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| <b>Committees:</b>  | <b>Dates:</b>          |
| Epping Forest & Commons Committee - For Information   | 3 July 2017            |
| Open Spaces Committee - For Information   | 17 July 2017           |
| West Ham Park Committee - For Information   | 17 July 2017           |
| Hampstead Heath, Queens Park and Highgate Wood Committee - For Information  | 17 July 2017           |
| <b>Subject:</b><br>Open Spaces Events Policy  | <b>Public</b>          |
| <b>Report of:</b><br>Director of Open Spaces  | <b>For Information</b> |
| <b>Summary</b>  |                        |
| <p>As part of the ongoing preparations for the passage of Open Spaces Bill through Parliament, we are required to develop a formal events policy.</p> <p>This report provides an update on the proposals to develop proposals and consult our communities. It is proposed the consultation takes place from autumn 2017 to early 2018 with the local Consultative Groups. This would allow the events policy to then be considered by each Committee prior to the spring.</p> |                        |
| <b>Recommendation</b>   |                        |
| Members are asked to note the report.   |                        |

## Main Report

### **Background**

1. The Open Spaces Bill is currently moving through parliamentary process.
2. The provisions of the Open Spaces Bill require that the Open Spaces Department have a formally established Events Policy for each of our sites, and that this policy be consulted upon.
3. There is a strong history of events at our Open Spaces. The policy framework which is being developed will draw upon previous experience licensing and running events, the existing legal obligations for each site and the requirements of the Open Spaces Bill.

### **Current Position**

4. In recognition of the differing characters of the open spaces and heritage assets managed by the City of London Corporation, it is proposed that the principles of a departmental policy framework is established supported by site specific policies.

## Consultation and Committee process

5. It is proposed that the events policy framework and site specific policies be subject to consultation with local consultative groups before being submitted to each Committee for approval early in 2018.

|   |                  |                    |
|---|------------------|--------------------|
| Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee                            | 9 October 2017   | Local Consultation |
| Highgate Wood Consultative Group                                  | 1 November 2017  | Local Consultation |
| Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group                             | 1 November 2017  | Local Consultation |
| Burnham Beeches Consultation Group                                | TBC January 2018 | Local Consultation |
| West Wickham, Spring Park and Coulsdon Commons Consultative Group | TBC January 2018 | Local Consultation |
| Ashted Common Consultative Committee                              | 23 January 2018  | Local Consultation |
| Epping Forest Consultative Group                                  | TBC              | Local Consultation |
| West Ham Park Committee   | 5 February 2018  | Committee approval |
| Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee                              | 5 February 2018  | Committee approval |
| Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee           | 21 February 2018 | Committee approval |
| Epping Forest & Commons   | 12 March 2018    | Committee approval |

6. Members will be aware that the Epping Forest Consultative Group has not yet been formally established. It is anticipated that this group will be established later this year and will therefore be able to be consulted on the events policy framework and Epping Forest site specific policy.
7. West Ham Park does not have a consultative group but benefits from local representatives sitting on the Committee. The West Ham Park Manager will supplement the Committee process with consultation with consultation with the Friends Group.
8. Should there be any substantive issues raised during the course of the consultation process, it may be necessary to extend these timeframes or consider additional meetings.

## **Conclusion**

9. The creation of a formally approved events policy is an opportunity for the department to codify practice, create greater clarity and transparency, and most importantly, to ensure that each of our sites is protected.

### **Esther Sumner**

Business Manager, Open Spaces

T: 020 7332 3517

E: [esther.sumner@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:esther.sumner@cityoflondon.gov.uk)