

Committee:	Date:
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	26 November 2012
Subject: Decisions taken under urgency powers	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
<p><u>Summary</u></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>Recommendations:-</p> <p>That the action taken since the last meeting be noted.</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. Standing Order No. 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 in accordance with Standing Order No. 41(a), since the last meeting of the Committee:

Hampstead Heath Car Park Enforcement

3. From 1 October 2012 the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 made it an offence to clamp or tow away a vehicle parked on private land, without lawful authority. An alternative enforcement method to ensure payment for parking within the Heath car parks needed to be introduced.
4. Approval was granted (with the approval of the Court of Common Council) by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman in respect of the following:
 - i) proposals for Parking Charge Notice to be issued by Heath Rangers, supported by Heath Constables, following an unauthorised parking event.

- ii) the appointment of District Enforcement to take all subsequent enforcement action and instruct the Comptroller and City Solicitor to enter into a contract for the provision of services.

Reason For Urgency

5. The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 made it an offence to clamp or tow away a vehicle parked on private land, without lawful authority from 1 October 2012; therefore an alternative model of enforcement was necessary to ensure compliance. The Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee meeting due to be held on 24 September 2012 was cancelled due to lack of business. It was not possible for the Committee to approve a new policy ahead of the legislation implementation on 1 October 2012.

Conclusion

6. Members are asked to note to contents of this report.

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