



KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 10 (July 2020)

Dear Member Councils

Welcome to the latest edition of my Bulletin. I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

- **Covid-19:** We hope that you are continuing to find the regular Public Health England and NALC updates useful. If you have not done so already, we would encourage you to visit the NALC Coronavirus webpage ([NALC - Coronavirus](#)) and the Covid-19 section of the KALC website (www.kentalc.gov.uk), which provide lots of information, guidance, template risk assessments etc. As highlighted in my last bulletin, as a local authority and a tier of local government, it is important that you continue to undertake due diligence when looking at ways to support your local community, including identifying the appropriate power and checking with your insurance provider on whether your insurance policy provides adequate cover with what you are looking to do. To assist you with this, please visit the Covid-19 section of our website and view our paper on Community Based Projects and Assistance by Local Councils and NALC's Legal Topic Note on General Powers (LTN 31), which has recently been updated. If you have any questions about projects and powers etc, please contact Clive at adviser@kentalc.gov.uk.

[COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities](#) –

Government guidance for those managing community centres, village halls and other community facilities on safely re-opening multi-purpose buildings. Government has updated the guidance with links added to guidance on rehearsal and training; to guidance on maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors to support NHS Test and Trace; and to guidance on the phased return of outdoor sport and recreation in England and to reflect permission to host small wedding receptions from 1 August.

[COVID-19: Guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms](#) – On 17 July, Government updated the guidance to reflect additional requirements on face coverings.

- **New Model Code of Conduct Consultation:** The Local Government Association (LGA) has launched a [consultation](#) on a new [model member code of conduct](#). High standards of conduct and behaviour are of huge importance to the local (parish and town) council sector as they are needed to protect the integrity of decision making, maintain public confidence, and safeguard local democracy. We would urge all member councils to consider the consultation and respond to the LGA. KALC will also be responding to the consultation. **The consultation deadline is 17 August.** NALC is calling on government to introduce sanctions to support the proposed new Code of conduct and is also calling for the Committee on Standards in Public Life to publish a timetable for reviewing progress on the implementation of their report's wider recommendations and best practice to ensure this important issue continues to be a priority for action.
- **National Transport Survey 2021** - Across the UK, residents are being asked what they think of transport and roads services in their area. The National Highway and Transport Network have provided six independent surveys. You do not have to take them all, but they would like to hear your views on any of the topics that impact

you. Each survey will only take a few minutes of your time. Views are being invited on accessibility, roads maintenance, public transport, road safety, tackling congestion, walking and cycling. The deadline for completing the survey is **28 February 2021**. See [national transport survey 2021](#), which is on the Kent County Council website, for further details.

- **KCC Budget consultation 2020-21 review** - Kent County Council has issued a public consultation on KCC's spending priorities following the coronavirus pandemic. The consultation runs until **9 August** and all of the consultation information, including the link to an online questionnaire, can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/budget. The media release can be found here: [KCC Media Release](#).
- **The Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Draft Management Plan 2020 – 2025:** The draft plan will provide the strategy for conserving and enhancing the Kent Downs and is now available for public consultation. The Draft Plan was prepared before the Covid-19 pandemic and it will be important to consider how it should respond to the crisis. To view a copy of the Draft Management Plan and take part in the consultation visit [Kent Downs AONB Draft Management Plan](#). The consultation deadline is **7 September**.
- **Utility Networks Partnership – Priority Services Register:** Message from South East Water - As part of the Utility Networks Partnership we have created a joint video promoting the Priority Services Register (PSR). Working together with 11 other water, gas and electricity companies we hope we have come up with an innovative way to help people understand the PSR in very simple terms. The video clearly sets out who is eligible to sign-up and what services they can expect to receive as a result. As our services are our customers' lifelines, it is crucial that we do everything we can to get the message over to vulnerable people about the extra help we can all provide when it is needed most. To see the animated video go to [South East Water - Here for You](#).
- **Upcoming KALC Online Training:** We are delighted to highlight the following L&D online events using Zoom – please visit our website for further details:
 - a) 21 July – The Reactive Council – Effective Working in a virtual world workshop
 - b) 5 August - – Web Accessibility Regulations workshop – sold out
 - c) 12 August – Web Accessibility Regulations workshop

We will shortly be announcing the dates of a new health & wellbeing workshop and details of our online Clerks event scheduled for 24 September.

- **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.
- **KALC AGM – 28 November** – At KALC's virtual Executive Committee meeting on Thursday 16 July, members agreed that the AGM will go ahead on 28 November. A decision will be made nearer the time on whether it will be a virtual AGM.

Terry Martin - Chief Executive