



Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Date: TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2015

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: PARLIAMENT HILL CONFERENCE ROOM, PARLIAMENT HILL STAFF YARD, PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS, HAMPSTEAD HEATH, NW5 1QR

Members:

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)	Mary Port (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)	Stewart Purvis (Vale of Health Society)
Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap)	Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)	Harunur Rashid (Bangladeshi Social Forum)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)	Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)	Steve Ripley (Rambler's Association)
John Hunt (South End Green Association)	Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee)
Nigel Ley (Open Spaces Society)	Richard Sumray (London Council for Sport and Recreation)
Joanne Mould (London Wildlife Trust)	Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
Susan Nettleton (Heath Hands)	David Walton (Representative of Clubs on the Heath)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)	John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)

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Dinner will be served in the Parliament Hill Café at the rising of the Committee
NB: Part of this meeting could be the subject of audio or video recording

John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
To agree the public minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2015.
For Decision
(Pages 1 - 8)
4. **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION (OPEN SPACES) BILL**
Report of the Remembrancer.
For Discussion
(*TO FOLLOW*)
5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**
Report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath.
For Information
(Pages 9 - 12)
6. **OPEN SPACES LEARNING PROGRAMME**
Report of the Director of Open Spaces.
For Information
(Pages 13 - 18)
7. **QUESTIONS**
8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
To note that the next meeting will be held on 9 November 2015.

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE Monday, 6 July 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Parliament Hill Conference Room, Parliament Hill Staff Yard, Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath, NW5 1QR on Monday, 6 July 2015 at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)
Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
John Hunt (South End Green Association)
Nigel Ley (Open Spaces Society)
Susan Nettleton (Heath Hands)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)
Mary Port (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Steve Ripley (Hampstead and District Ramblers' Association)
Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
David Walton (Representative of Clubs using the Heath)
John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)

Officers:

David Arnold	Town Clerk's Department
Paul Double	City Remembrancer
Nigel Lefton	Remembrancer's Department
Sam Cook	Remembrancer's Department
Bob Warnock	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Jonathan Meares	Conservation and Trees Manager
Declan Gallagher	Operational Services Manager
Richard Gentry	Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Adrian Brooker	Ecologist
Paul Monaghan	Department of the Built Environment

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) and Richard Sumray (London Council of Sport and Recreation).

Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed two new members of the Consultative Committee, Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap) and Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead

Society), to their first Committee meeting. She expressed members' sincere thanks to Xohan Duran for his contribution to the Consultative Committee as a representative of disabled users of the Heath.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 March 2015 be agreed, subject to the following amendments:-

1. Apologies

The addition of Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood).

5. Superintendent's Update

In response to a comment by Michael Hammerson the Conservation and Trees Manager agreed to consider whether the replacement would be a lime or **oak** tree.

Matters Arising

The Chairman and Superintendent of Hampstead Heath updated members on the following:

Park Champions

Councillor Melvin Cohen had agreed to be Park Champion for areas of the Heath within the London Borough of Barnet and Councillor Sally Gimson had agreed to be Park Champion for areas within the London Borough of Camden.

In response to a member's (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) question, the Superintendent advised that the Park Champions would act as a contact regarding local matters concerning or within their borough. The appointment of local Park Champions to the City of London Corporation's open spaces was important to the City Corporation as many sites are located within other boroughs.

Ivy House

No planning notifications had been received regarding Ivy House, which overlooked Golders Hill Park. The Superintendent would contact the London Borough of Barnet regarding this matter.

4. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum held on 11 May 2015 be noted.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update on management and operational activities across the

Heath since March 2015. The Superintendent advised members of the following matters:

Events

28,000 visitors to the Heath had attended the Affordable Art Fair (AAF) and GROW London in June 2015. This represented a 10% increase in visitors to the AAF and a 34% increase at GROW London. 2,000 people also attended the City of London Festival event and a good attendance was expected at the Give it a Go! Festival on 12 July 2015.

Members noted that the music nights held on Fridays had been working well.

