Minutes of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee meeting
21 July 2014

THE STATE OF UK PUBLIC PARKS 2014
The Committee were provided with an important insight into the current state of
Parks in the UK. Members noted the key findings and considered the
issues that were particular relevant to the City of London; both in managing
green spaces across London and in supporting the wider green space agenda
across London.

The Committee considered the five HLF challenges from two perspectives;
firstly, as the authority responsible for the green spaces in the Square Mile
and secondly, as the provider of strategic green space across London. The five
challenges were:
1. Local authority commitment
2. New partnerships
3. Getting communities more involved
4. Collecting and sharing data
5. New finance models and rethinking delivery
Members noted that the number of Friends and user groups had increased by
30% in the last three years and membership by 47%. There were some 5,000
groups across the UK raising a significant £30million each year. Members
agreed that partnership working was very important to the Directorate, as a
number of the City owned parks, gardens, forests and heaths were located
outside of the Square Mile and within other local authorities.

Discussions ensued regarding the review of the Open Spaces strategy in line
with the Service Based Reviews. The Director informed Members that further
information regarding the outcome of the Service Based Review would be
available in the autumn of this year.

The Director informed Members that a paper regarding infrastructure in London
was due to be published by the Mayor's Office by the end of July, and the
Director would respond to this paper.

Resolved:
**• That Members nominated the Chairman of the Open Spaces and City
Gardens Committee to act as the Park Champion.**
**• The Officers recommend that the Hampstead Heath Committee and
West Ham Park Committee appoint their respective Park Champions**
• That Officers circulate the report to all Open Space Committees.