross Church hosted a Songs of Praise service featuring readings, popular songs and poetry from WW1.

People have been making hundreds of crocheted and knitted poppies which will form the silhouette of a First World War Soldier outside the Holy Cross as part of a project by Daventry Town Council.

And at Daventry Museum, a World War One Centenary Exhibition reflects on the end of the war and post-war Daventry, while its Empty Chair Project remembers the 114 soldiers from Daventry who lost their lives during the First World War.

A range of other events are also planned in the coming weeks in the lead-up to the centenary of the historic armistice of 11 November 1918, which ended four years of fighting.

Please look out for the poppy symbol next to the entries in our What’s On listings on page 15 to find out more or visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk/FirstWorldWarCentenary

Halloween

Halloween Spooktacular

Children are invited to join a ghoulishly good afternoon of activities at the free Halloween Spooktacular at Daventry Country Park.

With a Halloween fancy dress competition, Spooktacular trail with goodies, inflatable fun and much more, the popular annual event is sure to be a hit with families when it returns to the park on Sunday 28 October.

Activities are set to take place from around 1pm and all children must be accompanied by an adult during the event. It is advisable to wear warm clothing underneath the costumes as all of the activities take place outside.

Full details, including timings, will be published at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/countrypark as the event nears.

Join activity camps

Everyone Active is offering a range of Activity Camps at the Daventry Leisure Centre during the autumn half term.

The camps run from 22 to 26 October and offer sports, team challenges and competitions delivered by qualified sports leader professionals. They run from 10am-3pm and cost £14 per day.

Children can also be booked into the Breakfast Club which offers a nutritious breakfast plus games and activities before the camp, and the Evening Connections Club offering games and activities after the camp, at a cost of £2.40 per child, per session.

For more information and to make a booking, phone Daventry Leisure Centre on 01327 871144 or visit www.everyoneactive.com/Daventry

Make new friends at Forum

Older people across Daventry District are invited to join the Daventry District Forum.

The group, which was formerly known as the Daventry & District Over 50s forum, works with local organisations to improve the quality of life for older people in the area.

It also holds regular free events, giving people an opportunity to make new friends, have fun, and gain access to services and information.

The group will be attending the Everybody Needs Good Neighbours Annual Event at Moulton Community Centre on 1 October and will host a Christmas Party at the Saxon Suite at Daventry Leisure Centre from 2pm to 4pm on Thursday 6 December.

Find out more at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/DDF

If you would like to include forthcoming events in the District in Daventry Calling please email news@daventrydc.gov.uk

Please note that due to distribution schedules, some areas of the district may receive Daventry Calling later than the date of some featured events.

Discover more days out at lovedaventry.com/whats-on
What’s on this autumn

October 5, 6 & 7
Althorp Literary Festival featuring a range of guest speakers including novelists, comedians, historians, television personalities and actors. Visit www.spencerofalthorp.com for more.

October 6
Beetle Drive in Barby Village Hall from 7pm with all money raised going towards the Health Centre in Iganga, Uganda. More information on 01327 871377.

Nearly new sale at The Parker E-Act Academy in Ashby Road, Daventry from 10am-midday in aid of the National Childbirth Trust. Visit www.facebook.com/NCTDaventryandVillages

October 7
Silent Movie Night at All Saints Church in Flore featuring Charlie Chaplin’s Easy Street at 7.30pm followed by Buster Keaton’s Our Hospitality. Visit www.floreartsevents.com for more.

Apple Day at the Millennium Orchard in Barby (behind the tennis courts) celebrates all things apple from 2-4pm. Email catsabine@outlook.com for more details.

October 11-12
Sulby Open Gardens from 1-4pm on the Thursday and 11am-4pm on the Friday will feature plants and conserves for sale as well as apple produce. Entry is £4 per adult.

October 25
Beastly Monsters and Monstrous Beasts at Daventry Museum is a rip-roaring fun and interactive theatre event for the family from 5pm. Tickets are free but booking is essential on 01327 301246.

October 26
Bingo in Barby Village Hall from 7pm in aid of Barby Church Trust. Phone 01788 891968 for more.

October 28
Halloween Spooktacular at Daventry Country Park – see page 14 for details.

November 2
The Life of Edgar Mobbs – enjoy a talk on the life of the Northants sporting and military hero by his great nephew (also Edgar Mobbs) from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 on 01327 310945.

November 3-11
The Empty Chair Project is a display at Daventry Museum that remembers the 114 soldiers from Daventry who lost their lives during the First World War. Visit www.daventrymuseum.org.uk

November 10
The Daventry branch of the Diocesan Guild of Bellringers will be practising at Fawsley Church from 2.30-3.30pm and at Preston Capes Church from 3.30-4.30pm, followed with tea in the village hall and evening ringing at Byfield Church from 7-8.30pm. All welcome.

November 10-11
Memorial exhibition at Norton Village Hall to remember the 16 men from the village who lost their lives during the First World War. An exhibition showing memorabilia and artefacts will be open from 10.30am-4.30pm on both days and there will be a short service at the War Memorial at 11am on the Sunday.

November 11
Remembrance Day Parade hosted by Daventry Town Council at the War Memorial off Abbey Street at 10.50am, followed by a church service at Holy Cross. A total of 114 crosses, representing the soldiers from Daventry who fell, will be placed on Daventry’s War Memorial by children from local schools.

Be Brave and Come Home Safe – people are encouraged to dress in WW1-era costume for this interactive musical event at Daventry Community Centre. It runs from 3-5pm and tickets cost £8 (children £2). Visit www.facebook.com/TheWheelsOnDebussy for more.

The Daventry branch of the Diocesan Guild of Bellringers will be marking the centenary of the Armistice in 1918 with half-muffled ringing at Daventry’s Holy Cross.

Quiz Night at Barby Village Hall at 7.30pm. Phone 01788 891091 for more.

November 17
Budapest Café Orchestra performance at the Millennium Hall in Flore from 7.30pm. Visit www.floreartsevents.com for more.

November 28
Madness in Victorian Northamptonshire at Ravensthorpe Village Hall – a talk on a Victorian view of mental illness and how it influenced today’s thinking, with historian Dr Cathy Smith. Tickets cost £5 on 01604 770482.

Calendar of Council meetings

All the meetings listed right start at 6.15pm and take place at the civic offices in Lodge Road, Daventry. Visit www.daventrydc.gov.uk/meetings for more

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<td>Strategy Group</td>
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Discover more days out at lovedaventry.com/whats-on
WIN A FAMILY TRIP TO LAPLAND
when you enrol your child on to Everyone Active swimming lessons

Visit www.everyoneactive.com/Lapland

GB 18+. Prize draw, one entry per adult or child enrolled. Those already on Direct Debit or paid in full for lessons will be entered into draw. Valid email address required to enter. Closing date 16/12/2018. Participating centres only. Holiday: 2 adults & 2 children, B&B, date restrictions apply, domestic transfers excluded.