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**KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 16 (February 2021)**

Dear Member Councils

Welcome to the February edition of my Bulletin. Hope you are all managing to stay safe and well.

* **Covid -19 – Roll-out of the vaccination programme** – For latest details on the roll-out of the vaccination programme and the vaccinations sites in Kent and Medway please visit the Kent & Medway Clinical Commissioning Group website at <https://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/your-health/coronavirus/covid19vaccine>. The website also contains FAQs which we hope you find helpful. Please also see the Prime Minister’s statement on 15 February on vaccine roll-out at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-15-february-2021>.
* **Covid-19/EU Transition/Winter** – We have been working with the Kent Resilience Forum on a mechanism for Local Councils to report local issues/concerns/incidents related to Covid-19, end of EU transition or winter. Local Councils should report such incidents to their District/ Borough/City/Unitary Council, who will be providing you with contact details.
* **Covid-19 – Financial Support Package** – As highlighted in the December and January issues, we wrote again (16 December) to the Secretary of State (copied to Kent MPs) calling for a financial support package for our sector and are liaising closely with NALC on their national campaign. We sent a chaser letter to the Secretary of State on 4 February 2021 and have asked Kent MPs to help us get a response from Government. If your council has lost income or incurred additional costs in providing Covid-19 related services, then we would encourage you to also lobby your MP and the Secretary of State.
* **Remote Meetings** – As you may have seen, NALC, LGA, SLCC, other national bodies, KALC and County Associations are all lobbying Government and MPs to extend the Covid-19 regulations to enable remote meetings to continue beyond 6 May 2021. We would encourage member councils to also lobby their MP and the Secretary of State.
* **National Transport Survey 2021 -** Across the UK, residents are being asked what they think of transport and roads services in their area. The National Highway and Transport Network have provided six independent surveys.  You do not have to take them all, but they would like to hear your views on any of the topics that impact you. Each survey will only take a few minutes of your time. Views are being invited on accessibility, roads maintenance, public transport, road safety, tackling congestion, walking and cycling. The deadline for completing the survey is **28 February 2021**. See [**national transport survey 2021**](https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/NTH2020_21/consultationHome)**,** which is on the Kent County Council website, for further details.
* **Government Night Flights Consultation** – The Department for Transport has issued a two-stage consultation process (see [night-flight-restrictions-consultation](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/night-flight-restrictions-at-heathrow-gatwick-and-stansted-airports-between-2022-and-2024-plus-future-night-flight-policy/night-flight-restrictions) ) which seeks views on the regime at the designated airports beyond 2022, and night flights in the national context. DfT are formally consulting on their proposal to maintain the existing night flight restrictions for the designated airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) from 2022 to 2024 and their proposal to ban QC4 rated aircraft movements during the night quota period (23:30 to 06:00). They are also seeking early views and evidence on policy options for the government’s future night flight policy at designated airports beyond 2024 and nationally. The consultation deadline is **3 March 2021**.
* **Government consultation on a new ‘Right to Regenerate’ to turn derelict buildings into homes and community assets** – see https[://www.gov.uk/government/news/right-to-regenerate-to-turn-derelict-buildings-into-homes-and-community-assets](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/right-to-regenerate-to-turn-derelict-buildings-into-homes-and-community-assets). The deadline for responses is **13 March 2021**.
* **Her Majesty’s Land Registry Survey -** HMLR has issued an online survey regarding land ownership (an issue key to many local councils, especially when it comes to development and neighbourhood planning). This survey is specifically for Parish, Town and Community Councils. The survey link is here ([**https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160406652244**](https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160406652244) **)**. The survey closes **on 26 February 2021.**
* **Government consultation -** **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Model Design Code: consultation proposals –** The consultations seek views on draft revisionsto the NPPF to implement policy changes in response to the [Building Better Building Beautiful Commission “Living with Beauty” report](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/living-with-beauty-report-of-the-building-better-building-beautiful-commission). The consultations also seek views on the draft National Model Design Code, which provides detailed guidance on the production of design codes, guides and policies to promote successful design. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-and-national-model-design-code-consultation-proposals>. The consultation deadlines are **11:45pm on 27 March 2021**.
* **Government consultation – Future of New Homes Bonus Consultation** – this consultation seeks views on the future of the bonus. It covers a number of options for reforming the programme to provide an incentive which is more focused and targeted on ambitious housing delivery. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-of-the-new-homes-bonus-consultation>. The consultation deadline is **11:45pm on 7 April 2021**.
* **Kent County Council consultation – Vision Zero -** KCC has launched a consultation on Vision Zero: The Road Safety Strategy for Kent 2020 – 2026 – see <https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/visionzero/consultationHome> . The consultation closes at **23:59 on 15 March 2021.**
* **Kent & Medway Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Strategy 2021-2025 consultation -** This strategy, together with the children and young people’s strategy, is the continuation of the work undertaken as a result of the 2015-2020 Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Strategy. See [**https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/suicideprevention/consultationHome**](https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/suicideprevention/consultationHome)

