



Epping Forest & Commons Committee (For Information Items)

Date: MONDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2022
Time: 11.00 am
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Agenda

4. ***ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S UPDATE (SEF 31/22)**

Report of the Executive Director, Environment.

For Information
(Pages 3 - 12)

7. ***OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN 2022/23 - PROGRESS REPORT (MID-YEAR, APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2022)**

Report of the Executive Director, Environment.

For Information
(Pages 13 - 26)

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Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest and Commons	21/11/2022
Epping Forest Consultative Group	TBC
Subject: Epping Forest – Assistant Director's Update (SEF 31/22)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	City's Cash Local Risk
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Y
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment Department	For Information
Report author: Paul Thomson – Superintendent of Epping Forest	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to summarise Epping Forest's activities between August and September 2022. Reflecting the Chairman's guidance, the Assistant Directors report is being presented in a shorter format but retaining the essential information for Members, with a dashboard style in development for future presentation. Further data streams will be added to subsequent reports.

Of particular note was an end to the high temperature and low rainfall character of the summer with a series of thunderstorms across late August and early September, marking the end to some 86 fires in the Forest between mid- June and the end of August. This report contains an update on Avian Influenza and this information will be verbally updated at Committee.

Completion of the Small Raised Reservoirs works at Birch Hall Park, together with the creation of 'leaky' dams downstream to retard peak flows in local streams

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Budgets, income and expenditure

1. Agenda item non public, Epping Forest and Commons Finance Report contains all current information for Members and therefore is not included here
2. Long term outstanding debts have been reduced significantly over the last twelve months, with almost all outstanding sums being property related (wayleaves). Work to resolve these is articulated in Wayleaves project and recruitment of Wayleaves Officer, also dependant on TOM.
3. **Car Parking Income** – With a full year of activity, with Phase 2 spaces coming onstream in November 2021/22, the 2022/23 income performance has continued to exceed the 2021/22 introductory year. Income for August 2002 was £42,231, up 20.9% compared to £34,926, while September 2022 was £40,229, up 29.2%, compared to £31,123. In both months, the majority of income being derived from Pay & Display activity largely using the RINGO™ application.
4. **Sport Income** - With total income of £52,739.07 for August and £56,987.56 at Chingford Golf Course for September, play across 2022 continued to reflect a strong position compared to pre-pandemic levels.
5. **Sustainability-** Further planned projects are being developed to increase efficiency include increased insulation, boiler replacement and battery storage for energy generated through existing solar panels at the Warren.
6. **Waste Disposal** - The 1.95% rise in Landfill Tax Disposal charges to £98.60 per tonne since April 2022 continues to be reflected in the rise in disposal charges, alongside a significant rise in fly tipping in August. These disposal costs include our own waste generated as well as that collected from litter, flytip clearance or speciality waste.
7. **Volunteering** – Volunteer hours continue to hold at around the 1,000 hours level. The October data is still being compiled before loading and will show fully in the next report.
8. **Current Lodge Occupancy** – 23 (62%) of the Forest 37 lodges are currently occupied, with 12 lodges awaiting CWP or Local investment. The Forest's second holiday let at Barn Hoppitt Lodge, Chingford went live for bookings on 26 September, with the first booking scoring maximum points on the bookings.com review.
9. **Outstanding Tree Works** – Better-than-budgeted income for this financial year is being directed toward carrying out this backlog of works through

contractors on a risk priority basis.

10. **Grazing** - A challenging year with scarcity of labour, machinery, and water resources. The Stockperson left at the beginning of February and was replaced in July which left a gap which was filled with a secondment from another department and the Grazing and Landscape officer taking on extra responsibilities. The lack of rain throughout the spring and summer vastly reduced the amount of vegetation growth across the landscape, greatest affected were the gravel bed acid grasslands in the south of the Forest which resulted in deferring the popular grazing of Wanstead Park. The bottom performing 5% of the herd were culled out in early summer to preserve enough food for the rest of the herd in slow growing conditions. This ensured we did not have to supplementary feed and took advantage of seasonally high beef prices.
11. GPS collars have continued to create efficiency savings with faster checking times through accurate locations and the low maintenance comparative to the previous buried wire system. The technology has enabled further expansion of existing grazing areas and into new desirable areas such as Furze Ground which is being grazed for the first time since the 1980's.
12. An extra 33Ha of Forest received grazing management even though several usual sites were rested. A leaky weir system created by the operations teams at Yardley Hill is supplying year-round drinking water for the cattle grazing on the site which previously had to be carted in by truck several times a week.
13. A successful Mid-tier Countryside Stewardship application in the summer will see large improvements to the winter housing for the cattle, the grant is helping to fund buildings works to reduce water and air pollution.
14. **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** - Natural England's current assessment places 30 of the Forest's 38 SSSI compartments in 'Favourable' or 'Unfavourable Recovering' condition.
15. **Quality Awards** - Green Flag and Green Heritage Site awards renewed 30th July 2022. Coveted Visit England 'Blue Badge' Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme (VAQAS) also renewed.
16. **Social Media** – Follower numbers on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter remain healthy. We plan to include upward/downward trends in future updates.

