



Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee

Date: WEDNESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: HYBRID – VIRTUAL AND COMMITTEE ROOMS, 2ND FLOOR, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members: Anne Fairweather (Chair)
William Upton QC (Deputy Chair)
Karina Dostalova
Deputy David Bradshaw
Alderman Prem Goyal
Michael Hudson
Alderman Gregory Jones QC
Wendy Mead
Jason Pritchard
Deputy John Tomlinson
Caroline Haines (Ex-Officio Member)
Oliver Sells QC (Ex-Officio Member)
Yianni Andrews (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)
John Beyer (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Councillor Richard Cornelius (London Borough of Barnet)
Pam Hampshire (Ramblers' Association)
Emily Hills (English Heritage)

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Accessing the virtual public meeting

Members of the public can observe this virtual public meeting at the below link:

<https://youtu.be/kd1uxhdAEzY>

This meeting will be a virtual meeting and therefore will not take place in a physical location following regulations made under Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. A recording of the public meeting will be available via the above link following the end of the public meeting for up to one municipal year. Please note: Online meeting recordings do not constitute the formal minutes of the meeting; minutes are written and are available on the City of London Corporation's website. Recordings may be edited, at the discretion of the proper officer, to remove any inappropriate material.

John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 26 May 2021.
For Decision
(Pages 3 - 12)
4. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES (TO FOLLOW)**
To receive the draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 6 September 2021.
For Information
5. **FRONT LINE WORK UPDATE**
Member of the Heath Team to be heard.
For Information
6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**
Report of the Director of Environment.
For Decision
(Pages 13 - 19)
 - a) Appendix 1 - Hampstead Heath Drone Guidance 2021 (Pages 21 - 24)
 - b) Appendix 2 - Divisional Plan 2021-24 (Pages 25 - 50)
 - c) Appendix 3 - Heath Extension Playground Concept Design (Pages 51 - 54)
 - d) Appendix 4 - 2021-22 Winter Swimming Season (Pages 55 - 56)
7. **OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2020/21 - YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT**
Report of the Director of Open Spaces.
For Information
(Pages 57 - 68)
8. **TWO YEAR REVIEW OF THE OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT'S LEARNING PROGRAMME 2019-21**
Report of the Director of Open Spaces.
For Information
(Pages 69 - 106)
9. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE **Wednesday, 26 May 2021**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at <https://youtu.be/uDjY9dgsUBU> on Wednesday, 26 May 2021 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Anne Fairweather (Chair)
William Upton QC (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy David Bradshaw
Karina Dostalova
Alderman Prem Goyal
Michael Hudson
Alderman Gregory Jones QC
Wendy Mead
Jason Pritchard
Deputy John Tomlinson
Oliver Sells QC (Ex-Officio Member)
Yianni Andrews (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)
John Beyer (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Councillor Richard Cornelius (London Borough of Barnet)

Officers:

Colin Buttery	-	Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	-	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Katherine Radusin	-	PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	-	Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Jonathan Meares	-	Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager
Paul Maskell	-	Leisure and Events Manager, Hampstead Heath
Gerry Kiefer	-	Department Business Manager, Open Spaces Department
Declan Gallagher	-	Operational Service Manager
Kristina Drake	-	Media Officer, Town Clerk's Department
Mark Jarvis	-	Head of Finance - Citizen Services, Chamberlains
Andrew Cusack	-	Principal Lawyer, Comptroller & City Solicitors
Leanne Murphy	-	Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Caroline Haines, Chris Byers and Pam Hampshire

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

There were none.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

Members received the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 15 April 2021 appointing the Committee and approving its terms of reference.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

In accordance with Standing Order No.29, the Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman for the ensuing year. The Town Clerk stated the Members that had expressed an interest and Anne Fairweather, being the only Member expressing her willingness to serve, was duly elected as Chair.

The Chair thanked Members for their support and took the opportunity to welcome new Members Jason Pritchard and Pam Hampshire to the Committee and thanked Deputy Edward Lord and Ruby Sayed for their contributions.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30. The Town Clerk stated the Members that had expressed an interest and William Upton, being the only Member expressing his willingness to serve, was duly elected as Deputy Chairman.

The Chair thanked the outgoing Deputy Chairman for her invaluable knowledge and experience that she provided to the role and these thanks were echoed by other Members.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF SUB COMMITTEES, CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES AND GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding appointments to Committees and Groups for 2021/22.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The terms of reference and composition of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be noted;
- The terms of reference and composition of both the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group be approved;
- The Chair and Deputy Chairman to be appointed to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.
- John Tomlinson be appointed to the Highgate Wood Consultative Group, and the further two vacancies be deferred until the next meeting of the Grand Committee for appointment;
- John Tomlinson and Karina Dostalova be appointed to the Queen's Park Consultative Group, and the further one vacancy be deferred until the next meeting of the Grand Committee for appointment;

- John Tomlinson be appointed to serve on the Keats House Consultative Committee with the Chair to also attend in an ex officio capacity;
- The Chair be appointed to attend to observe Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee meetings in an ex officio capacity.

7. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the public minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2021 were approved as a correct record.

8. **OTHER MINUTES**

8.1 **Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**

The draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (HHCC) meeting held on 19 April 2021 were received.

8.2 **Highgate Wood Consultative Group**

The draft public minutes of the Highgate Wood Consultative Group (HWCG) meeting held on 21 April 2021 were received.

8.3 **Queen's Park Consultative Group**

The draft public minutes of the Queen's Park Consultative Group (QPCG) meeting held on 21 April 2021 were received.

9. **FRONT LINE WORK UPDATE**

Members were informed that the Senior Swimming Facilities Supervisor was unable to attend and would provide an update at a future meeting.

10. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent providing an update on matters concerning Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. The following points were made:

- The Superintendent advised that the main issue for staff was the coronavirus response, and they were currently planning for the 21 June lifting of restrictions. It was hoped that Government would provide further guidance ahead of the move to Step 4 of the Roadmap out of Lockdown.
- With regards to Annual Work Programme (AWP) project work, Members were advised that the Conservation and Ecology AWP presented at the last meeting had been reviewed with a focus on recovery and Officers sought support for three annual projects which were approved.
- A Member noted that the updated Drones Guidance did not contain wording which explicitly sets out that the use of drones is prohibited in most circumstances. Members asked if the updated Guidance could be reviewed further to clarify the City Corporation's position on drone usage on Hampstead Heath.
- Officers advised that the Comptroller plus legal Counsel were working

with the Epping Forest Division on prospective injunction orders following anti-social behaviour last summer. It was noted that the High Court was not prepared to grant injunctions against persons unknown without evidence of an imminent threat during summer 2021. Officers awaited feedback from the Epping Forest Court application.

- A Member was supportive of a Delegated Authority and enquired if rough sleeping and the use of drones could be included in the injunction.
- Most Members, particularly the Deputy Chairman, were not supportive of injunction orders against persons unknown. Members agreed they should only use powers in instances of genuine need and regarded the High Court's recent decision as a clear case against the decision.
- Members did not support the recommendation to grant Delegated Authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Committee, to approve the application for the Interim Injunction Order.
- The Superintendent drew Members attention to the London Borough of Camden's consultation concerning proposals to install Dockless Bike Hire and Cycle Parking Bays on roads bordering Hampstead Heath. Members were supportive of the initiative.
- Officers confirmed they had been approached by Camden regarding an initiative for a caterpillar scheme in cycle bursts. This was discussed at the recent HHCC meeting who were cautious and requested further information about how the scheme would work.
- A Member noted that in other parts of London, Local Authorities had started closing streets to vehicle traffic during school hours and encouraged this method as an effective way to encourage people to take exercise to and from schools.
- A Member highlighted that there was a difference between cycling and walking, and that mass cycling was radical when the Heath did not have appropriate cycle routes.
- The Superintendent clarified that the proposal put forward by the London Borough of Camden related to primary school children only. The priority remains to support the provision of the highway network around the Heath. Discussions with Camden were in early stages and the proposals would need to be piloted in the first instance. Members were concerned the scheme would increase cycling on busy paths on the Heath.
- Members were updated on the proposal to develop the Sports Forum to form the new Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum and changes would include a larger membership with a focussed strategic agenda. The Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum would be launched in July 2021.

- The Chair felt the changes would make the Forum more productive and would enable strategic forward planning but highlighted that the changes would be kept under review. Members were supportive of the changes.
- With regards to the Professional Dog Walking Licence Scheme, it was noted that there was a typo and appendix 8 should say appendix 9. It was noted that the terms and conditions had been amended following feedback from Professional Dog Walkers.
- The Chair noted that she had received correspondence from members of the public and Professional Dog Walkers.
- A Member noted that Professional Dog Walking was a widespread issue with strongly held views on both sides. The Member felt the current number was the right balance. Members supported the recommendation.
- The Superintendent updated Members on the following planning application:
 - **Jack Straws Castle (2020/1828/P).** Members were supportive of the approach taken by Officers with regards to protecting the Heath from development encroachment.
 - **Murphy's Yard.** Officers were arranging for a workshop with the developers to look at the plans and confirmed local Stakeholders would also be invited.
 - **55 Fitzroy Park (2018/3672/P).** A decision had not been determined, and Officers remained concerned by the drainage.
- With regards to events, a Member noted that ParkRun had publicly criticised Local Authorities for being unduly bureaucratic and hoped the Corporation were assisting to get ParkRuns back up and running.
- The Chair explained that the sequencing of sports varied throughout the year and was hard to plan. In the case of the ParkRun, the organisers had proposed a start date which did not align with the Government's framework. It was agreed having safe events was the priority. Officers will continue to liaise with the event organisers regards a safe return of ParkRun events across the City Corporation's Open Spaces.
- The Queen's Park Manager provided an update on the Queen's Park Sandpit project. Members supported delegated authority to help progress the project through the Gateway process.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Members approve the Hampstead Heath Annual Work Programme Projects for 2021/22 (appendix 1);

- Members approve the Highgate Wood Annual Work Programme Projects for 2021/22 (appendix 2) and the Highgate Wood Divisional Plan 2021/24, (appendix 10);
- Members agree the Queen's Park Annual Work Programme Projects for 2021/22, (appendix 3) and Queen's Park Divisional Plan 2021/24, (appendix 11);
- Members agree to retain the current four dog limit for Professional Dog Walkers and to support the implementation of the Licencing Scheme as set out in paragraphs 35-41;
- Grant Delegated Authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Committee to approve the Queen's Park Sandpit Capital Project Gateway 2.

11. HAMPSTEAD HEATH BATHING POND AND LIDO ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces concerning the Hampstead Heath Bathing Ponds and Lido Annual Report 2020-21.

