

“Your Voice Matters”

Consultation and Engagement Strategy

Initial Engagement: Conversation Pack

Overview and Key Information

Why are we asking for views?

North Northamptonshire Council is developing its first Consultation and Engagement Strategy.

The strategy will set out how we listen to residents, communities, partners and stakeholders and how we involve people in shaping local services and decisions.

We want to make it easier for people to have their say and to make sure the strategy reflects what matters most to local people.

We know not everyone currently feels able or motivated to take part in consultation and engagement activities. We want to understand what works well, what could be improved and how we can make it easier for people from all communities to have their say.

We want to better understand people's experiences and expectations so we can:

- Make it easier to get involved
- Reach a wider range of people
- Use engagement methods that work for different communities
- Show people how their feedback influences decisions

This early engagement stage is focused on understanding:

- How residents, communities, partners and stakeholders would like to be involved in shaping local services,
- What makes it difficult for people to take part,
- What would encourage more people to participate in the future, and
- How we can improve the way we communicate and engage with communities

The feedback we receive will be used to develop a draft strategy. We will then share the draft strategy to provide another opportunity to give feedback before it is finalised as we formally consult on the strategy later in the year.

How can people share their views

People can:

- Complete an online or paper version of the survey
- Provide comments at face-to-face events
- Send comments by email to: YourVoiceMatters@northnorthants.gov.uk
- Send written comments to: Consultation and Engagement Team, North Northamptonshire Council, Sheerness House, Meadow Road, Kettering, NN16 8TL

Whilst an online survey will provide valuable feedback, we know surveys do not work for everyone.

This conversation pack provides you with information and materials to have conversations and collect views through your own community groups and networks to help us reach a wide range of voices and experiences.

The feedback collected through these conversations, alongside survey responses and other engagement activity, will be anonymised and used to develop a draft Consultation and Engagement Strategy. There will be a further opportunity to comment on the draft strategy before it is finalised during the consultation phase.

There are no right or wrong answers.

We want to hear both positive and negative experiences.

Timeframe

Overview and Key Information

- Early engagement 24 Aug - 4 Oct 2026
- Draft strategy development Oct – Nov 2026
- Public consultation 7 Dec 2026 - 31 Jan 2027
- Strategy adoption 16 Mar 2027

FAQs

Q) What do we mean by consultation and engagement?

A) Consultation and engagement include any activity where the Council asks for views, ideas or feedback. This could include surveys, workshops, focus groups, public meetings, online discussions, community events or informal conversations.

Q) Why is the Council developing a Consultation and Engagement Strategy?

A) To create a clear and consistent approach to involving residents, communities and stakeholders in shaping services and decisions.

Q) What will happen with the feedback?

A) Feedback will be analysed alongside survey responses and used to develop the draft strategy.

Q) Will people have another opportunity to comment?

A) Yes. A formal consultation will be undertaken on the draft strategy before it is finalised.

Q) Can people complete the survey instead?

A) Yes. We encourage people to complete the survey as well as participating in discussions where appropriate.