Additional Important Updates

Wildfires

17. The Epping Forest wildfire Plan agreed with the Fire Brigades and Emergency Planning Officers was implemented from June following consistent High Fire Severity ratings, with some weeks in August being at the highest 'exceptional' rating. A total of 86 fires were recorded between 26 June and the end of

August storms. Some significant 1-hectare burns were quickly brought under control by the Fire Brigades. The London Fire Brigade received 2,600 calls on the 20 July, compared to a normal busy day of 500 call, describing the day as the busiest since the Blitz.

Data Management

18. Epping Forest has successfully 'gone live' with its new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software CiviCRM which will administer all customer contacts, incident reports, defects, licences, events and mailings and all associated payments. This is a 'soft' go live with the aim to have all relevant workflows handled by the system by 1st January 2023.

Planning Matters – August/September

19. **EFDC – EPF 1822/22** a revised planning application 13/15a Alderton Hill was submitted to EFDC for a care facility. This was originally refused for 106 units in 2017 by EFDC and subsequently the Planning Inspectorate on appeal. The basis was the likely significant impact upon the EFSAC. The revised application is 16% smaller at 90 units, the application cited strategic mitigation from the Local Plan as a justification for the development, however on a plan level this still lacks clarity from EFDC.
20. **LBWF – Larkswood (LBWF 222505)** a 72-dwelling development, immediately adjacent to Larkswood (up to 7 storeys), this was prior to re-submitted SANGS and AQMS documents being provided by LBWF in respect of their local plan. Natural England have informed the Conservators that they have pushed LBWF to present a SANGS toolbox for this development.
21. **EFSAC Oversight Group Meeting. This group met on the 29 September -** LBWF confirmed in the meeting that they will be signing the SAMMS agreement.
22. SANG Provision in London Boroughs – 8ha would not be applied to urban environment, as urban dwellers perception of what constitutes a 'busy' site is different from rural SANGS.
23. Newham Reg 18 Consultation coming soon.
24. Enfield Reg 19 consultation coming next year.
25. Actions from the meeting were as follows:
 - NE West Anglia to arrange a meeting with EFDC to discuss SANGs and the progress that has been made.
 - Redbridge to confirm happy with a common commencement date as the date the agreement has been through all LPA cabinets and is signed and sealed by all parties.
 - Natural England to circulated the governance agreement by the 14 of October, with any **feedback was to be received from LPAs by 28**

October. After this date assume that this is the final version of the Governance Agreement and there are no further legal queries.

Major Incidents

26. The Epping Forest Emergency and Wildfire Plans were active during this reporting period, with additional fire watch shifts operated at peak heat periods.
27. A series of wildfowl deaths, all of which occurred within the DEFRA Higher Risk Avian Influenza Mapping area notified in November 2021, were reported to DEFRA as suspected Avian Influenza cases. The first confirmed case of Avian Influenza was recorded on 30 October 2022. Verbal update will be given by Assistant Director.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Epping Forest Major Projects

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Appendix 1 - Major Epping Forest Projects Tracker

Strategic priorities	RAG Status	Major Projects	Project Lead	Projected Completion	3-year Milestone
2, 3, 4, 5		Parklife project, Wanstead Flats Project under review with Football Foundation and part of CoL Capital Review	Head of Visitor Services	2027	
2, 4, 5		Delivery of Forest#1 awarded 2020 10-year Countryside Stewardship applications, tendering, delivery and options monitoring and review of new Environmental Land Management (ELM) system Drought and expanded Hazardous Tree Programme is delaying Wood pasture restoration works.	Assistant Director/Stewardship Officer	2030	Completion of all Forest compartments applications (2023)
2, 4, 5		Applications for Forest#2; Copped Hall Park & Wanstead Park in April 2023 10-year Countryside Stewardship applications, tendering, delivery and options monitoring and review of new Environmental Land Management (ELM) system Loss of key staff and competing challenges of Climate Action Strategy are impacting on progress.	Assistant Director/Stewardship Officer	2033	Review of ELM options (2024)
4		Application for World Heritage Status (initial plans) On hold, pending assessment report to Committee.	Head of Visitor Services	2029	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5		Application for National Nature Reserve Declaration with Natural England Loss of key staff impacting on scoping negotiations	Assistant Director	2023	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5		Wanstead Park Project - High Risk Reservoirs	Assistant Director – Policy & Projects/Senior Building Control Officer	2029	Lottery bid 2023

