



# COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

## Active and healthy counties:

Encouraging, supporting  
and enabling residents to  
live healthy lives



# About County Spotlight

At the County Councils Network (CCN) one of our core objectives is to share the innovative work our councils are doing on a daily basis to provide vital frontline services, support local economies, and create thriving communities.

This regular publication seeks to shine the spotlight on recent best practice and innovative solutions being put forward by our member councils across a range of different policy areas. Alongside this, it provides an update on the national policy landscape and commentary from our lead members and strategic partners.

**To find out more about future themes, or to recommend a case study, please contact [ian.burbidge@local.gov.uk](mailto:ian.burbidge@local.gov.uk).**

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# CCN View



As the health and social care spokesperson for the County Councils Network, I am acutely aware of the impact physical activity has on the wider health system: from reducing pressure on reablement services to preventing hospital stays.

We often argue that prevention is the best form of cure, and if our residents are living healthy and active lives then this could go a long way to ensuring that health issues do not emerge later in life. Therefore, supporting residents to live healthy lives through sport, physical activity and leisure is crucial if we as local authorities want to improve the wellbeing of our communities.

CCN member councils have an important role in enabling our residents to get active. This is most obvious via leisure centres, which were hit hard with a loss of income during the pandemic. They are now being impacted by high energy costs with inflation running at double digits and we are doing all we can to ensure they can stay financially viable.

Equally, health interventions from our public health departments and creating the infrastructure for active travel are also major health determinants.

It is our stewardship of the health and wellbeing agenda that highlights the strong partnership working from CCN councils. Many of the network's unitary authorities provide leisure centres in tandem with the private or third sector, whilst several county councils work with their district partners to join up leisure and culture services under one roof.

The same applies to active travel infrastructure, where we have a track record of working with local charities and district councils, and in tackling obesity, where teaming up with local health partners helps us target resource more effectively.

In helping people to live longer and healthier, these vital services are arguably some of the most important we provide but they sometimes go under the radar.

We all know councils are in the era of doing more with less, but there are many brilliant examples in this report showcasing how CCN members are supporting active and healthy communities.

**Cllr Martin Tett**  
CCN Health and Social Care  
Spokesperson

**Engaging in sport, leisure and physical activity all have clear benefits for local people and county communities. On an individual level, they can have a positive impact on the health and mental wellbeing of people, whilst at a local authority level it plays a vital preventative role in the wider health system in reducing obesity and the potential for other health-related issues to flare up later in life.**

The County Councils Network's (CCN) members recognise this dual positive impact of their residents living healthy and active lives; and as leaders of place and population health in their areas, they have a vital role in enabling local people easily access, leisure, sport, and physical activity opportunities and facilities.

Although the most obvious example of this is leisure centres which house gyms and swimming pools, enabling people to live active lives. Boosting the health of local areas also encompasses country parks, active travel infrastructure, and public health initiatives which encourage people to make healthier choices. In two-tier local authority areas, leisure centres are the responsibility of district councils, the last three examples are the responsibility of county councils. Therefore, helping residents live healthy and active lives is a joint endeavour from both tiers.

CCN's member councils have delivered these services in an era of core funding reductions and rising demand for

statutory care services squeezing the budgets for non-statutory services such as leisure, sport and wellbeing interventions. The Coronavirus pandemic also had a significant impact: not only did it severely restrict opportunities for people to be active but it also reduced the financial income that sustained leisure facilities, with many not yet recovering to pre-pandemic levels.

Against this backdrop, adult obesity rates in county areas have surged over the last seven years, with 1.1m more people overweight or obese in 2022 compared to 2015.<sup>1</sup>

CCN member councils account for 58% of the entire increase of overweight and obese adults in England. In total, 65% of adults in CCN members' areas were classed as either obese or overweight in 2022, a 3.1% increase on 2015.

Urban areas have seen smaller increases. Councils in London saw a 0.8% increase (118,000 people) over the same time period and metropolitan boroughs saw a 2.9% increase (373,000 people).

For children, it is a mixed picture. County areas had the lowest percentage of reception-age children who are either overweight or living with obesity is 21.5% in 2021-22, down from 22.1% in 2016/17 and lower than the percentage in metropolitan borough areas (32.8%) and London boroughs (21.8%).<sup>2</sup>

[1] CCN analysis of Public Health England's data on the percentage of adults (aged over 18) classified as overweight or obese in each individual local authority area for 2021-22 and 2015-16.

