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**KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 24 (October 2021)**

Dear Member Councils

Welcome to the October edition of my Bulletin. Hope you are all staying safe and well.

* **Coronavirus update:** As highlighted in the last bulletin, on 14 September, the Prime Minister set out the Government’s ‘Covid-19 Response – Autumn and Winter Plan 2021’ for managing Covid-19. The publication outlines the government’s plans for autumn and winter 2021 and includes the Government’s “Plan A” and outlines a “Plan B” which would only be enacted if the data suggests that further measures are necessary to protect the NHS.
* PM Statement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-14-september-2021>
* Guidance:  
  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-autumn-and-winter-plan-2021>
* **Improving Standards and Embedding Good Governance:** There is a petition on the UK Government and Parliament website calling for Government to legislate to enable councillors to be disqualified or suspended for poor conduct**,**which you may want to consider - see [Legislate to enable Councillors to be disqualified or suspended for poor conduct - Petitions (parliament.uk)](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/586143).
* **NALC Guide on Web Accessibility and Publishing Guidelines:** The guide aims to help local (parish and town) councils ensure their websites meet the needs of all users — especially those with disabilities or impairments that use assistive technology. The guide explains what website accessibility is, how it affects local councils, the requirements, and compliance. It details what a council must publish under the Transparency Code 2015, the costs of running a website, where to get help, what ongoing checks are needed, and discusses the future of website accessibility. The guide also contains a step-by-step guide and a range of resources. See   
  [Microsoft Word - website-accessibility-and-publishing-guidelines.docx (nalc.gov.uk)](https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/3597-website-accessibility-and-publishing-guidelines/file)
* **Government consultation on making flexible working the default:** The consultation seeks views from individuals and businesses on proposals to reform flexible working regulations. The proposals include making the right to request flexible working a day one entitlement, as well as introducing a day one right to one week’s unpaid leave for carers. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/making-flexible-working-the-default> . The consultation deadline is **11.45pm on 1 December 2021.**
* **Government Consultation on reforms to data protection regime –** see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/data-a-new-direction>. The consultation presents proposals that build on the key elements of the current UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), such as its data processing principles, its data rights for citizens, and its mechanisms for supervision and enforcement. Consultation deadline- 1**1.45pm on 19 November 2021.**

* **Government consultation to make outdoor measures for high streets permanent:** Temporary measures that have given a huge boost to high streets and hospitality during the pandemic could be made permanent following a [public consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/supporting-defence-infrastructure-and-the-future-of-time-limited-permitted-development-rights) launched on 5 September 2021. Consultation deadline – **11.45pm on 14 November 2021.**
* **Gatwick Airport launches Northern Runway public consultation:** Gatwick Airport is consulting on proposals to bring the existing Northern Runway into routine use alongside the Main Runway. For further details please visit [Northern Runway and our Future Plans | Gatwick Airport LGW.](https://secnewgate.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=92491e317ae33660c0b389a32&id=c1e37fd4ad&e=65c3c74153) Consultation deadline – **11.59pm on 1 December 2021.**
* **National Transport and Highways Survey 2021/2022:** Councils across the UK are asking residents to tell them what they think of transport and highways services in their area, and we're one of those councils. There are six independent surveys in total - feel free to take one or all of them. Apparently, each survey will only take a few minutes of your time. They are asking for your views on: accessibility; highways maintenance; public transport; road safety; tackling congestion; walking and cycling. For further details see - [National Highways and Transport Survey 2021/22 | Let’s talk Kent](https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/national-highways-and-transport-survey-2021-22). **The survey deadline is 28 February 2022.**
* **Kent & Medway Listens:** This consultation wants to hear how you are feeling and gather your thoughts how we can help mental wellbeing in Kent and Medway. The project is open until **January 2022.** Please see the following link for further details: <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/kentandmedwaylistens>
* **Kent Heritage Conservation Strategy Consultation:** This draft Strategy presents KCC’s strategic aims and objectives for how they will conserve Kent's heritage and also inspire citizen engagement and connection. For further details please see <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/heritage-conservation-strategy>. The consultation deadline is **13 December 2021.**
* **Kent County Council Second Active Travel Consultation:** KCC is now seeking further views on the outline designs for four of the schemes:
* Canterbury: Littlebourne Road to the City Centre
* Folkestone: Central Station to Cheriton
* Thanet: Birchington to Margate
* Gravesham: Gravesend to Northfleet

For further details, please view [Kent Active Travel - Second consultation | Let’s talk Kent](https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/kent-active-travel-second-consultation). Consultation deadline – **25 October 2021**.

* **KALC AGM – Saturday 13 November 2021:** The AGM will be held virtually on Zoom and will include a presentation fromRachel Coxcoon, Director of Climate Guide, following 16 years as Director of the Climate Emergency Support Programme at the Centre for Sustainable Energy, on the Climate Emergency Action Plan for local government, communication and carbon footprinting. The AGM programme was sent electronically to all member councils on 1 October. The supporting papers will be circulated shortly. Each council can send 2 voting representatives to the AGM but need to register their representatives on Eventbrite **by Friday 5 November**.
* **KALC website:** Just a reminder that all clerks and councillors from our member councils can access the Members Area of the website by asking for a password from [manager@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:manager@kentalc.gov.uk).
* **Upcoming KALC Online Training:** We are delighted to highlight the following L&D online events using Zoom – please visit [www.kentalc.gov.uk](http://www.kentalc.gov.uk) for further details:
* 4 November **– Report Writing**
* 10 November **– Parish Online (Beginners)**
* 10 November **– Parish Online (Intermediate)**
* 10 November **– Introduction to Planning**
* 11 November **– Dynamic Councillor Workshop**
* 18 November **– Dealing with a Crisis – Planning Ahead and Managing Crisis Communications Effectively**
* 23 November **– Health & Wellbeing Conference**
* 25 November **– Emotional Resilience Skills for Council Officers**
* 1 December – **Grant Bid Writing**
* 2 December - **Embracing Equality and Diversity and Inclusion in your Council**
* 9 December **– Managing People and Teams Effectively**
* 15 December **– Climate Change/Net Zero Conference**

One final piece of news for this month is that I will be stepping down as Chief Executive and will be leaving on 31 January 2022. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 10 years in this role and would like to thank our member councils and the KALC Executive Committee for all your help and support. It is a fantastic post, which I have thoroughly enjoyed. We will be issuing a job advert today to recruit a new Chief Executive, which will appear on the KALC and NALC websites, as well as with several recruitment agencies i.e. Indeed, Total Jobs, Kent Jobs and Reed. My reason for leaving is purely a personal one in that I am now living permanently in Ireland and want to spend more time with my wife and helping to manage our small farm. Thanks again for all your help and support.

Very best wishes

Terry

Terry Martin

Chief Executive