



KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 20 (June 2021)

Dear Member Councils

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

- **Prime Minister's statement on Coronavirus:** Yesterday, the Prime Minister gave a statement on coronavirus and confirmed a four-week delay to step four of the government's roadmap until 19 July due to concerns caused by the Delta variant and to allow for more people to receive their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine before further easing of restrictions takes place. The proposed extension will be reviewed to see if action can be taken two weeks' sooner on 5 July. The Prime Minister's statement can be viewed at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-14-june-2021>
- **Government Call for Evidence on Remote Meetings** – As highlighted in the May bulletin, we would urge member councils to respond to the Government's Call for Evidence on remote meetings which can be accessed via the following link - [call for evidence](#). **The deadline is 11.45pm on 17 June.** NALC and KALC will be submitting evidence.
- **Improving Standards and Embedding Good Governance:** As highlighted in the NALC CEO Bulletin on 4 June, improving standards and embedding good governance is the cornerstone of the work of NALC and county associations and is central to the Local Council Award Scheme. NALC is working with the Society of Local Council Clerks and the Local Government Association to promote civility in public life. NALC is still pressing the Government to support a package of measures to help this work including responding to the Committee on Standards in Public Life recommendations, which includes a recommendation for the re-introduction of sanctions for councillors where behaviour falls short of what would be expected in the first tier of local government. There is currently a petition 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 \(parliament.uk\)](#)
- **2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies: As highlighted in the 8 June Local Government Bulletin,** the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries. BCE has produced a partner pack and anyone can respond to the consultation **which closes on 2 August.** The proposals include increasing the number of parliamentary constituencies in Kent from 17 to 18. For further details please visit: <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>
- **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 58,000 people. If the Petition has 100,000 signatures it will be considered for debate in Parliament – see [petition](#).
- **Home Office consultation on Protect Duty:** The Home Office is currently seeking views on how the Protect Duty can make the public safer at publicly accessible locations (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty>) **The deadline for responses is 2 July.** One of the proposals is that it will apply to publicly accessible venues holding 100 or more people. The consultation is open to the public and is targeted at: venues; organisations; businesses; local authorities; public authorities; individuals - who own or operate at publicly accessible locations or others that a 'Protect Duty' would potentially affect. A publicly accessible location is defined as any

place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

- **House of Commons – Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee Report on the Planning System:** The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has published its report [The future of the planning system in England \(parliament.uk\)](#), following a Call for Evidence. NALC, KALC, Ashford KALC and several member councils provided written evidence to the Committee.
- **Procurement teams must consider wider benefits of public spending:** New guidance published on 3 June says job creation, investment in skills and opportunities for local growth should be taken into account by councils and other public bodies when awarding public contracts. The new guidance, issued to officials in local councils, central government, NHS trusts, police forces and other public organisations, says that the wider benefits of spending public money should be factored into the procurement process. The guidance also says that, while securing the best value for money is crucial, procurement teams must not simply award contracts to the lowest bidder, especially when wider economic benefits can be proved. Announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/procurement-teams-must-consider-wider-benefits-of-public-spending>.
- **Kent County Council consultation – HGV Parking** - As part of the wider post EU exit transition period plans, DFT granted KCC powers to introduce an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) prohibiting any heavy goods or large goods vehicle which has a gross vehicle weight in excess of 5,000kg (5 tonnes) from parking anywhere within 7 districts and boroughs likely to be most impacted by the traffic management plans. The areas included are Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe, Maidstone, Swale and Thanet. This came into effect in January 2021. KCC is currently consulting on the ETRO which can be viewed on the KCC website via the following link – the deadline for responses is **3 July 2021**: [County Wide HGV prohibition consultation](#).
- **KALC/NALC Membership Subscription for 2021/2022:** Thank you to all the Councils that have already renewed their KALC/NALC membership for this financial year. For those that have not yet renewed, please remember that subscriptions should be **paid by 30 June** at the latest. Please contact me if you have any questions (chief.executive@kentalc.gov.uk or call 07475 034346).
- **Upcoming KALC Online Training:** We are delighted to highlight the following L&D online events using Zoom – please visit www.kentalc.gov.uk for further details:
 - 17th June – **Writing effective press releases to get local coverage**
 - 17th June – **Chairmanship Networking Day**
 - 23rd June – **Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning**
 - 1st July – **Delivering Neighbourhood Planning for Local Councils**
 - 10th July – **Councillors Networking Day**

Terry Martin
Chief Executive