

Consultation Questionnaire

Kent County Council (KCC) owns and is responsible for the preservation of eight historic windmills across the county. As a council we are facing a large increase in the cost of providing services and an ever-increasing demand for our services. Due to this financial challenge, we are looking very closely at where savings can be made, and one possibility is to consider alternative arrangements for ownership and/or financial responsibilities for the windmills we own. We want to hear your views on this proposal.

You can answer all or as many of the questions as you would like to. If you would rather not provide feedback on a section or question, just move on to the next one.

What information do you need before completing the questionnaire?

We recommend that you read the Consultation Document available at www.kent.gov.uk/windmillsconsultation before responding to this questionnaire.

If you have any questions regarding these proposals, please email heritage@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 413 364.

This questionnaire should be completed online at www.kent.gov.uk/windmillsconsultation

Alternatively, fill in this Word version and return to:

Email: heritage@kent.gov.uk

Address: Heritage Conservation, Environment and Circular Economy, Kent County Council, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX

Please ensure your response reaches us by midnight on Monday 29 January 2024.

Privacy: Kent County Council (KCC) collects and processes personal information in order to provide a range of public services. KCC respects the privacy of individuals and

endeavours to ensure personal information is collected fairly, lawfully, and in compliance with the United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. Read the full Privacy Notice at the end of this document.

Alternative formats: If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language, please email: alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call: 03000 42 15 53 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 42 15 53). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.

Section 1 – About You

Q1. Are you responding ...?

Please select the option from the list below that most closely represents how you will be responding to this consultation. *Select **one** option.*

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | As a resident of Kent ((living in the Kent County Council authority area) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | As a resident from outside Kent, including Medway |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | As a representative of a local community group or residents' association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | On behalf of a windmill and heritage volunteer group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | On behalf of a professional organisation working in the heritage sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | On behalf of a Parish / Town / Borough / District Council in an official capacity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | As a Parish / Town / Borough / District / County Councillor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | On behalf of an educational establishment, such as a school or college |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | On behalf of a business |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | On behalf of a charity, voluntary or community sector organisation (VCSE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other, please specify: |

Q1a. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation (business, community group, residents' association, council or any other organisation), please tell us the name of your organisation. *Please write in **below.***

Kent Historic Buildings Committee – a committee of CPRE Kent

Q2. How did you find out about this consultation? Select *all* that apply

- An email from KCC's Heritage Conservation team
- An email from Let's talk Kent / KCC's Engagement and Consultation Team
- From a windmill and heritage volunteer group
- From my Parish / Town / Borough / District Council
- From a friend or relative
- Social Media (Facebook, X, Instagram, Nextdoor or LinkedIn)
- Kent.gov.uk website
- Saw a poster
- Newspaper
- Other, please specify:

Q3. Please tell us the first 5 characters of your postcode:

TN270

Please do not reveal your whole postcode. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us your organisations postcode. We use this to help us to analyse our data. It will not be used to identify who you are.

Section 2 – Our Proposal

We are proposing to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for each of the eight windmills owned by KCC, which would be a change to our current strategy for windmills as set out in the Kent Heritage Conservation Strategy. By seeking alternative ownership arrangements for all of the windmills, we would make an estimated saving of about £800,000 up until 2029. These changes are not expected to generate a large amount of income; the saving would be from the reduction of day-to-day running costs and maintenance of windmills.

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree in principle with our proposal to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for KCC owned windmills? Select *one* option.

You will be given the opportunity to provide feedback on individual windmills later in the questionnaire.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tend to disagree
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Q4a. Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

The Heritage Importance of the Windmills

All eight windmills owned by Kent County Council are listed buildings of exceptional significance. Six of them are listed Grade I or Grade II*. Four are operating windmills and some of the others could be made operative. They form an important part of the industrial and social history of the County, as well as of the local areas in which they are situated. They are striking buildings in the landscape, in some cases iconic symbols of their town or village, frequently used to illustrate civic and tourism publications. They are not only of historical and architectural interest, but also assets of value to the community. All are open to the public and provide visitors with insights into and promote understanding of the history of local

agriculture and industry. The operating mills provide an immersive experience of a technology which supported the growth and development of our communities until the industrial revolution. A working windmill is a vibrant, almost 'living' thing. It is a three-dimensional demonstration of how the nation's essential 'staff of life' had been produced for a thousand years. It is very important that such structures that survive be preserved in public view.