Men's Pond Fatality

An inquest would be taking place in August 2015 at the St. Pancras Coroner's Court.

Conservation and Ecology

The stock pond meadow had recently been baled. The stumpery at Golders Hill Park had water flowing through and round it which would be monitored by staff on site.

In response to a member's (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) question regarding appropriate bird feed, the Superintendent advised that an advice notice had been drafted and would be installed at appropriate ponds following feedback from the Heath and Hampstead Society. Staff would ensure that notices were visible and not obscured.

In response to a member's (Highgate Society) question regarding the timing of the hay-making, the Ecologist advised that refuges for insect pupae would remain available in 20% of each meadow. Each meadow would be baled at different times so other meadows would be fully available as a refuge.

Parliament Hill

The mini roundabout at the Traditional Playground had been repaired and was back in use.

Ranger Team Update

The sink hole near the Vale of Health had been repaired and the gate and latch-post were removed.

Tree Team Update

An Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) nest was discovered and removed from Queen's Park in June 2015. Subsequently, seven nests had been discovered at Hampstead Heath and contractors would be instructed to remove those on City Corporation land in the next two days. Nests had been discovered in a variety of other London boroughs including Lambeth, Southwark, and Epsom and Ewell.

In response to a member's (Highgate Society) question regarding the financial implications of monitoring OPM nests, the Chairman advised that the City

Corporation's Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee had requested funding from the Chairman of Policy and Resources. The Superintendent added that the initial surveys carried out by the Forestry Commission were at no cost to the City Corporation.

In response to a further member's (Heath Hands) question regarding access restrictions, the Superintendent advised that plastic fencing was being erected around nest trees before the nests were removed. Regular monitoring and inspections should reduce the risk of having to restrict public access to certain areas. The Conservation and Trees Manager added that occurrences of people actually coming into contact with the caterpillars (i.e. skin contact) were rare. A leaflet produced by the Forestry Commission was circulated to all members present.

Swimming

The hot water system at the Kenwood Ladies' Pond had been repaired and the boiler replaced.

Awards

Judging for the Green Flag and London in Bloom awards had been completed recently. Results were expected to be announced in late July for the Green Flag award and mid-September for the London in Bloom award.

RESOLVED – That the Superintendent's update be noted.

6. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update on the progression of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project since March 2015.

In response to a member's (Friends of Kenwood) question regarding access at the Viaduct Pond, the Superintendent advised that the new pathways would be open to the public from mid-July. He added that Heath users would be discouraged from using the network of informal paths through undergrowth recently created by members of the public.

In response to a further member's (Highgate Society) question regarding the turf to be installed at the grass spillway, the Superintendent advised that the area would be watered sufficiently once the turf arrived. The seed mix for the turf comprised 80% grass and 20% wildflower seed. Some access may be restricted in the form of stock fencing to allow turf and seeded areas to establish.

Members were also advised that the time-lapse camera had been stolen twice so a third camera was to be installed at a higher level to avoid further theft. The Assistant Director of Engineering advised that it would be too costly to remove and re-install the camera each night and day and this would affect the quality of the images as it may not be installed to the exact same position.

RESOLVED – That the Ponds Project update report be noted.

7. **PONDS PROJECT EDUCATION PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the progress of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Education Programme, which was launched in March 2015.

Members were advised that the Education Project Officer would welcome any further connections with local secondary schools. The monthly activity report could be circulated to members electronically upon request.

RESOLVED – That the Ponds Project Education Programme update report be noted.

8. **REPTILES ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH - AN UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update of the status of reptiles on the Heath since the London, Essex and Hertfordshire Amphibian and Reptile Trust (LEHART) survey of reptiles was carried out in 2008/09.

The Ecologist advised that there had been an increase in the reptile population since the survey as the number of sightings had consistently increased. He added that an updated version of the map of historical and recent grass snake records would be circulated again after the meeting. In response to a member's question, the Ecologist advised that sightings of reptiles in local private gardens could not be included in the map as there was no official record of these.