[2] CCN analysis of National Child Measurement Programme data for 2021-22 and 2015-16 on NHS Digital

However, for year six children there has been a significant increase in that age cohort who are overweight or living with obesity in county areas, up from 31.5% in 2016-17 to 35% in 2021-22, though this is still a lower percentage than metropolitan boroughs (40.9%) and councils in London (38.9%).<sup>3</sup>

With rates in adults and for year 6 children increasing significantly over the past few years, CCN argues that its members are disadvantaged in their efforts to address obesity by the formula that awards public health funds.

This is because CCN members receive substantially less funding per-head from the Public Health Grant than other council types. This year, county local authorities will receive £45.74 per head from the government's grant, 44% less than what councils London receive on average (£81.17) and 25% less than the England average of £60.71.<sup>4</sup>

CCN is calling on the government to finally deliver a fairer share of public health funding for county areas, with the government pausing plans to introduce a new distribution formula in 2021. If the government's 'leading option' for a new formula had been introduced, this would have seen these areas' share of public health funding increase by an estimated 2.4% on average, with some county authorities seeing their share of funding increased by a quarter.

Despite these financial challenges, CCN members have managed to keep spend on tackling obesity static.

They spent £2.6m more in 2021-22 compared to 2015-16, up from £21.3m seven years ago. Their spend on child obesity, including the National Child Measurement Programme rose slightly from £10.9m in 2015/16 to £13.9m in 2020/21. However, if these councils were given a more proportionate share of public health funding they would have the ability to invest more.<sup>5</sup>

Despite this, CCN members' targeted efforts have had an impact. The latest Sport England Active Lives Survey finds the number of adults physically active has remained static in county areas between 2016 and 2022 at 61.9% whilst the numbers of active adults has reduced on average in other parts of the country.<sup>6</sup>

Coming out of the pandemic, councils are currently facing another extremely significant financial challenge to leisure and wellbeing services: inflation.

Inflation has been running at over 10% for almost twelve months now and CCN's recent report with the Society of County Treasurers (SCT) estimated that inflation will add £60.2m in costs to cultural and leisure services between 2022 and 2024 for SCT authorities, with these pressures seeing several leisure centres close down.<sup>7</sup>

The government responded with a £63m package for leisure centres in the March Budget, but with £40m of this ringfenced

[3] CCN analysis of National Child Measurement Programme data for 2021-22 and 2015-16 on NHS Digital

[4] Pixel Financial Management analysis of 2022-23 local government finance settlement

[5] Local authority revenue expenditure and financing England 2015-16 to 2021-22 individual local authority data outturn, Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities

[6] Sport England, Active Lives Survey, CCN analysis local authority data from 2016 to 2022

[7] CCN Analysis: County Budgets 2022-24: Counting The Costs of Inflation (pg 13)

for capital investments into energy efficiency. CCN remains concerned that this still leaves leisure centres vulnerable to financial failure to due skyrocketing electric costs and is calling on the government to keep this funding under review as long as inflation is running at a high level.<sup>8</sup>

The survey also found that public health services could face inflationary costs of £79.1m over the period, which will heavily impact on councils' ability to carry out the breadth of activity as highlighted in this County Spotlight.

With CCN members further disadvantaged by receiving significantly less funding per-head for public health, this leaves them particularly vulnerable and CCN urges the government to make available further funding for councils to address their inflationary costs in this

year's Local Government Finance Settlement. In the long term, the government must begin to address the historic underfunding of counties in the Fair Funding Review.

Despite the multiple financial challenges that have faced services in recent years, CCN members recognise the benefits of investing in leisure, physical activity, and encouraging healthy habits.

**As this County Spotlight illustrates, there are innovative examples across the country on how councils have delivered new services and approaches, from strong partnership working on leisure centres, campaigns to target older people to get more active, and launching healthy eating programmes and technology.**

## Adults overweight or obese 2015-22: by council area in England

Area	2015/16 % Overweight	2021/22 % Overweight	% Change	2015/16 Pop Overweight	2021/22 Pop Overweight	Number Change
CCN	61.8%	64.9%	+3.1%	12.5m	13.6m	+1.1m
Metropolitan Boroughs	65.5%	68.4%	+2.9%	6m	6.4m	+373,000
London	54.6%	55.4%	+0.8%	3.7m	3.8m	+118,700
Other Unitary	62.8%	65.8%	+3%	4.5m	4.9m	+372,500
<b>England</b>	<b>61.4%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>+2.6%</b>	<b>26.7m</b>	<b>28.6m</b>	<b>+1.9m</b>

# ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COUNTIES: IN NUMBERS

64.9%

of adults were obese or overweight in 2021, up from 61.8% in 2016



35%

of Year 6-age children were obese or overweight in 2021 up from 31.5% in 2017



21.5%

of Reception-age children overweight in 2022, down from 22.% in 2017



61.9%

of adults who are active: this percentage has remained static from 2016



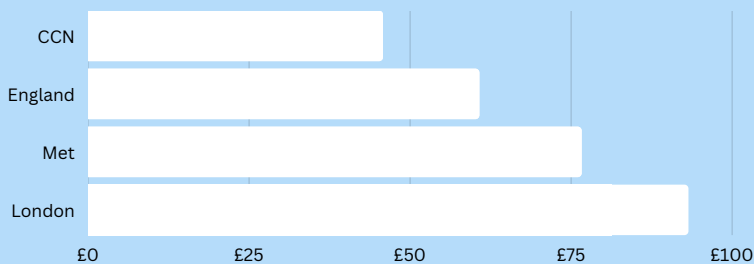
£24.4m

is what CCN members spent on obesity services in 2021, up from £20m in 2016



£74m

is what CCN unitaries spent on capital funding for leisure centres in 2021, down from £92m in 2016



CCN members receive significantly less funding per-head (£45.74) than other parts of the country from the public health grant



# Theme 1:

## Investing & innovating in leisure services

Leisure centres not only help local residents live more healthy lifestyles and improve their wellbeing, but they also bring people together: from child swimming lessons, six-a-side football, or gym classes.

CCN's unitary members recognise the importance of investing in leisure and its preventive role in the wider health system: a more healthy local population means less healthcare needs for those people later in life.

As this County Spotlight shows, many are undertaking ambitious new-build or regeneration programmes, whilst others have used data and foresight tools to effectively gauge present and future needs to make decisions on future provision and investment.

In two-tier areas whilst leisure centres are the responsibility of district councils, increasingly county councils have had a more prominent role in the leisure sphere, working with local partners: whether it be joining culture and leisure services under one roof, or stepping in to save centres where providers or councils have been unable to continue.

However, the future for leisure centres across England looks challenging. Historically high inflation, soaring energy costs and the Coronavirus pandemic have combined to impact on centres' financial viability.

**Despite these challenges, the examples below show CCN's councils are investing in leisure services, innovating in targeting services, and working with local partners to co-locate services to improve usage and accessibility.**





# Northumberland County Council

## New leisure centre culmination of £65m investment

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A new £21m leisure centre in Morpeth, fully funded by Northumberland County Council, opened its doors in April and is the culmination of a £65m countywide investment programme by the local authority.

The venue will be run by Active Northumberland, which said it will transform the way sport and activity is provided in Morpeth. The facility includes a six-lane swimming pool, a smaller studio pool, a four-court sports hall, a gym, and three fitness studios.

The council says that it hopes that the venue becomes a community focal point. This is because the centre will also incorporate the town's library and a whole floor is dedicated to adult skills and learning, delivered by Northumberland Skills. The council's investment programme has included refurbishment of existing leisure centres in Hexham, Newbiggin and Blyth and build new centres in Ponteland, Berwick and Morpeth.

[Read more here](#)

# Worcestershire County Council

## Council steps in to help save popular leisure centre

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Worcestershire County Council has stepped in to save a much-loved community facility in Bromsgrove that was under the threat of closure by finding a new provider to run the venue.

The Ryland Centre contains a gym, athletics track, and the town's only sports hall, as well as being host to many physical activity clubs. However, it faced closure after Sandwell Borough Council withdrew from all leisure contracts with Sandwell Leisure Trust to establish a wholly-owned company – but this site was not in the company's plans.

Despite not having responsibility for leisure, the county council explored a number of options and agreed a new partnership with Bromsgrove School to take over its running from April ensuring that it remains open for the public and local sports teams.

[Read more here](#)



# Central Bedfordshire Council

## Using modelling to project future leisure need

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With the population in Central Bedfordshire estimated to grow by 40,000 extra people in little over the decade to 2035, the unitary authority undertook a spatial modelling exercise using Sport England's methodology to review current demand and what facilities will be needed because of population growth in 10 years' time and beyond.

The modelling undertaken resulted in the council adopting its Leisure Facilities Strategy in 2014 which was then reviewed and updated in 2021.

The model provided the evidence for the council to move forward with a programme of replacement and modernisation, starting with the construction of a new leisure centre in Flitwick in 2016 and the redevelopment of Dunstable Leisure Centre in 2019; both costing a total of £36m. More recently, the council has unveiled plans for a £25m leisure centre in Leighton Linlade.