Risks of a Potential Disposal of the Windmills

The windmills thus, collectively and individually, provide great public benefit. They are able to do so through the partnership between KCC and each volunteer group. KCC has the human and financial resources to care for, maintain and support the operation of the mills. It has built up the skills and experience to do over several decades. This is demonstrated by the successful programme of repairs to the windmills which KCC has undertaken in recent years. The volunteer groups provide the people on the ground to enable the windmills to open to the public, to engage with the local community and to deal with day-to-day administration of the windmills.

All these secure public benefits are put at risk by potential disposal of the windmills as contemplated in the Consultation Document, as is the structural condition and integrity of the windmills. Some of these risks are correctly identified in the Consultation Document. The volunteer groups have very limited resources, both financial and human. They lack the funds and, generally speaking, the management experience necessary for the care, maintenance and safe operation of each mill. Voluntary organisations generally are finding it increasingly hard to retain volunteers or recruit new volunteers and the windmill groups are unlikely to be unaffected by this established trend.

Having each windmill owned and operated by a separate, small charitable or other voluntary organisation would require replicating eight times over the cost of establishing such charities and the governance costs associated with them. Such charities would not have access to the economies of scale in obtaining the services needed to support the windmill operations, such as engineering, insurance, fire protection and regulatory compliance, which are available to KCC as the owner of a large estate of heritage assets, including the windmills.

Neither forming a charitable trust, nor registering a mill as an Asset of Community Value, would of itself provide access to additional funding for the mill. The trustees of a charity formed to acquire and operate a windmill would be ill-advised to proceed without a fully-costed business plan for the project and a substantial endowment to fund the majority of the

operating and future maintenance costs, as visitor revenue is unlikely to make more than a modest contribution to routine operating costs. There is no evidence that any such endowment would be provided, unless KCC were to provide it, which would defeat the financial objectives of disposing of the windmills. In the absence of such funding, it would in our view be irresponsible for KCC to proceed with any such disposal.

If KCC is unable to fund fully the uncompleted repair programme required for some of the windmills, then bringing in third party funding should be explored, as envisaged in the current Kent Heritage Conservation Strategy (Objective 8 on page 19). The Consultation Document does not indicate, nor are we aware, that any steps have been taken by KCC to explore alternative funding mechanisms. The Consultation Document suggests that local charities would have access to a wider range of funders than KCC itself. We anticipate, however, that third party funders would place greater confidence in the ongoing viability of the windmills in the secure ownership of KCC, than in the hands of small, underfunded and inadequately-resourced local charities.

We commend KCC for the care they have taken with these mills over the last 60 years. They are a community asset and as such it should be for the community to fund their upkeep. The existing ownership status is ideal in that maintenance is funded by residents in general as a miniscule proportion of council tax. We do recognise KCC's current financial situation, although we note press reports on 24th January that the government will provide substantial additional funding for Councils facing financial difficulties. However, the small annual cost of the windmills is negligible in the context of the Council's budget. If money is the only problem, then we would urge the Council to redouble their efforts to seek sources of funding from third parties and/or from diversification of use of their mills.

We would like to discuss with the Council what alternative funding packages might be possible, on a case by case basis. This will itself be an uphill struggle, as the alternative funding routes set out in Table 6 of the consultation demonstrate that there is no easy option. Further possibilities for consideration might include:

- sponsorship;
- renting out part of the premises;
- enabling development.

We would be pleased to meet KCC and the individual mill bodies to discuss this.