RESOLVED – That the update of reptiles on Hampstead Heath be noted.

9. **PARLIAMENT HILL VIEWPOINT INTERPRETATION**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that informed members of an interim solution to provide up-to-date interpretation of the iconic views from Parliament Hill.

The Superintendent advised that a QR Code linked to an annotated image of the view on the City Corporation website had been installed at the summit of Parliament Hill at the beginning of July. He added that a working group would be established to consider how best to develop interpretations of both strategic views, the second being on the east side of Parliament Hill, lower than the summit. Pruning of trees to one side of this area would be carried out in autumn 2015 to help open up views of all the principal towers of the Palace of Westminster. The working group would also consider the type of signage and the inclusion of appropriate markings of the historical landscape.

In response to members' questions, the Superintendent advised that English Heritage were responsible for information signage at viewpoints on Kenwood land. A member (Friends of Kenwood) added that the latest proposal involved an image of historic buildings engraved on stone, which would require planning permission in November 2015 if agreed.

In response to members' questions regarding the erection of new buildings within the strategic sight-line, the Superintendent advised that although officers

would like to be able to monitor future planning applications for developments that might affect the strategic view but staff resources were limited and directed towards protecting the Heath from the impact of development adjacent to or in close proximity to the Heath. It was ultimately the responsibility of the local planning authority to consider the impact of planning applications upon the strategic views.

RESOLVED – That the Parliament Hill viewpoint interpretation be noted.

10. OUTDOOR GYM LOCATION PROPOSAL

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that sought members' views regarding the outdoor gym to be located at the Trim Trail at Parliament Hill. The proposal for the installation of outdoor gym equipment met the guidance set out in the Hampstead Heath Management Plan for alterations or creation of new sports facilities in designated sports areas.

The Operational Services Manager advised that, subject to funding provided by the London Borough of Camden (LBC) and the proposal being approved, the new outdoor gym equipment would be installed alongside the existing Trim Trail equipment which would remain in place. Members were supportive of the outdoor gym being located at the Trim Trail but noted concerns such as the dangers for young children playing on or with the equipment given its close proximity to the children's playground.

In response to a member's (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) question, the Operational Services Manager advised that LBC had managed and maintained the eight other outdoor gym locations within the borough. The Committee noted the resolution of the City of London Open Spaces Committee that decisions on sport and play equipment funding offers should be based on the principle that any offer should be self-funding for the lifetime of the equipment and its removal. The Operational Services Manager added that a representative from LBC had reported no instances of vandalism at other outdoor gyms in the borough.

RESOLVED – That the proposed location of the outdoor gym be supported by the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

11. OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2015-18 SUMMARY

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces that provided details of the Open Spaces Departmental Business Plan 2015-2018.

Members requested that a summary text of the Business Plan and Risk Register, including references relevant to the Heath such as tree disease and the sports programme, be presented to the Consultative Committee in future. In response to a member's question regarding possible surplus assets, the Superintendent advised that the City Corporation was currently undertaking an operational property review that may result in various huts, cabins, tool sheds etc. being deemed surplus to requirement in order to alleviate pressure on the repairs and maintenance budgets.

The Remembrancer addressed members regarding the proposed changes to the legislation governing the Heath, which could be sought through a City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill. The Bill would be deposited in Parliament as a Private Bill in November 2015 subject to the approval of the Policy and Resources Committee in July and the Court of Common Council in September or October. The Remembrancer noted that interested parties could petition against the Bill during the Select Committee stage in Parliament, but expressed the hope that a consensus could be achieved through prior discussion. Members agreed that it was best for their views to be discussed with the Open Spaces Department and the Remembrancer's Office prior to the Bill being deposited.

Members representing the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association and the Heath and Hampstead Society expressed concerns that the conservation and preservation aspects of the Hampstead Heath Act 1871 should be maintained. Members also suggested that the Consultative Committee be given the opportunity to scrutinise eventual changes to management powers such as the terms of any future proposed lettings or licences.