Appendix 1 - Major Epping Forest Projects Tracker

1, 2, 3, 4, 5		Wanstead Park – Heritage at Risk Register	Head of Operations	No target date	
1, 2, 3, 4, 5		Wanstead Park Water Bodies Abstraction Relicensing SUDS project – Mayor of London-funded Resilience Fund project Catchment management projects	Head of Operations	2022 2022 2025	Dam study 2020
1, 2, 3, 4, 5		Wanstead Park – Flood Management Environment Agency Scheme to stop flooding by River Roding. Project costs being reviewed, Planning application delayed 2 years	Assistant Director	2028	
5		Charity Review	Director & Charity Adviser	2024	
1, 5		Café build and operate tenders On hold due to review of Wanstead & Leyton Flats potential projects	Head of Visitor Services	2023	Tender produced summer 2021
4, 5		Warren House Feasibility study	Business Manager	2025	2020
5		Lodge refurbishment – Rangers Road Completed September 2022	Business Manager	2022	2021
5		Lodge refurbishment – 1 and 2 Jubilee Retreat Delayed by review of lodge management	Business Manager	2022	2021
5		Lodge refurbishment – Caddy House Flat Delayed by review of lodge management	Business Manager	2022	2021
4		Statutory Small Raised Reservoir project – Birch Hall Park	Principle Engineer/Head of Operations	2022	2021

Appendix 1 - Major Epping Forest Projects Tracker

		Major works completed September 2022			
4		Statutory Large Raised Reservoir project – Baldwins Pond To be retendered in 2023	Principle Engineer/Head of Operations	2023	2021
1, 2, 4, 5		SAC Mitigation Strategy Delayed due to review by LBWF	Assistant Director/Land Agent	2025	Developing on framework proposals once local authority sign off secured.
1, 2, 3, 5		Buffer Lands/wood-pasture creation project Feasibility Study Now incorporated in Buffer land CSS & CAS bids	Head of Operations/ Head of Conservation	2023	2022/23
1, 2, 3, 5		Buffer Lands/wood-pasture creation project Draft Report Now incorporated in Buffer land CSS & CAS bids	Head of Operations/ Head of Conservation	2023	2022/23
2		Wetlands and Streams Habitat Management Strategy, This will address bog and pond conservation, drainage, water abstraction, water quality and the overall priorities for individual site management. On hold due to loss of project leads.	Head of Operations / Head of Conservation	2023	2023
1, 2, 3, 5		Forest Sustainable Transport Strategy Project This will be developed with competent authorities. It will guide responses to proposed highway works and explore ways to offer visitors access to the Forest using public transport or other sustainable options thus protecting the Forest and its visitors from the adverse impacts of vehicle transport and pollution.	Assistant Director/ Head of Visitor Services /external competent Authorities, ECC Highways, TfL, Natural England, consultants		2025 – linked to Local Plan SAC mitigation work

Appendix 1 - Major Epping Forest Projects Tracker

2, 5		Climate Action Strategy City Corporation wide, which will involve the early development of a six-year Carbon Action Plan for the Buffer Lands and the management of the wetlands, soils and pollarded areas of the Forest.	Head of Conservation	2027 and ongoing thereafter	Six-year costed Climate Action Plan (CAP) completed by April 2021
		Clays Lane tender	Senior Principal Surveyor/Land Agent		
		Bids currently subject to due diligence		2022	
		Queens Green Canopy/Memorial Grove Projects	Head of Operations		
		Projects underway		2022	
1,2,3,5		Path Repair Project	Head of Operations		
		Gateway Report submitted		2023	
1, 5		Great Gregories Pollution Control Roofing Project	Landscapes Officer		
		Gateway Report being developed.		2024	

Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest and Commons Committee Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee West Ham Park Committee Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Committee	21 November 2022 5 December 2022 5 December 2022 7 December 2022
Subject: Open Spaces Business Plan 2022/23 – Progress Report (mid-year, April-September 2022)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Outcomes: 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director, Environment	For Information
Report author: Joanne Hill, Business Planning and Compliance Manager, Environment Department	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on progress made against the 2022/23 High-Level Business Plan of the Open Spaces Department which was approved by the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee in December 2021.

