

# Information Note – October 2019

## IT Update: Websites

**As you will be aware, changes in legislation last year meant that there is a need to ensure that your Council's website meets The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Applications) Accessibility Regulations and those of [GDPR](#). Our 2 previous Information Notes provide further background and can be viewed in the members Section of the KALC website.**

The free KCC EIS websites will be closed, as previously announced, by September 2020 due to the current format not being compliant with the Accessibility Regulations. Councils that currently use EIS, and there are 160 of you, will need to make plans to change your website before then.

This paper gives you a short checklist of what to do next, followed by a selection of some of the website providers that we are aware of who are offering websites for Local Councils, together with weblinks. There are three appendices which give more information about each of those three particular providers.

Many of you are currently using a free HugoFox website. They are currently testing their system for compliance and you should have received an email from them recently. If you are still unsure, then please contact them directly.

### Checklist:

1. Do you currently have a free KCC EIS website? If so, you will need a new compliant website.
2. Does your current website meet the Accessibility Regulations & GDPR requirements?
3. Have you tested this? Has your provider carried this out for you? Have they used a manual as well as an automated system? (You need both)
4. What will you do if your current site does not meet the guidelines? Maybe you will wish to transfer to another provider?
5. **Do you have a budget for your website maintenance and annual fees?** Remember, the next budget round is upon us. Look at the prices quoted in the three examples below (see appendices).
6. A new provider should transfer all your existing data onto your new website. So current EIS website users need to have this completed before the Council pages are archived and unavailable to be transferred.
7. Does a possible new provider have examples of websites to show you? Do they have history?
8. Is the provider 'safe': more likely to stay in business; look after your data in UK data centres; ensure all your data belongs to you; give you support when needed?
9. Contact the provider of your choice as soon as your Council has approved such a move. It takes a few weeks to have everything in place & 'Live'.

### Companies that we are of aware of who offer websites for Local Councils

- KCC Cantium <https://cantium.solutions/>
- Vision ICT <https://visionict.com/>
- NetWise UK <https://parishcouncilwebsites.org.uk/>
- Parishcouncil.net <http://www.parishcouncil.net/>
- Parish-council.website <https://parish-council.website/>
- Parishcouncilwebsites.co.uk <https://www.parishcouncilwebsites.co.uk/>
- E-mango [e-mango - parish council websites](https://www.e-mango.co.uk/)
- 2commune.com <https://www.2commune.com/the-package.html>
- HugoFox <https://www.hugofox.com/>

We have provided further details in Appendix 1, 2 and 3 of three companies from the above list. They are not recommendations, as member councils will all have their own views on what website will work best for them. There are obviously other website providers out there that also offer websites to Local Councils who are either compliant or working towards compliance.

Kent Association of Local Councils

# Appendix 1: KCC Cantium

## The countdown to comply with The Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations is on!

The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018, states that by 23rd September 2020, websites for all public sector bodies must be inclusive and accessible for all. These legal changes not only benefit individuals with disabilities, but can also positively impact your search engine ranking, website traffic, user experience, and enhance your reputation.

Through Kent County Council, Cantium have been providing a Web Hosting Service to all Parish Councils since 2005. From August 31st, 2020, your Parish Council's website will no longer be hosted and this service will be replaced. To ensure that your website continues to function after this date, you must ensure that your website meets these new regulations and find a new hosting solution.

Cantium can provide you with a solution that ensures you comply with these new regulations and provide hosting to keep your website running after 1st September 2020. As we are wholly owned by Kent County Council, we are uniquely positioned to understand these legislation changes and how they impact upon your Parish Council.

## Our Accessibility as a Service Offer

**£995 per annum for the 1st year\***      **£675 per annum for following years\***

*\*based on a 3-year contract*

### What's included?

- Migration of your website to a platform meeting Level AA Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
- Predetermined features and plugins to choose from
- Maintenance of your website platform; ensuring systems and applications are patched, secure and operating optimally
- Training on The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018, including what this means for your organisation and your responsibilities
- A highly trained service desk available for support from 08:00 to 17:30 Monday - Friday (exc. bank holidays)
- Incident management function including:
  - Pro-active detection and recording of incidents
  - Classification and initial support
  - Investigation and diagnosis
  - Resolution and recovery
  - Incident ownership, monitoring, tracking, and user communication.