Issues that would arise in the event of a disposal

It is our considered view that KCC should retain ownership of the windmills. If, however, KCC were to attempt to dispose of any of the windmills, we suggest that the following considerations would arise. The Consultation Document strongly suggests that the eight windmills proposed to be sold, individually and together, have a negative value. They are financial liabilities. This massively reduces the prospective pool of purchasers if KCC were to pursue any attempt to sell them. There are very significant risks facing any alternative future owners. As the windmills are a drain on cash (both on a cyclical basis for major repairs and as a roughly level of annual operating costs) and profit cannot be made from them, prospective purchasers are likely to be:

- charitable organisations with access to substantial funds;
- businesses seeking prestigious heritage assets as loss-leaders; or
- wealthy private buyers able to bear the ongoing maintenance and other costs.

In our view, there will be very few, if any, such purchasers. They would all, sooner or later, seek to extract themselves from their liabilities, whether these be the terms of any KCC sale, listed building policy, planning policy, public access arrangements, or any other direct or indirect cost. The risks to the windmills sold, sooner or later (and probably sooner) would be immense.

Of particular concern to us is the prospect of the mills themselves being converted for residential use or, more likely, housing being developed within the curtilage, for example at the Davison Mill. Planning authorities may find it difficult to resist such proposals as it will doubtless be argued such development is necessary to secure the mill's future. The terms of sale, should a sale proceed, must state clearly whether such development will be allowed and if so under what conditions – conditions which should be legally binding for example by covenant. The conditions of sale should also include an obligation on the purchaser to continue the programme of repairs which KCC has identified as essential to their upkeep. Without this, KCC will be failing in its compliance with the existing objectives in its heritage strategy which it seems will remain in force (see below).

KCC acquired at least some of the windmills because it was clear that they remained

unsustainable as windmills in private ownership: KCC became the owner of last resort. Attempting to sell off the windmills would remove the safety net for their future existence as visual and operative entities. In all probability this would result in pressure for KCC to reacquire them at a future date. It would be irresponsible of KCC now to aim to sell the windmills knowing that in all probability these wonderful buildings will deteriorate and require KCC once again to intervene, by acquisition, to save them. It would not be good enough to 'take a chance' or to argue that 'this would be a problem for councillors in future rather than now'.

So we simply don't believe the sell-off would work. In the case of some windmills, like Meopham, no prospective purchaser could be expected to go near to acquisition, given the legal arrangements of KCC's current ownership.

Amendment of the Kent Heritage Conservation Strategy

The Consultation Document does not indicate what amendments would be made to the Kent Heritage Conservation Strategy in order to facilitate the potential disposal of the windmills. We trust, therefore, that should KCC decide, following the consultation, to proceed with attempting such disposals, a further consultation will take place on the wording of the proposed amendments.

If, after this consultation, a decision is taken to seek alternative arrangements for our windmills, we would explore whether existing local voluntary or community groups would be able to take on responsibility for ownership of the windmills.

Q5. If a local interest, voluntary or community group(s) were to take on the ownership of the windmills, would it change how you responded to the previous question (Q4)? *Select one option.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Q5a. If you answered 'Yes', please tell us to what extent you would now agree or disagree with our proposal to seek alternative arrangements for KCC owned windmills? *Select one option.*

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Strongly agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tend to agree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Neither agree nor disagree |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tend to disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Strongly disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't know |

Q5b. Please tell us the reason for your change of mind in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

For the reasons given above, we do not consider that such local groups have the resources to care for, maintain and safely operate the windmills and to open them to the public, nor have we seen any evidence that they could acquire such resources. The risks of disposal to a poorly funded and resourced local group are very great. It would take a very well thought out and funded proposal to convince us a mill would continue to be in safe hands. It is highly unlikely such would be forthcoming.

Finding alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for our windmills would require a change to the Kent Heritage Conservation Strategy. Currently the strategy makes no mention of selling or transferring ownership of the windmills (see page 4 of the consultation document for what is currently included in the strategy).