As the Business Plan was written prior to the formation of the new Environment Department, it refers to the ‘Open Spaces Department’ rather than the ‘Natural Environment Division’. New Business Plans for 2022/23 will reflect the new Department and Division names.

The report summarises the progress that has been made against major workstreams and performance measures during the first six months of 2022/23. An update on the financial position is provided in the separate Chamberlain’s report also presented to this Committee.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of this report and its appendices.

Main Report

Background

4. The Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee approved the High-Level Departmental Business Plan 2022/23 (Appendix 1) on 7 December 2021.
5. Under the Corporation’s new Target Operating Model, with effect from 1 April 2022 the former Open Spaces Department became the Natural Environment Division of the new Environment Department. As the 2022/23 Business Plan was

written prior to the formation of the new Environment Department, it refers to the Natural Environment Division as the 'Open Spaces Department'. The new Business Plan for 2023/24 will reflect the new Department and Division name and structure.

6. The Business Plan sets out the major workstreams and key performance indicators (KPIs) for the year ahead.
7. To ensure your Committee is kept informed, progress made against the High-Level Business Plans is reported to you every six months. This approach allows Members to ask questions and have a timely input into areas of particular importance to them.

Current Position

Major workstreams

8. Throughout the year, your Committee has been kept informed of progress made against major workstreams by way of regular Assistant Director Update reports and/or separate detailed reports. A summary of progress made to the end of September 2022 is presented below.
 - **Finalise the new open spaces vision and 5-year improvement plan and progress its implementation.**
 - The new vision and the 5-year Improvement Plan are under development and work on this will continue during the second half of the year.
 - The High-Level Business Plan for 2023/24 will be presented to Committees in early 2023 and include the priority strategies for the year ahead.
 - The Charity Strategy is being reviewed as part of the work to review all nine Natural Environment Charities. This major piece of work has commenced and includes the following elements:
 - a) Charity Governance
 - b) Charity Finance
 - c) Charity Resourcing (Phase 3 Target Operating Model)
 - d) Charity Strategy including the following strategies: Nature Resilience; Community Involvement; Charity Income; Culture & Heritage; Visitor; Sport and Leisure; and Education and Learning.
 - **Progress the landscaping of Finsbury Circus, the access and security improvements at the Heath's swimming facilities, and the replacement playground at West Ham Park.**
 - The project to redevelop the Finsbury Circus site is on hold and will progress once the Capital Review process has been completed and the scope of the project clarified.
 - The project to improve the safety, access and security across the three Bathing Ponds at Hampstead Heath has progressed and is expected to be delivered within planned timescales and budget. Detailed updates

on the progression of the project are presented to your committee on a regular basis.

- The new playground at West Ham Park opened on 5 August 2022.

- **Progress the Carbon removal projects to deliver the open spaces element of the Climate Action Strategy.**

- An update on the Carbon Removals Project is presented in a separate report to this Committee.

- **Actively engage in the review of Chilterns and Surrey Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) boundaries.**

- A report was presented to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee in October 2023 seeking approval for further involvement in the AONB boundary revision consultation. The report provided a detailed update on the progression of the Surrey Hills AONB boundary review. It also confirmed that there has been no progress with the Chilterns AONB so far this year.

9. Alongside the major workstreams included in the High-Level Business Plan, additional priorities for each area of service were identified at the beginning of the year. An update on progress made to date against these additional priorities is provided at Appendix 2.

Performance Measures

10. Most of the performance measures set out in the Business Plan are measured annually and will be reported to your Committee at year-end. However, where data is available at the mid-year point, it is presented at Appendix 3.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – The monitoring of key improvement objectives and performance measures links to the achievement of the aims and outcomes set out in the Corporate Plan 2018-23.

Financial implications – Financial implications are addressed in the separate Chamberlain's report presented to this Committee.

Resource implications – The Natural Environment Division continues to progress through the Target Operating Model (TOM) process.

Risk implications - Risks to achieving the objectives set out in the Business Plan of each service area are identified and managed in accordance with the City of London Risk Management Framework. Risk Registers are reported to this Committee quarterly.

Climate implications – An update on the Carbon Removals Project is presented in a separate report to your Committee.