[Read more here](#)

# Derbyshire County Council

## Combining culture and leisure under one roof

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Using county council services to support town centre renewal is not easy but Derbyshire County Council is doing just that through combining its regeneration programme and library strategy to drive up footfall and improve health and wellbeing.

Killamarsh Library has been relocated and placed at the heart of the newly-redeveloped, £1.9m Killamarsh Active Leisure Centre, with Derbyshire County Council working with North East Derbyshire Council to make the move a reality.

By combining both leisure and cultural facilities, the County Council says that co-location will help ensure library provision is more cost effective and the building more environmentally friendly. Mutual footfall into the premises could encourage more people to take up healthier lifestyles and the library is already receiving more visitors since it re-opened in October 2022.

[Read more here](#)



# East Riding of Yorkshire Council

## Tackling climate change and encouraging leisure

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East Riding of Yorkshire Council has combined climate action with sports and leisure by installing the area's first-ever solar carport at a leisure centre.

The solar carport at Driffield Leisure provides shelter for vehicles parking at the venue whilst generating electricity from the sun. It will reduce the site's carbon emissions by 9 tonnes and its electricity bills by £20,000 per year.

Importantly, it will also provide electric vehicle (EV) charging points, encouraging people to visit the centre to boost their health and live active lives. Based in a rural area, it aims to reduce the anxiety EV drivers feel about travelling long distances without a guaranteed charge-point and encourage them to come to the leisure centre. The scheme cost £300,000 with half of this coming from a successful bid by the unitary council to the European Regional Development Fund.

[Read more here](#)



# Shropshire Council

## Thousands try county's leisure centres for free

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Shropshire Council's yearly 'Big Open Weekend' at its leisure centres aim to incentivise people into taking up a more active and healthier lifestyle.

The council's 2023 event in March was a record breaker, as thousands of visitors tried out four of Shropshire Council's owned facilities for free in Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Market Drayton – 2,000 more than 2022's numbers.

Over the past year, the council has invested in a host of improvements at the centres, ranging from a new fitness studio to new gym equipment, in response to public feedback and meeting current and future need in the county. The four facilities are operated by the Shropshire Community Leisure Trust in partnership with Serco, on behalf of Shropshire Council.

[Read more here](#)

## Encouraging healthy lifestyles

It has been ten years since the transfer of public health functions from the NHS to councils, and addressing obesity is a key component of CCN members' drive to support healthier, happier, and more active communities.

Having these powers at the local authority level allows upper-tier councils to integrate them with other services such as social care, education and infrastructure to tackle poor health determinates.

This chapter illustrates some of the innovative work CCN members are undertaking in addressing obesity, with the rate of overweight people in all age ranges bar reception-age children rising over the past few years. Recognising that early intervention is key, CCN councils put forward varied initiatives to address or prevent childhood obesity, such as running targeted child weight programmes and supporting families in deprived areas, to working with government on new food standards in schools.

County authorities also recognise that early intervention for older residents is a key preventative tool, particularly for the NHS. With over 55s some of the least active people, CCN members have tried to encourage that age cohort to become more active by incentivising them through targeted campaigns, whilst others have embraced emerging technologies and have made apps available to support residents in making healthy choices.

**From early intervention and weight-loss support for both children and older people to working with charities to target help to deprived areas, CCN member councils understand the significant preventative role of healthy and active lives.**



# Oxfordshire County Council

## Targeting healthy choices support to young people

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A new child weight management programme in Oxfordshire aims to help families make healthier lifestyle choices.

Gloji Energy is run by Achieve Oxfordshire and is a 12-week programme for four to 12-year olds, free for those who meet the criteria. Funded by Oxfordshire County Council, the initiative has targeted deprived areas within the county where food poverty and child obesity are particular challenges.

The programme provides free one to one and group support looking at health, nutrition, movement, and mental health. It also provides fun activities for children, while parents and carers will also access expert tips and advice on food, portions, snacking and self-esteem. More broadly, Achieve Oxfordshire offers adults and children a range of free programmes to help with weight loss and healthier eating.

[Read more here](#)

# West Sussex County Council

## New app to support adults in losing weight

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A new app to support people to lose weight has been launched in West Sussex, and is free to local residents and those who work in the area.

West Sussex County Council's public health department is funding the new Gro Health app in response to growing numbers of people who are becoming overweight in the county, with the percentage of overweight or obese adults increasing from 61.6% in 2019/20 to 63.8% in 2020/21.