If after this consultation a decision was taken to find alternative arrangements for our windmills, then a new objective would need to be added. The strategy would continue to set out how we would approach the management of the windmills we still own.

Q6. Please tell us if you have any comments or suggestions on the Kent Heritage Conservation Strategy in relation to windmills and this consultation. Please write in below.

We consider that the current Kent Heritage Conservation Strategy, consulted on and adopted so recently, represents a responsible and enlightened approach to securing these exceptional heritage assets and the public benefits they provide for the future. No other arrangement now in contemplation would do so and we therefore favour no amendment to it.

Individual windmills

You now can provide feedback on each of the windmills potentially impacted by this proposal. You can answer all or as many of the questions as you like. **If you would rather not provide feedback on a windmill, just move on to the next one.**

We welcome your feedback on the following windmills:

1. Chillenden Mill - page 7
2. Cranbrook, Union Mill - page 9
3. Herne Mill - page 11
4. Margate, Drapers Mill - page 13
5. Meopham Mill - page 15
6. Stelling Minnis, Davison's Mill - page 17
7. West Kingsdown Mill - page 19
8. Wittersham, Stocks Mill - page 21

1. Chillenden Mill

Q7. Have you ever visited Chillenden Mill? Select *one* option.

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable as responding on behalf of an organisation

Q7a. If you have answered 'Yes', please tell us how often you have visited Chillenden Mill. Select *one* option.

- Weekly
- 2 – 3 times a month
- Once a month
- Once every 3 months
- Once every 6 months
- Once or twice a year
- Less often
- Don't know

Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Chillenden Mill? Select *one* option.

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q8a. Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

Q9. If we were to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Chillenden Mill, how might this impact the windmill as a heritage asset, you as an individual or the organisation you are responding on behalf of?

Please tell us in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

2. Cranbrook, Union Mill

Q10. Have you ever visited Cranbrook, Union Mill? *Select one option.*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable as responding on behalf of an organisation

Q10a. If you have answered 'Yes', please tell us how often you have visited Cranbrook, Union Mill. *Select one option.*

- Weekly
- 2 – 3 times a month
- Once a month
- Once every 3 months
- Once every 6 months
- Once or twice a year
- Less often
- Don't know

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Cranbrook, Union Mill? *Select one option.*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q11a. Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

Q12. If we were to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Cranbrook, Union Mill, how might this impact the windmill as a heritage asset, you as an individual or the organisation you are responding on behalf of? Please tell us in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

3. Herne Mill

Q13. Have you ever visited Herne Mill? *Select one option.*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable as responding on behalf of an organisation

Q13a. If you have answered 'Yes', please tell us how often you have visited Herne Mill. *Select one option.*

- Weekly
- 2 – 3 times a month
- Once a month
- Once every 3 months
- Once every 6 months
- Once or twice a year
- Less often
- Don't know

Q14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Herne Mill? *Select one option.*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q14a. Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

Q15. If we were to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Herne Mill, how might this impact the windmill as a heritage asset, you as an individual or the organisation you are responding on behalf of? Please tell us in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

4. Margate, Drapers Mill

Q16. Have you ever visited Margate, Drapers Mill? *Select one option.*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable as responding on behalf of an organisation

Q16a. If you have answered 'Yes', please tell us how often you have visited Margate, Drapers Mill. *Select one option.*

- Weekly
- 2 – 3 times a month
- Once a month
- Once every 3 months
- Once every 6 months
- Once or twice a year
- Less often
- Don't know

Q17. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Margate, Drapers Mill? *Select one option.*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q17a. Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

Q18. If we were to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Margate, Drapers Mill, how might this impact the windmill as a heritage asset, you as an individual or the organisation you are responding on behalf of? Please tell us in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

5. Meopham Mill

Q19. Have you ever visited Meopham Mill? *Select one option.*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable as responding on behalf of an organisation

Q19a. If you have answered 'Yes', please tell us how often you have visited Meopham Mill. *Select one option.*

- Weekly
- 2 – 3 times a month
- Once a month
- Once every 3 months
- Once every 6 months
- Once or twice a year
- Less often
- Don't know

For Meopham Mill, which is on a long-term lease, we are proposing to offer to transfer/sell it to the current tenant in the first instance.