Charity implications - Many of the Natural Environment sites are registered charities. Any decisions must be taken in the best interests of the relevant charity.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Open Spaces Department High-Level Business Plan 2022/23
- Appendix 2 – Key achievements
- Appendix 3 - Performance measures

Background Reports

'Open Spaces Business Plan for 2022/23'

Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee, 7 December 2021

West Ham Park Committee, 7 December 2021

Epping Forest & Commons Committee, 17 January 2022

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, 9 February 2022

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THE CURRENT OPEN SPACES VISION IS:

We enrich people's lives by enhancing and providing access to ecologically diverse open spaces and outstanding heritage assets across London and beyond.

Our overarching objectives are:

- Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible.
- Spaces enrich people's lives.
- Business practices are responsible and sustainable.

Our major workstreams this year will be...

- Implement the approved recommendations of the Target Operating Model report and embed the new Environment Department.
- Finalise the new open spaces vision and 5-year plan and progress its implementation.
- Progress the landscaping of Finsbury Circus, access and security improvements at the Heath's swimming facilities, the replacement playground at West Ham Park, and all other RASC approved capital projects.
- Progress the Carbon removal projects to deliver the open spaces element of the Climate Action Strategy.
- Actively engage in the review of Chilterns and Surrey Hills Areas Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) boundaries with potential inclusion of Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common in the former, Ashted Common and South London Downs NNR in the latter.

The Corporate Plan outcomes we have a direct impact on are...

- Outcome 2 - People enjoy good health and wellbeing**
- Outcome 3 - People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential**
- Outcome 5 - Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible**
- Outcome 10 - We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration**
- Outcome 11 - We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment.**
- Outcome 12 - Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained.**

What's changed during 2021

- Open Spaces are now part of the new Environment Department with a new Executive Director and the retirement of the Director of Open Spaces.*
- Significant long lasting 'wear and tear' on our sites due to increased visitor numbers during 2020.*
- More staff adopting a hybrid pattern of work.*
- Effectiveness of MS Teams has increased efficiency by reducing need for 'travel time' between sites for meetings.*
- More public realm enhancements installed to encourage workers back to the City with arising changes to working methods to maintain these scattered assets.*
- Progress of projects has been delayed due to the impacts of COVID and availability of materials.*
- Online booking and payment continues and reflected by improved visitor experience*
- Covid and long Covid continues to affect staffing levels*

Plans under consideration	Time Scale
<i>Offices unlikely to return to full capacity– long term use of office accommodation to be considered</i>	<i>2022/23</i>
<i>Visitor attractions, may require re-setting of business models</i>	<i>2021/23</i>
<i>Prioritising high priority select bids for Capital that meet the precise capital funding criteria</i>	<i>2021 onwards</i>

Our Strategic Commitments

Below are some of the Corporate Strategy Actions we will help deliver

Apprenticeship Strategy

- Deliver apprenticeships within the organisation from levels 2 to 7, in terms of placements and training, which generate positive feedback from those involved in completing and delivering them and achieve target retention rates

Climate Action Strategy

- Introduce new land management practices across our open spaces aiming to maximise their ability to remove carbon, and optimise their biodiversity and resilience value
- Advocate the importance of green spaces and urban greening as natural carbon sinks, and their contribution to biodiversity and overall wellbeing

Cultural Strategy

- Support cultural excellence in a range of fields and champion an ethos of innovation, creative risktaking and artistic citizenship
- Support the delivery of the City of London's Education Strategy by nurturing an exemplary Cultural Education Partnership

Responsible Business Strategy

- Contribute to delivering the various strategy actions, particularly under the strategy outcome: *The planet is healthier*

Social Mobility Strategy

- Remove barriers, overcome gaps and improve access and participation in order to improve attainment.

Sport & Physical Activity Strategy

- Contribute to delivering the various strategy actions, particularly under the strategy outcome: *People enjoy good health and wellbeing and health inequalities are reduced*

Volunteering Strategy

- Promote volunteering opportunities and benefits to drive more and better volunteering.

