

## Annex 1: Capital Plan Post Implementation Review

<b>Service:</b>	<b>Planning Policy</b>
Scheme Title:	Medway Gap Countryside Management Initiative (also known as Valley of Visions)
Scheme Description:	The Valley of Visions project aims to conserve and enhance the Medway Gap's heritage landscapes and biodiversity; improve physical and intellectual access to them; and engage local landowners, communities and visitors sustainably in their exploration, interpretation and long-term care.
Evaluation:	<p>Medway Valley Countryside Partnership Panel  28 June 2005 Minutes MV05/004, MV05/005, 5 December 2006 Minutes MV06/012, 30 June 2008 Minutes MV08/003, 12 December 2008 Minutes MV08/013</p> <p>Rural Affairs Advisory Board  29 June 2010 Minutes RA10/005</p>
Capital Plan Year(s)	2008/09 – 2010/11
Approved budget	£75000
National Priorities	<p>Under section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 any relevant body (including Borough Councils) should conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.</p> <p>Under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 all public bodies are required to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is known as the Biodiversity Duty.</p>
Local Priorities	<p>The project supports many of the aims and policies of the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 including;</p> <p>BD1 - The maintenance and enhancement of existing designated sites, and their extension through the reduction in fragmentation and the restoration and creation of landscape and habitat clusters and corridors will be supported and pursued to establish functional ecological networks, help achieve the government's target for SSSIs in favourable condition, and to meet the Local Area Agreement for the management of Local Wildlife Sites.</p> <p>AEU1- Co-ordinated information, and interpretation for recreation, access, education and understanding across the AONB which is accurate, well presented and appropriate to its setting, readily available in a variety of formats and fosters a greater understanding, knowledge and respect for the AONB will be pursued.</p> <p>AEU6 - Robust mechanisms to resist and overcome illegal use and poor maintenance which harm the opportunity to explore and enjoy the AONB will be pursued where design is in accordance with the Landscape Design Handbook.</p> <p>AEU10 - High standards of landscape and recreational management, accessible visitor facilities and access opportunities, and increased opportunities for learning through a programme of training, events, guided walks and gateway routes and sites will be supported.</p>
Targets for judging success:	<p>These figures relate to the whole project period and for the entire project area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securing the Landscape – The precise reduction in unwanted</li> </ul>

	<p>activities (illegal motorised access, fly tipping and environmental crime) since the baseline year of 2007 is difficult to quantify precisely, but evidence appears to suggest approximately a 80% reduction. In the last year, success has been particularly pronounced at Holly Hill (where more accurate monitoring has taken place) and illegal access has reduced by over 99% (see graph).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 130 ha of chalk grassland restored, created or brought into positive management.</li> <li>• Over 155 hectares of tidal and freshwater marsh, and flooded quarry brought into positive management.</li> <li>• Approximately 40 hectares of former quarry (now SSSI) brought into positive management.</li> <li>• Hedgerows restored: 14.3km</li> <li>• 1254 hectares benefitted from our Enhanced Farm Environment Service.</li> <li>• 1001 hectares successfully brought into Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.</li> <li>• Proposals and start of delivery of 13km of shared use route on each side of the River Medway between Maidstone and Rochester.</li> <li>• Approx 3000 people trained through our Community Skills programme.</li> <li>• Approx 150 events run, attended by over 2,200 people.</li> </ul>
Completion date (work completed):	Ongoing until March 2013.
Completion date (final payment):	25 August 2010
Projected date for post implementation review:	March 2013 – when the HLF grant comes to an end in association with the Kent Downs AONB Unit.
Final cost:	£75000
Performance against National and Local Priorities and Targets:	The project has helped to address issues identified in the CROW Act and NERC Act.
Budget performance / Value for money:	The project was completed within budget.
Other performance / procurement issues:	None.
Ongoing / Outstanding issues:	Valley of Visions will continue to operate on a part-time basis until closedown of the HLF funded period at the end of June 2013. However, due to the team's success in attracting additional funding during the HLF funded period, there are funds available to continue the work. The exact amount is still to be determined, however, the AONB unit are likely to have a continued presence for some time to sustain and build upon the work of Valley of Visions. The intention is to utilise the remaining funds to lever in additional match funding and maximise resources on three key projects: progressing delivery of Along the Water's Edge (shared use access beside the River Medway); sustaining the success of the Securing the Landscape initiative (preventing illegal motorised access and fly tipping); and ensuring the longevity and success of key long term projects such as chalk grassland restoration at Ladd's Farm. Project Manager, Rick Bayne, will continue to over-see these projects until October.