

**KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 23 (September 2021)**

Dear Member Councils

Welcome to the September edition of my Bulletin. Hope you are all staying safe and well.

* **Coronavirus update:** On 14 September, the Prime Minister set out the Government’s ‘Covid-19 Response – Autumn and Winter Plan 2021’ for managing Covid-19. The publication outlines the government’s plans for autumn and winter 2021 and includes the Government’s “Plan A” and outlines a “Plan B” which would only be enacted if the data suggests that further measures are necessary to protect the NHS.
* PM Statement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-14-september-2021>
* Guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-autumn-and-winter-plan-2021>
* **Improving Standards and Embedding Good Governance:** There is a petition on the UK Government and Parliament website calling for Government to legislate to enable councillors to be disqualified or suspended for poor conduct**,**which you may want to consider - see [Legislate to enable Councillors to be disqualified or suspended for poor conduct - Petitions (parliament.uk)](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/586143).
* **6-month rule -** Members are reminded of the importance that councillors always try to attend meetings of the council, committees and representative roles as appropriate as set out in the 1972 LGA. Failure to attend a meeting over a 6-month period can lead to an automatic disqualification unless a REASON is provided and approved by the council which generates a resulting minute. This prevents the disqualification and resets the 6-month period. Where members cannot attend meetings, they should always try to submit a reason and *not just an apology* (which has no legal resonance). Full details are set out in NALC **LTN 8 Elections** *“Failure to Attend*” items: 12-15 which is available on our website.
* **Litter Motion and Petition:** KALC has been made aware of a Petition on the UK Government and Parliament website calling for mandatory printing of car registration numbers on all Drive Thru packaging, which has been signed by over 59,000 people. If the Petition has 100,000 signatures it will be considered for debate in Parliament – see [petition](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/580772?fbclid=IwAR3or-1licyDK2gs9ohrc7Jb36vcmcQA4DzyLTRKU0-OwFAV7l_bxH2NdyI).
* **Government Consultation on reforms to data protection regime –** see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/data-a-new-direction>. The consultation presents proposals that build on the key elements of the current UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), such as its data processing principles, its data rights for citizens, and its mechanisms for supervision and enforcement. Consultation deadline- 1**1.45pm on 19 November 2021.**

* **Government consultation to make outdoor measures for high streets permanent:** Temporary measures that have given a huge boost to high streets and hospitality during the pandemic could be made permanent following a [public consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/supporting-defence-infrastructure-and-the-future-of-time-limited-permitted-development-rights) launched on 5 September 2021. Consultation deadline – **11.45pm on 14 November 2021.**
* **Gatwick Airport launches Northern Runway public consultation:** Gatwick Airport is consulting on proposals to bring the existing Northern Runway into routine use alongside the Main Runway. For further details please visit [Northern Runway and our Future Plans | Gatwick Airport LGW.](https://secnewgate.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=92491e317ae33660c0b389a32&id=c1e37fd4ad&e=65c3c74153) Consultation deadline – **11.59pm on 1 December 2021.**
* **National Transport and Highways Survey 2021/2022:** Councils across the UK are asking residents to tell them what they think of transport and highways services in their area, and we're one of those councils. There are six independent surveys in total - feel free to take one or all of them. Apparently, each survey will only take a few minutes of your time. They are asking for your views on: accessibility; highways maintenance; public transport; road safety; tackling congestion; walking and cycling. For further details see - [National Highways and Transport Survey 2021/22 | Let’s talk Kent](https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/national-highways-and-transport-survey-2021-22). **The survey deadline is 28 February 2022.**
* **Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy (2020-2023): addition on safe accommodation –** The Domestic Abuse Act introduces new duties on partners, in particular the Police, Kent County Council, Medway Council and Districts. This second consultation focuses on an addition made to the strategy which reflect these new duties focusing on safe accommodation. For further details. Please view <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/domesticabuseconsultation>. Consultation deadline – **27 September 2021.**
* **Kent County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres consultation:** KCC isconsulting on ‘Booking to visit a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)’. The consultation seeks views on the continuation of a booking system to visit KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres.  The 6-week consultation is available until **Thursday 30 September 2021**. The consultation questionnaire and supporting documents can be found at [www.kent.gov.uk/wasteconsultation](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kent.gov.uk%2Fwasteconsultation&data=04%7C01%7Cnichola.hood%40kent.gov.uk%7C509e429faf144565396808d95e4e0211%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C637644511400433153%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=EnzYR6G4EEdJDYvgRejfoR4wHB5Sik6I1XKd0Hdpoeg%3D&reserved=0)
* **Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Services consultation:** Kent County Councilwould like to hear your views on community mental health and wellbeing services that are provided in the community. Kent County Council (KCC) and Kent & Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (K&M CCG) wants to ensure community mental health and wellbeing services deliver the personal outcomes which are most important to Kent and Medway residents. For further details, please view <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/mentalhealthconsultation>. Consultation deadline – **3 October 2021.**
* **Kent County Council Civil Society Strategy consultation:** The KCC strategy recognises the role of civil society in Kent and sets out how Kent County Council (KCC) will work to support a strong and vibrant civil society across communities. For further details, please view <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/civil-society-strategy>. Consultation deadline – **3 October 2021**.
* **Kent County Council Second Active Travel Consultation:** KCC is now seeking further views on the outline designs for four of the schemes:
* Canterbury: Littlebourne Road to the City Centre
* Folkestone: Central Station to Cheriton
* Thanet: Birchington to Margate
* Gravesham: Gravesend to Northfleet

For further details, please view [Kent Active Travel - Second consultation | Let’s talk Kent](https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/kent-active-travel-second-consultation). Consultation deadline – **25 October 2021**.

* **KALC AGM – Saturday 13 November 2021:** The AGM will be held virtually on Zoom and will include a presentation fromRachel Coxcoon, Director of Climate Guide, following 16 years as Director of the Climate Emergency Support Programme at the Centre for Sustainable Energy, on the Climate Emergency Action Plan for local government, communication and carbon footprinting. The AGM programme and supporting papers will be sent electronically to all member councils on 1 October.
* **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:
* 28 September – **Annual Clerks Conference**
* 29th September – **Public Speaking Skills for Councillors**
* 7 October – **An Introduction to Planning**
* 9 October - **An Introduction to Project Management**
* 14 October - **Data Protection for Clerks and Officers**
* 19 October - **Freedom of Information Skills for Local Councils**
* 20 October – **Annual Finance Conference**
* 4 November **– Report Writing**
* 10 November **– Parish Online (Beginners)**
* 10 November **– Parish Online (Intermediate)**
* 23 November **– Health & Wellbeing Conference**

Terry Martin

Chief Executive