Q20. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to offer to transfer/sell Meopham Mill to the current tenants in the first instance? *Select one option.*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q20a. Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

Q21. If we were to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Meopham Mill, how might this impact the windmill as a heritage asset, you as an individual or the organisation you are responding on behalf of?

Please tell us in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

6. Stelling Minnis, Davison's Mill,

Q22. Have you ever visited Stelling Minnis, Davison's Mill? *Select one option.*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable as responding on behalf of an organisation

Q22a. If you have answered 'Yes', please tell us how often you have visited Stelling Minnis, Davison's Mill. *Select one option.*

- Weekly
- 2 – 3 times a month
- Once a month
- Once every 3 months
- Once every 6 months
- Once or twice a year
- Less often
- Don't know

Q23. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Stelling Minnis, Davison's Mill? *Select one option.*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q23a. Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

Q24. If we were to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Stelling Minnis, Davison's Mill, how might this impact the windmill as a heritage asset, you as an individual or the organisation you are responding on behalf of? Please tell us in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

7. West Kingsdown Mill

Q25. Have you ever visited West Kingsdown Mill? *Select one option.*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable as responding on behalf of an organisation

Q25a. If you have answered 'Yes', please tell us how often you have visited West Kingsdown Mill. *Select one option.*

- Weekly
- 2 – 3 times a month
- Once a month
- Once every 3 months
- Once every 6 months
- Once or twice a year
- Less often
- Don't know

For West Kingsdown Mill, which is on a long-term lease, we are proposing to offer to transfer/sell it to the current tenant in the first instance.

Q26. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to offer to transfer/sell West Kingsdown Mill to the current tenant in the first instance? *Select one option.*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q26a. Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

Q27. If we were to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for West Kingsdown Mill, how might this impact the windmill as a heritage asset, you as an individual or the organisation you are responding on behalf of? Please tell us in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

8. Wittersham, Stocks Mill

Q28. Have you ever visited Wittersham, Stocks Mill? *Select one option.*

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable as responding on behalf of an organisation

Q28a. If you have answered 'Yes', please tell us how often you have visited Wittersham, Stocks Mill. *Select one option.*

- Weekly
- 2 – 3 times a month
- Once a month
- Once every 3 months
- Once every 6 months
- Once or twice a year
- Less often
- Don't know

Q29. To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Wittersham, Stocks Mill? *Select one option.*

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q29a. Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

Q30. If we were to find alternative arrangements for the ownership and/or financial responsibility for Wittersham, Stocks Mill, how might this impact the windmill as a heritage asset, you as an individual or the organisation you are responding on behalf of? Please tell us in the box below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

Anything else?

Q31. If there is anything else you would like to tell us regarding this consultation, including anything you think we should consider or suggestions for how we could retain the windmills by making them more financially viable, please tell us in the box below.

We suggest that KCC should to consider an approach to the various companies and organisations that are now involved in modern wind power operations and the manufacturers of the equipment used in such operations, so as to seek sponsorship of the Kent Mills.

Section 3 – Equality Analysis

To help ensure that we are meeting our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 we have prepared an initial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the proposal to find alternative arrangements for the ownership of and/or financial responsibility for each of the eight windmills currently owned by KCC.

An EqIA is a tool to assess the impact any service change, policy or strategy would have on age, sex, gender identity, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, marriage and civil partnership and carer's responsibilities. The EqIA is available online at www.kent.gov.uk/windmillsconsultation or on request.

Q32. We welcome your views on our equality analysis and if you think there is anything else we should consider relating to equality and diversity, please add any comments below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you or anyone else within your response.

