

TO: **HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD & QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE**
Monday 18 May 2015

FROM: **OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS COMMITTEE**
Monday 20 April 2015

APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT FUNDING OFFERS

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces which informed Members that the City of London Corporation's local authority's responsibilities included education, learning, health, social care and leisure; including play and well-being. Members noted that current resource restrictions were resulting in new opportunities for partnership working. Officers said that at the Epping Forest and Commons Committee meeting on 12th January 2015, consideration was given to a request from the London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF) to install natural play equipment on Forest Land at Hollow Ponds, Leyton Flats and thus remedy a local play deficiency. Members noted that the many benefits of natural play, including positive impacts on the mental, physical and social wellbeing of children and their relationship with nature. Installing natural play structures was in line with corporate strategy and had no major legal or property implications. In response to a query from Members, it was noted that the funding would apply solely to equipment and not services. Members clarified that although the proposal would encourage play and well-being, it would also encourage members of the public to take part in sport activities.

RESOLVED – that option 2 “Decision on sport and play equipment funding offers should be made by the respective Management Committee based on the principle that any offer should be self-funding for the lifetime of the equipment and its removal” be approved.