Member noted the remarkable achievement to open up the ponds as soon as they could and implement necessary safety requirements.

The Chair highlighted that the 2020/21 fees and charges, agreed by the Committee on 11 March 2020, predated the National Lockdowns.

With regards to the legal challenge received by the City Corporation, a Member stated that the Corporation needed to make savings and would have to make concessions in other ways, e.g. closures, if charging was not an option.

The Corporation had tried hard to maintain the level of service, and the review of the 2019 season looked at safety and the whole operation. Only charging would allow for this ever-popular service to continue.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Members approve the Hampstead Heath Bathing Pond and Lido Annual Report 2020-21 (appendix 1);
- Members agree the proposal to re-introduce swimming tests at the Bathing Ponds as set out in para 4;
- Members agree the proposals to retain the current Free Morning Swim arrangements, as set out in para 6;

- Members agree the proposals to retain the current Season Ticket arrangements and to undertake a further review as set out in paras 8 and 9;
- Members agree the proposal for free and discounted swimming opportunities as set out in para 11.

12. HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK RISK MANAGEMENT

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces concerning Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park's Risk Management.

Officers noted an error in paragraph 11 which included a replication of risk 004 and instead of stating risk 002.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Note the report;
- Approve the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Risk Register (Appendix 2).

13. HAMPSTEAD HEATH TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Members considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and Director of Open Spaces presenting the Hampstead Heath Trustee's Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2020 in the format required by the Charity Commission.

Officers confirmed over £6.2m of City's cash was used to support the Charity during this financial year. It was noted that in April, the Finance Committee approved changes to the financial regulations meaning charities were now able to ringfence funds for their own projects. The Chair was pleased as this would open up opportunities for the Heath.

RESOLVED – That the Trustee's Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for 2019/20 be noted.

14. HIGHGATE WOOD & QUEEN'S PARK KILBURN TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Members considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and Director of Open Spaces presenting the Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Kilburn Trustee's Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2020 in the format required by the Charity Commission.

Officers confirmed over £1.3m of City's cash was used to support the Charity during this financial year and that fundraising had already begun.

RESOLVED – That the Trustee's Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for 2019/20 be noted.

15. REVENUE OUTTURN 2020/21 - HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK

Members considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and Director of Open Spaces comparing the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Committee in 2020/21 with the final agreed budget for the year. In total, there was a better than expected budget position of £130,000 for the services compared with the final agreed budget for the year.

Officers confirmed there was a Directors local risk marginal overspend by £3k which would be subsumed in the overall underspend.

In response to a query concerning rents for cafés and whether support for them during the pandemic had an impact on the overall figures, Officers confirmed it did impact but it was a difficult situation. Support had also been given to the NHS via temporary additional parking arrangements at East Heath Car Park. The Superintendent acknowledged the huge amount of work undertaken by Managers and the North London Division Team to reduce spend and increase costs to achieve a budget almost on target.

Members commended the Superintendent and North London Division Team for their hard work throughout the year to maintain services, plus the support from the wider City Corporation.

RESOLVED – That this revenue outturn report for 2020/21 is noted.

16. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

Members received a report of the Town Clerk advising Members of action taken by the Town Clerk under urgency or delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chair since the last meeting of the Committee, in accordance with Standing Orders No. 41 (a) and (b).

RECEIVED.

17. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were none.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Chair advised the Committee that after 30 years at the Corporation, the Superintendent was retiring and would be leaving in August 2021, ahead of the next meeting of the Committee. Members gave sincere thanks to the Superintendent for all the great work he had achieved during his tenure and stated he would be greatly missed.

The meeting ended at 5.35 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Leanne Murphy
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Committee(s): Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	Date(s): 29/09/2021
Subject: Superintendent's Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Director of Environment	For Decision
Report author: Richard Gentry, Acting Superintendent	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park since May 2021.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Approve the Drone Guidance attached at appendix 1, as set out in paragraphs 4-8.
- Grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee and the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath, to finalise and implement the documentation in respect of the Professional Dog Walking Licencing Scheme ("the Licencing Scheme") which is required to commence the Licencing Scheme in October 2021, as set out in paragraphs 14-15.
- Approve the proposal to hold a Christmas Fayre on Hampstead Heath as set out in paragraphs 30-33.

Main Report

Coronavirus Emergency Response and Issues

1. From 19 July 2021, in-line with the Government's Roadmap out of Lockdown, Covid-19 signage has been removed from site. A number of Covid-19 control measures remain in place across public and staff facilities, in line with guidance.

2. The Acting Superintendent will provide a further update at the meeting.

Constabulary

3. A Byelaw review is being undertaken across the Open Spaces. The process will start with a review of the Epping Forest byelaws. Hampstead Heath byelaws are expected to be reviewed in 2022, and a review of the Highgate Wood & Queen's Park byelaws will follow.

Drone Guidance

4. The Drone Guidance for Hampstead Heath has been updated to reflect changes to the National laws (The Air Navigation Order 2016 as amended by the Air Navigation (Amendment Order) 2020 which has been in force since 31 December 2020. The Drone Guidance also reflects the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) Drone and Model Aircraft Code.
5. The Drone Guidance, once approved and implemented, will assist officers in dealing with drone flyers on Hampstead Heath. Officers will ensure that processes are put in place to enforce the legal requirements, for example, officers will monitor whether drone flyers are registered with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and have taken the relevant flying test, officers will also monitor the types of drones that are being flown on the Heath and in what areas. Drone flyers will be encouraged to fill out a "Drone Use Request Form" which will hopefully assist officers in managing the use of drones on the Heath. The law allows restrictions to be put in place in certain congested areas and officers will ensure that any restricted areas i.e. those around the ponds, are communicated and made known to drone flyers.
6. Officers will also refer to the Drone Guidance when communicating with and educating drone flyers with a view to promote safe flying of drones on the Heath (in accordance with the rules). Currently, enforcement action can only be taken through the CAA or the Metropolitan Police Service (as per the law) and officers will take necessary enforcement action against anyone caught breaching the law.
7. Going forward, officers will also be monitoring the number of drone incidents over a period of time, and if necessary will explore further enforcement routes in due course.
8. Members are asked to approve the updated Drone Guidance attached at appendix 1.

Divisional Plan

9. The Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan 2021-24 (appendix 2) sets out the current position in relation to project work being undertaken across the Division.
10. Officers would like to draw Members attention to the following Divisional Plan projects:

Celebrate 150th Anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act (HH5)

11. The seasonal biodiversity interpretation boards designed and installed as part of the #Heath150 celebrations have been well received. Working in partnership with the Heath & Hampstead Society, the biodiversity boards be retained for a further year between April 2022-March 2023, with updated interpretation to be produced and installed on a quarterly basis. The Society has agreed to support

the costs of producing new boards for 2022-23 which will focus on the theme of biodiversity discovery, enjoyment and protection on the Heath.

Playgrounds (HH9)

12. Working in conjunction with the local community, the Concept Design for the Heath Extension Playground has been produced. The Project, which was initiated by a local Stakeholder, aims to broaden the age range of the play equipment, introduce natural play features and ensure the playground is accessible for all.
13. A public engagement is on-going, with feedback and views on the Concept Design welcomed until 26 September 2021. Members views on the Concept Design (appendix 3) are welcomed.

Professional Dog Walking Licence Scheme (HH20)

14. Members have agreed in principle the Scheme. Dialogue continues with the Hampstead Professional Dog Walkers Association. Officers ran an expression of interest and a mapping exercise has been undertaken. Professional Dog Walkers using the Heath were asked to identify the areas of the Heath which they currently use. This information has informed a zoning approach. Officers have assessed that 70 licences can be issued without the commercial activity impacting on wildlife, the amenity of the Heath, and without causing disruption to recreational users. Advertisement of the Licencing Scheme will commence in early October 2021 to give notice to Professional Dog Walkers wishing to make a licence application.
15. In order to enable the Licencing Scheme to commence in October 2021, delegated authority is sought to allow the Town Clerk to finalise the documentation in respect of the Scheme, which are currently in draft form. The documentation includes the following:
 - Code of Conduct for Dog Walkers
 - Professional Dog Walking Licence Application Form
 - Professional Dog Walking Licencing Scheme Terms and Conditions

Planning (HH26)

16. Jack Straws Castle - Planning permission was granted at appeal for two dwellings on the car park site to the north of Jack Straws Castle. The western elevation of the approved scheme immediately abuts the boundary of the Heath. The design of the northern most dwelling as approved had a pitched roof and the eaves of this roof over-sailed the Heath. This matter has been raised with both the applicant and Camden Council. Additionally, two submissions have now been made by the applicant to discharge pre-commencement conditions pursuant to the appeal scheme. These relate to the approval of materials and the landscaping scheme for the car park. These applications were submitted on 13 August 2021.

17. Murphy's Yard - Community Consultation has taken place and final revisions to the Murphy's Yard redevelopment scheme are currently being worked on. The Project Team has offered to meet with Officers and local Stakeholders to discuss the proposal and any potential impact on the Heath.
18. 55 Fitzroy Park – Application 2018/3672/P remains undetermined. The drainage issues remain unresolved and no further update to the application has been made since April 2021.
19. 37 Lanchester Road – Planning permission for a replacement dwelling was granted by the London Borough of Haringey under ref: HGY/2021/0814. Representations were submitted by the City Corporation in respect of the impact of the proposal on ancient trees within the site boundary. Although outside the boundary of Highgate Wood, these trees were formerly part of the same ancient woodland and are worthy of protection. There were no objections raised to the principal of development. Conditions have been attached to the permission to require on-site monitoring during construction and the imposition of suitable measures to ensure tree protection and the creation of an ecological corridor through the site.
20. Cranwood House – A public consultation on the Cranwood House Development took place in January 2021. Over 200 residents submitted comments to the consultation the vast majority of whom were objecting to the development as proposed at that time. Subsequently the Council advised that the proposals would be amended in light of the comments received, including amendments to the boundary treatments adjacent to Highgate Wood to take account of the City Corporation's comments. No revised proposals have as yet been produced or presented, and there has been no update on the public consultation website in respect of any changes to the development. No application has been submitted for redevelopment of the site for housing. It should be noted that there is a temporary permission in place which allows for the temporary use of the building as a homeless shelter which expires in November 2021. It is therefore reasonable to expect that revised proposals will be produced before the expiry of that permission.

Annual Work Programme (AWP)

Branch Hill Pond (C&E-CW218)

21. A revised planning application is being submitted to Camden Council, subject to planning permission works will commence during late 2021/early 2022.

Tree planting on Parliament Hill Broad Walk (CE-PR 3)

22. Planting of approx. 20 trees will be undertaken during the Autumn. A mix of oak, hornbeam, field maple and small leaved lime trees will be planted to create a small woodland copse.

