



KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 5 (February 2020)

Dear Member Councils

Welcome to the latest edition of my Bulletin, which I hope you continue to find helpful. Feedback is always welcome (e-mail chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk) so that I can refine it for the next edition.

- **Government Confirms that referendum principles will NOT be extended to Parish Councils for 2020/2021:** On 6 February, Government confirmed in paragraph 13 of “The Referendums Relating to Council Tax Increases (Principles)(England) Report 2020/21 that referendum principles would not be extended to Parish Councils for that year.
- **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)
- **Government consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments** – as highlighted in the November, December 2019 and January 2020 issues, 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>. We would encourage all member councils to respond to this consultation. 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 https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Nationaltransportsurvey2019_20/consultationHome for further details.
- **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.

- **Kent County Council (KCC) Strategic Statement – 5 Year Plan:** KCC has issued a consultation on its 5-year draft plan, which is the flagship strategy for the Council. It aims to unite the Council with clear outcomes and objectives. We would encourage member councils to respond to this consultation, which can be accessed via the following link: <https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/fiveyearplan/consultationHome>. The closing date for responses to KCC is **17 February 2020**.
- **KALC Survey 2020:** All member councils will just 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. All you need to do is provide your e-mail address and the name of your council.
- **KALC Health & Well-Being Conference – 6 February 2020:** Thank you to all those delegates that attended our first Health & Well-Being Conference. There was an excellent line up of speakers and the feedback so far has been very positive. Please visit the KALC and NALC websites for more information on health & well-being. (www.kentalc.gov.uk and www.nalc.gov.uk).
- **KALC 2019 Annual General Meeting:** The draft minutes of the 2019 KALC Annual General Meeting have now been placed in the Members Area of the KALC website (see www.kentalc.gov.uk).
- **Upcoming KALC Events** (see KALC website for further details www.kentalc.gov.uk)
 - a) **Wednesday 19 February 2020 – Burial Law & Management Event 2020, Ditton** - the closing date for registering is Friday 14 February.
 - b) **Thursday 27 February 2020 – Dynamic Councillor Workshop, Cranbrook** – the closing date is Thursday 20 February.
 - c) **Tuesday 3 March 2020 – Section 106 Agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Workshop, Lenham** – the closing date is Tuesday 25 February.
 - d) **Saturday 7 March 2020 – Dynamic Councillor Workshop, Lenham** - the closing date is Friday 28 February.
 - e) **Friday 13 March 2020 – Annual Planning Conference, Lenham** - the closing date for registering is Friday 6 March.
 - f) **Friday 20 March, Friday 3 April and Friday 20 April 2020 – CiLCA, Lenham**
 - g) **Thursday 9 April 2020 – Suicide Awareness workshop, Dover**
 - h) **Thursday 23 April 2020 – Suicide Awareness workshop, Lenham**

Terry Martin
Chief Executive