



KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 12 (October 2020)

Dear Member Councils

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

- **Covid-19:** Government recently updated its guidance to reflect the new local COVID alert levels. This includes updates on:
 - [COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities](#)
 - [COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of council buildings](#)
 - [COVID-19: Guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms](#)
 - [Local restrictions: areas with an outbreak of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

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

- **Planning White Paper** – A reminder that the deadline for responding to the Government’s Planning White Paper is **29 October**. The White Paper can be accessed via [Planning for the Future](#)
- **Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee Inquiry on the Planning System** – The Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry on the planning system. They have issued a Call for Evidence which can be viewed via the following link [New Enquiry - The Planning System](#). The deadline for submitting evidence to the inquiry is **30 October**.
- **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.
- **Remembrance Sunday** – The Government has published [guidance on Remembrance Sunday](#). It states that the COVID Alert Levels, across all tiers, provide for a specific exception for Remembrance Sunday events for participants and spectators, provided appropriate precautions are undertaken by the event organiser. So local authorities in England can organise outdoor Remembrance Sunday events at a public war memorial or cenotaph, if they complete a COVID-19 risk assessment and take all reasonable measures to limit the risk of transmission of the virus. They must also take into account the [national guidance on outdoor events](#), including all cleaning and hygiene precautions. It also provides information on what activities can be involved, who can attend, test and trace requirements and communal worship
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- **Redmond Review** - The Independent Review of Local Authority Financial Reporting and External Audit has now been published. Please see a copy by following this link: [Local Authority Financial Reporting and External Audit Independent Review](#).

- **NALC Survey on climate change** - The survey will explore what local councils are currently doing to tackle climate change in their local area, the challenges they encounter and the difficulties they face when executing actions. The deadline to complete the survey is **29 January 2021**. The survey can be accessed via [Complete the survey](#)
- **Kent County Council Budget Consultation 2021-2022** - To have your say on where you think spending reductions could be made to service areas and on our Council Tax proposals, please visit kent.gov.uk/budget. **The consultation closes on 24 November 2020**. The media release can be found here: [KCC Consults Residents As it Faces Toughest Financial Challenge](#)
- **Upcoming KALC Online Training:** We are delighted to highlight the following L&D online events using Zoom – please visit www.kentalc.gov.uk for further details:
 - 3 November 2020 - **KALC Net Zero and Environment Event** - in Partnership with Kent County Council and Kent & Medway Environment Board from 1:30pm - 4pm
 - 5 November 2020 - **The Dynamic Councillor Workshop:** from 10am - 1pm
 - 3 December 2020 - **The Dynamic Councillor Workshop:** from 10am - 1pm
 - 10 December 2020 - **Chairing Virtual Meeting Skills for Councillors** – from 2pm to 4pm. *In association with Breakthrough Communications*
 - 14 January 2021 - **Get in Front of the Camera:** how to build your confidence and engage with your community through video and Facebook Live from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. *In association with Breakthrough Communications*
 - 11 February 2021 - **Using Facebook to enhance your Council's Communications** – from 10am to 12pm. *In association with Breakthrough Communications*
 - 11 March 2021 - **Beyond Facebook: how Councils can make the most of Instagram, Twitter and other Social Media platforms to get their message across** from 2pm to 4pm. *In association with Breakthrough Communications*

We have also set up in partnership with NALC and Nimble a rolling programme of e-learning opportunities on:

- Diversity and Equality Essentials
- Modern Slavery
- Managing and Reducing Stress
- Display Screen Equipment Assessment
- Introduction to Leadership
- Time Management
- Personal Safety
- Health and Safety Essentials
- Freedom of Information Essentials

Further details, and booking, can be found on our website here: [bite-size training](#)

- **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** – Please note that the papers for the virtual KALC AGM on 28 November have now been issued to every member council. The AGM will be held remotely using Zoom. Each member council can send 2 representatives to the AGM, who will need to book their place by Friday 20 November. Booking this year is via our Eventbrite system. Please visit the KALC website to book on the AGM and to view the AGM papers.

Terry Martin - Chief Executive