Dams & Spillway Maintenance (C&E-CW1)

23. Works have been undertaken by Heath Ranger Team and Heath Hands Volunteers to remove and replace the dressing of the Hampstead No.1 Pond dam, following incidents of anti-social behaviour in this area.

24. An update will be given on the weather event of the 12 July 2021.

Cyclical Work Programme (CWP)

25. Upcoming CWP works include:

- Drain down and desilting of the Lily Pond and Swan and Water Garden Ponds at Golders Hill Park. Drain down of the ponds is being undertaken to enable desilting works to commence on 27 September 2021.
- Replacement of the Parliament Hill vehicle barrier with sunken rising bollards. Works will be undertaken during autumn 2021.
- Internal and external decoration and replacement of white goods at the Queen's Park public toilets. Works will be undertaken during autumn/winter 2021.
- Queen's Park tennis court surface repairs. Works will be undertaken during autumn/winter 2021.

Capital Projects

26. Capital Funding Bids have been submitted for the following Projects:

- Pergola – Timber structure replacement.
- Parliament Hill Athletics Track – Reconstruction of the Track Surface and associated works.
- Queen's Park Sandpit – Redevelopment of the sandpit.

27. With regard to the Capital Bid Project for the Swimming Safety, Security and Access Improvement. A tender process to appoint a Project Architect has been undertaken and a project timeline will be drafted during the autumn.

Events

28. The following events have recently taken place:

- Zippos Circus, 12-18 July 2021 (Hampstead Heath)
- Duathlon, 4 September 2021 (Hampstead Heath)
- Hideaway Cinema, 8-12 September 2021 (Hampstead Heath)
- (Jubilee Hall Trust) Run for your Life, 11 September 2021 (Hampstead Heath)
- Queen's Park book festival, 18-19 September 2021 (Queen's Park)

29. Unfortunately the Circus Berlin visit to Hampstead Heath, scheduled for 22-29 September 2021, has been cancelled.

30. The Leisure and Events Manager has received an application for a small scale Christmas Fayre on Hampstead Heath. It is proposed that the fayre would run from late November 2021 until early January 2022 at the South Fairground site, and is therefore classed as a Major Event due to duration.

31. The fayre would include:
- Children's rides
 - Stall selling seasonal food and drinks
 - Christmas tree vendor (until Christmas eve).
32. The Leisure & Events Manager will provide an update at the meeting in relation to the proposed daily opening times of the fayre. The East Heath Car Park will remain open as usual for Heath visitors throughout the duration of the Fayre.
33. Members views and feedback on the proposal to hold a Christmas Fayre on Hampstead Heath are sought.
34. 17 Weddings and Civil ceremonies have taken place during 2021, with 5 more planned during 2021. Due to the on-going impacts of Covid-19 a number of couples have postponed their ceremonies to 2022.
35. The Queen's Park Bandstand has hosted 2 Weddings and Civil ceremonies during 2021 and remains popular with children's parties through the year.
36. Children's entertainment and brass band performances at Queen's Park have been provided during summer 2021 following the receipt of a donation to the Charity from a local business.

Swimming

37. Following a storm on 12 July, the Bathing Ponds were closed for swimming due to the impacts of heavy rainfall on water levels and bathing water quality. The Men's and Ladies' Bathing Ponds re-opened on 20 July and the Mixed Bathing Pond re-opened on 21 July. The winter Swimming Season commenced on 20 September and the Bathing Ponds and Lido are operating with Free Flow. The 2021-22 winter swimming season arrangements and opening times are set out in appendix 4.

Learning Team

38. It has been a busy period for learning at Hampstead Heath. Over 2,500 school students participated in the learning programme over the school summer term, and opportunities to spend time in nature and develop team working skills have been appreciated following the winter lockdown. The Learning Team are continuing to work with family and community Officers at Camden Council, engaging local families identified as having been struggling over lockdown, as well as children and their mentors from the charity Chance UK.
39. In July the Learning Team began a bespoke programme for Young Carers from Hackney. Recent studies have revealed a worrying decline in the mental health and wellbeing of Young Carers due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with the lockdown restrictions increasing the burden on young carers, increasing isolation and making it harder to access support. In response to these findings, the Learning Team have provided a series of respite sessions at Hampstead Heath, providing Young Carers with an opportunity to take a break and spend time in nature. The team will lead more of these vital respite sessions over the autumn.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

40. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environments.
41. The projects and works outlined in this report also contribute towards the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2020-21 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.
42. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028 Strategic Outcomes A: The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape, B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors, C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors and D: Greater number of and diversity of People taking care of the Heath.

Financial Implications

43. A new page is being added to the Open Spaces pages on the website to seek donations for the Hampstead Heath Extension Playground Project. Donations are currently being sought for the following projects:
 - Hampstead Heath Extension Playground (£40,000)
 - Model Boating Pond Island - wildlife sanctuary (£50,000)
 - Bird and mammal shelters (£5,000)
44. Donations can be made via the City of London website: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/donate-to-hampstead-heath>

Resource Implications

45. Staff resources are being prioritised keeping the Heath open, safe, accessible and secure.

Climate Implications

46. The City of London launched its Climate Action Strategy in October 2020 and the strategy is now in implementation stage. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing the City of London's carbon emissions. This will be the main objective at Hampstead Heath in the short term, especially following the impact of exceptionally high number of visitors due to COVID-19.

Legal Implications

47. No Impact.

Risk Implications

48. No Impact.

Equality Implications

49. No Impact.

Security Implications

50. Security implications are addressed in the emergency response to COVID-19 and are being monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Drone Guidance
- Appendix 2 – Divisional Plan 2021-24
- Appendix 3 – Heath Extension Playground Concept Design & Engagement
- Appendix 4 – 2021-22 winter swimming season – opening arrangements.

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Agenda Item 6a

Hampstead Heath Drone Guidance 2021

The use of drones on Hampstead Heath is only permitted in limited circumstances in accordance with the rules and regulations set out in this guidance. If you are in doubt about whether you can safely fly your drone on Hampstead Heath, please contact hampstead.heath@cityoflondon.gov.uk for further guidance or fill out the Drone Request Form at [link] before any flying takes place.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The City of London Corporation manages Hampstead Heath for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. This guidance has been written in response to Heath users' concerns for their privacy, tranquillity and safety arising from the use of drones on the Heath.
- 1.2 Hampstead Heath's mosaic of habitats provides an invaluable resource for wildlife just six kilometres from the centre of London. It is of national as well as regional importance. Because of the Heath's special character and the importance of its ecology, the City Corporation is particularly aware of the potential issues of flying a drone here, including:-
 - causing harassment, alarm and distress to other Heath users;
 - affecting the privacy of other Heath users by filming them without their permission;
 - otherwise impacting on the quiet enjoyment of the Heath by other users;
 - causing alarm and distress to wildlife, such as birds, which are sensitive to disturbance;
 - in extreme cases, creating a risk of injury to Heath users, or wildlife, or damage to property;
 - issues arising from the close proximity of neighbouring residential and business properties.
- 1.3 The aim of this document is to provide clarity about the current law and to ensure a consistent approach to drone usage on the Heath. The use of drones is regulated in the UK by the Civil Aviation Authority ("CAA") and this document has been written with reference to the CAA's Drone and Model Aircraft Code which is available at <https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/drone-code>.

2. Definition of "drone"

- 2.1 Although there is no strict legal definition of the term "drone", for the purposes of this document, a drone is an unmanned aircraft system without a pilot on board.
- 2.2 From 1 January 2023 new drones will have to meet a set of product standards, and some may do before this date. These will be classed from C0 to C4, based on the weight and capability of the drone, and will determine how and where you can fly.
- 2.3 It is assumed that most drones purchased before January 2023 will not have a class marking but where and how they can be flown will depend on the weight of the drone (see section 5).

3. UK drone regulations - current law

- 3.1 The use of drones is governed by the Air Navigation Order 2016 as amended by The Air Navigation (Amendment) Order 2020 which came into force on 31 December 2020 in line with the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/947 on the rules and procedures for the operation of

Hampstead Heath Drone Guidance 2021

unmanned aircraft (“the Unmanned Aircraft Implementing Regulation”) which also became applicable in the UK on 31st December 2020.

- 3.2 The current law around where you can fly your drone is based on the weight of the drone being used, the type of operation being carried out, the level of risk and the level of pilot competence. Whether you are flying commercially or recreationally, the law is the same for everyone.
- 3.3 Whilst there are some significant changes to the UK drone regulations (as explained in sections 4-6), the following key provisions continue to apply:
 - a) The maximum flying height remains at **120 metres (400 ft)** from the earth’s surface.
 - b) The maximum flying weight must not exceed **25kg** (a slight increase from the previous 20kg limit).
 - c) The pilot must maintain visual line of sight of the drone at all times, unless the necessary prior exemptions have been granted by the CAA.
 - d) The drone must not be flown within any Flight Restriction Zone (“FRZ”), unless the necessary prior permissions have been granted by the relevant authority.

4. Categories of risks

- 4.1 Under the current legislation, drone flights fall into one of three categories. These are:
 - a) OPEN: Presents low risk to third parties. An authorisation from the CAA is not required. Registration and test requirements still need to be met (see paragraph 5)
 - b) SPECIFIC: More complex operations or aspects of the operation fall outside the boundaries of the Open Category. Authorisation is required from the CAA.
 - c) CERTIFIED: Very complex operations, presenting an equivalent risk to that of manned aviation. Authorisation is required from the CAA.
- 4.2 It is likely that a majority of drone flights operation on the Heath will fall within the OPEN category which is further split into sub-categories – **A1** (flying over people), **A2** (flying close to people) or **A3** (flying far from people).
- 4.3 In short, the category you fall into depends on the type of drone you wish to fly (i.e. its weight) and how you wish to fly it i.e. over, close or far away from people. It is likely that flying a drone on the Heath – a congested area, will involve flying over or close to people rather than flying away from people (A1 and A2 sub-categories) so there are likely to be more restrictions which are described in section 5 below.

5. Weight of drone in the OPEN category

- 5.1 Drones under 250g can be flown safely in the A1 subcategory i.e. over uninvolved persons but they must not fly over crowds of people.
- 5.2 Drones less than 2kg can be flown in A2 subcategory, but you must keep at least 50 meters away from people and pass the A2 theory exam (A2 Certificate of Competency or ‘A2 CofC’). If you have not passed the A2 theory exam, you may only fly these drones in the A3 subcategory.
- 5.3 Drones of 2kg or greater may only be flown in the A3 subcategory.