Meetings could be scheduled with relevant officers upon request and members were encouraged to express the views of their organisations in writing to the Open Spaces Department and the Remembrancer's Office as soon as possible.

RESOLVED – That the Open Spaces Business Plan 2015-18, including the changes to management powers, income generation and enforcement which might be sought through the promotion of a City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill, be noted.

12. **QUESTIONS**

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath updated the Consultative Committee regarding three questions raised by a member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) prior to the meeting. He advised that the frequency of litter collections remained consistent; a perceived increase in build-up of litter around bins was due to the current busy summer period. Wire cages were added to many bins at this time of year to add capacity and timber cladding would be introduced around bins in popular areas.

In response to the member's question regarding restoration of meadows following the National Cross-Country event, the Superintendent advised that there had been a slow response to the grass and wildflower seed mix that was sown after the event due to the cold, dry spring. Lighter touch techniques would be used after future events and staff would be more responsive to areas drying quickly rather than focussing on particularly wet areas.

In response to the member's final question, the Superintendent advised that the condition of pond viewing shelves would be monitored regularly and improved where necessary.

In response to a question from the Chairman, the Superintendent advised that 2,800 people visited the Lido on 1 July 2015, the hottest day of the year so far. He added that the figures for voluntary donations collected during this busy period would be available shortly. The remainder of the week and weekend were also extremely busy so the Constabulary were present to monitor queues. Ten successful rescues were carried out in the Mixed Pond on 1 July and it was suggested that this good work from Heath lifeguards should be publicised as a reminder to non-regular swimmers not to misjudge their ability.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was none.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the date of the next meeting to be held on Monday 9 November 2015 be noted.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: David Arnold
David.Arnold@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Committee(s)	Dated:
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	21 September 2015
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	29 September 2015
Subject: Superintendents update for September 2015	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Hampstead Heath	For Information

Summary

This report provides an update on management and operational activities across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park since July 2015.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Property

1. The programme of wall maintenance and re-pointing is continuing at Golders Hill Park within the walled garden.
2. Surface water drainage pipes near the Lido and by Hampstead No 1 Pond are being cleaned and camera surveys completed to help determine their condition.
3. Towards the end of September work will commence on the rebuild of the Lido East boundary wall. The City Surveyor has commissioned an architect to design new railings to be mounted on top of the boundary walls. The design is currently being discussed with stakeholders.
4. The chemical dosing system at the Lido was replaced between 19-21 August. The new system has been fully operational from 21 August 2015.
5. A programme of work to reduce erosion and improve the surface water drainage from the East Heath car park and fairground site will be implemented during the autumn.
6. There has been a delay in the appointment of a contractor to undertake the tanking works at the Hill Garden Shelter. A further update will be provided at the meeting on the 21 September 2015.

7. Portable toilets were installed near to the Golders Hill Park Zoo and Children's playground on 21 July 2015. The five toilets (including one wheelchair accessible toilet) have provided extra capacity for the busy summer holidays and are scheduled to be removed from site shortly.

Planning

8. The Superintendent will provide an update at the meeting on the Water House and Athlone House.

Events

9. 15 children aged 8-15yrs attended the Water Awareness week, run by staff at the Lido from 27-31 July. Feedback from parents has been very positive.
10. The Summer Fair held at the East Heath lower fairground site proved popular despite the wet weather over the Bank Holiday weekend, with approximately 3,000 people visiting.
11. There have been 9 weddings between 20 July and 21 September.

Constabulary update

12. A total of 1,582 incidents were dealt with by the Constabulary from 1 January 2015 to 28 August 2015, of the 1,195 incidents recorded 713 are enforcement incidents. Of the enforcement incidents recorded, 24% related to cycling enforcement actions, 20% related to nuisance, and 6% to dog control enforcements.
13. In addition, the Constabulary have provided medical assistance to members of the public on 58 occasions from 1 January to 28 August 2015.

