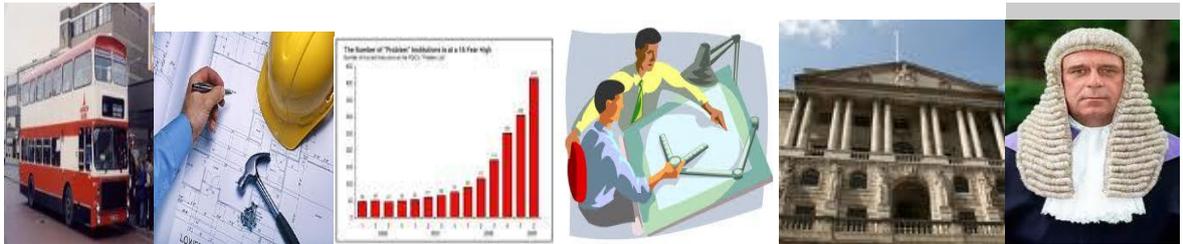




Serving Parish & Town  
Councils in Kent

# KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS FINANCE CONFERENCE 2018



**DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

## INTRODUCTION

The last 24 months have proved particularly challenging for Local Councils as they continue to engage with established concepts like *Localism*; but also new challenges like the *Transparency Code*. However, most Local Councils will see these issues against a background of *financial structural change*. The greatest of these changes is undoubtedly the financial measures introduced to engage with continuing austerity (and including declining LCTs funds, and S136 grants). Although, this includes the recent more positive news around the likelihood of **excessiveness principles**. In addition, LCs have also had to grapple with the demands of GDPR this year. The approach and recent developments that have been adopted by Government clearly challenges Local Councils at a time of austerity; but also, arguably provides an opportunity to assume more power and influence at the community level to ensure their relevance increases. The result is that Local Councils must be aware of the issues and potential threats; but, more than ever: the possible pathways they can pursue to ensure that they can engage with these challenges and emerge even stronger. These can include clustering and greater partnership working. This will only be possible if Local Councils understand the issues and the possible tools available to them: hence the combination of both financial knowledge and the legal measures that must be applied. In addition, the sharing of best practice is key. Local Councils have always been “front of house”, but democratic engagement and the importance of inclusiveness has never been more important for our tier.

This conference is designed to help Local Councils of all sizes to move on from previous KALC events where they positioned themselves with the foundations of financial skills to develop a sophisticated and flexible financial strategy to manage these issues. This process will involve reflection and a need for re-engagement with the new terrain that Local Councils find themselves in; and this includes the financial reality of financial pressure on resources. The sub text of the event may well be the extent to which Local Councils now **MUST** engage with the new environment for Local Councils as Local Government itself reorganizes. There will be a fascinating mixture of papers exploring key areas like recent financial challenges and changes including insurance and working with other sectors and what we can learn from this approach. and the importance of ensuring Local Councils have a sustainable vision and plan. We also once again welcome *Came & Co* who will be offering a lunch time surgery to cover insurance related issues for delegates. This year we are also delighted to launch a new optional double module for delegates as a pilot: which explores the vital role of the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). **Please note that delegates must opt to take this double module & numbers are limited to 20.** This second level course formed of two modules will appeal to larger Councils & more experienced clerks and covers the legal and practical role of the RFO. ***You are advised to only opt for this course if you have completed F101/F111 previously.***

### CONTRIBUTORS AND TUTORS

**Chairman:** Cllr A.N. **Other:** A Senior Member of the *KALC Executive Committee*

**Mr. Jerry Dale:** *Director Elysian Associates VAT Consultants*

**Ms. Vicky Jacomb:** *Senior Underwriter Came & Company LC Insurance*

**Ms. Liz McLaren:** *Deputy Clerk Loose PC*

**Mr. Roger Taylor** of *PT Consulting*

#### TUTORS:

**Mr. David Buckett:** *KALC Finance Consultant and Lead Independent Internal Auditor*

**Ms. Diana Baldwin:** *RFO Dover Town Council*

## Welcome to the KALC Finance Conference 2018!

- 9.00 Arrival: Registration & Refreshments & Networking & Housekeeping
- 9.30 **Chairman: A Member of the Executive KALC: Local Councils & Finance in 2018**
- 9.45. **VAT need not be that taxing! Elysian Associates** offer a VAT workshop

### 10.40 **Comfort Break: no refreshments**

- 10.45 **Developing a strategy: business planning, consultation & funding:** Roger Taylor of PT Consulting
- 11.30 **Working in Partnership:** A Loose PC heritage project moves a community!

### 11.50 **Comfort Break: no refreshments**

- 11.55 **Ensuring your Insurance! A representative of Came & Co** explores a key area (followed by surgery over lunch)

- 12.30 **LUNCH [ALL DELEGATES PROCEED TO REFECTORY]**  
**[Came & Co: Insurance Surgery & Trade Stands]**

### 1.30-3.00 pm F101: Making Local Council Finance Work! A foundation MODULE

**David Buckett KALC Finance Consultant** introduces his session by highlighting some of the key financial developments for Local Councils in the last year.

[Blocks will explore general finance for Local Councils, establishing a budget, auditing process and best practice in general]

**OR F204 & F205: The RFO in Action: seminar room 130pm-5.00pm**

### 3.15-3.30 pm **Comfort Break**

### 3.30- 5.00 pm F111: Making Local Council Finance Work! WORKSHOP

**17.00 Depart**