6. Drone registration – Flyer ID

Hampstead Heath Drone Guidance 2021

- 6.1 Anyone operating a drone which weighs up to 25kg in the UK must register their drone with the CAA. Further information on how to register is available at: <https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/individual/register-and-take-test-to-fly>
- 6.2 Drones weighing below 250g without a camera are exempt from this requirement.
- 6.3 All drone operators are required to take an online foundation test before receiving their flyer ID.
- 6.4 All drone operators are encouraged to complete the Drone Request Form which is available at [link] at least 48 hours before you intend to fly a drone on Hampstead Heath so that the Hampstead Heath Constabulary are aware and can provide guidance if required.

7. Enforcement

A contravention of any of the applicable provisions of the UK drone legislation is a criminal offence. The CAA and the Metropolitan Police Service are the relevant enforcement authorities. The role of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary is to advise and educate Heath users about the relevant rules, and to provide evidence of any breaches to the enforcement authorities in appropriate cases.

8. Commercial use of drones

Where it is proposed to carry out commercial filming on the Heath using a drone, consent must be obtained from the City Corporation, in addition to holding a permission from the CAA as the flying is likely to fall within the SPECIFIC category (refer 4.1(b) above). Further information can be found at <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/visitor-information/Pages/Filming-on-Hampstead-Heath.aspx>.

9. Data protection

The Information Commissioner's Office advises that the use of camera drones has the potential to be covered by the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Legislation if the drone is fitted with a camera. The ICO recommends that users of camera drones should operate them in a responsible way to respect the privacy of others. For more information, visit the ICO's website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/drones/>.

10. Disclaimer

Where this guidance offers advice on legal issues, this is given to the best of our understanding. It is not offered as a definitive legal interpretation and is not a substitute for formal legal advice. If formal advice is required you should consult your own legal adviser.

11. Further action

The City Corporation will continue to monitor the use of drones on the Heath, and any issues arising. If necessary, the City Corporation will consider applying for additional powers to restrict the use of drones on the Heath, enforceable by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary.

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HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD, KEATS HOUSE AND QUEEN'S PARK DIVISIONAL PLAN 2021-2024

Introduction

This Divisional Plan is part of the Management Framework for the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Keats House and Queen's Park Division, which sits within the City of London Corporation's Environment Department.

The Division is comprised of three individual charities, each with their own Charitable Objectives:

Hampstead Heath (803392)	The preservation of Hampstead Heath for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.
Highgate Wood & Queen's Park (232986)	The preservation in perpetuity by the City of London Corporation of the open spaces known as Highgate Wood and Queen's Park, Kilburn for the use by the public for exercise and recreation.
Keats House (1053381)	To preserve, maintain and restore for the education and benefit of the public the house and grounds known as Keats House as a museum and memorial to John Keats.

The Divisional Plan is part of a hierarchy of strategies and plans which form a 'golden thread', translating City Corporation Strategic Outcomes into operational delivery, as follows:

- Corporate Plan, 2018-23.
- Open Spaces Business Plan, 2021-22.
- Ten-year Management Plans that set strategic directions for each Charity.
- A three-year Divisional Plan that guides implementation.
- An Annual Works Programme and Project Plans, supported by detailed specifications and guidance.
- Performance Development Approach (PDA), detailing individual's targets to achieve the outcomes and objectives above.

The Divisional Plan is written for a three-year rolling period and is reviewed and updated annually to identify milestones achieved and inform the projects and priorities for future periods. A version of the Divisional Plan has been developed for each Charity.

Criteria for Divisional Plan Projects:

The definition and criteria of projects to be included in the Divisional Plan are as follows:

- Projects requiring formative community engagement and consultation.
- Capital Projects over £50k.
- Projects spanning more than one financial year.
- Complex and high-risk projects.
- Projects with involvement of other Divisions, for example the City Surveyors.

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
HH1	<p>COVID-19 Impact Recovery Programme</p> <p>Continue to respond to Government Guidance and maintain COVID Secure workplaces and facilities.</p> <p>Implement Annual Work Programme interventions to address impacts on wildlife, erosion, compaction, path maintenance, waymarking and signage improvements.</p> <p>Prioritise enforcement taskings to support the protection of the Heath and to ensure people feel welcome and safe.</p>	On-going project subject to annual review.	<p>Outcome A. Priority 2.</p> <p>Outcome B. Priority 4.</p> <p>Outcome D. Priority 9.</p>	<p>Shape outstanding environments.</p> <p>Contribute to a flourishing Society.</p>	<p><i>Annual Work Programme agreed by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (HHHWQPC) on 26.5.2021, following consultation with the Hampstead Heath Consulative Committee.</i></p> <p><i>Ground restoration works were commenced across the Heath in Spring 2021 and good progress has been made regards re-establishing grass and vegetation. Nine veteran tree are currently temporarily fenced off with stock fencing to protect the soil and roots from compaction.</i></p> <p><i>The 2021 Events Programme has resumed from July 2021, with a number of events planned for autumn/winter 2021.</i></p> <p><i>Covid-19 secure Risk Assessments remain in place along with social distancing measures at public and staff facilities, such as the swimming facilities and staff bothies.</i></p>
HH2	<p>Deliver Efficiencies, Savings and Income Generation Projects</p> <p>Implement the approved Budget for 2021/22.</p>	Revised Estimates 1/10/2021. Deliver balanced budget by 31/3/2022.	Outcome D. Priority 10.	<p>Support a thriving economy.</p> <p>Shape outstanding environments.</p>	<p>As well as implementing efficiencies, additional income streams are being investigated.</p> <p><i>Regular monitoring of the 2021/22 Budget is taking account of the ongoing COVID-19 impacts, including reduced income from events.</i></p>

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
HH3	Support Implementation of the Target Operating Model (TOM) Review operational arrangements to align with the TOM.	Project Launched 2020/21. Phased Implementation 2021/22.	Outcome A, Priority 3. Outcome D, Priority 10.	Contribute to a flourishing Society. Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	Town Clerk's briefings have been shared with staff and signposted to the Intranet page. <i>The Executive Director of Environment is now in post.</i>
HH4	Develop our Workforce Deliver a range of initiatives to ensure the health, well-being, learning and development of our workforce.	Launch PDA's 31/3/2021. PDA Mid-Term Review 1/10/2021. PDA Year-End Review 31/3/2022.	Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome D, Priority 10.	Shape outstanding environments. Contribute to a flourishing Society.	Performance Development Approach (PDA) continue to be used to discuss and plan staff development.

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
HH5	<p>Celebrate 150th Anniversary of Hampstead Heath Act Developing outcomes for learning, volunteering and wider participation and support.</p> <p>Work in Partnership with the Heath & Hampstead Society to design and install a series of information panels.</p>	Agree information panel locations 31/3/2021.	<p>Outcome A, Priority 3</p> <p>Outcome B, Priority 4.</p> <p>Outcome C, Priority 5 & 6.</p> <p>Outcome D, Priority 7, 8 & 10.</p>	<p>Contribute to a flourishing Society.</p> <p>Support a thriving economy.</p> <p>Shape outstanding environments.</p>	<p>Officers have developing a communications plan to celebrate this anniversary as a community.</p> <p>Five biodiversity display boards have been installed across the Heath, with a further board installed at the West Meadow on the Kenwood Estate. The boards have been installed in partnership with the Heath & Hampstead Society and the interpretation reflects the four seasons to provide information about habitats and species found on the Heath. <i>The Heath & Hampstead Society have proposed that the biodiversity boards be retained for a further year between April 2022 - March 2023, with updated interpretation to be produced and installed on a quarterly basis. The costs of producing the updated interpretation boards will be met by the Society.</i></p> <p>Following consultation on the concept design for the #Heath150 display, celebrating the history of the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act, the exhibition, consisting of 9 monoliths was installed on the Heath between 23 June - 8 August 2021. The exhibition was well received.</p> <p>A number of events have already taken place in celebration of the 150th anniversary during 2021.</p>

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
HH6	Compliance with the ULEZ In order to meet the emission requirements and manage the financial implications of the ULEZ, implement the agreed vehicle replacement plan to minimise the impact upon the environment.	24/10/2021.	Outcome D, Priority 10.	Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	<i>Electric and hybrid vehicles are being hired and leased in order to comply with ULEZ.</i> <i>Due to supply issues Officers are experiences delays in obtaining compliant vehicles to replace the current fleet.</i>
HH7	Divisional Radio System Procure an alternative Radio system.	31/11/2021.	Outcome A, Priority 3. Outcome D, Priority 10.	Contribute to a flourishing Society. Shape outstanding environments.	Due to a change of landlord, the City Corporation have been notified of a termination of their lease at the Aerial Mast, located at St Columba. <i>The Acting Superintendent is in discussions with a supplier regarding the use of an Aerial Mast located within the vicinity of the current St Columba mast, and in close proximity to Hampstead village.</i>
HH8	East Heath Car Park Implement the East Heath Car Park resurfacing, drainage and cycle parking improvements.	Work is scheduled to start April 2021.	Outcome A, Priority 2 & 3.	Shape outstanding environments.	City Surveyor have lead on the implementation of this project. <i>The car park re-opened for public use ahead of the Easter Fairs. A number of minor snagging works are being resolved.</i> <i>As part of the works, 8 cycle parking stands have been installed in the car park.</i>
HH9	Playgrounds Implement improvements at the Parliament Hill Adventure (PHA), Vale of Health (VOH) & East Heath (Preachers)	PHA June 2021. VOH June 2021.	Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome C, Priority 5.	Contribute to a flourishing Society.	<i>Works at the PHA and VOH playground have been completed.</i>

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
	(EH) Heath Extension (HE) Playgrounds.	EH June 2021. HE March 2022.			<i>Works at the EH playground are scheduled to commence following the autumn half term, in October 2021.</i> <i>The Concept Design for the HE playground have been produced and Officers are currently seeking feedback on the proposals (deadline for comments 26.9.2021). A donation page for the project is being added to the City of London website.</i>
HH10 Page 31	Savernake Road Entrance Improvements Implement improvements in partnership with London Borough of Camden and Heath Hands.	Commencing April 2021.	Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome C, Priority 5 & 6.	Contribute to a flourishing Society. Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	<i>Artwork has been completed on the bridge in partnership with the London Borough of Camden, The Von Herkomer Arts Foundation, Heath Hands and the City of London.</i> <i>Agreed landscaping works will be implemented during Winter 2021/Spring 2022. In partnership with the City of London and Heath Hands.</i>
HH11	Cycling Install additional cycle parking at entrances and facilities. Improve cycle signage, waymarking and maps. Where appropriate, work with Partners to	Commencing April 2021.	Outcomes A, Priority 3. Outcomes C, Priority 5 & 6. Outcomes D,	Contribute to a flourishing Society Shape outstanding environments	Working in Partnership with the Camden Sustainability Working Group to improve walking and cycling access across Camden. <i>Following discussion with Members, Officers have contacted the London Borough of Camden to seek an update on the proposal to pilot school cycle bursts on Hampstead Heath, but have</i>

