

SUMMER 2022



# Northumberland news

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JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

SUPPORTING UKRAINE

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Northumberland  
County Council

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**TACKLING INEQUALITIES REMAINS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR US AND WE'RE DOING A LOT OF WORK TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS.**



FOREWORD BY **GLEN SANDERSON**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

**I'm writing this in the middle of a busy and very exciting time for the county as we welcome the new businesses setting up here and the jobs which will come.**

With life beginning to return to normal, I know many of us are looking forward to The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, marking 70 years since the Coronation.

Northumberland has always known how to put on a good show, and we've a range of events happening up and down the county, from the Queen's Baton Relay through to the lighting of Jubilee Beacons, which will be extremely impressive.

Thanks to our special £70,000 Jubilee Fund, we've issued almost 200 grants to community groups to help them put on events in towns and villages and I'm sure they will be a lot of fun – while also giving us the opportunity to reflect on The Queen's decades of service.

Of course, 2022 has also brought many serious issues into focus, from the

winter storms which affected so many of us through to the terrible events in Ukraine.

It has been awful to watch what is happening in Ukraine, but I take heart from the fantastic response here in Northumberland – from people donating money and items through to communities taking refugees into their hearts and their homes. Thank you to all of you for your generosity.

And this is at a time where the cost of living is rising with many of our own residents struggling. Tackling inequalities remains a high priority for us and we're doing a lot of work to see what can be done to address these problems.

So, as we gear up for another busy holiday season in our towns, villages, countryside and coastline I hope this will continue to act as a springboard to our ongoing economic recovery.

I do hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer in our beautiful county of Northumberland.

### STAY INFORMED

Please enter the link below to sign up for updates on important local news and changes to council services: [nland.cc/weekly](https://nland.cc/weekly)



# COMMEMORATING THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



This year, Her Majesty, The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, commemorating 70 years of service.

The year of celebration will culminate in four days of public celebration on an extended Bank Holiday – **Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June.**

With Jubilee weekend fast approaching, communities across the county have been gearing up to celebrate this historic occasion in their own special way.

At the beginning of the year the council launched a £70k Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund offering small grants



to help communities with the cost of celebrating the event.

Dozens of communities right across Northumberland have applied for and have been awarded grants for a wide range of activities including street entertainment, contributing towards a Jubilee Beacon, hospitality or long-lasting commemorative schemes and planting projects.

On June 2 Platinum Jubilee Beacons will be lit in villages, towns and cities across the UK and Commonwealth. In Northumberland beacons will be lit in communities along the length of Hadrian's Wall with accompanying community celebrations including town criers,

civic dignitaries, local musicians, performers, food and drink.

The Jubilee provides a great opportunity for communities and all generations to come together, get involved, celebrate and make some treasured memories. Whatever you are doing – we hope you have a wonderful time!

To find out when, where and how to mark the Queen's Jubilee in Northumberland go to: **[www.greatnorthumberland.co.uk](http://www.greatnorthumberland.co.uk)**

Remember to share your celebrations with us by using the hashtag **#NlandHM70** in your social media posts





# QUEEN'S BATON RELAY COMES TO NORTHUMBERLAND

The international spotlight will be on Northumberland in July as the Queen's Baton Relay passes through the county on its international journey across the Commonwealth.

**On Friday July 15**, the baton will arrive in Blyth, heading up the county to Alnwick before continuing on its global journey, which will conclude at the Opening Ceremony of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games on 28 July.

Spectators are being encouraged to line the routes in the two Northumberland towns to give the baton bearers a very warm welcome.

## BLYTH BATON ROUTE

The baton relay is expected to start in Ridley Park in Blyth at 10.40am taking in a route along the Quayside and through the town arriving in the Market Place at 10.58am.



## ALNICK BATON ROUTE

The baton bearers will pick up a route starting in The Alnwick Garden at 2.07pm which will head through Bondgate Tower, into the centre of the town via Fenkle Street and on to Alnwick Castle.



## FACTS ABOUT THE BATON

- The relay was launched by The Queen at Buckingham Palace in October 2021.
- It visits all 72 nations and territories of the Commonwealth.
- It covers 140,000 kilometres.
- It carries a message from The Queen which is read out at the opening ceremony.
- It has hi-tech features included, such as a 360-degree camera, heart-rate monitors, atmospheric sensors and LED lighting.
- The lighting changes each time the Baton is exchanged by two people - a move which will highlight 'connections' after the COVID-19 pandemic limited human contact.
- Incorporated in the baton are 'lungs'. These are atmospheric sensors with laser technology which will collect data on environmental conditions wherever the Baton is in the world. The data will be used to analyse and promote awareness of air quality across the Commonwealth.

# PROVIDING MORE AFFORDABLE HOMES REMAINS A TOP PRIORITY

Improving the quantity and quality of affordable housing to help create more homes for rent and affordable home ownership, continues to be one of the council's top priorities.

Right: Local resident James receives the key to his new affordable home in Wooler from Councillors Colin Horncastle and Mark Mather.



The council is using a range of approaches to tackle the issue and help create more affordable housing in areas of identified housing need.

## HERE IS WHAT WE ARE DOING:

### Multi-million-pound investment

- The council has allocated £48.2m in its budget which will be used over the next five years to create more affordable housing.

### Working with housing developers and housing associations through the planning process

- Over the last five years, around 1,300 affordable homes have been secured

through the planning process. Of these, around 800 were affordable homes for rent, delivered by the council and partner housing associations. Around 180 were for shared ownership, and around 320 were available for purchase at a discount.

