

TO: **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

11 April 2019

FROM: **HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD &  
QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE**

16 January 2019

### **SPORTS ENGAGEMENT**

Members were advised that sports engagement had previously been managed by the Communications Team, but that this was now under Corporate Affairs and they were recruiting a full time Sports Engagement Officer. The Chairman stated that the Chairmen of a number of Committees incorporating sports engagement were concerned by the new structure which did not account for community sports engagement, health and wellbeing, etc, and a draft resolution had been prepared by the Chairmen with five pillars identified for consideration to go to the Policy & Resources Committee to bring in all work across the City and its Open Spaces.

It was noted that the proposed resolution was discussed at the Epping Forest & Commons Committee on 11 March 2019 and the Education Board, Children & Community Services Committee, Open Spaces & City Gardens and Epping Forest Committees were all aware of the resolution.

The Chairman proposed that the Committee send a resolution on this matter to the Policy & Resources Committee which would be followed by resolutions of other relevant Committees. Members agreed that sports effected the community on all levels from the grassroots up and were unanimously supportive of this action.

**RESOLVED** – That a resolution be made to the Policy & Resources Committee requesting involvement in the decision-making process regarding sports engagement in conjunction with other relevant Committees, as follows:

“Noting the creation of a new Sports Engagement Strategy, we are aware that the PRED sub-committee have resolved to recruit a full time Sports Engagement Officer. We, as the Chairmen of interested committees, would like to have a part in the decision-making process regarding the growth and implementation of the strategy, prioritisation of effort, and where funds are allocated. We feel that the committees that are responsible for sport (in its widest sense) should be involved in the overall process and have an involvement in the decision-making on the strategy.

We believe there are five pillars to the City's engagement with sport to be considered:

1. Open spaces, involving the community and local sports clubs
2. Education with the City of London Schools (independent schools and the academy chain), which often provide facilities for the local community
3. Promoting health and wellbeing across the boroughs and London-wide through facilities at our open spaces and through our Community & Children's services
4. National and regional sports events promotion
5. Soft benefits of Sports Business Networking where the business community are engaged (in particular sponsorships)

Our open spaces have worked extensively in sports partnerships with groups such as the Sports Lottery Fund, FA, The Football Foundation and the LTA, and would like to see the strategy encompass building on and strengthening these partnerships also.”