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
	implement cycle bursts for children using the Heath to travel to and from school.		Priority 8, 9 & 10.		<p><i>received no response to date.</i> The routes proposed for inclusion in the pilot scheme include the footpath extending north of the Lido to join with the Broad Walk, and a route to provide a link from the Broad Walk to the shared use path that runs from East Heath to Spaniards.</p> <p>Focus areas for HH are signage/waymarking and cycling network around the Heath.</p> <p>Implementation of this project is being impacted by COVID. Timescales subject to review.</p>
HH12	Review the High-Level Asset Management Plan 2018 – 2021 Taking account of the impacts of COVID-19 review and update the Asset Management Plan.	December 2021.	Outcome A, Priority 3. Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome C, Priority 5 & 6. Outcome D, Priority 8 & 10.	Contribute to a flourishing Society Support a thriving economy Shape outstanding environments	<i>A review of the High Level Asset Management Plan (AMP) 2018-2021 has been undertaken and a AMP 2021-23 has been drafted.</i>
HH13	Golders Hill Park Zoo & Butterfly House Undertake an options appraisal to inform discussions with the	September 2021 (options appraisal)	Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome D, Priority 10.	Contribute to a flourishing Society Support	<p>Implementation of this project is being impacted by COVID. Timescales subject to review.</p> <p><i>Butterfly House remains closed due to the on-going impact of Covid.</i></p>

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee regarding the long-term sustainability of the Zoo and Butterfly House.	<i>November 2021 (present options to HHCC)</i>		a thriving economy Shape outstanding environments	<i>The Operational Services Manager has commissioned an options appraisal regarding the long term sustainability of the Zoo and Butterfly house.</i>
HH14	Swimming Capital Project Progress through the Capital Project Gateway Procedures a programme of safety, access and security improvements across the Bathing Ponds and Lido.	Implement 2022/23.	Outcome A, Priority 3. Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome C, Priority 5 & 6. Outcome D, Priority 8 & 10.	Contribute to a flourishing Society. Shape outstanding environments.	Capital Funding Approved December 2020. Gateway 2 Report discussed with Stakeholders and Members (March - May 2021). <i>A tender process has been undertaken and a Project Architect will be appointed in September 2021. This will inform the draft timeline for works.</i>
HH15	Parliament Hill Athletics Track reconstruction To reconstruct the Athletics Track Surface in order to maintain U.K. Athletics (UKA) TrackMark Standard Level 1.	01/09/2021.	Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome C, Priority 5.	Contribute to a flourishing Society. Shape outstanding environments.	Project Status – Amber – Deferred / on a reserve list should funding become available during the current cycle. <i>A Capital Funding bid has been submitted for consideration during winter 2021.</i> <i>Officers are seeking to identify and secure external funding streams to support the Capital Funding Bid.</i>

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
HH16	Master Plan for optimising facilities at Parliament Hill Undertake a review of facilities and buildings at Parliament Hill to inform provision of a visitor centre, maintain suitable accommodation for staff and volunteers, as well as improved sports facilities and improved learning facilities.	June 2022.	Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome D, Priority 10.	Contribute to a flourishing Society. Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	<i>Officers have met with colleagues from the City Surveyor's regards commencing a review, however implementation of this project is being impacted by COVID. Timescales subject to review.</i>
HH17	Sports and Wellbeing Forum Review and update the Terms of Reference and scope of the Sports Advisory Forum to include Health & Wellbeing and move the focus of the Forum to a strategic overview to implement the outcomes of the City Corporation's Sports and Physical Activity Strategy.	2021/22.	Outcome B, Priority 4.	Contribute to a flourishing society.	<i>The inaugural meeting of the Sport and Wellbeing Forum took place on 5 July, with a further meeting scheduled for October 2021.</i>
HH18	Promote Health Connections Work together with Partners, including Heath Hands and	2021/22.	Outcome B, Priority 4.	Contribute to a flourishing society.	Working with Heath Hands, Officers are developing partnerships with local GP's and Social Prescribers, London Boroughs and Pro-Active Camden.

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
	the NHS, to promote health & wellbeing.				Work is underway to map opportunities to establish health and wellbeing connections across the Boroughs.
HH19	Café Tendering Undertake a tender procurement for the Golders Hill Park Café, Parliament Hill Café, Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café and the Heath Extension Kiosk.	Lease Commence GHP 01/2022 Heath Extension Kiosk 2022 PH & Lido 01/2023.	Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome C, Priority 5 & 6. Outcome D, Priority 7, 8, 9 & 10.	Contribute to a flourishing society. Support a thriving economy.	The Parliament Hill and Lido Cafés are currently operating on a tenancy at will arrangement. <i>A tendering process for the appointment of a new Lease for the Golders Hill Park Café will be undertaken during autumn/winter 2021.</i> <i>The tendering process for the Heath Extension Kiosk has been pushed back to early 2022 due to Officer workload.</i>
HH20	Dog walking code of conduct and the Professional Dog Walking Licencing Scheme Implement a licencing scheme from April 2021.	Licence Scheme to commence October 2021.	Outcome A, Priority 3. Outcome B, Priority 4 Outcome C, Priority 5 & 6. Outcome D, Priority 7, 8, 9 & 10.	Contribute to a flourishing Society. Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	<i>Members have agreed in principle the Scheme. Dialogue continues with the Hampstead Professional Dog Walkers Association. Officers ran an expression of interest and a mapping exercise has been undertaken. Professional Dog Walkers using the Heath were asked to identify the areas of the Heath which they currently use. This information has informed a zoning approach. Officers have assessed that 70 licences can be issued without the commercial activity impacting on wildlife, the amenity of the Heath, and without causing disruption to recreational users. Advertisement of the Licencing Scheme will commence in early October 2021 to give notice to Professional Dog Walkers wishing to make a licence application.</i>

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
HH21	Fitness training code of conduct and licencing scheme Undertake a consultation and engagement to inform the develop a licencing scheme for Fitness training.	Licence Scheme to commence 2022.	Outcome A, Priority 3. Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome C, Priority 5 & 6. Outcome D, Priority 7, 8, 9 & 10.	Contribute to a flourishing Society. Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	<i>An initial scoping workshop took place during December 2019 and further consultation and engagement will take place during autumn/winter 2021/22, supporting the development of the code of conduct and licensing scheme.</i>
HH22	Forest School Licencing Scheme Develop a long-term licencing scheme for Forest Schools.	Licence Scheme to commence September 2022.	Outcome A, Priority 3. Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome C, Priority 5 & 6. Outcome D, Priority 8 & 9.	Contribute to a flourishing Society. Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	<i>Officers are engaging with Forest Schools and registering current groups using the Heath. Short Term Licencing arrangements are being implemented for 2021/22. Discussions are underway to licence a fee paying school based in Hampstead. Officers will be working with the Learning Team to assist with the management of forest school activities on the Heath going forward.</i>
HH23	Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park Undertake a tendering process to appoint a Consultant to develop options which facilitate safe weekend and	September 2021.	Outcomes B, Priority 4. Outcome C, Priority 5 & 6.	Contribute to a flourishing Society.	<i>A second tendering process has been undertaken and a Consultant has been identified. Draft options will be presented for Members consideration and feedback during autumn 2021.</i>

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
	Bank Holiday opening of the Car Park.				
HH24	Develop Heritage Outcomes Engage with Historic England and local historians to: Develop a Heritage Conservation Management Plan for the Heath. Incorporate preservation and interpretation actions to preserve and interpret archaeological and heritage into the existing Compartment Management Plans.	2023/24.	Outcome A, Priority 2.	Shape outstanding environments.	
HH25	Bio-Security Management Proactive management of threats, including pest and diseases which impact upon the condition of trees, plants and wildlife.	2021/22.	Outcome A, Priority 1. Outcome D, Priority 10.	Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	<i>OPM population stabilised on Hampstead Heath. Monitoring of Carcelia parisitoid continuing as natural control.</i> Massaria currently stable.
HH26	Planning Regular monitoring of development and planning	2021/22.	Outcome D, Priority 10.	Support a thriving economy.	Quarterly reporting to HHCC and HHHWQPC.

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	HH Mgt Strategy Outcomes	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
	applications to ensure that the Heath is protected.			Shape outstanding environments.	
HH27	Climate Action Strategy Open Spaces seek opportunities to enhance carbon capture while enhancing biodiversity and resilience. These actions will contribute towards the City Corporation achieving Net 0 by 2027 in scope 1 & 2 emissions	2027 Net 0 scope 1 & 2 2040 Net 0 Scope 1, 2 and 3.	Outcome A, Priority 1. Outcome B, Priority 4. Outcome D, Priority 10.	Contribute to a flourishing Society. Shape outstanding environments.	Strategy adopted October 2020. Now in first phase of delivery. Quarterly reporting to HHCC and HHHWQPC.
HH28	Contactless Payment for access to Toilets Undertake a Feasibility Study to inform the possible introduction of a charge at some toilet facilities to pay towards cleaning and maintenance.	2022/23.	Outcome D, Priority 10.	Shape outstanding environments.	This project is not being prioritised.