**The deadline for responses is 23:59 on 18 March 2021.**

* **Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) consultation** – The KRP has launched a consultation on refreshing its Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (KJMWMS), which sets the partnership’s strategic direction – see <https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/117842/KJMWMS-Consultation-Document.pdf>. The deadline for responses is **5pm, Friday 26 March 2021**.
* **Kent County Council given temporary powers to tackle illegal HGV parking -** You may have seen in the local media that KCC has been given temporary power by government to clamp and issue fixed penalty notices for inappropriate or illegally parked HGVs from 1 January 2021 in the following areas: Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe, Maidstone, Swale and Thanet. For further details see <https://kccmediahub.net/leader-announces-new-powers-to-penalise-inappropriate-and-illegal-lorry-parking-in-kent745>
* **Fly tipping Duty of Care Campaign – Kent:** The 13 councils of Kent are working in partnership to tackle fly tipping and waste crime. Fly tipping is a crime with serious consequences and serious penalties. There should be no excuses for fly tipping, with residents and businesses aware of their responsibilities when disposing of waste following last year’s campaign around illegal waste carriers. Please see the attached campaign flyer, which your council should have already received by e-mail.
* **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:
* 18 February 2021 - **Using Facebook to enhance your Council’s Communications** – from 10am to 12pm*. In association with Breakthrough Communications* **SOLD OUT**
* 23 February 2021 10am to 1pm **– The Dynamic Councillor Workshop**
* 24 February 2021 morning **– GDPR and Web Accessibility Workshop**
* 24 February 2021 afternoon **– Vision Zero Strategy Consultation SOLD OUT**
* 27 February 2021morning **– Introduction to Chairmanship Workshop SOLD OUT**
* 2 March 2021 10am to 1pm **– Delivering the Green Agenda for Local Councils SOLD OUT**
* 3 March afternoon **- KALC/ KCC Event: Vision Zero Strategy Consultation**
* 4 March 2021 10.00am **– Zoom for absolute beginners**
* 9 March 2021 2pm to 5pm **– Delivering the Green Agenda for Local Councils**
* 11 March 2021 - **Beyond Facebook: how Councils can make the most of Instagram, Twitter and other Social Media platforms to get their message across** from 2pm to 4pm. *In association with Breakthrough Communications*
* 16 March 2021 morning **– The Dynamic Councillor Workshop**
* 17 March 2021 all day – **Annual Planning Conference SOLD OUT**
* 8 April 2021 morning **– Develop an effective communications strategy and policy for your Council**

We have also set up, in partnership with NALC and Nimble, a rolling programme of

e-learning opportunities on:

* Diversity and Equality Essentials
* Modern Slavery
* Managing and Reducing Stress
* Display Screen Equipment Assessment
* Introduction to Leadership
* Time Management
* Personal Safety
* Health and Safety Essentials
* Freedom of Information Essentials

Further details, and booking, can be found on our website here: [bite-size training](https://www.kentalc.gov.uk/Bitesize_Training_31970.aspx)

* **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).

Terry Martin

Chief Executive