

Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, Draft 2
Summary of Feedback Received from Members

The Draft Sport and Physical Activity Strategy is being shared with the following Committees:

Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee (for information)	5 November 2019
Planning and Transportation Committee (for information)	5 November 2019
Culture Heritage and Libraries Committee (for information)	11 November 2019
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Committee (for information)	13 November 2019
Education Board (for information)	14 November 2019
Epping Forrest and Commons Committee (for information)	18 November 2019
Health and Wellbeing Board (for information)	22 November 2019
Streets and Walkways Sub (Planning and Transportation) Committee (for information)	3 December 2019
Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee (for information)	9 December 2019
Community and Children’s Services Committee (for information)	13 December 2019
Hospitality Working Party of the Policy and Resources Committee (for information)	17 December 2019
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (for information)	27 January 2020

Committees are being asked to:

- i. Review the draft version of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy – and provide their feedback on it which officers will then incorporate as directed.
- ii. Consider whether or not they will endorse the strategy, subject to the changes requested being made.
- iii. Consider and advise if a budget should be set aside and a brief agreed for an expert to review the commercial prospects of existing assets and how best to promote participation and access.

Summary of feedback received to-date:

The feedback generally centres around the direction and purpose of the strategy, how it will be governed and funded/resourced and if the asset list is accurate and error-free. The strategy has been endorsed so far by all Committees, subject to comments being incorporated.

Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee, 5/11/2019:

- **Funding:** Are we correctly outsourcing activities, are our activities inclusive for those with lower incomes and should we invest in an in-house sport development team?

- *The response: There is nothing in the strategy that prevents the pursuit of these ideas, and if agreed they should be captured in the Strategy's Action Plan.*
- **Budget:** Must gather accurate figures on how much is currently being spent by the departments listed on sport and physical activity, as outlined on the final paragraph under 'Our funding for this strategy'.
 - *The response: Agreed that that an email will be sent ahead of December's PRED meeting outlining the spend, including an assessment of the in-kind investment.*
- **Governance:** If a Member is on several of the Committees listed then they should represent all of these Committees, rather than ending up with 12 separate Members.
 - *The response: This section will be updated to reflect the above.*
- **Governance:** The Strategy should also be shared with the Hospitality Working Party of the Policy and Resources Committee.
 - *The response: It has been added to the next agenda.*

Planning and Transportation Committee, 5/11/2019:

- **Asset list:** There are a lack of City-specific assets, and a suggestion of a soft surface strip on Square Mile pavements for runners was made.
 - *The response: The strategy does not prevent this idea being explored. Ultimately it is for Members to decide if this is a priority etc.*
- **Asset list:** Caution advised on listing all Open Spaces assets, given that they are being reviewed through the Fundamental Review etc.
 - *The response: The list has been compiled by the Open Spaces Department.*
- **Governance:** If the Working Party is adopted, then it should initially exist for two years.
 - *The response: This wording can be added into the strategy.*
- **Activities:** Must ensure that dancing is referred to as an example of physical activity.
 - *The response: Dancing is already referred to in the strategy twice.*
- **Budget:** Must gather accurate figures on how much is currently being spent by the departments listed on sport and physical activity, as outlined on the final paragraph under 'Our funding for this strategy', including in kind investment.
 - *The response: Work is underway to determine this figure.*

Culture Heritage and Libraries Committee, 11/11/2019:

- **Budget:** Can more up-to-date figures for the budget commitment from Open Spaces be given – they currently relate to 2015?
 - *The response: These figures were compiled by a paid for external and specialist consultant, who arrived at the figure of £1.7m by reviewing activities*

across all Open Spaces sites, the time/motion of all staff, the budgets etc. Such an investment is not possible at this time, unless Members offer funding for this – however, Open Spaces do feel that the work relating to sport and physical activity has not altered drastically since 2015.