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
HW1	<p>COVID-19 Impact Recovery Programme Continue to respond to Government Guidance and maintain COVID secure workplaces and facilities.</p> <p>Implement Annual Work Programme interventions to address erosion, compaction, path maintenance, waymarking and signage improvements.</p> <p>Prioritise enforcement taskings to support the protection of the Wood and to ensure people feel welcome and safe.</p>	On-going project subject to annual review.	<p>Shape outstanding environments.</p> <p>Contribute to a flourishing society.</p>	A new woodland Conservation Area to be established autumn 2021. The location is a 0.75-hectare area north of the Play Area.
HW2	<p>Deliver Efficiencies, Savings and Income Generation Projects Implement the approved budget for 2021/22.</p>	<p>Revised Estimates 1/10/2021.</p> <p>Deliver balanced budget by 31/3/2022.</p>	<p>Support a thriving economy.</p> <p>Shape outstanding environments.</p>	<p>As well as implementing efficiencies, additional income streams are being investigated.</p> <p>A revised roster for Highgate Wood is being considered.</p> <p>Regular monitoring of the 2021/22 Budget to take account of Covid-19 impacts.</p>
HW3	<p>Support Implementation of the Target Operating Model Review operational arrangements to align with the Target Operating Model.</p>	Project Launched 2020/21.	Contribute to a flourishing society.	<p>Town Clerk's briefings have been shared with staff and signposted to the Intranet page.</p> <p><i>The Executive Director of Environment is now in post..</i></p>

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
		Phased Implementation 2021/22.	Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	
HW4 Page 40	Develop our Workforce Deliver a range of initiatives to ensure the health, well-being, learning and development of our workforce.	Launch PDA's 31/3/2021. PDA Mid-Term Review 1/10/2021. PDA Year-End Review 31/3/2022.	Shape outstanding environments. Contribute to a flourishing society.	Performance Development Approach (PDA) continue to be used to discuss and plan staff development.
HW5	Divisional Radio System Procure an alternative Radio System.	31/11/2021.	Contribute to a flourishing society. Shape outstanding environments.	Due to a change of landlord, the City Corporation have been notified of a termination of their lease at the Aerial Mast, located at St Columba. <i>The Acting Superintendent is in discussions with a supplier regarding the use of an Aerial Mast located within the vicinity of the current St</i>

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
				<i>Columba mast, and in close proximity to Hampstead village.</i>
HW6	Roman Kiln Working with the Friends of Highgate Wood Roman Kiln (FOHRK), return the Roman Kiln artefact to Highgate Wood and rehouse in the repurposed Highgate Wood Office/visitor centre.	On-going project.	Shape outstanding environments. Contribute to a flourishing society.	FOHRK have submitted a proposal, regarding taking six young people between the ages of 16-24 through the Tier 1 schedule of the Historic England programme for developing young heritage professionals using the Department of Work and Pensions Kickstart fund. <i>FOHRK are continuing to fundraise and seek external funding opportunities.</i>
HW7	Monitoring Visitor Impact To monitor and assess the Visitor impact on the woodland and consider steps to mitigate the negative impacts.	On-going project.	Shape outstanding environments. Contribute to a flourishing society.	This will be led by Ecologist and HW Team working with Heath Hands volunteers.
HW8	Volunteering Opportunities Increase volunteering activities in Highgate Wood to support Highgate Wood's key objectives.	On-going project.	Shape outstanding environments. Contribute to a flourishing society.	This project is linked to HW7. Monitoring visitor impacts will create and inform volunteering opportunities moving forward.

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
HW9	Signage & Interpretation Complete the noticeboard replacement programme.	31/3/2022.	Shape outstanding environments. Contribute to a flourishing society.	Installation of 2 oak timber notice boards is outstanding.
HW10	Café Tendering Undertake a tender procurement for the Pavilion Café.	Implement Licence 2023.	Contribute to a flourishing society. Support a thriving economy.	<i>Consultation and Engagement to be undertaken during 2022 to inform the tendering of the licence.</i>
HW11	Dog walking code of conduct and the Professional Dog Walking Licencing Scheme Implement a licencing scheme for Professional Dog Walkers using the Wood.	Undertaken engagement & consultation 31/3/2022.	Contribute to a flourishing society. Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
HW12	Fitness training code of conduct and licencing scheme Undertake a consultation and engagement to inform the develop a licencing scheme for Fitness trainers.	Undertaken engagement & consultation 31/3/2023.	Contribute to a flourishing society. Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	
HW13	Forest School Licencing Scheme Develop a long-term licencing scheme for Forest Schools.	Licence Scheme to commence September 2022.	Contribute to a flourishing society. Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	Officers are engaging with Forest Schools and registering current groups using the Wood. Short Term Licencing arrangements are being implemented. Implementation of this project is being impacted by Covid.

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
HW14	Bio-Security Management Proactive management of threats, including pest and diseases which impact upon the condition of trees, plants and wildlife.	2021/22.	Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	OPM population decreasing. Continuing Oak decline survey. Possible volunteer support
HW15	Planning Regular monitoring of development and planning applications which are in the environs of the Wood to ensure that the Wood is protected.	2021/22.	Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	Reporting to HWCG and Quarterly reporting to HHHWQPC. Liaising with the Housing Department from Haringey, regarding Cranwood House.
HW16	Climate Action Strategy Open Spaces seek opportunities to enhance carbon capture while enhancing biodiversity and resilience. These actions will contribute towards CoLC's achieving Net 0 by 2027 in scope 1 & 2 emissions.	2027 Net 0 scope 1 & 2 2040 Net 0 Scope 1, 2 and 3.	Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	Strategy adopted October 2020. Now in first phase of delivery. Quarterly reporting to HHHWQPC.

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
QP1	<p>COVID-19 Impact Recovery Programme Continue to respond to Government Guidance and maintain COVID secure workplaces and facilities.</p> <p>Implement Annual Work Programme interventions to address erosion, compaction, path maintenance and signage improvements.</p> <p>Prioritise enforcement taskings to support the protection of the Park and to ensure people feel welcome and safe.</p>	<p>On-going project subject to annual review.</p> <p>Works to be carried out Spring and Autumn 2021 and subject to annual review.</p>	<p>Shape outstanding environments.</p> <p>Contribute to a flourishing society.</p>	<p><i>The woodland walk has been closed (since March 2021) to aid ground recovery. Works will be undertaken during autumn/winter 2021- spring 2022 to repair ground compaction and erosion.</i></p>
QP2	<p>Deliver Efficiencies, Savings and Income Generation Projects Implement the approved budget for 2021/22.</p>	<p>Revised Estimates 1/10/2021.</p> <p>Deliver balanced budget by 31/3/2022.</p>	<p>Support a thriving economy.</p> <p>Shape outstanding environments.</p>	<p>As well as implementing efficiencies, additional income streams are being investigated.</p> <p>Regular monitoring of the 2021/22 Budget to take account of Covid-19 impacts.</p>
QP3	<p>Support Implementation of the Target Operating Model Review operational arrangements to align with the Target Operating Model.</p>	<p>Project Launched 2020/21.</p>	<p>Contribute to a flourishing society.</p>	<p>Town Clerk's briefings have been shared with staff and signposted to the Intranet page.</p> <p><i>The Executive Director of Environment is now in post.</i></p>

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
		Phased Implementation 2021/22.	Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	
QP4 Page 46	Develop our Workforce Deliver a range of initiatives to ensure the health, well-being, learning and development of our workforce.	Launch PDA's 01/04/2021. PDA Mid-Term Review 1/10/2021. PDA Year-End Review 31/3/2022.	Shape outstanding environments. Contribute to a flourishing society.	Performance Development Approach (PDA) continue to be used to discuss and plan staff development.
QP5	Divisional Radio System Procure an alternative Radio System.	31/11/2021.	Contribute to a flourishing society. Shape outstanding environments.	Due to a change of landlord, the City Corporation have been notified of a termination of their lease at the Aerial Mast, located at St Columba. <i>The Acting Superintendent is in discussions with a supplier regarding the use of an Aerial Mast located within the vicinity of the current St Columba mast, and in close proximity to Hampstead village.</i>
QP6	Sandpit Refurbishment of the Sandpit and improve provision of equipment in the Children's Play Area.	Project Gateway 1 / 2 to be submitted	Shape outstanding environments.	A funding page has been established on the City of London Website, and donations towards the project have already been received.

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
		spring/summer 2021.		<i>A Capital Funding Bid has been submitted.</i>
QP7	Toilets Consultation on the Cyclical Works Programme.	Review CWP in April 2021. CWP works completed by March 2022.	Shape outstanding environments.	<i>Internal and external decorations and replacement of white goods is scheduled for autumn/winter 2021.</i>
QP8	Woodland Walk Consult on, finalise and implement the Queen's Park Woodland Walk Management Plan.	2022.	Contribute to a flourishing society.	The woodland walk is currently closed to support restoration of the area following heavy usage over previous 12 months. <i>A final draft of the Woodland Walk Management Plan will be presented to the QPCG in May 2022.</i>
QP9	Conservation Management Plan Review of the Queen's Park Conservation Management Plan.	<i>Review to be completed 2022.</i>	Shape outstanding environments.	<i>The review of the 2014-24 Conservation Management Plan has been impacted by Officer workload and will be presented to the QPCG in May 2022.</i>
QP10	Park Activity Plan Develop a Park Activity Plan.	Complete 31/3/2022.	Contribute to a flourishing society.	<i>This forms part of the 2014-24 Conservation Management Plan review. A draft Park Activity Plan will be presented to the QPCG in May 2022.</i>
QP11	Café Tendering Undertake a tender procurement for the Queen's Park Café.	<i>New lease arrangements agreed by January 2023.</i>	Contribute to a flourishing society. Support a thriving economy.	

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
QP12	Dog walking code of conduct and the Professional Dog Walking Licencing Scheme Undertake a consultation and engagement to inform the develop a licencing scheme for Professional Dog Walking.	<i>Undertaken engagement & consultation 31/3/2022.</i>	Contribute to a flourishing society. Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	
QP13	Fitness training code of conduct and licencing scheme Undertake a consultation and engagement to inform the develop a licencing scheme for Fitness training.	Undertaken engagement & consultation 31/3/2023.	Contribute to a flourishing society. Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	
QP14	Forest School Licencing Scheme Develop a long-term licencing scheme for Forest Schools.	Licence Scheme to commence September 2022.	Contribute to a flourishing society. Support a thriving economy.	

Ref	Project Details	Key Dates	Corporate Plan Aims	Notes on progress (September 2021 updates in <i>italic text</i>)
			Shape outstanding environments.	
QP15	Bio-Security Management Proactive management of threats, including pest and diseases which impact upon the condition of trees, plants and wildlife.	2021/22.	Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	OPM population decreasing. Massaria currently stable.
QP16	Planning Regular monitoring of development and planning applications which are in the environs of the Park to ensure that the Park is protected.	2021/22.	Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	Reporting to QPCG and Quarterly reporting to HHHWQPC.
QP17	Climate Action Strategy Open Spaces seek opportunities to enhance carbon capture while enhancing biodiversity and resilience. These actions will contribute towards CoLC's achieving Net 0 by 2027 in scope 1 & 2 emissions.	2027 Net 0 scope 1 & 2 2040 Net 0 Scope 1, 2 and 3.	Support a thriving economy. Shape outstanding environments.	Strategy adopted October 2020. Now in first phase of delivery. Quarterly reporting to HHHWQPC

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Hampstead
Heath

Registered Charity

Heath Extension Playground Project

Working in conjunction with the local community, we are launching an exciting Project to broaden the age range of the play equipment, introduce natural play features and ensure the playground is accessible for all.

The concept design includes examples of additional play items that can be incorporated into the playground.

Please share your feedback by emailing **hampstead.heath@cityoflondon.gov.uk** with the subject heading '**Extension Play Area**' by 26 September 2021.

We will launching a fundraising page with opportunities to donate to the project later this year.

