

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

20 May 2008

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer and the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth and Arts

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 LEISURE AND ARTS STRATEGY 2008-2013

Summary

This report updates on the review of the Leisure and Arts Strategy, and brings forward a consultation draft for Members' consideration and circulation to key stakeholders.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 At the May 2007 meeting of this Board (Decision D070092MEM), Members approved the approach to the review of the existing Leisure and Arts Strategy, and agreed a number of proposed themes underpinning the new Strategy. The themes act as a framework to focus on issues that concern the community. This approach strengthens the links across the Leisure Service areas, and assists the Service's integration and fit within the Council's corporate priorities. The ten themes are as follows: Healthy Living, Young People, Fair Access for All, Caring for the Environment, Tackling Climate Change, Working in Partnership, Public Access and Involvement, Quality and Excellence, Crime and Disorder Reduction and Risk Management.
- 1.1.2 Members agreed that the new Strategy should be a more overarching policy framework document compared to the existing Strategy, with less emphasis on detailed annual programmes for each section of the Service. The growing importance of delivering leisure facilities/services which address key corporate priorities was also recognised, most notably young people, healthy living, reducing crime and disorder and delivering a better street scene and open space environment.
- #### 1.2 Draft Strategy
- 1.2.1 The draft Leisure and Arts Strategy, circulated separately with these papers, provides a framework for coordinated partnership activity between different sectors, ensuring the best use of resources at a time of growing pressures on the

Council's budget. The final document will be in an A4 format, but has been condensed at this stage to save paper and reduce the cost of printing.

- 1.2.2 Members' attention is drawn in particular to pages 12-15 of the draft Strategy. These pages provide an overall policy statement describing the fundamental ideas underlying the direction of the Service, which will influence and determine future decisions. Key policies identify what the Service has to do to achieve the overall policy, linked to the approved themes. Finally, key issues are identified which represent the priorities the Service will tackle in the next five years. These issues range from the potential replacement and enhancement of the Angel Centre as part of the Council's Tonbridge town centre development proposals, to increasing participation in healthy leisure and arts activities by older people.
- 1.2.3 Within the final part of the draft Strategy (pages 18-29) details are provided on the three sections within the Service: Indoor Leisure, Outdoor Leisure and Leisure development, including actions planned to address the identified key issues.
- 1.2.4 It is felt that the draft Strategy provides a good demonstration of the value of the organisational and management changes brought about in joining Leisure Services with Planning and Transportation and the links that have been made in many areas of policy and practical working.

1.3 Consultation

- 1.3.1 Subject to Member comment at the meeting it is proposed that public consultation takes place over the next few months on the following basis:
- the draft Strategy is to be circulated to all key stakeholders and partners on page 33 of the draft Strategy, including all Parish/Town Councils, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, Tonbridge Sports Association, Sport England, Arts Council, Tourism South East, Natural England, etc;
 - copies of the draft Strategy are to be deposited at the Council's offices at Kings Hill and Tonbridge for public viewing;
 - copies will be circulated internally within the Council for staff consideration and to surrounding local authorities;
 - a copy will be available to view on the Council's website, which will incorporate a formal response form.
- 1.3.2 A list of comments received will be reported to the October 2008 meeting of this Board, along with any recommended alterations to the draft Strategy. The revised draft Strategy will then be considered by the Policy Overview Committee before being recommended for adoption by Council.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 The Leisure and Arts Strategy is one of the Plans and Strategies which together comprise the Development Plan and, as a result, must be considered and if appropriate adopted in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules contained in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 Despite the extent of work involved in the review of the Leisure and Arts Strategy, the overall cost to the Council is in the region of £5,000. Following liaison with the Director of Finance, the cost of this work has been funded from the Leisure reserve.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 It is essential that the management and development of Leisure Services is undertaken within an approved policy framework. The new Strategy will assist in the identification of priority issues, will facilitate decision making for Members and Officers, assist with the effective use of resources, and enable performance to be measured on an objective basis.
- 1.6.2 The need for a Leisure and Arts Strategy is identified in the Service's Risk Register.

1.7 Policy Considerations

- 1.7.1 Community, Crime & Disorder Reduction, Healthy Lifestyles, .Young People.

1.8 Recommendations

- 1.8.1 It is, therefore, **RECOMMENDED** that:
- 1) subject to Member comment at the meeting, the draft Leisure and Arts Strategy 2008-2013 be circulated for consultation as outlined in the report; and
 - 2) the amended Leisure and Arts Strategy be brought forward to the October 2008 meeting of this Board for Member approval, prior to submission to Policy Overview Committee.

The Chief Leisure Officer confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers: File A.2/33

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