



## KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 11 (August 2020)

Dear Member Councils

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

- **Covid-19:** If you have not already done so, we would encourage you to visit the NALC Coronavirus webpage ([www.nalc.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/coronavirus)) and the Covid-19 section of the KALC website ([www.kentalc.gov.uk](http://www.kentalc.gov.uk)), which provide lots of information, guidance, template risk assessments etc.

**KALC Financial Impact Survey:** Thank you to everyone who has already completed the [KALC COVID-19 Financial Impact Survey](#). The survey is important in providing the evidence to support our case to the principal authorities and to Government. The deadline for completing the survey is **close of play on Monday 24 August**.

**Residents in financial hardship:** If your council is approached by local residents who are in financial hardship as a result of Covid-19 and are looking for advice and/or support, please refer them to either the Kent Support and Assistance Service (KSAS) via <https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/care-and-support/benefits/home-essentials-in-a-crisis> to complete an application for assistance or contact your principal authority.

**Updated regulations regarding remote meetings were published on 30 July and came into force on 1 August.** As highlighted on 7 August NALC has updated their legal briefing - L01-20 – *(Revised) The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (the 2020 Regulations)* to include the legislative changes that came in on 1 August. Key points to note are that Parish Meetings are included within the definition of 'local authority' so they can meet remotely, the requirement for an annual parish meeting is disapplied and there are amendments to meeting notice provisions, including a requirement for Parish Councils and Parish Meetings to send out details of the remote meeting (e.g. the Zoom, Microsoft Teams link and log in details) when public notice is given. **Attached is a letter from the Government Minister providing information and guidance on a number of issues, including the recent changes, hybrid meetings and the 6-month rule.**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities?utm\\_source=76f8dfaa-1a11-47a1-9401-4014a0494e5a&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities?utm_source=76f8dfaa-1a11-47a1-9401-4014a0494e5a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily). On 14 August, Government revised the guidance to reflect changes to restrictions on permitted activities under section 3 and to clarify face covering advice under section 2C.

- **AGAR 2019/2020** – As at 31 July, **only 52.5%** of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in Kent had completed and returned their AGAR form to PKF Littlejohn. Please note that **the deadline is 31 August**. If your Council or Parish Meeting is not going to meet that deadline then please contact PKF Littlejohn as soon as possible.
- **Planning White Paper** – Earlier this month, Government published 3 consultations on reform of the planning system:

- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/907956/Planning\\_for\\_the\\_Future\\_web\\_accessible\\_version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907956/Planning_for_the_Future_web_accessible_version.pdf)- the planning white paper (MHCLG deadline for responses is **29 October**)
- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/907215/200805\\_Changes\\_to\\_the\\_current\\_planning\\_system\\_FINAL\\_version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907215/200805_Changes_to_the_current_planning_system_FINAL_version.pdf) (MHCLG deadline for responses is **1 October**)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/transparency-and-competition-a-call-for-evidence-on-data-on-land-control> (MHCLG deadline for responses is **30 October**)

We are aiming to hold a **virtual Information Event on the Government's proposed reform of the planning system** and hope to make an announcement very soon.

- **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.
- **London Resort Consultation** - On 27 July, the London Resort announced a public consultation (see <https://londonresort.info/news/the-london-resort-invites-public-to-have-their-say/>) on its new plans and updated assessments for the proposed resort. The **deadline for comments is 11.59pm on 21 September 2020**.
- **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 [www.kent.gov.uk/kentdownsaonb](http://www.kent.gov.uk/kentdownsaonb). The consultation deadline is **7 September**.
- **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) 3 September – Supporting Wellbeing and Mental Health Through and Past Covid-19
  - b) 9 September - Supporting Wellbeing and Mental Health Through and Past Covid-19
  - c) 15 September - Effective Comms and Engagement in a Post-Lockdown World (FREE event in partnership with Breakthrough Communications - details being sent to all member councils)
  - d) 24 September – Clerks Conference (details on website shortly)
- **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).

- **KALC AGM – 28 November** – Please note that the KALC AGM will go ahead on 28 November. A decision will be made nearer the time on whether it will be a virtual AGM. The deadline for submitting **motions to the AGM is Friday 2 October** and should be sent to [chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk).

Terry Martin - Chief Executive