Sports

14. The Cricket season ended on the 6 September 2015, and staff have begun preparations for the 2016 seasons at the Parliament Hill Enclosure and Extension pitches.
15. Preparations for the start of the 2015/16 Rugby and Football seasons are nearing completion. The newly installed 3rd Rugby pitch will be ready for use on 12 September 2015, the first day of the season, and a new junior Football pitch has been marked out ready for 20 September, the start of the Football season.

Swimming

Fatality

16. On 18 August 2015 the Superintendent attended the Coroners inquest into the death of the young man, which occurred at the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond on the 15 April 2015.
17. The Coroner went through the witness statements from friends of the young man who were also swimming on the 15 April and a series of medical reports.

18. The Coroner was keen to establish that the signage in place was appropriate and that it was clear that swimming was not permitted outside the scheduled swimming times.
19. The Coroner concluded that the deceased was a well young man, but not a strong swimmer. She recognised that he was swimming outside the pond opening times and that if he had been swimming during the opening times it was likely the lifeguards would have been able to prevent the tragedy.
20. The Coroners closed the case recording 'A1 Drowning and accidental death'.
21. A comprehensive review has been undertaken following the tragedy, and agreed actions include:-
 - Extending our campaign to promote water safety,
 - Reviewing the signage around the ponds,
 - Reviewing our emergency response to the incident and implementing the improvements we identified,
 - Undertaking joint training exercise with the London Fire Brigade and Metropolitan Police Service in relation to incidents at the ponds on Hampstead Heath.

Staffing

22. Two new Constables joined the Hampstead Heath Constabulary in August. This brings the Team back to a full complement of staff.
23. A new Apprentice joined the Conservation Team at the beginning of August as part of the Ponds Project apprentice scheme.

Tree Team

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM)

24. To date 15 nests in total have been identified and removed from 13 trees on the Heath. Two nests have been identified and removed from Queen's Park.
25. Two nests have been identified and removed from two trees on the Kenwood Estate by English Heritage.
26. Four OPM pheromone traps have been placed in Highgate Wood for the male moths eight week flight period (late July – mid Sep). Trapping will continue until mid-September, and so far no moths have been discovered.
27. Forestry Commission inspectors will return to site to survey the nest trees during the winter.

Arborist Apprentice

28. A new apprentice started with the Team at the beginning of September on a 20 month contract and will be undertaking a Level 2 Award in Trees and Timber at Capel Manor College.

Compost Tea

29. The Tree Team have been engaged by Tree Works Environmental Practice to spray liquid foliar compost on a number of control trees (London plane and oak) at the Royal Park and Islington for a study programme looking into tree health care treatments against Massaria disease of planes and Acute Oak Decline.

Potential for Autumn mast branch damage

30. This year appears to be a heavy mast year with significant numbers of acorns developing on the oak trees. This phenomenon occurs about every three to five years. The last mast year resulted in significant oak branch failures during heavy autumn wind and rain events.

Golders Hill Park

31. The London Borough of Barnet have granted Planning Permission for the retention of *The Good, The Bad and The Ugly* for a period of two years. The Superintendent will bring a further report to Members in the spring of 2017 to consider either the long term retention or removal of the sculptures from Golders Hill Park.

Bob Warnock

Superintendent / Open Spaces Department

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Committees	Dates:
Epping Forest and Commons Committee	7 September 2015
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	21 September 2015
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	29 September 2015
West Ham Park Committee	12 October 2015
Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee	12 October 2015
Subject: Open Spaces Learning Programme	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Information

Summary

A wide variety of learning services are offered across the Open Spaces Department to further our departmental objective of enriching the lives of Londoners. The Open Spaces Committee, at its October 2014 meeting, agreed the development of a departmental education strategy. This report describes the learning framework, which will be used to deliver learning outcomes across the open spaces.

