



KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 2 (November 2019)

Dear Member Councils

Welcome to the second edition of my monthly bulletin. Thank you for your positive feedback on the first edition and am pleased that you found it helpful. As explained in the first edition, the aim of my Bulletin is to make you aware of important current national and county issues and reduce the number of e-mails that we send out to you. I hope you find the second edition helpful and would welcome feedback (chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk) so that I can refine it for the next edition.

- **NALC and LGA launch new guide to tackle loneliness** – At the NALC Annual Conference on 28 and 29 October, NALC launched a new joint guide on tackling loneliness. The *Reaching Out* guide has practical advice, guidance and case studies and focuses on 4 key themes: Making connections; Making a Difference; Linking Up; The Right Environment. The guide can be downloaded from the NALC website [NALC - LGA Loneliness Guide](#).
- **Good Councillors Guide to Transport Planning** – NALC has just published a new guide on transport planning, which was developed in partnership with the Transport Planning Society. The guide includes practical advice and guidance and covers: What is transport planning; Delivering integrated transport networks; the role of local councillors; case studies; and resources. It can be downloaded from the NALC website (see [Good Councillors Guide to transport planning](#)) or from the Planning section of the KALC website (www.kentalc.gov.uk).
- **General Election & Purdah** – NALC and KALC are already receiving a number of queries related to the pre-election period (purdah) prior to the General Election. Although local councils will not be holding elections on 12th December, NALC has reissued its Legal Briefing L01-19 (on NALC – www.nalc.gov.uk and KALC – www.kentalc.gov.uk websites) on [Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity](#) which applies to local councils during the pre-election period which has now started. We encourage everyone to reacquaint themselves with the requirements. While NALC feels that the legal risks to councils around this time are low, there could still be risks related to public perception and local media. We would encourage councils to be cautious around any activity or communications that could be perceived to be political or controversial.
- **Government consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments** – 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>. 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 [National transport and highways survey 2019-20](#) for further details.

- **Kent County Council Budget Consultation** – KCC is seeking your views on Council Tax and spending priorities to help them shape and balance their 2020-21 Budget. The consultation closes on **25 November**. See [KCC Budget consultation](#) for further details.
- **Central Government awards major funding boost for Medway** – On 1 November, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government announced that Medway Council had been successful in its bid to secure £170million for major infrastructure developments on the Hoo Peninsula. Further details can be found at [government awards major funding boost for medway](#).
- **Transport for the South East (TfSE): Draft Transport Strategy Consultation** - Just a reminder that the deadline for responses is **10 January 2020**. Further details can be found at [draft south-east-transport-strategy consultation](#).
- **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 AGM Saturday 30 November** – Just a reminder that member councils can send 2 voting representatives to our AGM. For catering purposes, please e-mail manager@kentalc.gov.uk to confirm attendance or to register apologies.
- **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 but 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)
 - a) **Saturday 23 November – Dynamic Councillor Workshop, Lenham** – the closing date for registering is Wednesday 20 November.
 - b) **Friday 29 November – CiLCA Seminar (for 2019 cohort only), Frindsbury Extra Memorial Hall** – the closing date for registering is Wednesday 27 November.
 - c) **Friday 29 November – Minute Taking, Frindsbury Extra Memorial Hall** – the closing date for registering is Wednesday 27 November.
 - d) **Monday 16 December – Dynamic Councillor Workshop, New Romney** – the closing date for registering is Thursday 12 December.

Terry Martin
Chief Executive