



## KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 8 (May 2020)

Dear Member Councils

Welcome to the latest edition of my Bulletin. It continues to be an unprecedented and challenging time for us all, but I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Keep sending in the examples and updates of what you are doing to support your local community, as we use them at county and national level to promote the excellent work you are all doing.

- **Covid-19:** Thank you to everyone that completed our questionnaire on Identifying Vulnerable People. We have now shared that information with the Kent Resilience Forum, which will feed into their countywide work on identifying vulnerable people.
  - NALC has just updated its practical guidance on holding remote meetings - see [holding remote meetings](#).
  - We have recently uploaded some useful documents into the Members Area of the KALC Website ([www.kentalc.gov.uk](http://www.kentalc.gov.uk)) including: **Sevenoaks Town Team draft Recovery Plan; Digital Safety during Covid-19; Business Continuity – Cyber and Fraud information; Response and Recovery Guide to a Cyber Incident; Government guidance on working safely during Covid-19 in offices and contact centres**. If you don't have a password for accessing the Members area, please e-mail [manager@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:manager@kentalc.gov.uk).
  - **Social distancing signs** – Kent County Council is placing an order for some A Frames to remind people in high pedestrian trafficked areas to keep their distance (sign examples attached). They cost around £25 each. If your council is interested in purchasing some signs, then please contact KCC direct at [Nikola.Floodgate@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Nikola.Floodgate@kent.gov.uk).
  - **New App to support carers** – A Help to Care app has been launched, which aims to support carers and care workers to look after the health and wellbeing of themselves and the people they care for. The KCC press release is here [Social Care Launch App](#).
- **NALC Financial Impact Survey:** NALC has just published a summary of the responses to its financial impact survey – see [financial impact of the coronavirus on local councils](#). Thank you to the 69 member councils that responded from Kent. As a result of the survey, we are writing to the Secretary of State today (18 May) and to Kent MPs calling for financial support for Local Councils, as Government has done for the other tiers of Local Government and other sectors. We will be sending your councils a copy of our letter. If your council has incurred financial costs and loss of income as a result Covid-19, we would encourage you to write to your MP as them to support our request for financial support.
- **KALC Remote Working Survey:** Thank you to everyone that completed our remote working survey. We had a really good response (162) and are currently working through all the comments. We have uploaded a summary of the responses onto the Covid-19 webpage of the KALC website ([www.kentalc.gov.uk](http://www.kentalc.gov.uk)) under “Remote Meetings”.
- **HMRC – Home Working additional expenses:** HMRC has advised that additional expenses such as electricity, heating or broadband – Payment or reimbursement to employees of up to £6 a week (£4 a week to 6 April 2020) is non-taxable for the

additional household expenses incurred when an employee is required to work from home. Receipts will need to be provided if a claim is above this amount. Employees should check with their employers beforehand as to whether employers will be making these payments. For further details, visit the HMRC website at [Tax Relief - Working at Home Additional Expenses](#).

- **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](http://www.nalc.gov.uk))
- **NALC publishes the first-ever report on local council elections:** NALC collected data from local councils, councillors and county association across England over six months through a survey which had over 3,700 respondents. The data gathered explored behaviours, experiences, geography, size of councils and looked into who exactly is the average councillor (see [First Ever Report on Local Council Elections](#))
- **KALC Survey 2020:** All member councils will 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 have extended the deadline for completing the survey to **Friday 29 May**. 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.
- **KALC Membership Subscriptions for 2020/2021:** Thank you to all our member councils for being part of KALC in 2019/2020. It was great to see that we had 312 member councils, which is a KALC record. The Membership invoices, together with KALC and NALC Benefits of Membership leaflets, have all been sent out by e-mail now. If you haven't received an e-mail from us or have any questions then please e-mail Laura on [manager@kentalc.gov.uk](mailto:manager@kentalc.gov.uk). Thank you to all those councils that have already renewed their membership for 2020/2021. We look forward to continuing to work with all our member councils in 2020/2021.
- **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](mailto:manager@kentalc.gov.uk).
- **Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee – devolution inquiry:** As highlighted in our March and April bulletins, the HCLG Select Committee recently issued a call for evidence to support its renewed [devolution inquiry](#). KALC responded to the inquiry and a copy of our response has been uploaded onto the Members Section of the KALC website ([www.kentalc.gov.uk](http://www.kentalc.gov.uk)) under Consultations.

Terry Martin  
Chief Executive