The current learning provision lacks coordination, consistent and robust evaluation, and strategic focus, which has resulted in a disparate offer and challenges in securing external funding. In response to these challenges, a new outcomes-based approach to developing and delivering learning activities (education, play, volunteering, and research) has been developed with a strategic focus on engaging with deprived communities bordering the City's open spaces. The new learning framework and programme aims to develop a robust evidence base for the impact of learning activities; to enable more effective fundraising, involve volunteers in the creation and management of learning activities, and work with new and existing partners; all to the furtherance of our charitable objectives of "recreation and enjoyment" for the public.

The delivery of this programme will require a new operating model involving some realignment of staff roles and responsibilities at some Open Spaces, however the full extent of these changes will depend on the result of a funding application to the City Bridge Trust and other funding arrangements.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:-

- Members note the development of the learning framework and the progress made.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Open Spaces provides a range of formal learning services including national curriculum focused school sessions, research opportunities and informal learning services such as walks and talks, facilitated play, learning events and workshops, volunteer opportunities and work experience.
2. The provision of learning services is not directly reflected in the founding statutory duties of the relevant Acts of Parliament that govern our Charities, which are to protect open spaces and preserve the natural aspect to provide for the 'recreation and enjoyment of the public'. However the learning programme contributes both directly to protection through the development of public understanding and appreciation and to recreation and enjoyment by developing understanding, confidence, involvement, wellbeing and a tangible connection to open spaces. Learning also contributes to the departmental business plan objectives to 'enrich the lives of Londoners by providing a high quality and engaging educational and volunteering opportunities'. Furthermore, the provision of learning on the City's open spaces directly contributes to the aims of the City's Education Policy to enrich the lives of London's children through the use of our cultural, open spaces and recreational assets.
3. Learning provision across the open spaces varies significantly with large, well developed programmes for schools and families at Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath and smaller programmes at other sites. Similarly, varying levels and structures of volunteering occur across the department with some managed by friends groups and some internally coordinated. These services have been developed and managed on individual sites without the benefit of coordination across the department in a single consistent and measurable programme.
4. Learning services are funded primarily through grants or local risk budgets, and increasingly through charging for activities. Between 2011-15 a significant proportion of learning activities across the department were funded through a four year grant from the City Bridge Trust. Additional funding through the Heritage Lottery Fund supported programmes at Epping Forest, as well as partnership projects on Hampstead Heath. The introduction of a new charging model at Hampstead Heath has allowed the schools programme to contribute to the cost of freelance field teachers. However, learning activities are still largely dependent on achieving external funding to meet the cost of operation.
5. In October 2014, a report was presented to the Open Spaces Committee highlighting the need to develop a new coordinated learning programme and strategy for the department. The report provided a review of the current education activities across the department, the effect of recent external funding on the continuing development of education and the costs of education and implications of the service based review. In particular, the report suggested that learning activities should continue to be funded through external sources to reduce impacts on the Open Spaces Charitable Trust budgets and contribute to

departmental savings. As a result, in order to fund the new learning programme, the report proposed the submission of an application for funding to the City Bridge Trust.

Current Position

6. In January 2015, the department began developing an application for support from the City Bridge Trust to fund learning activities. As part of the application process, a new learning framework was developed to inform the prioritisation and strategic direction of learning services. An evaluation of current learning activities highlighted a lack of robust and consistent measurement, as well as a lack of evidence demonstrating the success of those learning activities. Each division monitors output data through participation and satisfaction levels to varying degrees. However, with the notable exception of the Discovering Epping Forest (DEF) Project, the current evaluation techniques employed do not measure the impact that activities have on participants or the outcomes achieved. As a result, the success of our current learning activities cannot be assessed accurately against the new learning framework.
7. Current trends in the fundraising sector tend towards projects that are able to demonstrate measurable outcomes directly attributable to the activities provided – specifically the impact of the learning experience. Due to the lack of coordinated evidence of the impact that learning activities have on participants, it is increasingly challenging to secure external funding for learning activities.
8. In order to respond to these challenges, a new learning programme and an associated operating model are being prepared to ensure that the department is able to continue to provide demonstrable learning outcomes, achieve measurable impact in our local communities, and be well positioned to apply for future external funding.