- In addition, there are about 190 affordable homes planned that the council will manage including sites in rural locations. We are also working on a number of schemes with housing associations which will deliver around 1,200 affordable homes for rent, shared ownership and rent to buy.

- The new Local Plan seeks to ensure that sufficient affordable homes continue to be provided to meet identified needs, with up to 30% of dwellings on most major sites being required to be affordable homes. While





a number of the sites allocated for housing in the Local Plan may support the delivery of affordable homes, additional land to meet local needs can be identified in neighbourhood plans.

- A number of neighbourhood plans along the Northumberland coast already restrict the occupation of new dwellings, so they can only be occupied as a 'principal residence'. A policy in the new Local Plan will extend this restriction to other parishes across the county where more than 20% of dwellings are not used as someone's main home.

### Helping local community schemes

- We're helping community led schemes to support the building of affordable housing. So far, we've provided £300k to support community organisations to develop their own housing and we have plans to help further schemes.

### Seeking grant funding

- We've secured an initial grant of over £630k through Homes

England's Affordable Homes Programme to support affordable housing developments and are in discussion with them to secure funding for future schemes.

- Officers are working hard to identify potential housing development sites, especially brownfield sites that have had buildings on them before and we are applying for Brownfield Housing Fund to support this.

### Bringing long-term empty homes back into use

- Since 2015 we've helped the owners of over 750 properties to bring long term empty properties back to use as much needed housing, mainly in the private rented sector. We've also brought 25 empty properties back into use as affordable housing through Homes England funding.

### Modernising our own council housing

- We're carrying out an ongoing programme of improvements to existing council houses and spend around £10 million each year installing new kitchens, bathrooms, roofs, doors, windows, energy efficient heating systems and insulation.

#### Leader of Northumberland County Council, Glen Sanderson:

"Too many people, but especially the young, are being forced to move away from the communities they grew up in because they have been priced out of the local housing market. This is a problem we are taking very seriously and working hard to redress using a range of approaches. We are also investing over £48 million to create more affordable housing, which underlines our absolute determination to make a difference.

"Our population is also dispersed over a large geographical area, and they have varying housing needs. The new housing will reflect this with homes designed for families, the elderly, single people and our most vulnerable residents.

"Every single affordable home can change a family's life."



# NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER IS HERE FOR EVERYONE

Working alongside amazing volunteers, local organisations, community groups and partners, Northumberland Communities Together helps co-ordinate and connect residents with the support and activities they're interested in.

Our aim is to keep people safe and well and to support communities to be strong, resilient and to have fun together.

## CAN WE HELP?

If you need support, you're not alone, please pick up



the phone, we'll listen.

Perhaps you're worried about feeling lonely or struggling with family pressures.

You may be concerned about a neighbour or someone you know.

Or you may simply want to call and ask us a question about how we are connecting people in their communities.

## DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

There's lots going on in our communities from holiday activities, coffee mornings, health walks, community theatre and learning workshops. You may want to tell us about where you live and what matters in your community. Do you have ideas that could connect people and bring them together? If you run a support or community group, or you'd like to volunteer we'd love to hear from you.



Email [nct@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:nct@northumberland.gov.uk) or call **01670 620 015** between 9am - 6pm, seven days a week.

**Language translator:** If English is not your preferred language you can ask the advisor to use a translator.

**Type talk:** **01800 10845 600 6400**

If you are deaf or can't speak on the phone, contact us using Relay UK: **018001 01670 623 515** or Sign video: [northumberlandcc-cs.signvideo.net](http://northumberlandcc-cs.signvideo.net)

## POP ALONG TO CRAMLINGTON COMMUNITY HUB

If you live in or near Cramlington, why not pop along to the Community Building next door to Concordia Leisure Centre.

It's a space where locals can enjoy a coffee with friends in the Learning Café, meet others, take part in activities, or visit the library.

The hub offers a programme of events in partnership with the community.

It's a vibrant and welcoming space for people with wide ranging activities and workshops. This fantastic community space is open to everyone, so come along, say hello and get involved.







# FAMILIES SUPPORTED DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS



Families will continue to be supported during the summer break thanks to funding made available to help with food, fuel or school uniforms.

Parents or carers of children and young people who receive free school meals during term time are eligible to receive vouchers. These will be distributed electronically via their school, either through the local authority's Huggg scheme or their school's alternative voucher schemes.

Those who receive Huggg vouchers will be able to use them at local supermarkets.

Over 9,000 children and young people will benefit from the support and those eligible will have been communicated with via their school.

Families that are currently not eligible for the vouchers who would like to find out more about other support available to them and their children this summer or beyond should contact Northumberland Communities Together to find out more.

Call **01670 620 015** 9am-6pm, or email **nct@northumberland.gov.uk** to find out more.

[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)



## HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

We know the school holidays can sometimes be hard.

We're running activities for children, young people and families to meet friends, learn new skills, eat some delicious meals and make memories to cherish forever.

There will be some fantastic experiences on offer including visits to Northumberland Zoo, Alnwick Gardens, clip and climb, swimming and movie days, all making for an action-packed holiday.

If you think your children might benefit from the holiday activities and you would like

to find out what is running in your area over the summer holidays, please contact the Northumberland Communities Together Response Hub on:

**01670 620 015** 9am-6pm,  
7 days a week or email:  
**nct@northumberland.gov.uk**  
to find out more.





## STEP-UP TO BEAT COVID!

Behaviours like wearing a mask and social distancing aren't mandatory anymore - but that doesn't mean they don't help.

