

15 December 2021

Parish and town councils in Northamptonshire will benefit from an investment from UK Government under its Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Programme.

Northants CALC worked with North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) and West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) to submit a bid for funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and a grant of £281k has been awarded for an innovative Asset Mapping Project (AMP).



The funding will provide parish and town councils in North and West Northamptonshire with the valuable opportunity to take some time to think about and explore what potential future devolution involves. It offers the chance to develop a solid evidence base from a community perspective by mapping assets and services that are provided by the unitary councils, and to build local capacity & skills.

NNC and WNC have said that they do not intend to devolve wholesale assets and services in 2022/23, so this is about preparing for the future. We have an opportunity to explore what is involved with the devolution of assets and services well before any decisions need to be made and any specific funding implications arise. Parish and town councils in other areas exploring devolution, such as Milton Keynes and Cornwall, did not always have the luxury of this advance thinking time.

Support activity will include for example training on how to prepare a sound business case for the purposes of any future community bids for assets and services. We know that parish and town councils will have very differing ideas and levels of interest in this, and that is to be expected. We want to harness a spirit of shared purpose, collaborative working, and innovation to help us build new strengths that will benefit communities in Northamptonshire for years to come.

More detailed information about the project will be published soon at www.northantscalc.com/amp which will explain how your council can take advantage of the opportunities (without making any commitment about future interest in taking on assets & services).

At this stage, Northants CALC is asking all councils to include an item on their agendas for their meeting in January 2022 *"To note Northants CALC's Asset Mapping Project (AMP) and to create an AMP Working Group comprising one officer and (2) councillors"*. A sample Terms of Reference will be available at www.northantscalc.com/amp.



HM Government