

## Consultation feedback

### Our Great Outdoors – The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland.

Please return your comments by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Name (optional)		Organisation	Belfast City Council
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#### Content of the Action Plan

1. Does the Action Plan reflect the key issues that you believe are fundamental to developing Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland?

Answer:

The greatest opportunities people have to participate in outdoor recreational activities are those which are easily available to them (local parks, open spaces etc). For this reason issues around regeneration need to be considered with greater involvement of Department of Social Development, Planning Service and local authorities.

Issues which impact on local land use such as lighting, anti-social behaviour, etc need to be considered.

With the topic of health and wellbeing featuring strongly in the action plan, it will be essential to ensure high level representation from the Public Health Agency.

Consideration should be given to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance on walking and cycling: local measures to promote walking and cycling as forms of travel and recreation.

Whilst councils may provide secretariat functions for local outdoor recreation forums and that the role for Local Authorities post RPA will be taken into consideration, there is sparse reference to Local Government. Given input to the previous consultation by the majority of councils participation may be implicit. However, with Planning and Tourism responsibilities moving to councils in the near future, it will be important for councils to remain closely involved alongside Government departments and agencies in delivering outdoor recreation opportunities.

2. Are there any changes that you feel need to be made to the detailed actions? Please highlight any specific sections to which your comments relate.

Answer:

'Barriers to sport and physical activity participation' identifies socio-cultural barriers, practical barriers and knowledge barriers. A common theme across each of these is the issue of self-perception. The communication theme could better reflect the need to promote outdoor recreation as an option for people to be active.

3. Do you believe that the suggested structures will help to give a clearer voice for change and developments on a local and national level?

Answer:

A diagram of the proposed structure would assist in understanding who will be involved and at what level.

### **Structure of the Action Plan**

4. Is the document clear in its structure and easy to understand?

Answer

The addition of case studies and pictures will soften the document considerably.

5. Does the language used provide clear information in plain English?

Answer

The term AONB is used within the structure theme (page 13) without a full description (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). The full description is not given until page 14.

6. The final document will contain a lot more photos and case studies. Can you provide any photos or short (max 300 words) case studies on relevant topics highlighted within the plan?

Answer

Do you have any other comments?

Answer

**Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your feedback.  
Please return completed responses to:**

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