

Committee(s): Highgate Wood Consultative Group	Date(s): 21/04/2021
Subject: Draft Annual Report – Highgate Wood Charity (No. 232986)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Discussion
Report author: Jonathan Meares, Highgate Wood Manager	

Summary

During 2020/21 activities, events and income generation at Highgate Wood have been impacted by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. The Wood has remained open and has provided invaluable access to open space for the local community during the three National Lockdowns. The achievement of the 2020/21 Key Priorities has been impacted by the on-going pandemic, as set out in appendix 1. Moving forward, draft priorities for inclusions in the 'Plans for Future Periods 2021/22' have been proposed for Members feedback, with a focus on ground restoration works.

The draft Annual Work Programme Projects 2021/22 and draft Highgate Wood Divisional Plan 2021/24 are also presented for Members feedback.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Members:

- Provide feedback on the 'Plans for Future Periods 2021/22' and the draft Annual Trustees Report for 2020/21 (appendix 1).
- Provide feedback on the draft Annual Work Programme Projects for 2021/22, as set out in appendix 2.
- Provide feedback on the draft Highgate Wood Divisional Plan 2021/24, as set out in appendix 3.

Main Report

Background

1. Highgate and Queen's Park Kilburn is a Registered Charity (No. 232986).

2. As a Registered Charity, Highgate Wood is required to submit an Annual Report and Financial Statement, detailing its activities and to ensure compliance with the Charities Act 2011.
3. The draft Annual Report for 2020/21 is attached at appendix 1.

Current Position

4. Since the end of March 2020, Highgate Wood has been impacted by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. This has impacted on the achievements of the 2020/21 Key Priorities, as detailed in appendix 1.
5. The 'Plans for Future Periods 2021/22' (appendix 1) sets out the proposed overarching priorities for 2021/22. Members will note strong correlation between the 'Plans for Future Periods 2021/22', the draft Annual Work Programme Projects for 2021/22 (appendix 2) and the draft Highgate Wood Divisional Plan 2021/24 (appendix 3).
6. Members feedback and views are sought on:
 - The 'Plans for Future Periods 2021/22', and the draft Annual Trustees Report for 2020/21 (appendix 1).
 - The draft Annual Work Programme Projects for 2021/22 (appendix 2).
 - The draft Highgate Wood Divisional Plan 2021/24 (appendix 3).

Corporate & Strategic Implications

7. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018/2023: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environments.
8. The revised priorities outlined in this report also contribute towards the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2021/22 (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

9. The Superintendent will provide a verbal update on the end of year position budget position for 2020/21.
10. From 2021/22, in respect of Open Spaces (local risk budget), income relating to donations and legacies to the Charities shall be ring-fenced and where necessary, carried forward in the relevant ring-fenced Charitable reserve for each Charity.

Resource Implications

11. Staff resources are being prioritised keeping the Wood open, safe, accessible and secure.

Climate Implications

12. The City of London launched its Climate Action Strategy in October 2020 and the strategy is now in implementation stage. A key part of the strategy is conserving

and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing the City of London's carbon emissions. This will be the main objective at Highgate Wood in the short term, especially following the impact of exceptionally high number of visitors due to COVID-19.

Legal Implications

13. No Impact.

Risk Implications

14. There is a risk that the revised priorities for April 2021 onwards will be impacted by COVID-19.

Equality Implications

15. No Impact.

Security Implications

16. Security implications are addressed in the emergency response to COVID-19 and are being monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Conclusion

17. Following feedback, the Trustees Annual Report 2020/21 will be submitted as required by the Charity Commission.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Report for Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn Charity 2020/21.
- Appendix 2 – Draft Annual Work Programme Projects 2021/22.
- Appendix 3 – Draft Highgate Wood Divisional Plan 2021/24.

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