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**KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 18 (April 2021)**

Dear Member Councils

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

* **Remote Meetings** – As you may have seen, the High Court legal challenge by Lawyers in Local Government and ADSO, which is supported by NALC, LGA and other national bodies, will be heard on 21 April. We will update member councils as soon as we hear the outcome of that hearing. NALC’s advice remains that councils should now be preparing for the real possibility of a return to face-to-face meetings. NALC has produced guidance to assist with these preparations on their dedicated [**coronavirus webpage**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=a290574443&e=07b89a8048) where you can also find guidance on[**holding remote meetings**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=be5380c730&e=07b89a8048). As highlighted in KALC News we would urge member councils to respond to the Government’s Call for Evidence on remote meetings which can be accessed via the following link - [**call for evidence**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=ef72996ef1&e=07b89a8048). **The deadline is 11.45pm on 17 June.**
* **Covid-19 – Financial Support Package** – As highlighted in previous issues, we (NALC and County Associations) continue to lobby the Secretary of State for a financial support package for our sector. If your council has lost income or incurred additional costs in providing Covid-19 related services, then we would encourage you to also lobby your MP and the Secretary of State.
* **6 May 2021 Elections** – On 6 May, there will be Police & Crime Commissioner elections, Kent County Council elections, some Borough and Parish Council elections and some by-elections and polls postponed from May 2020. For further details, visit the Electoral Commission website at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk).
* **A Legacy of Change - Stephen Lawrence Day Event - April 22nd** - **between 1pm and 2pm.**  On the 28th anniversary since his murder, the event will look at the legacy of change Stephen's death caused in areas such as policing, the arts, race relations legislation and society as a whole. There will be a range of guest speakers and presentations including Sunder Katwala from British Future, Michelle Bramble Chair of the North Kent Caribbean Network, Deputy Chief Constable Tim Smith from Kent Police, Errol Francis from Culture& and Matt Dunkley, Corporate Director at Kent County Council.  You will be able to register to attend the event by clicking on the link below and filling out the short form - <https://www.cohesionplus.com/stephen-lawrence-day/>
* **New Countryside Code launched:** A new, refreshed Countryside Code was launched at the beginning of April by Natural England and Natural Resources Wales, coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the creation of the founding booklet. You can view the Code via the following link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-countryside-code-launched-to-help-people-enjoy-the-outdoors>
* **Litter Motion and Petition:** NALC Policy Committee has agreedwith the principle of the motion from the 2020 KALC AGM that all drive through food outlets print on all packaging of sold items the vehicle registration number from which occupants made the purchase and such printing include the time, date and venue of that purchase. NALC will highlight its intent to member local councils, the LGA and Keep Britain Tidy as good practice. KALC has also just been made aware of a Petition on the UK Government and Parliament website calling for mandatory printing of car registration numbers on all Drive Thru packaging, which has been signed by over 45,000 people. If the Petition has 100,000 signatures it will be considered for debate in Parliament – see <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/580772?fbclid=IwAR3or-1licyDK2gs9ohrc7Jb36vcmcQA4DzyLTRKU0-OwFAV7l_bxH2NdyI>
* **Great British Spring Clean:** The Great British Spring Clean campaign 2021 has been launched by Keep Britain Tidy. From 28 May to 13 June 2021, #LitterHeroes across the country are encouraged to get outside and get active, while helping Keep Britain Tidy on their mission to clean up a million miles of UK streets, coastline, parks, footpaths and neighbourhoods. To help with this, Keep Britain Tidy has developed a handy pack of [**assets and resources**](applewebdata://EA2F3869-736E-4281-846F-CEF478A8EF90/handy%20pack%20of%20assets%20and%20resources%20to%20help%20you%20engage%20your%20community%20in%20the%20campaign.) to help you engage your community in the campaign. Supporters are encouraged to make a [**simple pledge**](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=246e7090bc&e=07b89a8048) and let Keep Britain Tidy know how many minutes they'll clean-up for during the campaign. Pledges can be made as an individual or a group, ensuring they follow the latest Covid-19 guidance about group gatherings outdoors. Keep Britain Tidy has also launched a charity **[webshop,](https://nalc.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=16886b5d6c31eade2f9a50027&id=f76f79b9f4&e=07b89a8048)** where you can purchase litter picking equipment packaged in recyclable materials.
* **Kent County Council consultation – HGV Parking -** As part of the wider post EU exit transition period plans, DFT granted KCC powers to introduce an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) prohibiting any heavy goods or large goods vehicle which has a gross vehicle weight in excess of 5,000kg (5 tonnes) from parking anywhere within 7 districts and boroughs likely to be most impacted by the traffic management plans. The areas included are Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe, Maidstone, Swale and Thanet. This came into effect in January 2021. KCC is currently consulting on the ETRO which can be viewed on the KCC website via the following link – the deadline for responses is **3 July 2021**: [**https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/County\_Wide\_HGV\_prohibition/consultationHome**](https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/County_Wide_HGV_prohibition/consultationHome)**.**
* **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:
* 21st April – **Getting started with the Press and Media**
* 12th May – **Planning Conference**
* 13th May – **Strategies to Identify & Recruit New Councillors**
* 20th May – **How to engage with young people in your community**
* 17th June – **Writing effective press releases to get local coverage**

We have also set up, in partnership with NALC and Nimble, a rolling programme of

e-learning opportunities. Further details, and booking, can be found on our website here: [bite-size training](https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Bitesize_Training_31970.aspx)

* **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).

Terry Martin

Chief Executive