Even when we don't have to follow any rules, we can still do what's right, and help to prevent the spread of the virus in our own communities. We can all still look out for our friends, colleagues, and family, by masking up, and getting vaccinated. Not because we have to, just because we know it can help to beat COVID.

## WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE INEQUALITIES IN NORTHUMBERLAND

A special task group has been set up to tackle inequalities in Northumberland, after the Covid pandemic brought the issue into sharp focus.

The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age are the most important factors in determining good health.

Poverty, poor quality housing, low pay or unstable work all impact on people's physical and mental health and ultimately life expectancy.

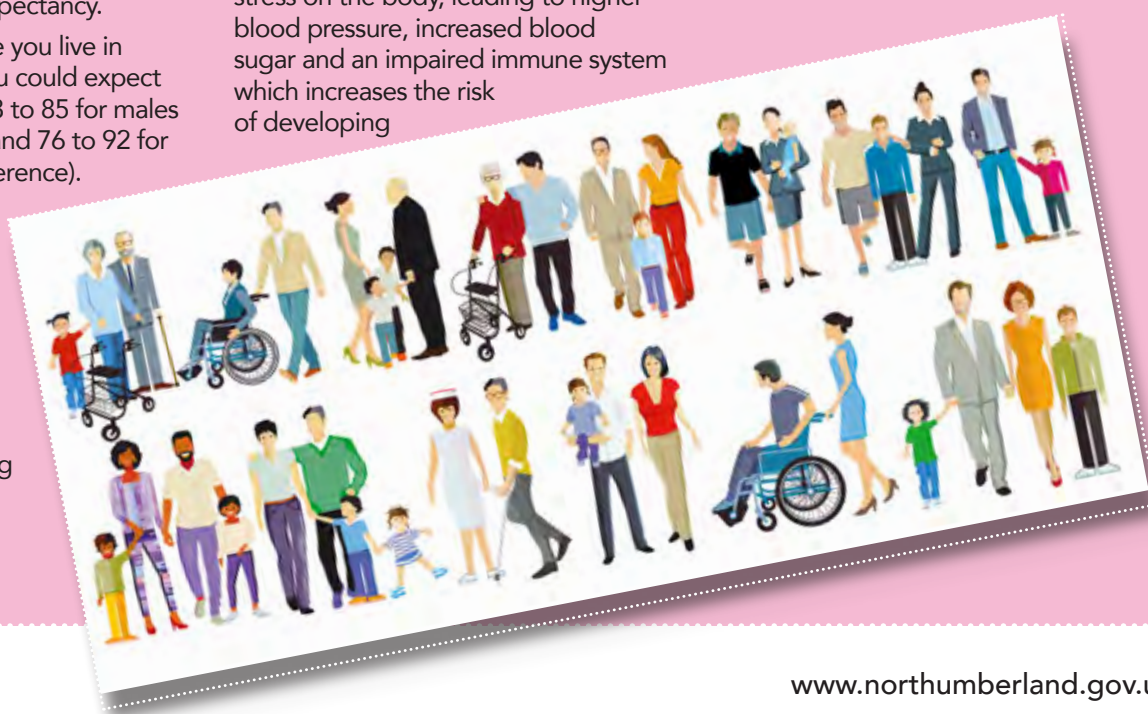
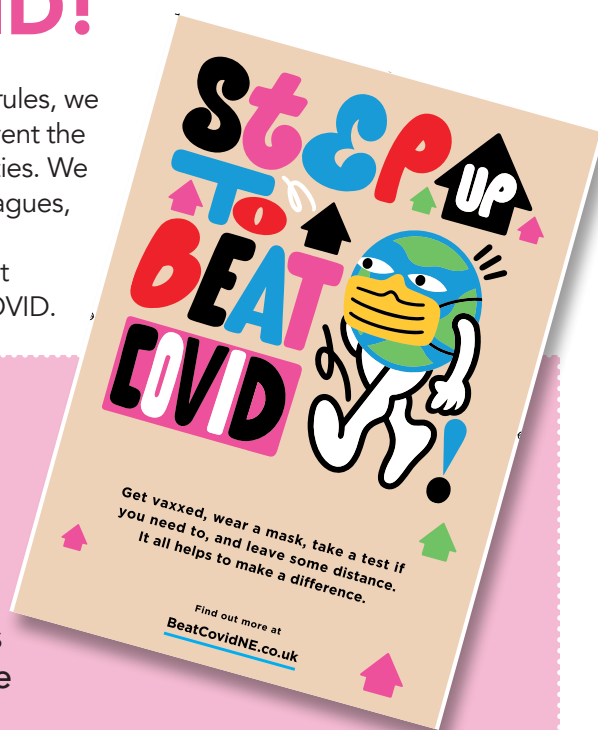
Depending on where you live in Northumberland, you could expect to live to between 73 to 85 for males (12-year difference) and 76 to 92 for females (16-year difference).

A healthy Northumberland needs the right building blocks, such as stable jobs, good pay, good quality housing and education. For some people those building blocks have become weakened and are missing altogether.

For example, having good quality, stable and decently paid employment is a good example of one of these building blocks. Unsafe working conditions, low pay and long hours mean it is more difficult to cook well and exercise, but also creates chronic stress on the body, leading to higher blood pressure, increased blood sugar and an impaired immune system which increases the risk of developing

illnesses like heart disease and cancer.

The task group is now working together to develop a county-wide approach to help reduce these variations and reduce the gap in healthy life expectancy, to build a stronger, healthier Northumberland.







# LATEST COVID-19 ADVICE

## What should I do if I feel unwell?

The latest Government guidance says we should all try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

You can go back to your normal activities, jobs or schooling when you feel better or do not have a high temperature.