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, 13/11/2019

- **Feedback and Input:** Can this draft be shared with the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Group?
 - *The response: It has been shared via an officer at Hampstead Heath, who will ask the SAG to share their feedback via the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee in January 2020.*

- **Feedback and Input:** The strategy should be shared with someone at Sport England to ensure that it aligns with their criteria for drafting strategies, and responded that David Walton on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, who works for Lewisham had offered to do this.
 - *The response: Sport England and London Sport colleagues have already been engaged in the drafting process. Members to advise on how they would like the process of external engagement on the draft, over and above that provided by Members, to progress.*

- **Governance:** More clarity needed on who the Working Party would report in, with one Member suggesting that sole responsibility should not lie with Open Spaces and that it may be beneficial for the Working Party to report into the Policy and Resources Committee.
 - *The response: For Members to determine this, and it will then be added to the Strategy.*

- **Funding:** How will this strategy be funded?
 - *The response: Primarily through existing budgets and resources within Open Spaces, Town Clerk's (Communications), Built Environment, Community and Children's Services and Remembrancer's. A note is being prepared for PRED Sub-Committee outlining how sport and physical activity is currently funded and the amounts invested.*

- **Funding:** The costs relating to sport engagement, based within the Town Clerk's Communications function, should be included and that this area would benefit from a budget uplift, especially as the Motion raised at the Court of Common Council highlighted that all Members believe that sport engagement is a priority for the organisation.
 - *The response: These will be added to the next draft. In terms of uplifts, the figures included will be 'static', but a line can be added stating that consideration needs to be given to the fact that these figures might need to increase over the course of the strategy.*

Education Board, 14/11/2019:

- **Scope and Focus:** No clear mention of schools, buildings, students and pupils, with very little reference to education or students in the executive summary –

which is disappointing as there is evidence for the role sport and physical activity plays in enhancing learning outcomes. Questions raised as to role of the Education Board in supporting this strategy, although there was agreement that the strategy is a framework document and doesn't prevent the work of the Education Board relating to Sport and Physical Activity being delivered.

- *The response: It is vital that the role of Education is properly reflected in the Strategy, and officers will work together to do this.*

- **Governance:** Without clarity on who is leading this agenda, then it is difficult to determine the role of the Education Board. However clear support for the idea of a Working Party.

- *The response: For Members to determine this, and it will then be added to the Strategy.*

Epping Forrest and Commons Committee, 18/11/2019:

- **Funding:** The comment in the report in paragraph 14, is contradicted by the third paragraph under 'Our funding for this strategy' – namely the statement: '*...however it does not guarantee that the facilities are brought up to or above changing modern day standards or requirements*'. The City Corporation must address the reputation it has for not being very good at maintaining its properties.

- *The response: The wording used has been shared by departments, and so departments must advise on new wording.*

- **Funding:** Hard to determine investment levels in this area during the Fundamental Review, but it may also help to include the figures relating to money brought into the Open Spaces through fees etc.

- *The response: Open Spaces Department to advise if such figures are available and can be shared.*

- **Safeguarding and Health and Safety:** There are clear safeguarding risks, especially for children and young people caused by not investing in improving changing room facilities. There was an additional comment that safeguarding concerns such as those raised should be addressed through the Risk Register primarily, rather than through the Strategy only. However there was agreement that the strategy could have the idea of offering 'safe' sporting facilities added to the text.

- *The response: The suggested wording can be added, and it is for Members to determine the investment possible in pursuit of mitigating the risk outlined above.*

- **Asset List:** The list of facilities for Wanstead Flats, Epping Forest and Chingford need to be listed as one group, and there may be some facilities missing in relation to cricket and golf. Also the other facilities under Epping Forest are written in a way that suggests the angling lakes are open for horse riding, and so this needs correcting.