Section 4 – More About You

We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally, and that no one gets left out. That's why we are asking you these questions. We'll use it only to help us make decisions and improve our services.

If you would rather not answer any of these questions, you don't have to.

It is not necessary to answer these questions if you are responding on behalf of an organisation.

Q33. Are you...? Select *one* option.

- Male
- Female
- I prefer not to say

Q34. Is your gender the same as at your birth? Select *one* option.

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

Q35. Are you ...? Select *one* option.

- Heterosexual / Straight
- Bi / Bisexual
- Gay man
- Gay woman / Lesbian
- Other
- I prefer not to say

If you selected Other, please specify:

Q36. Which of these age groups applies to you? Select *one* option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	0-15	<input type="checkbox"/>	16-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-34	<input type="checkbox"/>	35-49	<input type="checkbox"/>	50-59
<input type="checkbox"/>	60-64	<input type="checkbox"/>	65-74	<input type="checkbox"/>	75-84	<input type="checkbox"/>	85+ over	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a long standing physical or mental condition that has lasted, or is likely to last, at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS, for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

Q37. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?
Select one option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Q37a. If you answered 'Yes' to Q37, please tell us the type of impairment that applies to you.

*You may have more than one type of impairment, so please select **all** that apply. If none of these applies to you, please select 'Other' and give brief details of the impairment you have.*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical impairment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sensory impairment (hearing, sight or both)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Longstanding illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mental health condition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Learning disability
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Other, please specify:

A Carer is anyone who provides unpaid care for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support. Both children and adults can be carers.

Q38. Are you a Carer? Select **one** option.

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

Q39. To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong? *Select one option.*
(Source 2011 Census)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White English | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White & Black Caribbean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Scottish | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White & Black African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Welsh | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White & Asian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Northern Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Other* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British Caribbean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Gypsy/Roma | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British Other* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Other* | <input type="checkbox"/> Arab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British Other* | <input type="checkbox"/> |

*Other - If your ethnic group is not specified on the list, please describe it here:

Q40. Do you regard yourself as belonging to a particular religion or holding a belief?
Select **one** option.

- Yes
- No

I prefer not to say

Q40a. If you answered 'Yes' to Q40, which of the following applies to you? Select one option.

Christian
 Buddhist
 Hindu
 Jewish

Muslim
 Sikh
 Other
 I prefer not to say

If you selected Other, please specify:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire; your feedback is important to us. All feedback received will be reviewed and considered.

We will report back on the feedback we receive, but details of individual responses will remain anonymous, and we will keep your personal details confidential.

Closing date for responses: 29 January 2024

Consultation Privacy Notice

Last updated: 30 April 2023

Who are we?

We, Kent County Council (KCC), take our privacy obligations seriously and we've created this privacy policy to explain how we treat your personal information collected in this questionnaire. Personal information is information we hold which is identifiable as being about you.

Our collection, use and disclosure of your personal information is regulated under the United Kingdom Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. We are responsible as 'controller' of that personal information for the purposes of those laws. Our Data Protection Officer is Benjamin Watts.

The personal information we collect and use

Information collected by us

In the course of responding to consultations published by Kent County Council we collect the following personal information when you provide it to us:

- responses to questionnaire / consultation
- equalities data collected through questionnaire response - age, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexuality, disability, pregnancy or maternity or if you are a Carer
- employment and education details
- postcode.

We ask you not to provide information that will identify you in your response in this questionnaire.

You do not need to submit any equalities or postcode information if you do not want to. KCC is committed to the principle that all our customers have the right to equality and fairness in the way they are treated and in the services that they receive. Any information you do give will be used to see if there are any differences in views for different groups of people, and to check if services are being delivered in a fair and reasonable way.

We will not ask you to provide your name, email or full home address. If you provide this information, it will not be entered into spreadsheets or databases used to process response data and will not be used in producing reports. We will follow our Data Protection policies to keep your information secure and confidential. Your equality data will be anonymised before it is shared with external organisations who have been

commissioned on individual projects to undertake analysis and reporting on our engagement and consultation activities.