## COVID testing

The Government is no longer providing free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.

If you still want to get tested for COVID-19 and you're not eligible for a free NHS test, you must pay for a test yourself. You can buy a test from some pharmacies and retailers, in person or online.

**Free COVID-19 testing will be available for people with symptoms if they are:**

- Patients in hospital, where a PCR test is required for their care.
- People who are eligible because they are at higher risk of getting seriously ill from the virus.
- People living or working in some high risk settings, such as care homes, the NHS, hospices and prisons.



## FREE SUMMER WALKS TO STEP-UP YOUR HEALTH

Free health walks are taking place across the county to encourage more people to get out into the great outdoors and improve their health.

The walks are suitable for all levels of ability and take between half an hour and an hour and a half. All you have to do is turn up at one of the venues wearing sensible footwear and appropriate outdoor clothing and bring a drink if it is hot.

You'll have great company, trained walk leaders and safe walking routes to get you on your way to a healthier life.

Active Northumberland organise weekly health walks. For full details of their walks, times and distances go to: [nland.uk/walking](https://nland.uk/walking) or call **01670 620 200**

The council run health walks are listed on [nland.uk/Walk1](https://nland.uk/Walk1)

For further information, or if you would like to contact the Health Trainers with questions about the walks, please email: [healthtrainers@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:healthtrainers@northumberland.gov.uk) or call **01670 623 840**





# SHOP LOCAL, SHOP NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland has a wealth of small and independent artists, artisans and makers who sell their wares online as well as at markets and farmers' markets held across the region.

## WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

- Explore what is on your doorstep, you'll be surprised at what you find.
- Ask friends and family for vouchers for your favourite shop, restaurant, bookshop or hotel.
- Support local businesses on social media. Share; Like and Follow their posts and recommend them to others.

• Instead of using an online giant retailer, look around and see if any local businesses also offer online shops and deliveries.

• Support your local farmer or farm shop when planning meals, days out or family picnics.

To find out more go to  
[www.discoverourland.co.uk/shoplocal](http://www.discoverourland.co.uk/shoplocal)

They sell everything from delicious homemade delights such as ice cream, cheese and jams to Northumberland inspired crafts and gifts.

Over the past year, Our Shop Local campaign has been highlighting some of the amazing businesses in Northumberland from butchers to clothing brands and bakers to jewellers.

Local businesses need our support more than ever to ensure our independent retailers, high streets and market towns continue to prosper.

If every adult in Northumberland spent just £5 per week in their local independent shops, it would be worth over £62 million to the local economy every year.

With hundreds of independent retailers in Northumberland you'll be sure to find everything you need and more. Please support them whenever you can.



## Five reasons to shop local and how it benefits you and the world around you:

1. It's convenient.
2. It's better for the environment by helping reduce your carbon footprint.
3. You help support local businesses.
4. You invest in your community and economy.
5. It helps create demand for local jobs. As the business grows, so too will employment.



## JOIN THE FOLLOWING FACEBOOK GROUPS...

Search for: *"Northumberland, let's support"* to join the Facebook group *\*Northumberland, UK\*, Let's keep supporting local businesses!*

VISIT: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FOODANDDRINKNE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FOODANDDRINKNE)



# NORTHUMBERLAND'S SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

What is happening in Ukraine is both shocking and heart-breaking and the county council is committed to help where it possibly can in supporting those fleeing their homes in the Ukraine and seeking safety.



## HOMES FOR UKRAINE

An estimated four million people have fled for their lives out of Ukraine to escape the war and most of them are women and children.

**The UK Government is supporting two schemes to help Ukrainian refugees.**

- 1** The UK Visa Support Scheme for Ukrainian Nationals (Family Scheme) allows British nationals and people settled in the UK to bring family members here.
- 2** The Local Sponsorship Scheme will allow sponsors, such as communities, private sponsors or local authorities, to bring those forced to flee Ukraine to the UK and the Home Office will grant visas.

To date, in Northumberland, over 100 local sponsors have been matched with Ukrainian refugee families.

We have an experienced Asylum Seeker and Refugee Team comprising eight Resettlement Officers, skilled in supporting the integration of refugees into life in the UK and working with those who have experienced war and trauma. This team will be helping to support Ukrainian refugees who arrive in the county.

FURTHER DETAILS CAN BE FOUND AT: [NLAND.CC/UKRAINE](http://NLAND.CC/UKRAINE)

## KIND DONATIONS OF 130 TONNES OF AID

**When the war began, we set up collection points across the county so local residents could drop off donations to help Ukraine.**

We were inundated with first aid kits, personal hygiene products, baby items including milk powder and nappies, tinned and dried food, clothing, warm blankets and sleeping bags.

These were all taken to a central warehouse in Northumberland where staff and volunteers sorted, packed and prepared 434 pallets

ready for dispatch to Poland and on to Ukraine. These donations equated to approximately 130 tonnes of aid.

Many other communities sorted their own collections, while others made monetary donations to organisations supporting the relief effort.

It was a fantastic team effort. As you would expect, the response was quite extraordinary – our generous residents did Northumberland proud.

## DONATIONS OF FIRE APPLIANCES

**The county council donated two older fire appliances to help support the Ukrainian Fire Service.**

They were driven over to Poland by members of our fire crew in March who joined a convoy of over 20 other fire vehicles from around the country, to be handed over to authorities which would deploy them into Ukraine.

These supplies were urgently needed by Ukrainian firefighters who are on the frontline to tackle fires and other emergencies.





# COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT APPRENTICE? FIND OUT MORE & APPLY



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Apprenticeships



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**CATHY -  
BUSINESS ADMIN**



**NATHAN - HGV**



**MIAMH - HEALTH &  
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email

[carerecruitment@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:carerecruitment@northumberland.gov.uk)

[www.careforlife.org.uk](http://www.careforlife.org.uk)



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# COULD YOU BE A MALE FOSTER CARER?

Northumberland is calling for more men to come forward to be foster carers.

Male foster carers provide an often missing yet vital positive role model for both boys and girls and can also have a restorative effect on many fostered children and young people. Three male foster carers tell us about their role.

## ALAN Foster Carer

Alan, who has fostered since 2015, told us:

"I took the opportunity to get into fostering when offered voluntary redundancy. I love being a parent, so this was a perfect job role.

"The inspiration from the children and the satisfaction of knowing that you truly are making a difference to a young person's life keeps you doing this job day after day and year after year."

**Ebony who lives with Alan and his family said:**

"Alan has helped me feel part of the family, by giving me space and trust to make my own choices. He gives me boundaries, and I just feel really settled and safe here so I can get on with my life and school."



## DEAN AND JONATHAN Foster Carers

Jonathan and Dean have fostered since January:

"With long-term fostering, you view life differently, being exposed to new and challenging situations. You learn the skills you need and use them to teach and help a child – but then they teach you too!



"We are not our fostered child's parents, we help them stay in touch with their mum and are part of the family around them.

"Fostering is the best thing you could ever do."

## JAMES Foster Carer

James tells us about his experience:

"Men often don't come forward for fostering as caring is often considered more of a woman's role. My wife and daughter both encouraged me to take the first step.

"We have two young lads who have lived with us for four years. They are like 'chalk and cheese', so we learned to care for them in different ways. It's been great to encourage them with the team sports they never had the motivation to get involved with before. They are a big part of our family.

"We have our ups and downs but it's so rewarding, and we feel like we're an active part of our community."



For further information call **Caroline Matthews: 01670 62 62 62**

Email: [foster@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:foster@northumberland.gov.uk)

Visit [www.northumberland.gov.uk/foster](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/foster) to find out how you can use your current skills and life experience to help children in your community in different fostering roles.

## COME AND JOIN OUR IS FOSTERING FOR ME EVENTS

FRI 10TH JUNE 12.30PM ONLINE

WED 13TH JULY 6.00PM  
BERWICK SPORTS  
AND LEISURE CENTRE

Call, email or see  
our website for  
the booking link

## DO YOU LOOK AFTER SOMEONE?

It could be your husband, your wife, your parent, your grandparent, your child, your sibling or another relation. You might look after your partner, neighbour, or your friend. Carers can be any age, including children.

The person you look after might have a disability or physical health condition,

a mental health condition, a learning disability, addiction or substance misuse problems. The person you look after might need 24 hour support or might just need you to be there "just in case". Whoever you look after, if they couldn't manage without you then you are a carer.

**Carers Northumberland** are here to support you! Carers Northumberland offers a range of support including information and advice: help with finance and benefits, grants, lasting power of attorney, advice around social care, housing and more.

Carers Northumberland are here to support you. Register with us today:  
[www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk/register](http://www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk/register) or call **01670 320 025**

# ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

We are committed to taking action to reduce the impacts of climate change in Northumberland. We all have a role to play in both further reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging each other to take action to cut down our carbon footprint.



In order to achieve our goal of being carbon neutral by 2030, we are focusing on seven key Action Areas:



## COUNCIL POLICY

All new council decisions should be carbon neutral or reduce emissions unless there is significant justification in terms of other benefits. All available options will be explored.



## RENEWABLE ENERGY

We are continuing to support renewable technology that is economically feasible, environmentally advantageous and socially acceptable.



## ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

We are working with residents, communities, businesses, charities, visitors and staff to inform, consult, empower and evaluate on the impacts of climate change.



## NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED CARBON CAPTURE

We are progressing towards land use which enhances and safeguards carbon capture from the atmosphere and protects biodiversity.



## HEATING EXISTING AND NEW BUILDINGS

We are supporting the installation of renewable and low-carbon heat sources in rural areas as well as helping eligible residents access funding support.



## REDUCING WASTE

We aim to keep materials in operation and productive for as long as possible. We want to help open new opportunities for businesses and consumers to use sustainable goods and services.



## TRANSPORT

Wherever possible, we are helping transport to become low carbon, protecting local air quality and reducing noise.



## PLANTING MORE TREES IN NORTHUMBERLAND

April is the end of tree planting season and the Great North Forest team has been working hard to get new tree saplings into the ground.

With the help of local residents and volunteers, 2,400 trees have been planted

in total across Meggie's Burn (Blyth) and Valley Park (Cramlington), which will support wildlife and help Northumberland protect the climate.

The guards around these young trees keep them warm and moisture levels steady. They also protect the trees from wildlife. When the young woodland is ready to be revealed, the guards and canes will be collected

by the team. A small community orchard has also been established at Seghill with apple and wild cherry trees. Community orchards provide all the benefits of tree planting with additional benefits of blossom and fruit for wildlife.

If you would like to see more trees in your area, chat to your Parish Council and let them know your views.

TO GET INVOLVED IN PLANTING DAYS, EMAIL: [ENQUIRIES.FOREST@NORTHUMBERLAND.GOV.UK](mailto:ENQUIRIES.FOREST@NORTHUMBERLAND.GOV.UK)





## ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS FOR NORTHUMBERLAND

Road transport is the single biggest contributor to emissions in the county, accounting for 36% of CO<sub>2</sub>.

