

**KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 13 (November 2020)**

Dear Member Councils

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

* **Covid-19:** Earlier this month,Government 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities?utm_source=edde1508-c41b-4da3-9b98-abeaf80312d0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily) – updated 17 November
* [COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of council buildings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-council-buildings?utm_source=d2465e66-5725-4a99-bc61-2e13546c9164&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily) – updated 5 November
* [COVID-19: Guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms?utm_source=283ac23c-2705-460b-9c9f-a070ada0c56e&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily) – updated 5 November

If you have not already done so, we would encourage you to also 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.

* **Committee On Standards in Public Life –** As highlighted in our e-mail of22 October, the Committee on Standards in Public Life has issued a consultation as part of its review into the institutions, processes and structures in place to support high standards of conduct. The terms of reference of the review are to:

 review the evidence as to how well ethical standards are upheld in public life in the UK

 review the evidence on the strength of the UK’s arrangements for regulating and
 promoting ethical standards

 review the adequacy and continuing relevance of the Seven Principles of Public Life,

 identify examples of best practice in the regulation of ethical standards

 identify examples of best practice in the promotion of cultures that celebrate and
 encourage high ethical standards.

The main consultation document is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/standards-matter-2-public-consultation-and-public-sector-survey). The deadline for responding to **NALC is 1700 on 4 December** so that they can consider it as they produce their national response. If you also want to send your **response direct to the Committee on Standards in Public Life, their deadline is 1700 on 18 December.**

* **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**](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HVNZMR6)
* **Government Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund -** The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has launched the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, which will be delivered by Salix Finance. We have been advised that Local Councils are eligible for the new £1bn grant funding, as long as they meet the usual criteria that projects are taking place in buildings for which the public body pays the energy bills and will benefit from any resulting savings. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-decarbonisation-scheme-psds> for further details. The closing date for applications is **11 January 2021**.
* **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**](https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/NTH2020_21/consultationHome)**,** which is on the Kent County Council website, for further details.
* **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](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kent.gov.uk%2Fbudget&data=02%7C01%7Ccharlotte.jones%40kent.gov.uk%7C570686de117346897ac008d870371ceb%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C637382729294599222&sdata=X3fvFlVFgt6zD53seeFYQjhcVXfKo21okLRMPTGpYmU%3D&reserved=0). **The consultation closes on 24 November 2020.** The media release can be found here: [https://kccmediahub.net/kcc-consults-residents-as-it-faces-toughest-financial-challenge745](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fkccmediahub.net%2Fkcc-consults-residents-as-it-faces-toughest-financial-challenge745&data=02%7C01%7Ccharlotte.jones%40kent.gov.uk%7C570686de117346897ac008d870371ceb%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C637382729294599222&sdata=kqJ0e5N%2BsjxsJxMmd%2BOSOgMn%2BkdsqMe2zS7xFF%2FhCxI%3D&reserved=0)
* **Kent County Council Highways** – Please see the following links for the KCC Highways Fault Reporting Tool and the Parish Portal which were referred to in the KCC Highways Parish Seminars earlier this week: [www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults); and <https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.ParishPortal.Web.Sites.Public/Unsecurepages/Login.aspx>
* **KALC Community Awards Scheme 2021:** We are pleased to announce that the 2021 Awards Scheme is being launched today, Monday 23 November and details are being e-mailed out to all member councils. The closing date for nominations is Friday 12 February 2021.
* **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. A Matters arising paper, an amendment to the motion and a revised Annual Report are being sent to member councils. Registration has now closed. Please visit the KALC website to view the AGM papers.
* **Upcoming KALC Online Training:** We are delighted to highlight the following L&D online events using Zoom – please visit [www.kentalc.gov.uk](http://www.kentalc.gov.uk) for further details:
* 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*
* 16 December 2020 - **Chairing Virtual Meeting Skills for Councillors** – from 10am to 12pm*. In association with Breakthrough Communications*
* 17 December 2020 - **Chairing Virtual Meeting Skills for Councillors** – from 10am to 12pm*. In association with Breakthrough Communications*
* 7 January 2021- **The Dynamic Councillor Workshop**: from 10am - 1pm
* 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*
* 4 February 2021 - **The Dynamic Councillor Workshop**: from 10am - 1pm
* 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](https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Bitesize_Training_31970.aspx)

* **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.

Terry Martin - Chief Executive