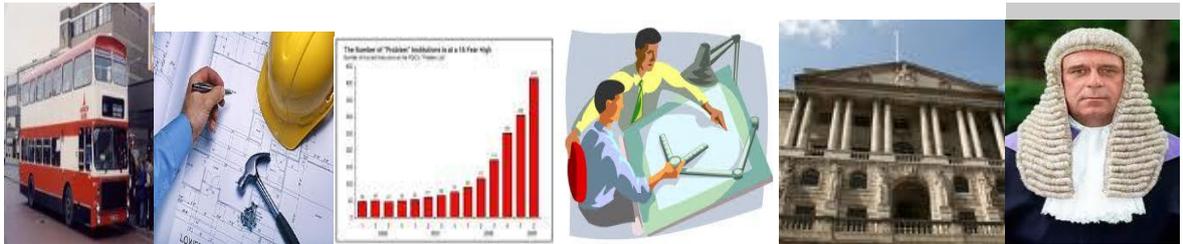




Serving Parish & Town
Councils in Kent

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS FINANCE CONFERENCE 2017



DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
Thursday 12th October 2017

INTRODUCTION

The last 12 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: this includes the continuing possibility of **excessiveness principles; the localization of council tax and declining S136 grants** (where relevant). 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. *It is advised only if you have completed F101/F201 previously.*

CONTRIBUTORS AND TUTORS

Chairman: **Cllr Sarah Barker** Chairman KALC

Mr. Rob Evans: HR Services Partnership

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

Mr. Terry Martin: CEO KALC

Ms. Charlotte Cole: Clerk Hever PC

Mr David Carden: Free-lance consultant

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 2017!

9.00 Arrival: Registration & Refreshments & Networking & Housekeeping & Welcome

9.30 **Chairman: Cllr Sarah Barker Chairman KALC: Local Councils in 2017**

9.45. *The Role of Human Resources for Councils: Rob Evans HR Services Partnership:*

10.40 Comfort Break: no refreshments

10.45 *Developing new thinking & financial literacy for Local Councils: David Curden free-lance consultant explores: partnerships, customers, revenue & management.*

11.30 *A Healthy Sector? Charlotte Cole, Clerk of Hever PC reflects on her initial experience as a clerk but also the lessons from her past as a health professional*

11.45 Comfort Break: no refreshments

11.50 *Time to Borrow? Terry Martin the CEO of KALC outlines the process: it's easier than you think and can really change your community!*

12.20 *Ensuring your Insurance! Vicky Jacomb of Came & Co explores a key area (followed by surgery over lunch)*

12.40 **LUNCH [ALL DELEGATES PROCEED TO REFECTORY]**
[Came & Co: Insurance Surgery with Vicky Jacomb & 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]

3.15-3.30 pm Comfort Break

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

17.00 Depart

LOCATION

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

The venue is Ditton Community Centre near Maidstone. There is adequate car parking with free parking for 50 cars including disabled parking.

COST

£72.00 (£60 + £12.00 VAT) per delegate from Town and Parish Councils in membership of the Kent Association, **£120.00** (£100+ £20.00 VAT) per delegate from Councils NOT in membership of the Kent Association. The cost is inclusive of morning refreshments and a buffet lunch. Conference papers and Course materials will be distributed on the day.

VAT registration number is 509 7509 27

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the booking form on-line – <http://www.kentalc.gov.uk/event-2610167>. You will receive automatic confirmation of your place. Please DO NOT email to request places. Payment is by way of cheque or direct credit/BACS. If you need KALC bank details, please email Laura Dyer (manager@kentalc.gov.uk). Course details and location maps will be sent to individuals in due course.

Booking is on a “first come first served” basis.

CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: “KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS”

Last date for booking is **Friday 6th October** unless the course becomes full before then. **No refunds for cancellation after that date.** Last minute bookings will be accepted if space available.

FUTHER DETAILS

Further details are available from:

Kent Association of Local Councils
Dover District Council Offices
White Cliffs Business Park
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