To support our goal of being carbon neutral by 2030, we are working to install new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points across the county. The introduction of the charging points is part of a pilot scheme to

overcome barriers that are preventing residents in the county, who park their cars on the street, from using electric vehicles as a greener alternative to diesel or petrol. **The charging points are being installed at:**

### ALNWICK

Four points on Clayport Street outside Westgate House.

### ASHINGTON

Four points on the corner of Poplar Street and First Avenue.

### BELLINGHAM

Four points on the High Street next to the public toilets.



### BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

Four points in Parade Car Park.

### CORBRIDGE

Four points on Main Street parking bays, on the left when entering the village.

### FELTON

Four points on Main Street outside the surgery.

### HALTWHISTLE

Four points on Westgate opposite the Co-op Funeral Care.

The council is working with electric vehicle charging solutions experts Connected Kerb to install the on-street charge points, which will allow up to 28 cars to charge at once.

The Office of Zero Emission Vehicles has granted the council £115k worth of funding which will cover 75% of

the project costs. The council will pay the remaining costs.

Charging takes between five and seven hours at the cost of 35p per KWh - the same rate as other Northumberland County Council charge-points.

## WARMER HOMES SCHEME

As energy prices continue to rise, we understand that fuel poverty will affect more of our residents. In response to this, we are helping eligible homeowners in Northumberland make energy-saving improvements to their buildings which will also improve home comfort and affordability.

**Through Government funding we are helping to install:**

- Heating controls
- Insulation for walls and lofts
- Heating measures, such as air source heat pumps
- Renewable energy generation, such as solar panels

**To be eligible homeowners must meet both of the following criteria:**

If your home has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D, E, F or G. If your property does not currently have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) an EPC survey can be undertaken as part of the home survey.

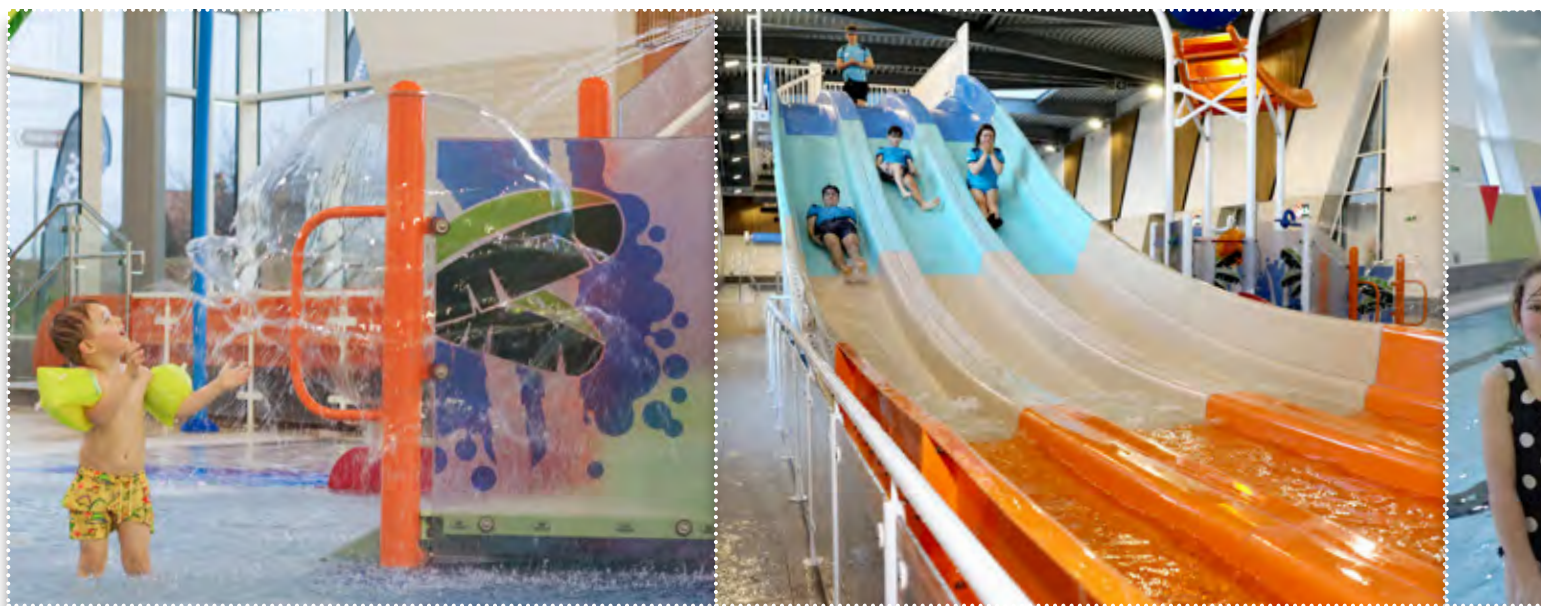
Your household income is less than £30,000 or someone living in your home receives benefits including Universal Credit, Income Support and Disability Allowance, or the occupants are assessed as at risk of fuel poverty.

Private landlords can also apply, however the maximum fundable by Warmer Homes for landlord properties is 66%.

Find out more at:  
**[nland.uk/warmerhomes](http://nland.uk/warmerhomes)**



TO FIND YOUR NEAREST EV CHARGING POINT [WWW.ZAP-MAP.COM](http://WWW.ZAP-MAP.COM)



## DOORS OPEN ON BERWICK'S FLAGSHIP NEW LEISURE CENTRE

The doors are now open on the first phase of Berwick's flagship new leisure centre.

The fantastic £22.6m facility, funded by Northumberland County Council and run by Active Northumberland provides state-of-the-art facilities and a whole new customer experience for all ages of the local community.

