

## Appendix A

**Kevin Fordham**  
Chief Executive

**Philippe Lacamp**  
Chairman

[www.vistaleisure.com](http://www.vistaleisure.com)



18 July 2012

Mr R. Walton  
Director of Environment and Corporate Assets  
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Dear Roger

### **Merger Between Vista Leisure and Thanet Leisureforce**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> July the Vista Leisure (VL) Trustees agreed to merge with Thanet Leisureforce (TLF). The form of merger will be for VL to dissolve with our assets and liabilities transferring to TLF operating as an Industrial and Provident Society, albeit under a different company name.

The Trustees were confident that our values and objectives and indeed skill set were complementary and considered this was the best way forward to provide a more robust financial platform. They also felt the merger would open up new opportunities and was in the best interests of the charity beneficiaries.

You will be aware there were pre-determined requirements to enable the merger to proceed including approval in respect of leases and funding from Dover District Council (DDC). For completeness the essential requirements are outlined below and I would be grateful if you could make arrangements to progress the current 'in principle' support, in order to obtain formal Council approval.

- Agree to novate the existing leases to the new merged organisation
- Retain the existing length of the lease up until March 2021 and remove all clauses that enable a break in the lease with 12 months' notice
- Agree to enter in to a three year funding arrangement with the new merged organisation

I should mention that a Shadow Board has now been formed to oversee the implementation and their first meeting will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> August. A key decision at this meeting will be to agree a Company name, which will enable TLF's Membership to formally adopt this name at a Members meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> August. The merger is scheduled for completion in March/April 2013 and to keep this on track and avoid abortive costs it would be helpful if you could aim to achieve Council approval in advance of the TLF Members meeting.

You will also know the merger report clarifies VL's and TLF's joint position on Local Authority representation on the new Board. In respect of future governance, and whilst I think I know the answer, it would be helpful if you could confirm if DDC would like to consider the possibility of Councillor representation.



Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Fordham', written over a light grey horizontal line.

Kevin Fordham  
Chief Executive

Copy to: Steve Davis - Managing Director, Thanet Leisureforce