How we use your personal information

We collect and use this information in order to:

- understand your views about a particular topic or KCC activity
- analyse consultation and engagement activity
- inform KCC's future strategy, policy, service design and budget planning
- undertake equality monitoring.

We may use your postcode to analyse the geographical spread of responses and in some cases to understand in more detail how responses are impacted by location. We will only ask you for the first five characters of your postcode to avoid being able to identify specific households in less populated areas.

We may use your postcode to carry out a type of profiling to estimate which one of a number of lifestyle groups you are most likely to fall into. We do this using geodemographic segmentation tools. We do not make any decisions about individual service users based solely on automated processing, including profiling.

How long your personal data will be kept

We will hold any personal information provided by you in this questionnaire for up to six years following the closure of a consultation. Our Retention Policy is available from our website or on request.

We rely on UK GDPR Article 6(1)(e): 'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest' and Article 6(1)(c) 'for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject' as our lawful basis.

We rely on Article 9(2)(g) 'processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest' (statutory etc. and government purposes, equality of opportunity or treatment) as the lawful basis on which we collect and use your special category data.

The processing is necessary for our statutory purposes including equalities monitoring or to understand the potential impact of proposals on conditions related to special category data within your response (e.g. when identifying or keeping under review the existence or absence of equality of opportunity or treatment between groups of people with the view to enabling such equality to be promoted or maintained.) It is necessary for identifying or keeping under review the existence or absence of equality of opportunity or treatment between groups of people with the view to enabling such equality to be promoted or maintained. You can read [KCC's Equality Policy on our website](#) or on request.

Who we share your personal information with

We may share your personal data with those listed below:

- services within the council who are responsible for the management of the engagement or consultation activity
- a third-party supplier who has been contracted to independently analyse the consultation responses
- organisations such as schools and academies with whom we may be consulting in partnership or on behalf of
- district or borough councils or government departments with whom we may be consulting in partnership or on behalf of.

We will share personal information with law enforcement or other authorities if required by applicable law.

Any personal information provided that could identify you will be removed before consultation results are published.

We use a system to log your feedback, which is provided by Granicus.

Your rights

Under UK GDPR you have a number of rights which you can access free of charge which allow you to:

- know what we are doing with your information and why we are doing it
- ask to see what information we hold about you
- ask us to correct any mistakes in the information we hold about you
- object to direct marketing
- make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Depending on our reason for using your information you may also be entitled to:

- ask us to delete information we hold about you
- have your information transferred electronically to yourself or to another organisation
- object to decisions being made that significantly affect you
- object to how we are using your information
- stop us using your information in certain ways.

We will always seek to comply with your request, however, we may be required to hold or use your information to comply with legal duties.

For further information about your rights, including the circumstances in which they apply, see the [guidance from the UK Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#) on individuals' rights under UK GDPR.

If you would like to exercise a right, please contact the Information Resilience and Transparency Team at data.protection@kent.gov.uk.

Keeping your personal information secure

We have appropriate security measures in place to prevent personal information from being accidentally lost or used or accessed in an unauthorised way. We limit access to your personal information to those who have a genuine business need to know it. Those processing your information will do so only in an authorised manner and are subject to a duty of confidentiality.

We also have procedures in place to deal with any suspected data security breach. We will notify you and any applicable regulator of a suspected data security breach where we are legally required to do so.

Who to contact

Please contact the Information Resilience and Transparency Team at data.protection@kent.gov.uk to exercise any of your rights, or if you have a complaint about why your information has been collected, how it has been used or how long we have kept it for.

You can contact our Data Protection Officer, Benjamin Watts, at dpo@kent.gov.uk. Or write to Data Protection Officer, Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ.

The United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation also gives you the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner who may be contacted at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns> or telephone 03031 231113.

For further information visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/about-the-website/privacy-statement>.