



KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 4 (January 2020)

Dear Member Councils

A belated Happy New Year to you all. It has been a very busy start to the New Year for everyone. I hope you find the latest edition of my Bulletin helpful and would welcome feedback (chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk) so that I can refine it for the next edition.

- **Government consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments** – as highlighted in the November and December 2019 issues, on Tuesday 5 November Government launched a consultation on new powers to criminalise unauthorised encampments, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-police-powers-to-tackle-unauthorised-encampments>. We would encourage all member councils to respond to this consultation. The closing date is **4 March 2020**.
- **National Transport and Highways Survey 2019/20** – Councils across the UK are asking residents to tell them what they think of transport and roads services in their area. The National Highway and Transport Network have provided 6 independent surveys. You do not have to take them all. Each survey will only take a few minutes of your time. They are asking for views on accessibility; roads maintenance; public transport; road safety; tackling congestion; and walking and cycling. The surveys close on **29 February 2020**. See https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Nationaltransportsurvey2019_20/consultationHome for further details.
- **Kent County Council (KCC) Strategic Statement – 5 Year Plan:** KCC has issued a consultation on its 5-year draft plan, which is the flagship strategy for the Council. It aims to unite the Council with clear outcomes and objectives. We would encourage member councils to respond to this consultation, which can be accessed via the following link: <https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/fiveyearplan/consultationHome>. The closing date for responses to KCC is **17 February 2020**.
- **Kent County Council Select Committee on Affordable Housing:** As highlighted last week by e-mail, KCC has issued a press release (<https://kccmediahub.net/kcc-launches-new-select-committee-on-affordable-housing745>) advising that it has launched a Select Committee on Affordable Housing. The select committee will gather information via hearing sessions with relevant witnesses and collect written submissions from experts and interested stakeholders. As you will see from the press release, if you want to send in information for the Select Committee to consider, please e-mail select.committee@kent.gov.uk by Sunday 26 January. However, we have been in contact with KCC and they have agreed to extend the deadline to **9 February 2020**.
- **Kent Fire & Rescue Service – Safety and wellbeing plan 2020:** Earlier this month, KFRS published its Safety and wellbeing plan for 2020. The plan is mostly to tell you how they do this, what they think about and what they then do with the information, It also covers some investments they are making for the future and where they want to set the Council Tax for 2020/21. For further details please use the following link <https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/about-us/plans-policies-and-performance/safety-and-wellbeing-plan-2020/>

- **Lower Thames Crossing Community video newsletter and Facebook launch** - You can view the first video on their new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lowerthames>. This will provide an opportunity to keep updated with their plans and activities ahead of the submission of their Development Consent Order next summer. You can find the Lower Thames Crossing on the following platforms (please click below to view each page):

[Facebook: @LowerThames](#)

[Twitter: @LowerThames](#)

[Web: lowerthamescrossing.co.uk](http://www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk) [YouTube](#)

- **New part-time KALC Learning & Development Support Officer** – At the KALC AGM on Saturday 30 November, delegates approved the KALC Membership Subscription rate for 2020/2021. The subscription rate for 2020/21 includes the recruitment of a new part-time Learning & Development Support Officer, 30 hours per week on a 2-year fixed term appointment, with an option for an additional 3rd year. We are therefore very pleased to start recruiting for this new post. Further details, including the job description, person specification and application form are available on the KALC website at www.kentalc.gov.uk. The closing date for applications is **7 February 2020**.
- **KALC Health & Well-Being Conference – 6 February 2020**: We are delighted to announce that our first Health & Well-Being Conference will be taking place on Thursday 6 February 2020 at the Alexandra Suite, St Mary's Road, Swanley. We have an excellent line up of speakers covering a wide range of national, county and local health & well-being initiatives. Come and put Health & Well-Being at the centre of your community! The Conference Programme and booking details are on the KALC website at www.kentalc.gov.uk.
- **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. All you need to do is provide your e-mail address and the name of your council.
- **KALC Community Awards Scheme 2020** – The 2020 Community Awards Scheme was launched on 11 November at Rochester Castle. The deadline for nominations is **31 January 2020**. The press release, outline of the scheme and nomination forms have been sent to member councils and can also be downloaded from the KALC section in the Members Area of the website (www.kentalc.gov.uk).
- **Upcoming KALC Events** (see KALC website for further details www.kentalc.gov.uk)
 - Friday 24 January 2020 – Web Accessibility Regulations Workshop, Ditton** - the closing date for registering is Tuesday 21 January.
 - Thursday 6 February 2020 – Health & Well-Being Conference, Swanley** - the closing date for registering is Thursday 30 January.
 - Wednesday 19 February 2020 – Burial Law & Management Event 2020, Ditton** - the closing date for registering is Friday 14 February.
 - Friday 13 March 2020 – Annual Planning Conference, Lenham** - the closing date for registering is Friday 6 March.

Terry Martin
Chief Executive