

County Council – 17 March 2026

Chair's Announcements

People

Luke Venni

It is with deep regret that the Chair reports the recent death of Luke Venni, Strategic HR Business Partner, in the Office of the Chief Executive. The Council's thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues at this very sad time.

Gen (Genevieve) Ray

It is also with deep regret that the Chair reports the recent death of Gen (Genevieve) Ray, Job Coach, Additional Needs Team, in the Children, Education and Families Directorate. The Council's thoughts are with her family, friends and colleagues at this very sad time.

Executive Director of Place and Sustainability

Following final interviews led by the members of the Staffing and Service Appeals Committee on 4 March 2026, members unanimously agreed to appoint Graeme Kane to the substantive position of Executive Director of Place and Sustainability. Graeme currently works for North Northamptonshire Council as Corporate Director – Highways, Waste, Regeneration and Growth, overseeing a portfolio of services including highways, transport, waste services, economic development, development management and planning policy.

During 2023-24, Graeme was the interim Executive Director of Place and Economy for North Northamptonshire and, prior to the formation of the new unitary council, held the same Executive Director role with the former Northamptonshire County Council. With previous experience in district, county and unitary authorities, Graeme has a strong leadership background with place-based services. In addition to this wide-ranging experience, Graeme has direct experience of leading councils through Local Government Reorganisation and in the formation of new unitary authorities.

Graeme is expected to join the authority in early June, and in the intervening period, Lee Harris will continue to fulfil the role of Executive Director of Place and Sustainability on an interim basis.

Service Developments

World Social Work Day

World Social Work Day will take place on 17 March, celebrating the vital contribution of social workers and the positive impact they have on individuals, families and communities. This year will focus on Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society, and highlights how social work brings people together across societies and systems to shape a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow.

National Measles Vaccination Campaign

The Public Health team is working to support the National Measles Vaccination Campaign. Whilst we don't currently have any outbreaks locally, the situation in North London demonstrates that we should be prepared for this possibility. The best way to protect the young and the vulnerable against dangerous complications from measles, is to make sure they are vaccinated. Missed measles vaccination can be caught up for free by contacting your GP, whatever the age of the child.

Messages

Meeting to discuss Covid-19 National Day of Reflection

The Chair met with Chief Executive, Dr Stephen Moir and Head of Comms, Matthew Hall to discuss Covid National Day of Reflection.

Ukraine Flag Raising

The Chair raised the Ukraine flag to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine in 2022 accompanied by Deputy Lieutenant, Mr Chris Parkhouse DL, Chief Executive, Dr Stephen Moir and other Cambridgeshire County colleagues at New Shire Hall.

St David's Day Flag Raising

The Chair raised the St David's Day Flag accompanied by Deputy Lieutenant, Mr Chris Parkhouse DL, Chief Executive, Dr Stephen Moir and other Cambridgeshire County colleagues at New Shire Hall.

Huntingdon's Pancake Flipathon

The Vice-Chair attended Huntingdon Town Council's annual pancake flipathon on the Market Square in Huntingdon and won the first place medal.

Covid-19 National Day of Reflection

The Chair marked the Covid-19 National Day of Reflection with pupils from Fulbourn primary school at Memory Wood, Fulbourn, to reflect on the pandemics' impact and remember the resilience shown by all those across Cambridgeshire.

Spotlight Awards

The Chair attended our Cambridgeshire County Council Spotlight Awards at The Cambridge Belfry and announced the Members Choice Awards and the Special Recognition Awards alongside Dr Stephen Moir and Leader of the Council, Councillor Lucy Nethsingha.

Community Multi-Cultural Iftar

The Chair attended the Community Multi-Cultural Iftar in the Guildhall, Cambridge. This was a special event designed to bring together people from diverse backgrounds, cultures and faiths in the spirit of unity and understanding during the holy month of Ramadan.

The Formal Installation of the Chancellor in the Senate-House

The Chair attended the formal installation of the new Chancellor of Cambridge, Chancellor Lord Smith at the Congregation in the Senate-House. Mrs Julie Spence OBE CStJ QPM, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, was also in attendance.

Citizenship Ceremonies

The Chair attended 6 Citizenship Ceremonies at New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald.