

**LEISURE & ARTS STRATEGY 2008-2013
CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Respondent	Section/Page/Aspect	Representation	Recommended Amendment
Environment Agency	River Medway	Wish to see the River Medway acknowledged as a prime location to enjoy leisure and to display arts. Suggest this is mostly partnership work with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership but request reference to be made in the Strategy.	Value of the River Medway acknowledged and it is agreed that a greater profile should be given within the Leisure & Arts Strategy. A new action to be added to the Outdoor Leisure Section (page 25) as follows: <i>“Maximise opportunities of the River Medway for the enjoyment of leisure and arts in partnership with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership”</i> .
Kent County Council – Sport, Leisure and Olympics	Overall	It is acknowledged that the Strategy “is an excellent and thorough piece of work”.	Noted.
	Non-TMBC controlled services	It is commented that there is little mention of leisure opportunities provided by commercial, private and voluntary sectors.	Suggested to add a sentence at end of column 1 of the Introduction (page 6) as follows: <i>“This Strategy is the Council’s plan for leisure and arts in the Borough, but the value added by the commercial, private and voluntary sectors as well as other public organisations working in partnership with us is acknowledged”</i> .
	Actions	Suggest that in view of the large number of actions, these might be prioritised within each section.	It is not felt appropriate to prioritise each of the actions within the Strategy. Each action will be considered in the context of the Council’s Performance Plan taking into account resources and timescale.
	Vision	Question whether the Vision is coming through the Strategy as positively as desired.	The Vision establishes an overall context for what the Strategy is looking to achieve. The Key Issues clearly identify what the Council wishes to address by 2013.

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Kent County Council – Sport, Leisure and Olympics (continued)	Title of document	Since document does not refer to resource allocation it may be more accurate to title it ‘Strategic Framework’.	Whilst the document does present a framework it is not considered appropriate to change the title.
	Issues to consider for inclusion	Building Schools for the Future programme.	The local programme does not fall within the life of the Strategy. The implications of the programme for the Borough may be minimal following the recent completion of the four Public Finance Initiatives in relation to Aylesford, Hugh Christie, Holmesdale and Malling Schools.
		Changes to Section 106/Community Levy.	The Policy changes linked to developer contributions are currently being addressed in the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document.
		Pressure to increase ‘extended hours activity’ for young people outside of school hours.	This is a Key Issue within the Strategy and it is suggested that Key Issue (15) Schools/Colleges on page 14 be amended to “ <i>work with schools/colleges to maximise opportunities for community use of facilities outside of school hours <u>and promote extended hours activity for young people</u>. The Council works closely with Kent Sport, Leisure and the Olympics in this respect”.</i>
		Local Area Agreement indicators in volunteering, arts participation, activities for young people, adult participation in sport and physical activity.	Local Area Agreement Performance Indicators will be embraced within future monitoring. Local Area Agreement (Local Performance Indicators) are referred to on page 16 of the document.

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Kent County Council – Sport, Leisure and Olympics (continued)	Page 26	Should include reference to Strategic Framework for Sport in Kent 2008-2013; Vision for Kent; Kent Strategy for 2012 Games.	Reference will be included within Key Documents on page 26.
Kent Arts Development Unit	Potential to work in partnership	The Kent Arts Development Unit is currently undertaking a restructure and closer liaison is now taking place with District/Borough Councils. KCC is a key partner for the Council in the delivery of arts opportunities as reflected in the Strategy. Six of the Strategy's ten themes where Kent Arts Development Unit believe there is potential for partnership work are identified.	Confirm the Council's wish to explore the opportunities for collaboration and joint working.
Kent Wildlife Trust	Outdoor leisure facilities and biodiversity	The Trust is very impressed that the multifunctional benefits of outdoor leisure facilities have been recognised and taken into consideration in the formulation of the Strategy. The Trust was also pleased to note that biodiversity and global warming are identified as themes. They consider it important for the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document to explore the ways in which the Borough's leisure facilities can contribute to the green infrastructure.	Noted. The Open Space Chapter of the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document will include a policy supporting new open space provision to reinforce and develop the existing Green Infrastructure Network. The multi-functional role of open spaces, in terms of providing opportunities for habitat creation and species migration is also emphasised and promoted in the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document.

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	The subsidiary function of sports grounds, country parks and other open spaces as wildlife-friendly habitats and corridors	The Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document to consider the need to incorporate an overarching policy statement establishing the need to incorporate wildlife corridors within amenity land (sports grounds, country parks, parks and other open spaces) and their importance to the functioning of the green infrastructure and the increase in biodiversity.	The Open Space Chapter of the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document will include a policy supporting new open space provision to reinforce and develop the existing Green Infrastructure Network. The multi-functional role of open spaces, in terms of providing opportunities for habitat creation and species migration is also emphasised and promoted in the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document.
	Key Issues pages 14/15	Recommend reference to National Performance Indicator 197 – Improved Local Biodiversity.	Biodiversity is a key issue within the operation of the Council’s Leisure Services and is reflected in site specific management plans and the ground maintenance contract. Corporately, biodiversity is being addressed through the development of the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document; this document will be added to the list of Strategies and Plans on page 7 of the Leisure & Arts Strategy.
	Page 7 Corporate and regional strategies	The need to reference Biodiversity Action Plans.	Recommended to add on page 7 – The Kent and UK Biodiversity Action Plans.

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Kent Wildlife Trust (continued)	Measuring Performance	Currently no mention of measuring the outcomes of management for biodiversity.	Biodiversity will be monitored in the context of the Council's Performance Plan taking into account resources and timescale insofar as it is reflected in site specific management plans and the grounds maintenance contract.
	Management Plans	Suggest some overall targets be set for habitat creation and management, with individual management plans formulating specific targets relating to that site.	The Open Space Chapter of the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document will include a policy supporting new open space provision to reinforce and develop the existing Green Infrastructure Network. The multi-functional role of open spaces, in terms of providing opportunities for habitat creation and species migration is also emphasised and promoted in the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document.
	Mapping within the Management Development and the Environment Development Plan Document	Where habitat enhancement is essential to the functioning of the green grid as a whole, strategic sites should be identified.	The Natural Environment Chapter of the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document will include a policy supporting the restoration and creation of new habitats where these contribute to the areas of biodiversity opportunity within the Green Infrastructure Network. The Green Infrastructure Network will be identified on a key diagram in the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document.
Burham Parish Council	Exercise for the elderly	Wish to see in the Strategy the need to embrace exercise and facilities for the elderly.	This is referred to within the Strategy and will be a priority for all the Service sections within.

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Medway Valley Countryside Partnership	Page 14 Key Issues	Suggests the key issue on sustainable use should include 'enhancement of the environment'.	Agreed. Suggest rewording of Key Issue (14) on page 15 to read " <i>Manage the Borough's open spaces to encourage sustainable use for recreation and promote biodiversity, conservation and enhancement of the environment</i> ". This will bring the Key Issue into line with Open Space Strategy Key Policy 2 and with Key Aim (8) of this Strategy.
	Open spaces for biodiversity	Questions whether a key issue referring to biodiversity enhancement could be included.	Agreed. See earlier comment regarding Key Issue (14) on page 15. Such an inclusion would carry through and be consistent with the Open Space Strategy Vision.
	Aims and objectives	To number these would help other organisations that wish to make cross reference.	Agreed. It is felt appropriate to number Key Aims, Key Issues and Actions within each of the Service Areas for future reference; but to note numbering does not infer any order of priority.
Sencio Community Leisure, Sevenoaks	Partnership working	Confirms Sencio would welcome the opportunity of partnership working with TMBC Leisure Services.	Sencio and TMBC are both members of the South East Leisure Contactors Association where opportunities for partnership working are considered on an ongoing basis.
Tonbridge Art Group	Gallery and Art Studio space	Pleased to see the provision of gallery space for local and touring exhibitions in Tonbridge. Question whether permanent gallery space can be included at the Angel Centre.	The opportunity for permanent gallery space at the Angel Centre is being considered as part of the Tonbridge Town Centre Development proposal and within developments at West Kent College.
	Cost of hiring facilities	Questions whether such cost would qualify for assistance through grant schemes.	This does not fall within the remit of the Strategy, however, significant concessions are already offered to community groups for the hire of the Angel Centre and Tonbridge Castle Council Chamber.