It is the first time people in the county have been offered free access to a digital service without a GP referral and since its launch in January over 400 people have signed up. People are given help to sustain healthy habits through access to education, recipes, on-demand exercise classes and group and one-to-one coaching. In March, the council also launched its [Wellbeing Mobile Unit](#), which has visited neighbourhoods in Crawley to offer advice and support.

[Read more here](#)



# Hertfordshire County Council

## Thousands improve physical activity after campaign

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Hertfordshire County Council's 'Never too late to be active' campaign, launched last summer, achieved almost 3,500 sign ups: with three quarters of participants increasing their physical activity.

The 12-week behaviour change campaign targeted over-55s - encouraging them to get more active. Participants were given incentives such as a free seven-day pass at a local leisure centre, a free activity planner, and motivational texts and emails. It was advertised through a combination of online, in-person events, and print media.

In total, 60% of the sign-ups were over 55s. There was a significant increase in participants' weekly physical activity, going from an average of 162 minutes to 246 minutes, and from 174 minutes to 262 for over-55s specifically, as well as improvements in confidence and wellbeing.

[Read more here](#)



# Gloucestershire County Council

## £3.6m to target childhood obesity

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Gloucestershire County Council has committed £3.6m to target childhood obesity, which had an unprecedented increase in the county during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Rates of obesity in Reception aged children grew by 4.4 percent to 13.5 percent; and in Year 6 children grew by 2.9 percent to 21.1 percent in 2021 compared to pre-pandemic levels.

The county council approved investment of £450,000 per year and working in partnership with local communities this will give families access to a range of healthy lifestyle support and guidance, including a dedicated website. A more intensive family-based programme will also provide targeted face-to-face support that addresses food, physical activity and behaviour change strategies for around 500 families a year who are most at risk from obesity.

[Read more here](#)

# Nottinghamshire County Council

## Improving residents' access to affordable healthy food

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Fourteen community organisations in Nottinghamshire are to share £90,000 in funding to improve residents' access to affordable and healthy food.

The support package is part of Nottinghamshire County Council's newly-launched Food Redistribution Grant Scheme, which recognises that some families may be struggling during the cost-of-living crisis and may opt for less healthy but cheaper food.

The funds will not only be spent on healthy food for foodbanks, but to support food redistribution schemes run by community groups to offer healthy food for residents at a discounted price. The scheme aims to target health inequalities in the county – particularly in deprived areas – and the county council has also committed a further £120,000 up until 2026.

[Read more here](#)

# Herefordshire Council

## Piloting new food standards in schools

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Herefordshire Council is one of 18 local authorities in England to take part in a new pilot scheme to support schools in offering health and nutritious food to pupils.

The unitary council was chosen to be part of the Food Standards Agency and the Department for Education's pilot, which aims to support schools in complying with food standards in a non-confrontational way. Lincolnshire County Council and Derbyshire County Council is also piloting the scheme.

Recognising that children should have access to healthy food to help with their learning and health, local authorities taking part have begun introducing additional questions, as well as making observations related to the School Food Standards. These would identify any potential non-compliance with the School Food Standards. Councils will then work with schools to aid compliance.

[Read more here](#)

# Theme 3:

## Building active travel infrastructure

Whilst cycling and active travel is typically seen through the prism of climate change, it can also have a substantial benefit on health outcomes in local areas.

CCN member councils recognise this, and many have ramped up their efforts over the last few years to create the infrastructure required to enable people to make choices over active travel. As a result, there has been an increased focus on active travel infrastructure alongside 'traditional' infrastructure such as roads.

Examples outlined in this section of the County Spotlight include CCN members investing millions into active travel pathways or cycle highways alongside road improvements, as well as bespoke bike and outdoor gym parks in recognition of their public health benefits. Others have made it easier for people to cycle by offering e-bikes, using data to introduce this service in the areas which see the most commuters.

But not all examples are of physical improvements: behavioural change takes many forms, with inspiration being one of them. One CCN member council last year played a prime role in organising a major cycling event in the county as part of the 2022 Commonwealth Games and hopes that its legacy inspires more people to take up cycling.

**CCN members are also responsible for country parks, with many residents recognising their importance in keeping active and on mental wellbeing during the three national lockdowns. County authorities want these parks to continue to be well-used and have tried to keep costs as low as possible during the current cost-of-living crisis.**



# Cornwall Council

## E-bike hire scheme sees riders rack up 8,500 miles

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An e-bike hire scheme from Cornwall Council has seen cyclists rack up 8,500 miles in six months – the equivalent of riding from Penzance to Phuket in Thailand.