The centre is being built in two phases and it is the biggest phase, Phase 1, which opened to the public in February.

### Here's what's new:

- Brand new state of the art gym and functional training area.
- Three fitness studios including cycling studio with Technogym bikes.
- Five-lane, 25 metre swimming pool.
- Learner pool with moveable floor.
- Leisure water area including race slides and aqua play experience.
- The Hive Café.
- Children's softplay.

- Tranquillity Spa Experience with a sauna, steam room, experience shower and spa pool.

- Indoor bowling green.

- New changing facilities throughout.

Phase 2 will see the creation of a new four-court sports hall which will be ready by September 2022. During the construction of Phase 2, customers will still be able to access the current sports hall.

## NEWBIGGIN SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

Work is also progressing on a £1.9m pound scheme to refurbish and revitalise Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre with work expected to be complete in summer 2022.

The ground floor gym area is being refurbished and reconfigured to provide a dedicated cycling studio while the first floor is being converted into a new gym. The three squash courts and viewing gallery are being refurbished and the six-court sports hall upgraded.

The centre has two external full sized football pitches that

are used by a number of local teams; Northumberland County Council has been working with AFC Newbiggin, local clubs and the Football Foundation to provide new and enhanced grass pitches to the rear of the centre.

As well as the sporting facilities, the centre will offer a vibrant community hub for social groups, activities and skills workshops. There will be a library area, a café and a welcoming social space for local people to access a range of services and support.





## MORPETH LEISURE CENTRE PROGRESS CONTINUES



The giant concrete pool tanks for the main pool and the learner pool were filled with water to test to ensure they are watertight.

**Work is progressing on Morpeth's fantastic new £21m leisure centre and community hub on Gas House Lane and this is still on schedule to complete in spring 2023.**

Once complete, the new county council funded leisure centre will be home to a six-lane swimming pool with spectator gallery, a learner pool, Tranquillity Spa facilities, and a four-court sports hall. There will also be a modern new gym and two fitness studios as well as a dedicated cycling studio, Hive Café area with both internal and external seating and children's softplay.

It will also incorporate a new community services hub which will see the town's library move back to its former home on Gas House Lane, a customer service centre and a new learning facility with classrooms for STEM learning.

## BLYTH SPORTS CENTRE £5 MILLION TRANSFORMATION COMPLETE

An exciting £5m scheme to completely transform and modernise Blyth Sports Centre is complete, and members of the public can now enjoy the fantastic new facilities and services within it.

Funded by Northumberland County Council, the work has taken place in three phases over the past two years.

### Here's what's new:

- A new state-of-the-art gym and fitness area.
- Cycling studio with Technogym bikes.
- New soft play and party room options.
- The Hive Café with access to wifi.
- Two new fitness studios.
- Refurbished swimming pool hall and changing rooms.
- Refurbished pool spectator area.
- Tranquillity Spa with a sauna, steam room, spa pool and experience shower.
- New changing rooms.
- A modern reception and retail area.





# INVESTING IN EDUCATION FOR ALL

Multi-million-pound investment in new schools and school improvements continues across Northumberland as the council's largest ever capital programme gathers pace.

Over £100m has been earmarked to enhance educational and sports facilities for generations of young people.

## IN THE NORTH

### BERWICK PARTNERSHIP:

Funding of £40m has been approved to transform school buildings and facilities in the Berwick Partnership, including a new home for Berwick Academy. A public consultation is set to get underway to make sure the funding creates a sustainable school system that is in the best interests of our young people. All updates for this project can be found at: [nland.cc/BerwickPartnership](http://nland.cc/BerwickPartnership)

**COQUET PARTNERSHIP:** £25.5m has been committed to capital investment in schools in the Coquet Partnership. Consultation is now being proposed to gather views on which school structure should be in place before investment is approved. All updates for this project can be found at: [nland.cc/CoquetPartnership](http://nland.cc/CoquetPartnership)



## IN CENTRAL NORTHUMBERLAND

### EMILY WILDING DAVISON SCHOOL, PONTELAND:

Atkinson House School will enter a new era when it moves into its new home on the site of the former Richard Coates Primary School in Ponteland and becomes the Emily Wilding Davison School. The 100-place, 11-18 co-educational SEND school with a primary designation of SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) will be ready to welcome pupils in September 2022. All updates for this project can be found at: [nland.cc/EWDSchool](http://nland.cc/EWDSchool)

## IN THE SOUTH EAST

### BEDLINGTON STATION PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Plans have been developed for a new purpose-built, state-of-the-art Early Years facility that will enhance provision for the local community.



### SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION:

The next steps have been approved for an innovative £40m carbon neutral super school for Astley High School and Whytrig Middle School in Seaton Delaval.

The new first-class facilities on a site in The Avenue, will allow all students to access facilities including science laboratories, art and design studios, sports pitches and a swimming pool that will also benefit the wider community.

Pioneering construction methods will also be used to create what will be the council's first carbon neutral school and support the council's agreed Climate Change Action Plan and its aspiration to move Northumberland to a carbon neutral position by 2030. All updates for this project can be found at: [nland.cc/SeatonValley](http://nland.cc/SeatonValley)

## ACROSS NORTHUMBERLAND

Plans have been developed to replace mobile classroom buildings with new modern teaching and nursery facilities at Felton C of E and Shilbottle Primary Schools; Amble and Red Row First Schools and Seaton Sluice Middle School.



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**Blyth**



**Berwick**



**Ponteland**





## WARMER WEATHER WILDFIRE WARNING

While the warmer weather is welcomed by most, it also unfortunately brings an increased risk of wildfires.