Red & Amber Open Spaces Departmental and Corporate Risks

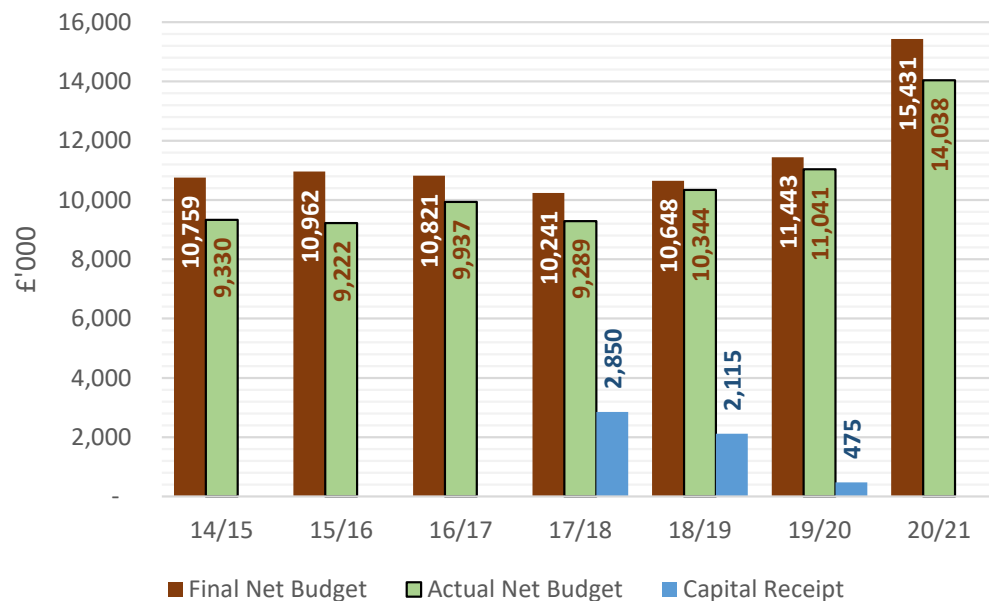
Open Spaces Risk Title	Score
Wanstead Park reservoirs	24
Repair and maintenance of buildings and structural assets	16
Maintaining the City's water bodies	16
Accelerated Long-term Damage to Open Spaces Sites	16
Budget reduction and Income Loss	16
Impact of development	12
The effect of a major event in central London on the tourism business at Tower Bridge and Monument	12
Pests and diseases	12
Health and safety	8
Extreme weather and climate change	6
These are reported Departmentally apart from Wanstead Park Reservoirs which is a Corporate risk	

	0	4	5	Total = 9
Likely (4)			2	
Possible (3)		1	2	1
Unlikely (2)			1	2
Rare (1)				
	Minor (1)	Serious (2)	Major (4)	Extreme (8)
	Impact			

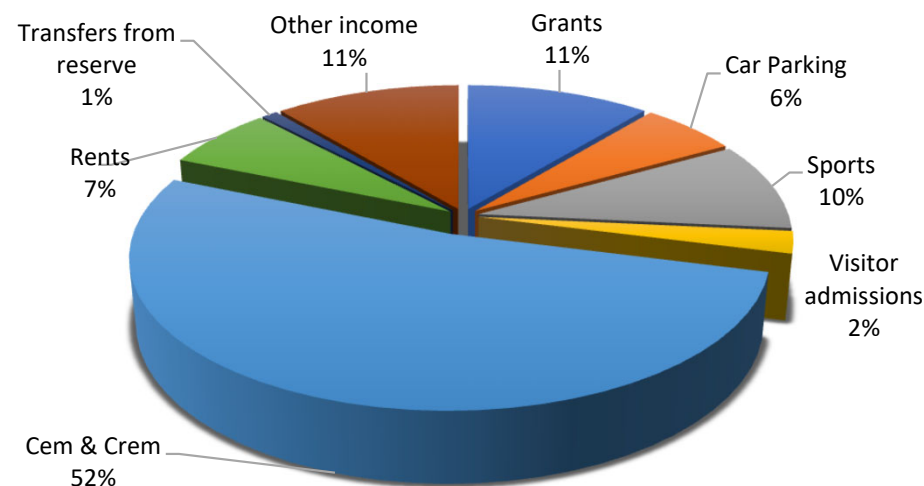
Performance Measures include	2021/22 Performance	2022/23 direction of travel or target
Green Heritage Accreditation	14 Awards	14 Awards
Green Flag Awards	15 Awards	15 Awards
Visits to Departments webpages	698,512 (at end Sept)	Increase above 2021/22 actual
Tennis court usage	42,368 (at end Sept)	Increase above 2021/22 actual
Our environmental footprint	Annual Measure	Reduce below 2021/22 actual
Department Net expenditure	£5.271M At end Sept	Achieve budget
Short term sickness	to date	Maintain
H&S accident investigations	91% to date	Achieve corporate target