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Tonbridge Art Group (continued)	Tonbridge Christmas Festival and Medieval Fair	Comment that they are pleased to see the inclusion of these events, they suggest potential partners and that consideration be given to running the Festival as a charity event.	The organisation of the Christmas Festival is now being co-ordinated by Tonbridge Round Table in partnership with other community groups and the Council.
Tonbridge Civic Society	Overall	Consider the Strategy to be a well thought out document, clearly laid out and explained.	Noted.
	Car Parking	Comment that no reference is made to this issue with its potential to impact on the numbers of people making regular use of facilities.	Car parking charges are carefully considered within the review of charges for leisure facilities, taking into account the impact on usage.
Tonbridge Historical Society	Heritage, history and archaeology	Comment on the need to give higher priority to these aspects across the Borough.	Agreed. Reference will be made within the Leisure Development section of the Strategy including Action 17 on page 28 to add “.... <i>Across the borough</i> ”.
Tonbridge Philharmonic Society	Performing Arts	Requests mention of developments at West Kent College and what it is hoped to achieve.	Reference to developments at West Kent College will be made in the Leisure Development section of the Strategy.
	Poult Wood	Requests reference to squash courts.	Reference will be made.
Tourism South East	Providing services for visitors as well as residents	Pleased to see the Strategy recognises the importance of including and improving the welcome for visitors as well as local residents. Suggest a short explanation of why such services are provided.	Agreed. Add to page 8 Why the Council is involved in leisure – “ <i>Because spending by visitors can help to support local businesses and a wide range of social, sports and cultural amenities that add to the quality of life of residents</i> ”.
	Skills	Would like to see more emphasis on support for organisations that employ staff dealing with general public/visitors.	Support is provided as part of the Council’s involvement in the Heart of Kent Tourism Consortium, which is highlighted within the Strategy.

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Tourism South East (continued)	Tourist Information Centre	Not mentioned in the document. It would be helpful if this could be made explicit.	Tourism Services are identified on page 2. Reference to Tourism services at Tonbridge Castle being delivered as part of the Council's Customer Services at the Castle to be included in the Leisure Development section.
	Council Performance and the use of performance indicators	Draw attention to the fact that public participation in Arts and Leisure will be relevant to a number of performance indicators in the new round of Local Area Agreements and the potential this has to improve grading from the Audit Commission.	Noted.
	Place Making Charter	Refers to promoting 'Place Making: a Charter for Destination Management'.	This issue to be considered within the Heart of Kent Tourism Consortium.
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Action Plans	Suggests timescales could usefully be indicated.	It is not felt appropriate to define timescales within the Strategy, but these will be considered in the context of the Council's Performance Plan taking into account resources available.
	Kent Agreement	Suggests reference could be made.	Appropriate reference will be included.
	Page 14 – All weather pitch provision	Notes that the new Artificial Turf pitch opened at Mascalls School, Paddock Wood may help address some of the identified deficiency in the Borough.	Noted.
Wrotham School	Astroturf project	Questions whether this could be specifically mentioned as a partnership scheme with the School and requests reference as a partner for floodlit Astroturf pitches.	Agreed. On page 25 Actions to address Key Issues (Outdoor Leisure) (1) add <i>Wrotham School</i> .