The county is enjoying a bumper year for tourism but the council and its partners is reminding residents and visitors to be aware of the dangers of campfires and barbecues leading to wildfires.

In the past 12 months, there have been around 120 fires relating to barbecues and campfires, as well as several wildfires which destroyed acres of woodland.

People are being reminded to respect

the Countryside Code, put out cigarettes carefully and avoid lighting fires and barbecues. Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Chief Fire Officer, Paul Hedley said: "Human error is by far the biggest cause of wildfires.

"Wildfires are a big problem because they cause considerable damage to our wildlife, natural environment and local communities. It can take many years for an area to recover.

"They also put significant pressure on the emergency services, particularly in remote areas that aren't easily accessible. We often need to send a large number of crews and fire engines to these incidents, which pulls resources away from other areas.

"Our message is clear. Please don't light barbecues, even disposable ones and don't bring fire pits or build small fires. Please don't risk it."

## WE NEED YOU!

Become an on-call firefighter and put some adventure in your life. Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service is recruiting on-call firefighters right across the county. Could you be one of them?



### What does it involve?

On-call firefighters are men and women who combine their day jobs or duties while being 'on call' for the fire service and from home, ready to respond to emergencies when they are needed.

A retained firefighter provides the same level of emergency service as their full-time colleagues, but on a part-time basis.

It's not just about jumping into a fire engine, blue lights flashing and sirens wailing making your way to a burning building. We go into our community and give safety advice, visit schools and make a real difference to people's lives. We also deal with all sorts of

other emergencies like road traffic collisions, floods and storms, chemical spillages, people and animals who are trapped. These are just some of what you'll be trained to respond to.

### Why should I join?

#### You will:

- Work shift patterns with the flexibility to maintain your primary employment.
- Develop new skills such as first aid, LGV driving and fire safety awareness.
- Develop confidence and skills in team working, management and leadership.
- Get paid.
- Get trained.
- Be performing an essential service for your community.
- Be part of a close-knit team.

### Pay

Retained firefighters receive an annual retaining fee as well as additional

payments for any training, incidents or community safety events they attend.

### Who can apply?

Men and women over the age of 18, living or working within eight minutes of a local fire station.

We want suitably skilled applicants from all ages, races, genders and backgrounds. We do have minimum requirements to be able to become an on-call firefighter, but as long as you can meet the standard, you'll become part of our amazing on-call teams who cover about 70% of Northumberland.

### We need you at the following stations:

- Allendale • Alnwick • Amble
- Belford • Bellingham • Berwick
- Haltwhistle • Hexham • Pegswood
- Ponteland • Prudhoe • Rothbury
- Seahouses • Wooler

Be an ambassador for Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service.

Be part of something great!

Email: [fire.recruitment@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:fire.recruitment@northumberland.gov.uk) or visit: [www.northumberlandfireandrescue.gov.uk](http://www.northumberlandfireandrescue.gov.uk)



# COMMUNITIES PREPARE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS



## WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING?

Neighbourhood planning gives communities the opportunity to shape how their area should grow and change in the future.

In Northumberland, the process must be led by town and parish councils. This community-led approach is grounded in the idea that local people are best placed to decide how their area should grow and change over time, and they should be given every opportunity to plan positively for the changes they want to see happen.

The process ends with a local referendum where everyone entitled to vote in the local area gets to cast their vote.

Neighbourhood planning cannot be used as a way of blocking development

completely, but it can be used as a way for local people to give greater protection to those things they cherish most such as important buildings, community facilities and open spaces.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING IN NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council has a dedicated Neighbourhood Planning Team to advise, support and help guide town and parish councils through the process.

Northumberland now has 18 neighbourhood plans which have formally been brought into force in many areas across the county and guide decision making.

This is done through 'plans' which set out policies to guide decisions on planning applications; and by

directly granting permission through 'orders' which allow new buildings and changes to existing buildings that communities want to support.

The plans we now have in Northumberland cover a wide range of topics from allocating land for housing development to protecting special open spaces and buildings and managing the expansion of second homes and holiday accommodation in our popular coastal areas.

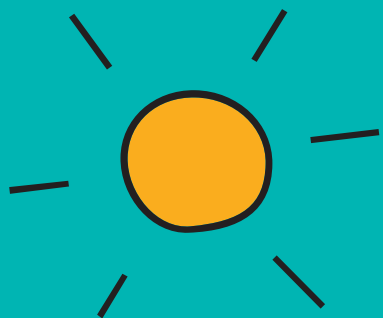
The team is continuing to support new projects and is now looking forward to helping our town and parish councils begin to review the existing older plans.

We are here to help and would love to hear from town and parish councils who are interested in taking up or expanding their use of neighbourhood planning powers.

For further information on Neighbourhood Plans in Northumberland visit:

**[WWW.NORTHUMBERLAND.GOV.UK/OURPLAN](http://WWW.NORTHUMBERLAND.GOV.UK/OURPLAN)**

Email the Neighbourhood Planning Team **[neighbourhoodplanning@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@northumberland.gov.uk)**



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## Are you looking to make a real difference in a child's life?

If you have room in your life, you could help children and young people through one or more types of foster care.

Your skills and experience with children is what counts to start fostering - we provide you with a strong network of support, resources, training, plus a regular income.

**Visit [www.northumberland.gov.uk/foster](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/foster) to find out more**

Contact the Northumberland Foster Care Team on 01670 62 62 62 for an informal chat or email [foster@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:foster@northumberland.gov.uk) to request a call back