2020/21 Directors local risk

Net budget, outturn net position and capital receipts



Where our income came from in 2020/21



CoL Funded Capital Projects

Completed in 2020/21:

- Cremator replacement project

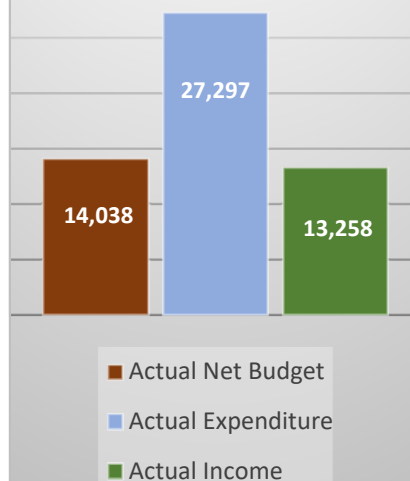
Live in 2021/22:

- Finsbury Circus
- West Ham Park playground
- Hampstead Heath ponds and lido
- Tower Hill playground
- East Heath car park
- ParkLife
- Carbon Removal (Climate Action Strategy)

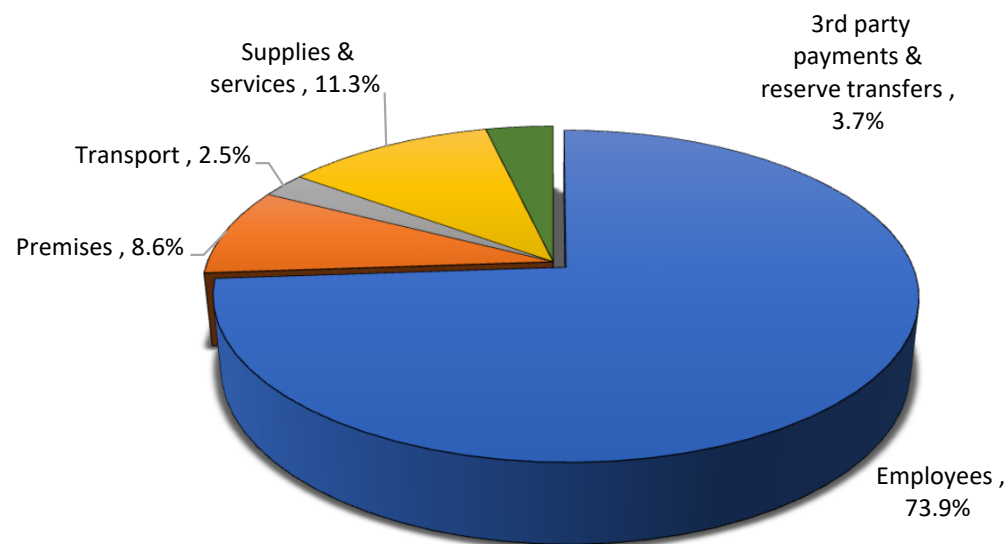
Requested in Nov 2021/22

- Hampstead Heath athletics track resurfacing
- Epping Forest path restoration
- Queens Park playground and sandpit refurbishment

Outturn local risk 2020/21



How we spent our local risk budget in 2020/21



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Progress against additional priorities 1 April - 30 September 2022

City Gardens

- **Implementation of new structure** – City Gardens is now part of the Gardens and Cleansing Service within the City Operations Division. Officers have been developing new ways of working within the new team. They have completed the post-TOM recruitment that was required and have relocated from the Irish Chamber to the Guildhall.
- **Climate Action** – The City Gardens Team is working with ‘Policy and Projects’ to plant up to 100 new street trees, implement a number of climate action schemes within gardens, and develop a climate resilient planting catalogue.
- **London in Bloom Award** – City Gardens won a Gold award in the Town category of the London in Bloom Awards and retained the Green Flag Award for Bunhill Fields.
- **Electric Fleet** – City Gardens took receipt of its first electric vehicle: a Goupil G4 utility vehicle.

West Ham Park

- **Joint working** – The team is working with colleagues at Hampstead Heath to implement ‘TreePlotter’ software to manage tree inspections and works.
- **Biodiversity status** - The London Wildlife Trust has recommended that West Ham Park’s SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation) status is elevated from a Site of Local Importance to a Site of Borough Importance. The recommendation is currently with Newham Council and the full SINC review will be published for public consultation later this year.
- **Playground** – The refurbished playground opened in August 2022.
- **Awards** – The park won a Gold award and was named as the overall winner in the Large Park Category of the London in Bloom Awards. It was also voted ‘Local Favourite Park’ in the UK Fields in Trust awards.
- **Climate Action** - New planting is being considered to help reduce the carbon footprint. Funding opportunities are being explored.
- **Nursery Site development** – major redevelopment of the old Nursery Site is progressing through the development stages. The aim is to provide housing and additional open space for park users.