The City of
London protects
and manages
14 green spaces
in and around
London.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampsteadheath

email: hampstead.heath@cityoflondon.gov.uk



1

Swings

To provide fun and challenge for a wide range of ages and abilities, such as a basket swing or hammock which can also provide for shared, sociable play and for more solitary, calmer moments

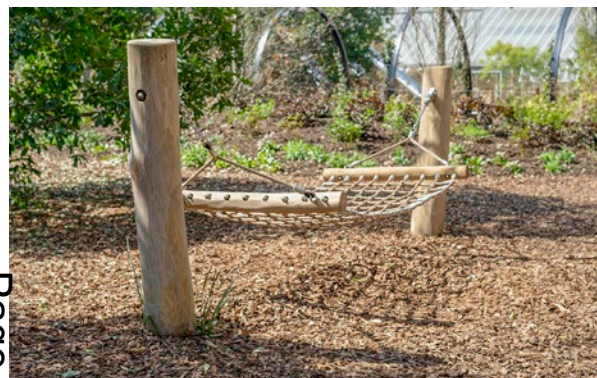
1B



1A



Toddler / cradle swings - existing re-used or new if budget allows



Other group swing options



2

New slide tower

A new slide tower higher than existing with 1 metre wide slide so children can slide together or with adults. The tower or platform in a more simple timber design to fit the natural setting and keeping a variety of challenges to go up and down such as ramps, nets, fire pole and easier steps



ACCESSIBILITY

Play equipment and natural play features will be chosen and designed to allow play for children of diverse abilities to play together without compromising on play value and excitement. e.g. a basket / nest swing can be used by all ages and abilities; standing, sitting or lying down and shared or supported by adults, friends, siblings or carers. Likewise a wide slide that allows more than one person to slide down at a time. Climbing equipment, including a fallen tree can allow for a gradual degree of challenge so that children can choose how far to push themselves and gain skills every time they play. There will be secluded areas of less activity for more solitary play & 'time-out'



Other slide tower options

Equipment will be in natural colours & materials wherever possible in keeping with the natural setting of Hampstead Heath

3

Rope trail

A linear trail for physical challenge with ropes, nets and round timber 'logs' for climbing, balancing and traversing



'Jack Straws' or 'Pick up sticks' climbing unit



Monkey bars

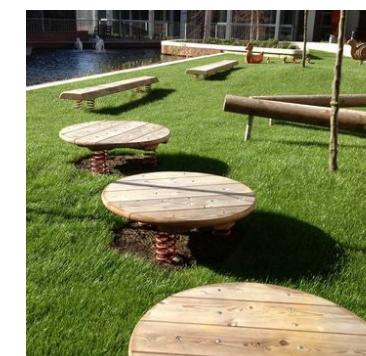
Other trail and climbing options

Rope bridges

4

See-sawing or wobbling

A wooden see saw with rubber buffers where children can play together. Other options could be wobbly disks or beams



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2021-22 winter swimming season

During the winter season (from Monday 20 September) no advance bookings will be required at the Ponds or Lido.

Winter opening times at the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond and Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond

Period from	Open	Last entry	Vacate water	Vacate facility
Monday 20 September – Saturday 30 October 2021	7am	4.15pm	4.30pm	4.45pm
Sunday 31 October – Saturday 27 November 2021	7am	2pm	2.15pm	2.30pm
Sunday 28 November 2021 – Saturday 29 January 2022	7.30am	2.30pm	2.45pm	3pm
Sunday 30 January – Saturday 19 March 2022	7am	2pm	2.15pm	2.30pm
Sunday 20 March – Saturday 9 April 2022	7am	4.15pm	4.30pm	4.45pm
Sunday 10 April – Friday 6 May 2022	7am	6.15pm	6.30pm	6.45pm

Winter opening Hours at the Mixed Bathing Pond

Period from	Open	Last entry	Vacate water	Vacate facility
Monday 20 September – Sunday 17 October 2021	7am	3.30pm	3.45pm	4pm
Monday 18 October – Sunday 31 October 2021	7am	2pm	2.15pm	2.30pm
Monday 1 Nov 2021 – Friday 1 April 2022	Winter Swimming Club – no public access			
Saturday 2 April 2021 to 6 May 2021	7am	2pm	2.15pm	2.30pm

Winter opening hours at the Lido

Period from	Open	Last entry	Vacate water	Vacate facility
Monday 20 September 2021 – Friday 29 April 2022	7am	12.30pm	1pm	1.30pm

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Committee(s): Epping Forest & Commons Open Spaces & City Gardens West Ham Park Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park	Dated: 12 July 2021 13 July 2021 13 July 2021 29 September 2021
Subject: Open Spaces Departmental Business Plan 2020/21 – Year End performance report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Colin Buttery – Director, Open Spaces	For Information
Report author: Gerry Kiefer, Open Spaces	

Summary

This report provides Members with a review of the Open Spaces Department’s delivery of its 2020/21 Business Plan. This Plan was agreed in February 2021 before the Coronavirus pandemic. Consequently, not all the actions and priorities have been completed. The report highlights the main achievements and progress that has been made against the Business Plan’s four priority outcomes. It also identifies other areas of progress listed under the three overarching objectives of the Department.

The report identifies the level of achievement against performance measures, recognising that in some instances it was impossible to set targets. Several performance measures were not achieved as some facilities and venues were closed during periods of 2020/21.

Financially, the services that report through the Open Spaces Committees closely managed their budgets, such that at year end there was only a small net overspend of £64k in City Fund and a City’s Cash underspend of £5k against the net budgets that were reset in November.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee approved the [Departmental Business Plan 2020/21](#) (Appendix 1) on 3 February 2020.
2. The Department's Vision is: *to enrich people's lives by enhancing and providing access to ecologically diverse open spaces and outstanding heritage assets across London and beyond.*
3. The Department's three overarching objectives are:
 - A. Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible.
 - B. Spaces enrich people's lives.
 - C. Business practices are responsible and sustainable.Under each of these three objectives sit a total of twelve outcomes (See page 4 in Appendix 1).
4. The Department's Business Plan identified four outcomes that would be the priority for 2020-21:
 - I. Maximise the value and opportunities of our built and natural assets
 - II. Protect and enhance our sites biodiversity and determine the value of our green infrastructure
 - III. Engage with the local planning processes to mitigate and protect against the negative impact of development on our open spaces
 - IV. Develop innovative approaches to income diversification

Current Position

4. The Business Plan was agreed prior to Covid-19 and therefore did not take account of the impact the pandemic would have on the services and resources available to the Department.
5. Throughout 2020, Covid restrictions on travel resulted in all the open spaces having significantly greater visitor numbers than usual, which has had a negative impact on many sites. The greater number of visitors also meant that staff resources, which were reduced due to shielding, self-isolation and illness, had to be refocussed to ensure provision of essential services. Meanwhile our heritage visitor attractions and sports facilities were required to close, re-open with Covid safe operating procedures, close again and re-open, due to the various periods of lockdown restrictions.
6. Reports on the Business Plan performance in relation to services which sit outside the responsibility of Open Spaces Committees are reported separately.

Delivering our priority outcomes

7. Below are listed key areas of progress that were achieved in 2020/21 listed under the four priority outcomes.
 - I. **Maximise the value and opportunities of our built and natural assets**
 - Progressed Finsbury Circus reinstatement

- Progressed the masterplan for the future of West Ham Park Nursery site
- COL's Climate Action Strategy was agreed which includes Carbon Removal projects to be delivered by Open Spaces, initially focussed in and around Epping Forest, primarily on buffer land.

II. Protect and enhance our sites' biodiversity and determine the value of our green infrastructure

- City of London Biodiversity Action Plan drafted for consultation
- Desk based tree canopy survey undertaken and shows 5% canopy cover in the City
- Discussions held with South London Downs National Nature Reserve partners regarding sharing resources to improve the landscape's biodiversity
- Grazing expanded at The Commons and onto Wanstead Park, Epping Forest

III. Engage with the local planning processes to mitigate and protect against the negative impact of development on our open spaces

- Mitigation strategies developed / approved with host Authorities: Epping Forest District Council and Buckinghamshire Council
- Feedback given on planning applications, to the planning authorities across the properties.
- Introduction of 'red line' parking restrictions to reduce encroachment on land by cars implemented at Epping Forest
- Introduced Permanent Clear Way along Ditches Lane on Farthing Downs and various parking restrictions around BB under formal consultation.

IV. Develop innovative approaches to income diversification

- Committee approval to let a lodge on the edge of Kenley Common and an office at Farthing Downs
- Holiday lodge refurbishment completed, and bookings taken at Epping Forest.
- Campaign donations pages on website went live in December 2020 and March 2021
- Regular benchmarking of fees and charges, as reported to Committees.

8. The Business plan also identified a number of other areas of work that would help achieve the departments overarching objectives. Despite the impact of Covid 19, the following activity was progressed:

Open Spaces and Historic Sites Are Thriving and Accessible

- ✦ Committee agreed the 2021-2031: Ashted Management Plan and West Wickham & Spring Park Management Plans
- ✦ Capital funding approved for Carbon Removals project as part of Climate Action Strategy
- ✦ Completed the refurbishment of the Highgate Wood Pavilion Café toilets in December 2020
- ✦ Undertook partnership working with Plantlife HLF Back from the Brink project, including survey of lichens and the rare moss *Zygodon forsteri* at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.

- ✦ Completed the engineering assessment for the large Raised Reservoirs in the Wanstead Park lake cascade
- ✦ Working in partnership with Parochial Church Councils and the Diocese of London to access funding to enhance City churchyards

Spaces Enrich People's Lives

- ✦ Completed the review of Hampstead Heath Bathing Ponds and a range of outcomes identified which were implemented during 2020/21 together with additional Covid-19 related operational changes including: contactless payment systems, contactless season ticket wristbands and on-line booking for swimming sessions.
- ✦ Installed new signage at Kenley Revival Project, marking the projects final phase.
- ✦ Committee approved use of COL capital funding to refurbish the playground at West Ham Park.
- ✦ Online nature-focused learning tools developed for schools and families which they could do themselves as well as printed activity sheets which were shared via food banks, community centres and hostels, reaching families who may not have access to a computer.

Business practices are responsible and sustainable

- ✦ Successfully introduced remote working across the workforce
- ✦ Committee approved the Epping Forest Deer Management Strategy
- ✦ Completed the introduction of cashless car park charging at Farthing Downs and Riddlesdown Common and moved to 7 days a week charging at Burnham Beeches
- ✦ Geotechnical engineers designed and installed safety system comprising bolting, wiring and netting the quarry face at Riddlesdown to prevent rockfall.
- ✦ Successful introduction of on-line booking and payment for many activities due to Covid-19 regulations

Key Data - Performance Measures

9. The Department identified seventeen performance measures to cover its range of services. At the start of 2020/21 several facilities were closed due to Lockdown 1 and as the duration of the Lockdown and its implications were unclear, targets were not set. This was the case for:
 - Visitor numbers to our various heritage attractions
 - Customer satisfaction scores at our various heritage visitor attractions
 - Tennis court usage
 - Learning programme engagement
 - Volunteer hours
 - Apprentice performance
10. For those performance measures where we did set targets, we:
 - retained all our Green Flag and Green Heritage Awards
 - reduced short-term sickness levels
 - reduced our use of electricity, gas and water.