Progress

9. The Director of Open Spaces and the Open Spaces Senior Leadership Team have prepared a learning framework for the department which focuses on five high level learning impact areas of understanding, confidence, involvement, wellbeing and connection. This is attached as Appendix 1.
10. Each impact area has been developed into a set of measurable outcomes which will be monitored across all learning activities. Measuring these outcomes and impact areas will provide a more robust analysis of the success of learning activities. Furthermore, the evidence base provided by this outcomes-based approach will allow more strategic decision making and prioritisation, as well as a greater ability to access and secure external funding for activities in the future.
11. The outcomes-based learning programme will have a new strategic focus on engaging with deprived communities surrounding our open spaces. The City's open spaces border some of the most deprived communities in London with the

poorest access to green spaces. A variety of opportunities including family events, school sessions and play activities will be provided to help overcome the barriers for accessing green spaces in these communities.

12. To better direct and report on the successful delivery of the strategic impact framework, the learning programme will be managed as a coordinated programme of activities encompassing formal education opportunities, organised play activities, volunteering, and research.
13. Experience from previous projects has demonstrated that engaging volunteers in the delivery of learning opportunities has many benefits including: increasing confidence; involvement and wellbeing of the volunteers; creating robust legacies for learning activities beyond the end of projects; increasing the employability of volunteers and building community support for learning activities. As a result, developing teams of volunteers in the creation and delivery of learning activities will be a priority in the future. The learning programme will also seek to work closely with existing and new partners to develop more successful learning projects and activities.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

14. The learning programme will be the main mechanism for delivering the departmental objective of 'enriching the lives of Londoners by providing a high quality and engaging educational and volunteering opportunities'. The achievement of our strategic outcomes will also contribute to our charitable objectives of "recreation and enjoyment".
15. The learning programme supports the aims of the City of London Education Policy vision to 'use its outstanding cultural, heritage, open and recreational assets to enrich the education of children both in City schools and across London'.

Implications

16. **Financial Implications** - A new modular approach to delivering learning has been developed. The whole programme is costed at approximately £400,000 per annum, with the overall cost reducing over time as income streams are developed. An application to support part of these costs was submitted to the City Bridge Trust in June 2015 for consideration. Additional funding mechanisms are also being explored.
17. The learning programme will help contribute to departmental savings identified as part of the corporate Service Based Review process. Due to the non-statutory nature of learning activities, they will be provided through externally fundraised income, reducing the impact on the Open Spaces Charitable Trust budgets. The department is exploring a range of funding opportunities, to ensure the delivery of the learning programme in the future.
18. **Human Resources Implications** – The full implications of a new operating model for learning remain dependent on the outcome of external funding. The

model is expected to impact on the roles and responsibilities of some staff that currently deliver learning activities; details are provided in a separate report to this meeting.

Conclusion

19. In order to capitalise on fundraising opportunities for non-statutory learning provision, a new centrally coordinated outcomes-based approach will be adopted by the Open Spaces Department. This approach will allow the development of a robust body of evidence regarding the impact of learning activities across five strategic impact areas; understanding, confidence, involvement, wellbeing, and connection. To achieve this change in the delivery of learning activities, learning will be coordinated as a single programme, which will focus on delivering to deprived communities close to our open spaces, through the involvement of volunteers and partners in the development of future activities.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Strategic Impact Framework for Learning

Background Papers

Open Spaces Education Strategy – 13th October 2014 (Open Spaces Committee)

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Appendix 1 – Strategic Impact Framework for Learning

What we are trying to do				
Make a positive impact on the communities, who use, or border, our green spaces through learning activities				
By positive impact we mean...				
Understanding People understand and value the importance of our green spaces	Confidence People are confident to use our green spaces, as part of our activities or independently	Involvement People take positive action for, and get involved with, our green spaces	Wellbeing People have restorative and meaningful experiences in our open spaces	Connection People develop a sense of place with our open spaces, and pass this down through generations