



**SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL  
STRATEGY 2008 – 2012**

1. **The aim of the Council will be to offer community leadership to ensure Sevenoaks develops into the best market town in Kent, the objective will be realised in two ways. First, by engagement in local initiatives and forming relationships with other stakeholders. Secondly, by promoting the well-being of residents of the town through support for leisure, sporting and cultural activities, by improving the environment and infrastructure of the town and by fostering its commercial prosperity.**
2. To achieve these objectives the Council will each year give priority to:
  - 2.1 New leisure and sporting facilities or the expansion of existing facilities
  - 2.2 Acquiring additional green open spaces
  - 2.3 Increasing tourism, supporting live cultural events and initiatives to promote commercial activity.
  - 2.4 Grant-aiding voluntary organisations undertaking community activities especially those targeted at lower income groups
  - 2.5 Actively promoting environmentally friendly and 'green' procedures for all town council facilities and functions, subject to available resources.

**3. Achieving our strategic aims**

- 3.1 Leisure and Sporting Activities
- 3.2 The Council will provide additional or improved facilities for its existing sports and recreation grounds. It will also *consider assuming* responsibility for existing grounds from the District Council *subject to available funding*.
- 3.3 Open Spaces
- 3.4 The Council will endeavour to purchase land within the Town boundary or land adjacent or near to the boundary which might be used to promote its objectives, including the prevention of unwanted development and to improve public accessibility to Council owned land.



3.5 Commercial Development, Tourism and Cultural Events

3.6 The Council will increase its sponsorship and grants for cultural events and other initiatives which promote community and commercial activity and enhancing the image of the Town and for measures which combat anti-social behaviour.

3.7 Voluntary Activities

3.8 The Council will *consider* increasing the size and number of grants for voluntary organisations which meet its strategic objectives.

**4. Resources**

To achieve these ambitious aims the Council requires a matching financial strategy to raise additional income and capital. This strategy would combine the following elements, rather than treat the precept as a first recourse to funding :-

4.1 Raising rents, fees and charges within the limits set by the market

4.2 Using grants, in most cases, for pump-priming.

4.3 Contracting out facilities and services where appropriate.

4.4 Consider disposing of assets where appropriate which are not relevant to our strategic Objectives

4.5 Borrowing for major capital projects or purchases

4.6 Applying where appropriate for external funding to underwrite town projects

4.7 Consider entering into agency agreements to carry out contracts on behalf of other organisations for the benefit of the town – either through an improved service and / or cost saving.