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park

- **Covid-19 Restoration Programme** – A new Conservation Area has been created at Highgate Wood to address compaction issues.
- **Licensing Schemes** – The Hampstead Heath Dog Licensing Scheme was launched on 1 April 2022.
- **Playground Improvements** – Construction works at the Heath Extension Playground began at the end of September, with the playground on schedule to reopen in November 2022.

- **London in Bloom Award** – Queen’s Park and Golders Hill Park both won a Gold award in the Large Park Category. The Hill Garden Pergola won Gold in the Walled Garden category.
- **Queen’s Green Canopy** – An Alder Tree was presented to the Heath as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative.

Epping Forest

- **Car Parking** – Charges are now in place in all car parks with an average of 15,000 parking sessions per month (booked via RingGo).
- **Lodges** – Refurbishment of a second holiday let has been completed and is now open for bookings.
- **Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM)** – A SAMM agreement is now in place to manage and monitor the impacts of visitors to the Forest.
- **New Cattle Grazing System (GPS-driven invisible fencing)** – More than 60 animals have been using GPS collars, enabling grazing management on two new sites which have not been grazed in recent history.
- **ULEZ compliance** – Three tractors are in the process of being replaced with more efficient models. Further opportunities for replacements within the 2022/23 financial year are being identified.
- **Queen’s Green Canopy** – The Forest was dedicated as an Ancient Woodland by the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative.

The Commons

- **Management Plans** – Management Plans and associated consultation reports for the four Coulsdon Commons, i.e. Farthing Downs, Riddlesdown, Kenley Common, and Coulsdon Common, were approved by the Epping Forest and Commons Committee in May 2022.
- **Kenley Revival Project** – The project has been fully completed.
- **Queen’s Green Canopy** – Ashted Common was dedicated as an Ancient Woodland by the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative
- **Invisible fencing** - The use of invisible fencing has been implemented at Burnham Beeches this summer using both ‘Boviguard’ and ‘Nofence’ systems.
- **Burnham Beeches landscape project** – The project is making good progress: biodiversity surveys and plans have been completed and a consultant is about to be engaged to provide costs and look at funding options.
- **Income generation** – The Eco Cafe at Burnham Beeches is on track to exceed its income target. The Riddlesdown café concession offer was advertised but the successful applicant withdrew prior to the contract being signed. A case will be made for the café to be reviewed/remarketed in 2023.

Learning and Development

- **School Programme** – The programme continues to engage high pupil premium schools and is working in partnership with Culture Mile Learning to expand this reach.
- **Post-Covid recovery** - The school service has continued to grow, with numbers now exceeding the pre-pandemic levels.

- **Bespoke learning programmes** - Learning officers have continued to work with community groups during the summer holidays. A new Youth Officer was recruited in August and new youth programmes are booked in for October, including activities for young carers and a pre-apprenticeship work experience programme for school students at risk of exclusion.
- **Learning volunteers** - The team has continued to support the learning volunteers to develop their skills, networks, confidence and wellbeing.

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Performance Measures : 1 April - 30 September 2022



Green Heritage Site
Accreditation

13

2022/23 target: retain 13 awards

Green Flag Awards

14

2022/23 target: retain 14 awards



90%

of participants in learning
and volunteering programmes
reported that they felt 'connected' or 'very
connected' to nature' as a result.

2022/23 Target: >92%

Directly supervised volunteer work hours:
Progress towards annual target

71%

2022/23 Target: >15,161 hours



Number of visitors to open spaces webpages



Number of visits to Queen's
Hunting Lodge & The Temple

22/23 Mid-year total: **23,555**

22/23 Target: >17,737



Health and safety
accident investigations

95%

2022/23 Target: 85% of all accident
investigations completed within 28 days



Hours of tennis court usage:
Progress towards annual target

43%

West Ham Park
Mid-year: 10,215 hours
Target: >23,610 hours

48%

Golders Hill Park
Mid-year: 3934 hours
Target: >8,131 hours



55%

Parliament Hill
Mid-year: 12,062 hours
Target: >22,075 hours

60%

Queen's Park
Mid-year: 7,712 hours
Target: >12,881 hours

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