

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Item no.</b>
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	21 April 2012	<b>8</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Decisions taken under urgency powers	<b>Public</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Information</b>	
<p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>This report provides details of action taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, in accordance with Standing Order No. 41(a).</p> <p><b>Recommendations:-</b></p> <p>That the action taken since the last meeting be noted.</p>		

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. Standing Order Nos. 41(a) provide mechanisms for decisions to be taken between scheduled meetings of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee where it is urgently necessary that a decision be made.

### **Decisions Taken under Urgency Procedures**

2. The following actions have been taken under urgency Standing Order No. 41(a), since the last meeting of the Committee:

#### **Flood Management and Water Quality Project - Appointment of Strategic Landscape Architect**

3. Approval was granted (with the approval of the Court of Common Council) to delegate authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman in respect of the following : -
  - i) the appointment of a Strategic Landscape Architect to the Flood Management and Water Quality Management project at an estimated additional cost of between £100,000 - £150,000 (Q1, 2012 prices).
  - ii) the need for competitive tenders for the appointment of the Strategic Landscape Architect was waived and negotiated tenders would be sought for these services from a select group of up to five professionals, identified from research including a list of potential candidates provided from the Landscape Institute.

A report detailing the full proposal can be found in appendix 1 to this report.

Reason for urgency – In order to allow the project to progress in a timely manner it was necessary for action to be taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman & Deputy Chairman of the Hampstead Heath Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, before the proposal was considered by the Projects Sub Committee on 17 April 2012. The Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee was not due to meet until Monday 21 May 2012.

**National Grid Gas works at Hampstead Heath – Change of Terms**

4. Approval was granted (with the approval of the Court of Common Council) to delegate authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to grant National Grid a license on the following basis: -

- i) Premium of £80,000 for the right to install and operate the two gas regulators in connection with the existing gas supply.
- ii) Payment of £50,000 in respect of compensation for compounds to be erected in connection with the works, City of London staff management time and fees, and the City of London's consultant's fees
- iii) Annual licence fee of £1,000 pa subject to an RPI uplift on a 5 yearly basis.
- iv) National Grid to remain fully responsible for reinstatement of the Heath following works

Reason for urgency –

National Grid advised that they were unable to proceed on the basis approved by this Committee on 26 March 2012 (listed below) as they were unable to commit to the funding arrangement of having the licence premium reviewed every 30 years in perpetuity.

On 26 March, this Committee approved the granting of a licence on the following basis:

- i) Premium of £40,000 for the right to install and operate 2 gas regulators located at Kenwood House and the Heath Extension, in connection with the existing gas supply.
- ii) Licence premium to be reviewed every 30 years
- iii) No annual licence fee

- iv) Compensation of £200 per week in respect of a compound to be erected at Parliament Hill connection with the works.

A decision was sought under urgency in order for the works to be completed by March 2013, as required by the Health and Safety Executive, in order to supply National Grid with funding for this project. Failure to proceed under urgency was likely to result in National Grid withdrawing from this project.

### **Conclusion**

- 5. Members are asked to note to contents of this report.

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