Our team will be on the KCC stand at the KALC Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 30th November at Ditton Community Centre and are looking forward to discussing how we could help you meet your organisation's specific needs. We will provide you with a demonstration of how your new website will work and how this complies with the new legislation.

**Want to find out more now?** Click the button below to email us or speak to a member of the team on 03000 411 115.

Contact us

# Appendix 2: Vision ICT

**We are recognised as the most experienced website provider to the local council sector.**

We are Vision ICT; an Exeter based trusted website design agency with over 15 years' experience.

We provide bespoke websites for over 700 clients across the country, with clear pricing and ongoing support. Our friendly team is proud of the reputation we have built and are guided by the four pillars of our company:

| Our four pillars   |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|                     |                                     |                                       |                            |
| Collaboration  | Longevity & Support  | Honest Pricing   | Social Responsibility  |
| Our flock takes pride in working together to form <b>long lasting relationships</b> with our clients | Our herd has over 15 years experience. We have developed a <b>detailed understanding</b> of the local council sector | Our pack is open and transparent, we are on hand to discuss your options and to <b>find the right costings</b> for you | Our hive supports local charities and organisations helping to pollinate <b>good things in our community</b> |

## Accessibility

The new WCAG 2.1 guidelines on the accessibility requirements for council websites are causing a lot of worry and concern for local councils now. We have been asked to make presentations to several County Association's Members and will be continuing this. As you are aware, accessibility is a complex topic and the language used, and documentation, is not understandable to many Clerks and Councillors. **Through working with our 700 clients, we have developed considerable expertise in this area.**



Click on the thumbnail to see the presentation.

## Security

With the introduction of the GDPR regulations, that were enacted in 2018, there arose a wealth of questions for councils around the issue of IT Security. Due to our experience in this field we are continually asked to make presentations to County Association's Members and also at the NALC National Conference on this topic. More importantly, in our daily work with clients, we answer questions and advise in this area. **It is access to this level of support that our clients find so helpful.**

Your website should be the perfect PR vehicle for your council. Keeping your community fully informed in all that you are doing and achieving and encouraging them to participate:

- ✓ Is it responsive?
- ✓ What is your council wanting to achieve through your website?
- ✓ Basic council information?
- ✓ Community information?
- ✓ Does it encourage interaction?
- ✓ What are Minutes? Use of language all will understand.
- ✓ Is it up to date?
- ✓ Social Media links?
- ✓ SSL Certificates
- ✓ DDA Compliant – Accessibility Statement

## Our key features

- ✓ Easy to use Content Management System
- ✓ Reliable and robust. Our websites have practically no down-time (*less than 0.02% over the last 3 months*)

- ✓ On-going Help and Support whenever needed
- ✓ Clear navigation for visitors to ensure information is easy to find

### The Website Development Process

After discussion with you, we would commence building your site and send you a direct web link which will enable you to be able to view the site at a very early stage and send us your ideas, opinions and feedback in real time, every step of the way.

### Website facilities that can be provided

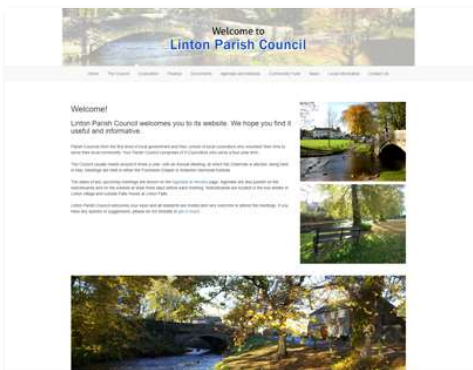
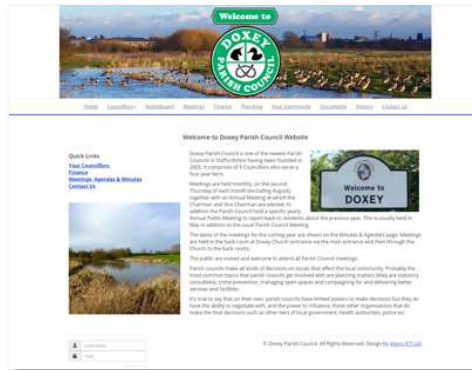
- ✓ Unlimited file and picture storage
- ✓ Website search facility
- ✓ Site Map
- ✓ Integrated data base for the management of Councillors, committees, agendas and minutes
- ✓ Events display on pages of your choice
- ✓ Searchable database for Community Groups & Local Businesses
- ✓ Private areas
- ✓ Bespoke design
- ✓ Latest news feed on pages of your choice
- ✓ Contact us page with Google Map and on-line enquiry form
- ✓ Links to Facebook/Twitter and other social media as required
- ✓ Google Analytics
- ✓ SSL Certificate for added security
- ✓ GDPR Compliant