- *The response: Open Spaces Department to provide corrections to the list, and the wording will be updated to avoid confusion.*

- **Governance:** Ownership of this strategy needs to be determined, and it should not just be Health and Wellbeing, as Open Spaces clearly have a role too.
 - *The response: For Members to determine this, and it will then be added to the Strategy.*
- **Scope and Focus:** The strategy continues to lack clear direction and is therefore at risk of drift.
 - *The response: First and foremost the Strategy is designed to support individuals and communities to enjoy inclusive access to sport and physical activity opportunities, including through mass participation events and appropriate facilities, in pursuit of improvements in health and wellbeing and community cohesion, which has been reflected in the re-ordering of the outcomes, re-wording of the vision, the clearer reference to key stakeholder groups etc., compared to the last draft. There continues to be a focus on major sporting events, again for the benefit of individuals and communities, but also for the positive impact it has on London and the UK's identity/brand, and the economy.*
- **Scope and Focus:** The first bullet point of the Motion by Dominic Christian was not adequately reflected in the current strategy text – the bullet point reads: ‘Sport inspires competitors to achieve the best they can and celebrates both winning and taking part’.
 - *The response: This will be looked at as part of the re-drafting process.*

Health and Wellbeing Board, 22/11/2019:

Feedback and Input: On page 15, it says to make the most of our assets under item d, and on page 22 the schools should be mentioned.

- *The response: This will be incorporated as part of the redraft.*

Activities: Should mention rowing, as we are a riparian authority.

- *The response: This will be incorporated as part of the redraft.*

Scope and Focus: Need to define a specific priority or priorities, and to develop measures and targets, to avoid it becoming a wish list that then ends up being shelved.

- *The response: A summary of spending is being compiled and this paper asks for consideration of commissioning a review of the commercial prospects of existing assets and how best to promote participation and access. What is also needed is a review of where the needs and opportunities (such as to accessing City gyms at discounted rates) lie and better information on what stakeholders' views are. This will help us understand where and how to remove the barriers to participation and therefore what we should focus on. This would best be carried out by experts in the field.*

Feedback: Circulate this summarised list of feedback to Members of all Committees that have been engaged with this strategy at the end of the consultation.

- *The response: Agreed that this will happen.*

Governance: Clear that there is still a lot of confusion about governance, and a better solution than a Working Group or 15 different Committees.

- *Response: In a local authority, this would fall within a particular Cabinet Member's portfolio. Therefore, Member guidance is sought and welcomed on how to proceed, and this could be something that the governance review resolves over the longer-term.*

Funding: Hackney has received a £10m from a Sport England bid for a similar strategic aim, and this may be worth exploring further to determine if there are opportunities for collaboration.

- *The response: Officers to explore this further.*

Commissioning: The Fusion contract for the City of London Corporation commissioned leisure centre in the Square Mile will be reviewed and recommissioned this year. The Community and Children's Services can bring a report on what the sports activity is currently to this Board.

- *The response: Supportive of this happening.*

Streets and Walkways Sub (Planning and Transportation) Committee, 03/12/2019:

No comments received.

Presentation: Following the agenda item, Member John Ernest Edwards presented as Any Other Business his idea for a running/walking track in the Square Mile, as part of the current public realm/pavements, which he raised at Planning and Transportation Committee on 05/11/2019. There was a great deal of Member support for the idea and its demonstration of the City Corporation's commitment to healthy living, with some discussion on the route of the track, including support for it being a way to link up cultural assets in the Square Mile. However, Members also flagged that the costs were likely to be prohibitive and that it could cause increased congestions on pavements.

Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee, 09/12/2019:

Governance: Some concern that the Open Spaces were not fully or equally represented on the Working Party.

- *The response: Ensure that those on the Working Party have links to the work of all Open Spaces.*

Repairs: Need to ensure that the need for existing repairs in the Open Spaces, e.g. at West Ham Park, is captured in the strategy.

- *The response: This is somewhat covered in the section on funding for the strategy, but further guidance on what to include on this matter will be sought from Open Spaces officers.*

Open Spaces representation: Need to ensure that the Open Spaces outside of the Square Mile are well-represented.

- *The response: There is a list of all Open Spaces sites in the strategy already. If further emphasis is required, then this will be considered as part of the re-draft.*

Community and Children's Services Committee; 13/12/19:

No comments received.

Hospitality Working Party of the Policy and Resources Committee; 17/12/19:

No comments received.

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