



KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 9 (June 2020)

Dear Member Councils

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

Covid-19: We now have over 80 examples of the excellent work you are doing to support your communities. If your council is not included in our table and you would like to be included, please send us details to me at chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk and we will add it to our next version. If you are already included, please check your entry to see if it is still up-to-date and if it's not please send me some revised text, as we use the examples at county and national level to promote the excellent work you are all doing. As we move to the Recovery Phase, we would like to remind you that, as a local authority and a tier of local government, it is important that you continue to undertake due diligence when looking at ways to support your local community, including identifying the appropriate power and checking with your insurance provider on whether your insurance policy provides adequate cover with what you are looking to do. To assist you with this, please visit the Covid-19 section of our website and view our paper on Community Based Projects and Assistance by Local Councils and NALC's Legal Topic Note on General Powers (LTN 31), which has recently been updated. If you have any questions about projects and powers etc, please contact Clive at adviser@kentalc.gov.uk.

- NALC and BHIB have just produced a **new guide on risk assessment for COVID-19**. It features guidance and information to help make risk assessments and directs to useful resources from the government and the Health and Safety Executive, with specific details on how to adapt your risk assessments for COVID-19. The guide also contains two templates designed especially for local (parish and town) councils that will help start risk assessments.
[BHIB Councils Insurance New Guide on Risk Assessment](#)
- We have recently uploaded some useful documents into the Members Area of the KALC Website (www.kentalc.gov.uk) including: Revised Government Guidance on **Meeting people from outside your household**; Revised KRF funeral standards for Kent & Medway during covid-19; NCSC guide on dealing with suspicious e-mails, phone calls and text messages; Rural Community Resilience Guide produced by Communities Prepared, Action with Communities in Rural England and The Prince's Countryside Fund.
- **New Model Code of Conduct Consultation:** The Local Government Association (LGA) has launched a **consultation** on a new **model member code of conduct**. High standards of conduct and behaviour are of huge importance to the local (parish and town) council sector as they are needed to protect the integrity of decision making, maintain public confidence, and safeguard local democracy. We would urge all member councils to consider the consultation and respond to the LGA. KALC will also be responding to the consultation. **The consultation deadline is 17 August**. NALC is calling on government to introduce sanctions to support the proposed new Code of conduct and is also calling for the Committee on Standards in Public Life to publish a timetable for reviewing progress on the implementation of their report's wider

recommendations and best practice to ensure this important issue continues to be a priority for action.

- **NALC launches publication on Web Accessibility requirements:** The publication provides practical steps that local (parish and town) councils can follow to understand the new regulations, put in place an accessibility statement, and start plans to improve the accessibility of their website. For more information see [NALC Publication on Web Accessibility Requirements](#).
- **HM Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS) – Community Payback Scheme:** Hopefully, you will all have seen the letter from HMPPS that we sent to all councils on 12 June with an overview of their Community Payback Scheme. If your council would like to find out more about the Community Payback Scheme, then please email HMPPS with **Community Payback project request** contained in the subject line to CP_@justice.gov.uk.
- **Men's Health Week – 15 to 21 June:** As part of Men's Health Week, Kent residents are being urged to join their local Kent Sheds project which aims to support wellbeing by encouraging people to make friends, share skills and support their local community. Kent Sheds are for men and women of all ages, with ex-service people particularly welcome. For more information go to www.kentsheds.org, plus look out for the Kent Sheds Network Facebook group.
- **KALC Online Training Workshop - The Reactive Council: Effective Working in a Virtual World:** We have had an excellent response to our first-ever online pilot training event being held on Thursday 18 June. The workshop is sold out and we have 50 who have registered their interest if we run the event again. We will be urgently reviewing feedback from the pilot event and then quickly deciding next week on whether to run several more. Keep an eye on our website next week for further details.
- **KALC Membership Subscriptions for 2020/2021:** Thank you to all those councils that have already renewed their membership for 2020/2021. We hope that all of our members from 2019/2020 will be renewing their membership. For those councils who have not yet renewed, could you please contact me at chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk by 30 June to let us know whether your council is intending to renew membership.
- **KALC Survey 2020:** A big thank you to everyone who responded to our 2020 Survey. We had 192 responses, which is fantastic. Our Membership Survey and Strategic Plan Working Group will be reviewing the responses as they start to draft KALC's new 3-5 year Strategic Plan and Action Plan, which would go to our Executive Committee and then to the next KALC AGM for adoption.
- **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.

Stay safe and well.

Terry Martin
Chief Executive