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| <b>Committee(s)</b>                                                      | <b>Dated:</b>                       |
| Highgate Wood Consultative Group – For Discussion                        | 17 October 2018                     |
| Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee – For Discussion                  | 29 October 2018                     |
| Queen’s Park Consultative Group – For Discussion                         | 31 October 2018                     |
| Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee – For Decision | 28 November 2018                    |
| <b>Subject:</b><br>Fees and Charges 2019/20 & 2020/21                    | <b>Public</b>                       |
| <b>Report of:</b><br>Superintendent of Hampstead Heath                   | <b>For Discussion/<br/>Decision</b> |
| <b>Report author:</b><br>Yvette Hughes – Open Spaces Department          |                                     |

### Summary

This report sets out the proposed fees and charges for a range of sports facilities and services provided at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen’s Park for 2019/20. In addition, the report sets out the proposed fees and charges for Weddings and Civil Ceremonies for 2020/21.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- The Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Highgate Wood Consultative Group and Queen’s Park Consultative Group discuss the proposed fees and charges for 2019/20 and 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.
- The views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Highgate Wood Consultative Group, and Queen’s Park Consultative Group be conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee at their 28 November 2018 meeting.
- The Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee agree the proposed fees and charges for 2019/20 and 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. Charges for the wide range of services, recreation and sporting facilities provided in all the City Corporation's Open Spaces are reviewed annually, to ensure that prices and ticket options are relevant and appropriate. The current 2018/19 (and 2019/20 Weddings and Civil Ceremony) charges for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park were approved by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee in November 2017.
2. The income generated from fees and charges contribute towards the cost of providing sports and recreational facilities across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.

### **Current Position**

3. The Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum have been consulted on the proposed sports charges for 2019/20.
4. The proposed fees and charges include concessionary rates, offering a 40% discount on the standard adult charge, except where indicated.
5. The fees and charges are based upon benchmarking with other local providers, and this exercise was last carried out in 2015. A further exercise will be carried out in 2019.
6. The Lido has recently been benchmarked with other similar facilities across London.
7. Work over the past year to encourage the level of compliance for payment at the Bathing Ponds has seen a modest increase in income from these facilities. However, there is still further work that needs to be carried out in order to improve payment compliance, and this includes improved signage, payment methods and cash payment arrangements. Consequently, it is proposed that swimming charges are held at the current rates, as set out in Appendix 1, for a further year to enable this work to be completed.
8. Sports fees and charges are not based on full cost recovery and are significantly subsidised by the City of London Corporation to promote participation in formal and informal recreation to support health and well-being.

### **Proposed Charges 2019/20**

9. It is proposed that the majority of charges for 2019/20 and the 2020/21 charges for Weddings and Civil Ceremonies be increased by 2.7% in line with Consumer Price Index (CPI), with rounding to aid cash handling. Consequently, this may represent a marginally higher or lower percentage uplift.
10. Highgate Wood Metro Blind Cricket Team Support Scheme recognises a 50% discount on the changing room hire charge. This is to continue support for the development of blind cricket.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

11. This Policy contributes towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23. Contribute to a flourishing society (1-4), Support a thriving economy (5) and Shape outstanding environments (9-12).
12. The Policy also meets the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2018-19 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.

## **Financial Implications**

13. The City's Financial Regulations require all Departments to recover full costs when setting charges to persons or external organisations, or submit reasons to the appropriate service Committee when that objective is not met. It is therefore at the discretion of individual spending Committees to determine the actual level of fees and charges relative to the services they provide, after taking into account local considerations and priorities.
14. The Superintendent will provide an update on target income budget for the service in the 2019/20 financial year at the meeting.
15. As stated, the proposed price changes reflect an uplift of 2.7%. This has been rounded for ease of transactional processing.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Fees and Charges for 2019/20 & 2020/21

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