### Transparency code websites

With the introduction of the Transparency Code back in 2014 Vision ICT developed a package to meet the legal requirements. **The cost of this package is £650 and then an ongoing annual fee of just £175 which continues to cover all aspects of the package.**

#### The package includes:

- ✓ Design of website
- ✓ Adding all initial content legally required by the Transparency Code
- ✓ Website hosting
- ✓ Domain name registered
- ✓ Ability to add further pages to the site when required
- ✓ Website warranty
- ✓ On-going help and support



Please CTRL+click on the thumbnails above to follow the links to these examples.

Here are other websites choices that we offer:

### **Websites up to £1200**



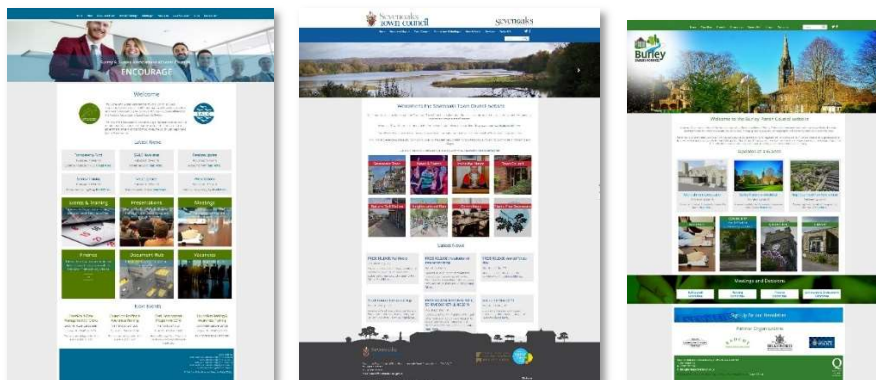
Please CTRL+click on the thumbnails above to follow the links to these examples.

### **Websites up to £2000**



Please CTRL+click on the thumbnails above to follow the links to these examples.

### **Websites over £2000**



Please CTRL+click on the thumbnails above to follow the links to these examples.

### **Training & Support**

#### **On-line training**

Our dedicated support website has a range of tools including an on-line handbook, training videos and FAQs  
<https://support.visionict.com>

#### **Telephone training**

- ✓ 2 hour telephone training session(s)
- ✓ Face to face in house training
- ✓ Our Training Director can carry out bespoke training for the clerk or staff team

### **Support**

We believe that a key element to our success is the highest level and standard of support that our dedicated staff team offer you.

### **In conclusion**

- Vision ICT is now recognised as the leading website design agency working in the local council sector
- We provide clean, easily navigable and fully responsive websites
- A simple to use CMS with superb on-going help and support
- With a high knowledge of the sector and legal requirements regarding websites and the internet
- A range of training services also available if required
- We provide a full package that includes, website hosting and email

**Please contact us for further information on how we may help you:**

**Telephone: 01392 669497**

**Email: [info@VisionICT.com](mailto:info@VisionICT.com)**

**[www.visionict.com](http://www.visionict.com)**



# Appendix 3: NetWise UK

Parish Council Websites  
<https://parishcouncilwebsites.org.uk/>

**NetWise UK are the No.1 choice for compliant, easy to use websites for Parish Councils.**

**UK based, fast, secure hosting including support and domain registration.**

[REQUEST A FREE BROCHURE AND DEMO SITE HERE](#)

## Parish Council Websites



We design affordable and easy to use [websites for Parish Councils](#) , [Town Councils](#) and other small authorities that are simple to update and are fully responsive so that they can be viewed on any device. Our websites will ensure that your local authority online presence will be fully compliant with the [transparency code](#), [GDPR](#) and [accessibility standards](#).

[Find Out More](#)

## Training & Support



Once your new Parish Council or Town website is live, learning to use it is easy. We can show you how to easily add minutes, agendas, accounts, audits and councillor details to your new website. Training is available in addition to online support area for all members. In addition we've created short, easy to follow video tutorials to help guide you as you update your website.