The first Beryl e-bikes were introduced in Falmouth and Penryn in September, with Penzance following in December. Over 1,500 people have signed up to the Beryl app which gives them access to the bikes in docking bays around those towns.

The council said it wants to promote residents making more healthy and sustainable travel choices, with data showing that commutes to work in Falmouth are less than 3 miles. The scheme is set to be expanded to Newquay, St Austell and Truro in the spring. In all, the Council's contract with Beryl will see 250 e-bikes available across the five locations.

[Read more here](#)

# Warwickshire County Council

## Inspiring the next generation of cyclists

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Last summer thousands of spectators lined the streets as the 2022 Commonwealth Games' Cycling Road Race came to Warwick.

Warwickshire County Council played a key role in bringing the event to Warwick, working in partnership with Warwick District Council. With millions tuning into the event and thousands of people watching in person, the council said that it hoped it would inspire the next generation of British athletes and encourage people to make more active lifestyle choices.

The event took years to plan and was hailed as a magnificent day of action boosting the profile of Warwickshire on the international stage. Female cyclists completed seven laps of the 16km course, whilst the men completed ten laps.

[Read more here](#)

# Staffordshire County Council

## Encouraging people to get active at country parks

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Charges at country parks in Staffordshire have been frozen to help people still be able to use them during the cost-of-living crisis.

Planned increases in parking charges and the introduction of others from Staffordshire County Council were delayed for twelve months last Autumn because of rising inflation, with the county council saying that it was clear during the pandemic that people valued using country parks in the area for exercise and mental wellbeing.

The decision to delay some charges and freeze others was made at the same time as the council announcing that it wants to use its country parks to promote healthy living, with steps proposed including encouraging exercise there by those who do not usually think about visiting country parks.

[Read more here](#)

# Buckinghamshire Council

## 160,000 trips taken on major active travel corridor

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The Buckinghamshire Greenway is an ambitious and transformative project that aims to connect the full length of the county through an active travel highway.

The council hopes that this transformative infrastructure will help make walking and cycling the backbone of everyday trips in Buckinghamshire and will stretch from Brackley in the north to Colne Valley in the south.

It is being delivered in stages, with phase one – the 4km Waddesdon Greenway – being completed in 2018 and seeing over 160,000 trips during 2020, with this trailblazer route hailed a success. Construction is due to start on phase two of the project this year, the Misbourne Greenway, connecting Wendover and Great Missenden Station.

[Read more here](#)

# West Northamptonshire Council

## Strong partnerships as bike park wins award

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A new bike park in Northampton has scooped a prestigious prize within months of opening up.

The Northampton Bike Park, which is a joint project between West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) and Sport England, won the Land and Development Award at November's Northamptonshire Business Excellence Awards. The park, which cost £750,000 to build, features a multi-use green trail, off-road mountain bike trails of three different difficulties, climb sections, and a skills area.

The Northamptonshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-20 proposed the creation of parks and facilities such as this in the county to reduce health inequalities. In addition to the bike park, WNC has also recently rolled out e-bikes in Northampton to encourage people to take more active travel choices.

[Read more here](#)

# Lincolnshire County Council

## Infrastructure improvements to encourage active travel

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Lincolnshire County Council is making a series of substantial cycling infrastructure improvements to encourage people to take healthier and greener travel options.

The council's Boston Active Travel Plans, funded by a successful bid to the Levelling Up Fund, will see a three-quarter mile active travel route created along the A16, which is one of the town's major roads. This will include building a new shared footway and cycleway along London Road, on Marsh Lane, and on Wyberton Low Road so travel times and accessibility are improved for cyclists and walkers. The works started on May 15.

In addition, the county council has also invested £10,000 on an all 'all-ability' coastal path so it is more accessible for all people at Chapel Marshes Nature Reserve, to encourage more active options.

[Read more here](#)

# CCN

## COUNTY COUNCILS NETWORK

Founded in 1997, the County Councils Network is the voice of England's counties. A cross-party organisation, CCN develops policy, commissions research, and presents evidence-based solutions nationally on behalf of the largest grouping of local authorities in England.

In total, the 20 county councils and 17 unitary councils that make up the CCN represent 26 million residents, account for 39% of England's GVA, and deliver high-quality services that matter the most to local communities.

The network is a cross party organisation, expressing the views of member councils to the government and within the Local Government Association.

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