

December 2023



# Levelling-Up North Northamptonshire Plan



## The Plan

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## Background

The need to understand left behind communities and develop plans nationally and locally to level up those areas are high on both national and local government agendas.

Following a Levelling Up Scrutiny review a number of priority, medium-term and longer-term priority recommendations, set out opposite, were approved by the Executive on 25 August 2022 to form the basis of a Levelling up Plan for the council and its partners.

The Executive also agreed that the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling-Up would provide political leadership for the plan.

Other recommendations set out in the final report will not be lost and officers will ensure these are distributed to service areas to consider inclusion in other transformation and improvement plans.

The full report is available on the following link:

[PowerPoint Presentation \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](https://modern.gov.co.uk)

### Priority recommendations

1. Communications and information sharing were highlighted as weaknesses at times and the council should engage with communities around the preferred ways that key information can be shared
2. There are opportunities to work closer with local businesses on community projects and issues and setting up a forum or networking event with key business to explore this could be achieved quickly
3. Consider how to improve street scene in left behind areas both through council services but also community partnership approaches including fund raising
4. Consider how to support and raise funds for additional bleed kit boxes in priority areas across North Northamptonshire

### Medium-term recommendations

1. The council should consider how to work with partners to produce guidance to enable small, medium & large organisations to develop ideas sufficiently to be ready to be included in bids when funding is available
2. The council could explore procuring a crowd funding platform to enable organisations to leverage other funding, sponsorship and support to get behind projects they wish to progress
3. Youth work was seen as a priority & the scrutiny review group recommend that a cost-benefit exercise could be undertaken to determine return on investment of strategically investing in local youth work
4. All partners should work together to review and update the current strategies and approaches to address county lines, drug dealing and knife crime

### Longer Term recommendations

1. The council will benefit from working closely with partners and communities to develop a community hub strategy that focuses on the needs of those communities rather than a one size fits all approach
2. Poor quality of housing was identified across the wards where this work was undertaken and a strategy that considers larger scale ambitious regeneration of some of these estates could be considered
3. Consider a longer term approach to monitor and update on outcomes and successes specifically related to this agenda in ways that engage our communities
4. Consider how to develop a strategy to improve street lighting and CCTV and how this could be piloted in Levelling up communities on the theme of “Safer Streets”



## Governance for the plan

### Full Council - June 2024

- **Annual progress report** (Q1 next municipal year after scrutiny commission report)
- **Lead Member:** Executive member for Housing, Communities and Levelling-Up
- **Lead Officer:** Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing

### Scrutiny Management Board – 29 March 2024

- **Annual Progress report** (End Q4)
- **Lead Member:** Executive member for Housing, Communities and Levelling-Up
- **Lead Officer:** Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing

### Executive – 18 January 2024 & June 2024 (tbc)

- **Bi-Annual Progress report** (End of Q2 and Q4)
- **Lead Member:** Executive member for Housing, Communities and Levelling-Up
- **Lead Officer:** Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing

### Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling-Up – 03 October 2023, 02 January 2024, 02 April 2024

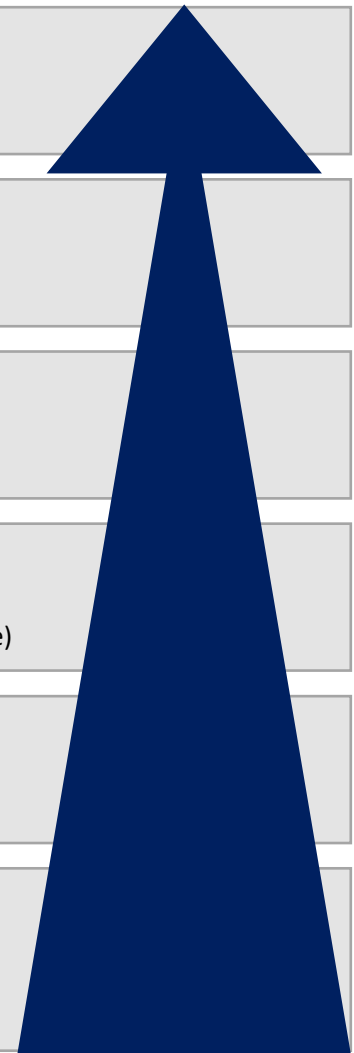
- **Quarterly Progress Report**
- **Lead Officer:** Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing
- **Purpose: Highlights & Options appraisals for approval** (these may need to go to CLT, Executive or Full Council dependent on value)

### Executive Advisory Panel – Prosperous Communities – 24 January 2024

- **Lead Member:** Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling-Up
- **Lead Officer:** Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing
- **Purpose:** Options appraisals for discussion and refinement (ad-hoc when required)

### Levelling Up Delivery Group - Monthly meetings commenced 26 June 2023

- **Monthly Light-touch highlight reports:** by priority Leads
- **Options appraisals:** for discussion and endorsement
- **Chair:** Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing





# Measuring our progress against the plan

	Recommendation	How we will know we have delivered
Priority	Communications and information sharing were highlighted as weaknesses at times and the council should engage with communities around the preferred ways that key information can be shared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Review of work already undertaken or taking place</li> <li>ii. Document capturing Comms &amp; engagement approaches produced</li> <li>iii. Gaps identified and action plan developed</li> <li>iv. An agreed approach to co-production has already been developed by Childrens Services- shared and adopted</li> <li>v. We will see evidence of these being implemented</li> </ul>
	There are opportunities to work closer with local businesses on community projects and issues and setting up a forum or networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Review of work already undertaken or taking place</li> <li>ii. Document business networks already in place</li> <li>iii. Action plan for greater connection between businesses and communities and align to new VCSE Infrastructure arrangements</li> <li>iv. Evidence of business and community collaboration will be seen</li> </ul>
	Consider how to improve street scene in left behind areas both through council services but also community partnership approaches including fund raising Consider how to support and raise funds for additional bleed kit boxes in priority areas across North Northamptonshire	
Medium-Term	The council should consider how to work with partners to produce guidance to enable small, medium & large organisations to develop ideas sufficiently to be ready to be included in bids when funding is available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Review of fundraising support and guidance already in place</li> <li>ii. Include delivery of recommendation in new VCSE Infrastructure contract arrangements</li> </ul>
	<p>The council could explore procuring a crowd funding platform to enable organisations to leverage other funding, sponsorship and support to get behind projects they wish to progress</p> <p>Youth work was seen as a priority &amp; the scrutiny review group recommend that a cost-benefit exercise could be undertaken to determine return on investment of strategically investing in local youth work</p> <p>All partners should work together to review and update the current strategies and approaches to address county lines, drug dealing and knife crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Review of crowd funding platforms in use and used by NN Organisations</li> <li>ii. Include delivery of recommendation in new VCSE Infrastructure contract arrangements</li> </ul>
Longer-Term	The council will benefit from working closely with partners and communities to develop a community hub strategy that focuses on the needs of those communities rather than a one size fits all approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Review of work already undertaken or taking place</li> <li>ii. Develop strategy and action plan</li> <li>iii. Implementation</li> </ul>
	Poor quality of housing was identified across the wards where this work was undertaken and a strategy that considers larger scale ambitious regeneration of some of these estates could be considered	
	Consider a longer-term approach to monitor and update on outcomes and successes specifically related to this agenda in ways that engage our communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Link to Comms and Engagement Plan above with focus on celebrating success</li> </ul>
	Consider how to develop a strategy to improve street lighting and CCTV and how this could be piloted in Levelling up communities on the theme of "Safer Streets"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Review the work Safer Streets Programme has already undertaken and identify any gaps</li> <li>ii. Feed into strategic review of CCTV provision</li> </ul>