



KALC Chief Executive Bulletin – Issue 17 (March 2021)

Dear Member Councils

Welcome to the March edition of my Bulletin. Hope you are all staying 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 18 March on vaccine roll-out at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-18-march-2021>
- **Covid-19 – Financial Support Package** – As highlighted in previous issues, we (NALC and County Associations) continue to lobby the Secretary of State for a financial support package for our sector. 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 will contact member councils as soon as we hear anything from NALC or Government. NALC’s advice remains that councils should now be preparing for the real possibility of a return to face-to-face meetings. NALC has produced guidance to assist with these preparations on their dedicated [coronavirus webpage](#) where you can also find guidance on [holding remote meetings](#).
- **6 May 2021 Elections** – On 6 May, there will be Police & Crime Commissioner elections, Kent County Council elections, some Borough and Parish Council elections and some by-elections and polls postponed from May 2020. For further details, visit the Electoral Commission website at www.electoralcommission.org.uk.
- **A Legacy of Change - Stephen Lawrence Day Event - April 22nd - between 1pm and 2pm.** On the 28th anniversary since his murder, the event will look at the legacy of change Stephen's death caused in areas such as policing, the arts, race relations legislation and society as a whole. There will be a range of guest speakers and presentations including Sunder Katwala from British Future, Michelle Bramble Chair of the North Kent Caribbean Network, Deputy Chief Constable Tim Smith from Kent Police, Errol Francis from Culture& and Matt Dunkley, Corporate Director at Kent County Council. You will be able to register to attend the event by clicking on the link below and filling out the short form - <https://www.cohesionplus.com/stephen-lawrence-day/>
- **Government consultation - National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Model Design Code: consultation proposals** – The consultations seek views on draft revisions to the NPPF to implement policy changes in response to the [Building Better Building Beautiful Commission “Living with Beauty” report](#). 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**.
- **National Bus Strategy** – On 15 March, the Prime Minister unveiled the Government’s new national bus strategy for England, ‘Bus Back Better’, which outlines reforms of how bus services are planned and delivered backed by £3 billion of investment. The strategy sets out that the Government wants to see operators and local councils enter into statutory ‘enhanced partnerships’ or franchising agreements to receive the new funding and deliver the improvements. For further details, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-launches-3-billion-bus-revolution>
- **Crowdfund Kent** – On 17 March, Kent County Council launched #CrowdFund Kent. KCC is working with the Crowdfunding platform Spacehive. Crowdfund Kent is an opportunity for community groups in your area to raise money to deliver projects locally. KCC can pledge up to £20,000 for projects that meet certain criteria. For more details, please see <https://www.spacehive.com/profile/kentcountycouncil#funds> or e-mail crowdfundkent@kent.gov.uk or support@spacehive.com
- **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 for further details:
 - 30 March – **All about AGAR**
 - 8 April – **Develop an effective communications strategy and policy for your Council**
 - 8th April – **The Dynamic Councillor**
 - 14th April – **Understanding Risk and Insurance During Covid19**
 - 14th April - **All about the AGAR**

- 21st April – **Getting started with the Press and Media**
- 12th May – **Planning Conference**
- 12th May – **Strategies to identify and recruit new local councillors**
- 20th May – **How to engage with young people in your community**
- 17th June – **Writing effective press releases to get local coverage**

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](#)

- **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.

Terry Martin
Chief Executive