[Find Out More](#)

## Hosting & Updates



Secure UK based hosting is included in our packages giving you the peace of mind that your website is always available and always up to date. For local authorities who are looking to be compliant, We offer the complete solution for complying with the [Transparency Code For Smaller Authorities](#), [GDPR](#) and the [Accessibility Regulations](#).

[Find Out More](#)



## Our Parish Council Website Clients

We are website providers for an ever-increasing number of Parish Councils and Town Councils throughout the UK. Based in the North West we offer a friendly and professional web design service to Parish Councils across the UK.

Check out some of our clients below and be sure to read our testimonials from our satisfied Town and Parish Council website clients below.



Approved .GOV.UK Registrar



NetWise are an approved registrar for .gov.uk domains which are regulated by JISC. We can advise and register your .gov domain on behalf of your Parish or Town Council.

With domain registration and hosting available, you can keep all your accounts in one place with us.

### Why Choose Us?

- Specifically designed for Parish Councils & Town Councils
- Transparency Code Compliant
- GDPR Compliant
- WCAG 2.1 AA Compliant
- Easily Updated In Minutes
- Mobile-Friendly, Responsive Websites
- W3C Compliant
- Automated Backup Facility
- Automated Software Updates
- Ongoing Support
- Full training available
- No costly tender process
- A complete website service for your convenience

### Examples Of Our Parish Council Websites

<https://bourton-oxon.org.uk/>

[framptoncoterell-pc.gov.uk](https://framptoncoterell-pc.gov.uk)

[pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](https://pemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

[wadhurst-pc.gov.uk](https://wadhurst-pc.gov.uk)

[bbwmpc.org](https://bbwmpc.org)

[maxstokeparishcouncil.org.uk](https://maxstokeparishcouncil.org.uk)

[tintwistleparishcouncil.org.uk](https://tintwistleparishcouncil.org.uk)

[fittleworth-pc.org.uk](https://fittleworth-pc.org.uk)

[houghamwithoutpc.co.uk](https://houghamwithoutpc.co.uk)

[nettleton-pc.gov.uk](http://nettleton-pc.gov.uk)  
[nortonandcuckney-pc.gov.uk](http://nortonandcuckney-pc.gov.uk)  
[shudycamps.org.uk](http://shudycamps.org.uk)  
[theleighpc.org.uk](http://theleighpc.org.uk)  
[beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://beckleyparishcouncil.org.uk)  
[hickletonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://hickletonparishcouncil.org.uk)  
[wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[detlingpc.org.uk](http://detlingpc.org.uk)  
[kidsgrovetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://kidsgrovetowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[chivelstone.org.uk](http://chivelstone.org.uk)  
[leightonbromswold-pc.org.uk](http://leightonbromswold-pc.org.uk)  
[shiptonunderwychwood.org](http://shiptonunderwychwood.org)  
[offords-pc.gov.uk](http://offords-pc.gov.uk)  
<https://desboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk/>  
[corstonpc.org.uk](http://corstonpc.org.uk)  
[shustoke-parishcouncil.org.uk](http://shustoke-parishcouncil.org.uk)  
[croftparishcheshire.org.uk](http://croftparishcheshire.org.uk)  
[oakamoorpc.org](http://oakamoorpc.org)  
[barthomley-pc-org.uk](http://barthomley-pc-org.uk)  
[easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk](http://easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk)  
[conistoncold.org.uk](http://conistoncold.org.uk)  
[tewkesburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://tewkesburytowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[longload-pc.org.uk](http://longload-pc.org.uk)  
[holford-pc.gov.uk](http://holford-pc.gov.uk)  
[muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk](http://muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk)  
[hucclecotepc.gov.uk](http://hucclecotepc.gov.uk)  
[haileywestoxon.org](http://haileywestoxon.org)  
[froxford.org](http://froxford.org)  
[brafieldonthegreenpc.org.uk](http://brafieldonthegreenpc.org.uk)  
[caxton-pc.org.uk](http://caxton-pc.org.uk)  
[culchethandglazebury-pc.org.uk](http://culchethandglazebury-pc.org.uk)  
[willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk)  
[cawoodvillage.org.uk](http://cawoodvillage.org.uk)  
[desboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://desboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[ticehurstonline.org](http://ticehurstonline.org)

Please contact us for further information or advice

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