



## KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 6 (March 2020)

Dear Member Councils

Welcome to the latest edition of my Bulletin. It is a strange and difficult time for us all, but I hope you are all well. Apologies for all the e-mails recently, but it is important that we keep you updated on developments. Feedback on my bulletin is always welcome (e-mail [chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk)) so that I can refine it for the next edition.

- **Covid-19:** Hopefully you will all have seen the daily Public Health England updates that we have been sending out. We have received many enquiries about what this means for council meetings, the Annual Parish Meeting and AGAR. NALC has been taking these issues forward with Government. We understand that the Government legislation that was mooted in Robert Jenrick's recent announcement will be coming out early next week. Both NALC and KALC will be looking closely at the legislation and will be in contact with all our member councils as quickly as possible on what it means for our sector. As you will know, in line with Government advice, we have suspended our Learning & Development Programme for the time being and KALC staff are working from home. Our contact details are as follows:
  - For KALC specific issues - Terry - [chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk) or phone 07475 034346;
  - For legal & technical advice -Clive - [adviser@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:adviser@kentalc.gov.uk) or phone 07475 017247;
  - Finance, Events, KALC website, general enquiries - Laura - [manager@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:manager@kentalc.gov.uk) or phone 07475 066155
  - Events, KALC News, general enquiries - Tricia - [communications.officer@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:communications.officer@kentalc.gov.uk) or phone 07577 058306 (9.00am to 1.00pm – Monday, Thursday, Friday)

We understand that many of you are already undertaking work to support your local community during this difficult time, which is great. If you are, please let us know so that we can share good practice with other members. We will be putting the examples on the Covid-19 page of the KALC website on Wednesday. NALC will be publishing some national case studies imminently.

- **Government publishes its proposals to bring Britain's planning system into the 21st century:** On 12 March, MHCLG published "Planning for the Future", which sets out its proposals <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-for-the-future>. The proposals include reviewing the formula for calculating housing need, infrastructure and use of brownfield sites. This will be followed by a Planning White Paper in the spring.
- **Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee – devolution inquiry:** The HCLG Select Committee has recently issued a call for evidence to support its renewed [devolution inquiry](#). The main thrust of the Inquiry is aimed at testing the effectiveness or otherwise of the current administration's tailored devolution packages for certain areas, without a one size fits all national blanket devolution approach. The consultation deadline for responses to the Select Committee is **4 May**. NALC and KALC will be responding.

- **NALC Expands its services with a new suite of HR resources:** NALC has launched a new suite of HR resources to help local councils on a range of employment matters. The resources include templates on numerous employment policies that you can tailor to your council's needs, alongside how-to guides and notes to implement the policies. These cover the full range of employment matters such as annual leave, lone working, training and many more. The resources were produced in collaboration with HR Services Partnership. (see [www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk))
- **Lower Thames Crossing Supplementary Consultation:** Highways England has issued an 8-week supplementary consultation which provides the opportunity to have your say on the latest changes to the project that have been made after detailed analysis of the 29,000 responses Highways England received during the last consultation in 2018, and new technical information becoming available following surveys and ground investigations. The consultation deadline is **23.59 on 25 March 2020**. See <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/lower-thames-crossing-consultation2020/> for further details.
- **KALC Survey 2020:** All member councils will have received our 2020 Survey. Your Council's views are very important to us, as they help ensure that we provide the services that our members need and that we continue to provide value for money. We would be grateful if you would complete the 2020 Survey using the SurveyMonkey link below **by Friday 27 March**. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes. The results of the survey are considered by our Executive Committee to review and update our Strategic Plan which is then adopted annually at the KALC AGM. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2PLB5K6>
- **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). All you need to do is provide your e-mail address and the name of your council.
- **KALC Membership Subscriptions for 2020/2021:** Thank you to all our member councils for being part of KALC in 2019/2020. It was great to see that we had 312 member councils, which is a KALC record. The Membership invoices, together with KALC and NALC Benefits of Membership leaflets will be sent out to electronically to all member councils over the course of the next couple of weeks. If you don't receive an e-mail from us or have any questions then please e-mail Laura on [manager@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:manager@kentalc.gov.uk). We look forward to continuing to work with all our member councils in 2020/2021.

Terry Martin  
Chief Executive