

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

15 September 2014

**Report of the Director of Street Scene & Leisure
and the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth & Arts**

Part 1- Public

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

1 HAYSDEN COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Summary

This report brings forward comments received as part of the public consultation exercise on the draft Haysden Country Park Management Plan and, subject to Member comment at the meeting, recommends final approval of the Plan.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Outdoor Leisure Performance Plan identifies the need to bring all the Council's principal public open spaces in line with the criteria of the Green Flag Award – a national standard for parks and open spaces. Key elements of the award criteria include cleanliness, health and safety, welcoming park and sustainability, all of which need to be incorporated into a Management Plan that is an essential requirement for all Green Flag applications.
- 1.1.2 At the meeting of this Board on 10 June 2014, Members approved the draft Haysden Country Park Management Plan for public consultation (Decision No D140075MEM). Members are requested to bring their copy of the draft Management Plan to the meeting. Spare copies will be available on the night.

1.2 Policy Context

- 1.2.1 The draft Management Plan incorporates the standards/criteria of the Green Flag Award and assists in the delivery of four of the Council's key priorities: involving and meeting the needs of young people; achieving a cleaner, smarter and better maintained street scene and open space environment; promoting, encouraging and providing opportunities for healthy living; and reducing antisocial behaviour.

1.3 Consultation

- 1.3.1 The draft Management Plan was circulated/made available for comment between 3 July and 11 August 2014. A letter was circulated to key stakeholders listed at

[Annex 1], advising that copies of the Plan were available on the Council's website and at the following locations for public comment:

- Tonbridge Castle Customer Services
- Council Offices, Kings Hill

1.3.2 In addition, posters were displayed on site at Haysden Country Park advising visitors on the consultation process and where/how to make comment.

1.3.3 In response to the consultation a number of comments were returned and these have been carefully considered and a number of subsequent amendments to the Management Plan have been proposed. A summary of the comments received and proposed amendments can be found at **[Annex 2]**. In overview, the consultation highlighted a number of helpful issues, and generally the Plan was well received. All grammatical errors identified through the consultation will be addressed.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 Legal responsibilities and issues have been considered within the draft Plan.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 The draft Plan reflects existing Capital and Revenue budgets associated with the site.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 A copy of the draft Management Plan has been circulated to the Council's Health and Safety Officer and no adverse comments have been received. In consultation with the Health and Safety Officer, a package of site specific risk assessments has already been developed for the Park and these are referenced in the Management Plan.

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

1.7.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report.

1.8 Policy Considerations

1.8.1 Biodiversity & Sustainability, Community, Healthy Lifestyles, Young People.

1.9 Recommendations

1.9.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that, subject to Member comment at the meeting, the proposed amendments highlighted at **[Annex 2]** be approved, and the amended Haysden Country Park Management Plan be formally adopted.

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

Background papers:

contact: Chris Fox

Nil

Robert Styles
Director of Street Scene and Leisure

Maria Heslop
Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth and Arts

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	N/a
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	The proposals aim to extend and provide additional/improved facilities with free public access for all.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?	N/a	N/a

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.