

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	27 January 2014
Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee	17 February 2014
West Ham Park Committee	17 February 2014
Epping Forest and Commons Committee	10 March 2014
Subject: Schedule of Visits 2014	Public
Report of: The Town Clerk	For Decision
<p>Summary</p> <p>A proposed schedule of visits to the City of London's open spaces has been drawn up following consultation with Officers. Members are invited to comment upon and agree the proposed schedule for 2014.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>That Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree the Current Position and Proposals set out within the report; • agree the Schedule of Visits 2014 as set out in the appendix. 	

Main Report

Background

1. The Town Clerk is responsible for submitting an Annual Schedule of Visits to each of the open spaces Grand Committees that sets out dates on which Members are invited to visit the areas that fall under the remit of their Committee.
2. Underpinning each Annual Schedule is the recognition that the ability to undertake site visits plays a key part in helping Members to understand the variety and complexity of issues that affect each of the City of London's Open Spaces.

Current Position

3. Each Annual Schedule is based upon that of the preceding year. To date each schedule has included each of the management committees plus the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

4. Each schedule assumes that Members are content to undertake weekday visits to all sites, except for those on the Epping Forest & Commons Committee who have traditionally held their visits on Saturday mornings.
5. Members of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee have the option of attending all of the Grand Committee visits, given that Committee has strategic oversight of the Open Spaces Directorate as a whole.
6. Whilst the Town Clerk will organise transport to and from each site visit, Members are asked to acknowledge that in some cases public transport will be the more appropriate option.

Proposals

7. It is proposed that the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be removed from the Annual Schedule of Visits, so that the Schedule may be concerned only with each of the Open Spaces Grand Committees. Visits of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee will be scheduled at the discretion of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.
8. With this in mind, it is also proposed that the scheduling of site visits of the consultative committees of each Grand Committee be overseen by the Grand Committee in question.
9. That additional visits, if and when required, be organised by the Town Clerk in consultation with officers and Committee Members.

Implications

10. The Town Clerk's Department will continue to organise and pay for Member transport to and from site visits, except for when public transport is the more viable option.

Conclusion

11. Committee site visits to each of the City of London's open spaces play an important part in helping Members understand the various issues affecting the sites for which they are responsible. An Annual Schedule of Visits is an important tool in ensuring a framework is in place to guarantee these visits take place in a consistent manner.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Schedule of Visits 2014

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