

<b>Committees:</b> Open Spaces Committee Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee Epping Forest & Commons Committee	<b>Dates:</b> <b>3 December 2012</b> <b>28 January 2013</b>  <b>13 February 2013</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Schedule Of Visits For 2013	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Decision</b>

### Summary

A schedule of visits to the various open spaces has been compiled following detailed consultation with officers and senior Members. As previously, the format for the visits will be conveyed to Members in advance.

#### **Recommendations**

##### **That:-**

- i) the 2013 schedule of visits, as set out in the Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed; and
- ii) the various dates that relate to visits for each Committee be noted.

### Main Report

#### **Background**

1. Each year the Town Clerk prepares a schedule of visits for the Members of the City's several open spaces committees to go to see those open spaces for which their committee is responsible. Following approval of the schedule; arrangements for the visits are then made in the usual way.
2. An important part of understanding the complexity of the various sites is being able to visit each site. Over the years a schedule of visits has been compiled and the scheduling has evolved over the years to best suit Members needs.

#### **Options**

3. The previous rota of visits has been used as the template for preparing the 2013 schedule. It is assumed that Members are happy to continue with the previous model of undertaking weekday visits to all the sites, apart from Epping Forest & Commons Committee, who have traditionally held their visits on a Saturday morning. The Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee also hold their visits on a Saturday morning and, as previously, there is some overlap.

#### **Proposals**

4. It would continue to be the case that in some instances public transport would be offered instead of a coach to sites such as Ashted Common which have better rail then road links.

5. Members of the Open Spaces Committee will have the option of attending all the Grand Committee visits, as previously. Given that there is a very full schedule, it is of course optional whether they take up this offer. There will be a visit in July for that Committee and as previously should an urgent matter arise during the year, there is the option of scheduling visits prior to the April, June and October meetings.

### **Financial and Risk Implications**

6. These are included in the body of the report.

### **Legal Implications**

7. There are no legal implications.

### **Strategic Implications**

8. The implications of the report support the following themes in the City Together Strategy: The Heart of a World Class City:
  - Competitive and promotes opportunity;
  - Supports our communities;
  - Protects, promotes and enhances our environment;
  - Is vibrant and culturally rich

### **Consultees**

9. The Director of Open Spaces and the various Open Spaces Superintendents have been consulted.

### **Conclusion**

10. Visits to the various open spaces have proved to be useful for Members and have been welcomed by local residents. A schedule of visits for the ensuing year is therefore set out for the approval of Members at Appendix 1.

### **Background Papers:**

5 December 2011 report - Open Spaces, City Gardens & West Ham Park Committee etc.

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