- put on hold our ancient tree management works at Epping Forest due to lack of clarity of the value of the Countryside Stewardship Grant (The Stewardship agreement was eventually confirmed in March 2021 with a £1.3million grant over the ten year period 2020 to 2029)
- received fewer visits to our webpages compared to 2019/20 which may be due to the introduction of the new corporate website in July 2020, which means that the Open Spaces information is more streamlined and there are fewer pages for people to visit
- missed the 85% Corporate target, by 1% (achieved 84%) for investigating health and safety accidents, due to staff capacity and availability.
- continued to comment on local authority planning applications as reported regularly to Committees

11. The table of performance against performance measures is attached as Appendix 2

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

12. **The Corporate Plan** - The Open Spaces Department actively contributes to all three Corporate Plan 2018-23 aims:

- Contribute to a flourishing society
 - Support a thriving economy
 - Shape outstanding environments
- and ten of its twelve outcomes.

13. **Corporate Strategies** - The activity undertaken to deliver the Business Plan also helps achieve the outcomes of a range of Corporate strategies including:

- Responsible Business strategy
- Climate Action strategy
- Sport and Physical Activity strategy
- Transport strategy
- Education, Cultural and Creative Learning and Skills Strategy

Financial implications

14. Closure of facilities and cancellation of events due to Government lockdown restrictions impacted on expenditure and income. Across the Corporation, budgets were reviewed and reset in November which was prior to, and without predicting further lockdowns during early 2021.

15. The services that report to this Committee were not able to achieve their income targets, however by regular in depth forecasting and closely managing expenditure the services that report to this Committee were able to almost achieve the overall net expenditure budget.

- The **net expenditure outturn position** for the Open Spaces City Fund and City Cash budgets reporting to the various Open Spaces Committees, was a £59k (0.5%) overspend from a total net local risk budget of £13million.

- The **total income outturn position** was £4,748,000 which was £808k (15%) below target.
- The **total expenditure outturn position** was £17,986,000 which was £749k (4%) below target.

16. The information below details the outturn position against budget, by Fund.

- **City Fund** – spent 103% of its local risk expenditure budget and achieved 99% of its local risk income target. City Fund was only £64k (6%) overspent on its overall net budget position. This was largely due to additional transport related spend, higher than anticipated irrigation costs and overspend on equipment and materials.
- **City's Cash** – spent 95% of its local risk expenditure budget and achieved 84% of its local risk income target. City's Cash total overall net position was only £5,000 underspent against its revised budget position set in November 2020

17. More detailed information regarding the year end outturn financial position for each Service Committee is provided in the Revenue Outturn reports from the Chamberlains Department.

18. The Department successfully applied for internal funding from the Covid 19 Fund, awarded £65k for additional costs associated with health and safety changes for staff and customers. Funding applications for additional support for costs associated with waste collection and removal, plus security costs, were also considered later in the year, but as these costs had already been forecast and factored into the resetting of budgets, funding was not awarded.

19. Resource implications – None

20. Legal implications – None

21. Risk implications – none

Equalities implications

22. The Business Plan identified five equalities and inclusion priorities for which additional activity has been undertaken. Some examples are shown below:

- Improve accessibility within our sites, subject to funding.**
 - Awarded capital funding of £755k to improve access as well as safety and security aspects at Hampstead Heath swimming facilities.
 - Accessible pontoon added at Highams Pond.
- Improve inclusivity at our sites.**
 - New car parking charges included concessions for blue badge holders
 - Phone helpline set up to assist with swim bookings as an accessible alternative to online booking.
- Increase our collection and analysis of 'protected characteristics' data.**

- The two Commons Management plans and Epping Forest's Car Parking and Cycling consultations monitored protected characteristic data which was considered to ensure responses and outcomes were representative.
- iv. **Develop our Learning programme offer to Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Schools (SEND).**
 - New programme provided during Lockdown for children with Autism.
 - Bespoke school programme set up for SEND schools within walking distance of sites, to support them during lockdowns.
- v. **Implement the agreed transgender policy.**
 - Online transgender awareness training rolled out to all sites and ongoing regular work with Hampstead Heath lifeguards on transgender inclusivity.

Climate implications

23. Funding has been awarded to the Department to deliver Carbon Removal projects as part of the Climate Action Strategy.

Security implications - None

Conclusion

24. The Covid19 Pandemic impacted on the delivery of the 2020/21 Business Plan and achievement of performance measure targets. However, despite facilities being closed and resources predominantly having to focus on essential service delivery, a number of priority areas of work were progressed. The Department also closely managed its income and expenditure budgets and were only slightly overspent against its reset budget.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Business Plan 2020/21

Appendix 2 – Performance Measures 2020/21

Gerry Kiefer

Business Manager – Open Spaces Department

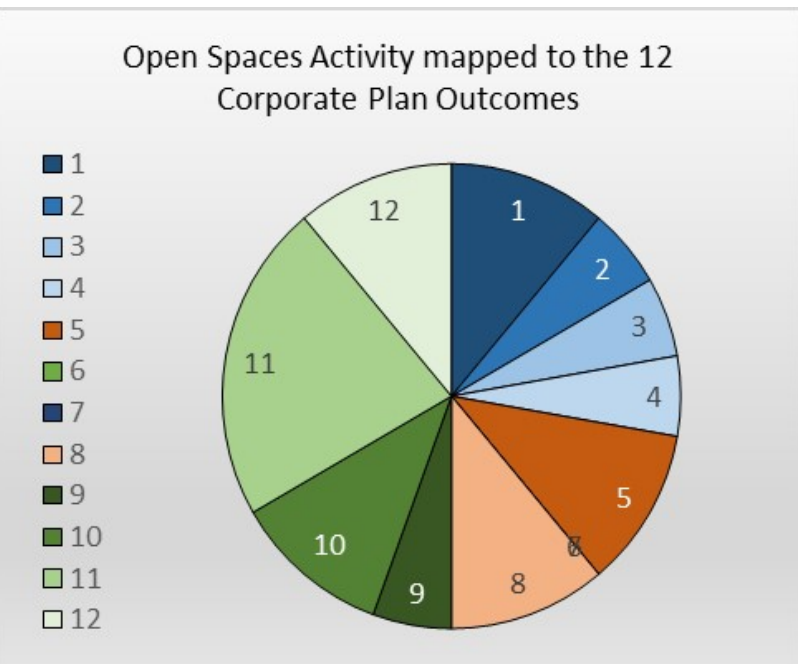
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DEPARTMENT VISION:	We enrich people's lives by enhancing and providing access to ecologically diverse open spaces and outstanding heritage assets across London and beyond.
Department objectives:	Open Spaces Department's twelve outcomes:
A. Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Our open spaces, heritage and cultural assets are protected, conserved and enhanced (12) London has clean air and mitigates flood risk and climate change (11) Our spaces are accessible, inclusive and safe (1) Our habitats are flourishing, biodiverse and resilient to change (11)
B. Spaces enrich people's lives.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> People enjoy good health and wellbeing (2) Nature, heritage and place are valued and understood (3) People feel welcome and included (4) People discover, learn and develop (3)
C. Business practices are responsible and sustainable.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Our practices are financially, socially and environmentally sustainable (5) London's natural capital and heritage assets are enhanced through our leadership, influence, investment, collaboration and innovation (10) Our staff and volunteers are motivated, empowered, engaged and supported (8) Everyone has the relevant skills to reach their full potential (8)

The numbers in brackets show how the Open Spaces outcomes link to the 12 Corporate Plan 2018 - 2023 Outcomes



Corporate Aim	%
A. Contribute to a flourishing society	28%
B. Support a thriving economy	22%
C. Shape outstanding environments	50%

The table overleaf lists all the activities we will be working on and developing this year.

Our key activities for 2020/21 will be:

- j) Maximise the value and opportunities of our built and natural assets (10c)
- f) Protect and enhance our sites biodiversity and determine the value of our green infrastructure (11b)
- d) Engage with the local planning processes to mitigate and protect against the negative impact of development on our open spaces (12b)
- q) Develop innovative approaches to income diversification (8d)

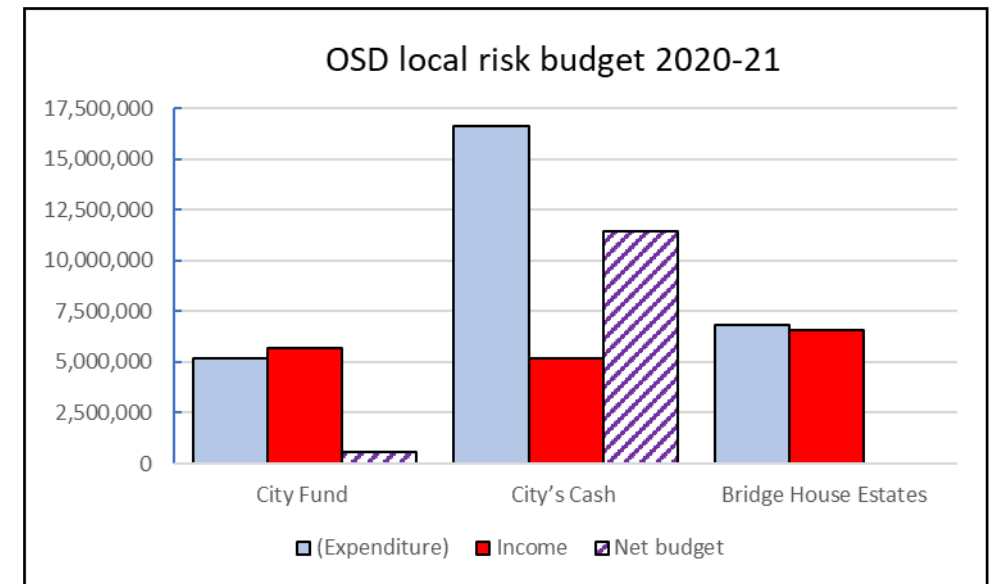
We will also be supporting the work of the Fundamental Review.

Appendix 1 provides the detail that sits behind these key activity statements.

Numbers in brackets show links to the outcomes and actions within the Corporate Plan 2018-2023

How we are funded

Appendix 1

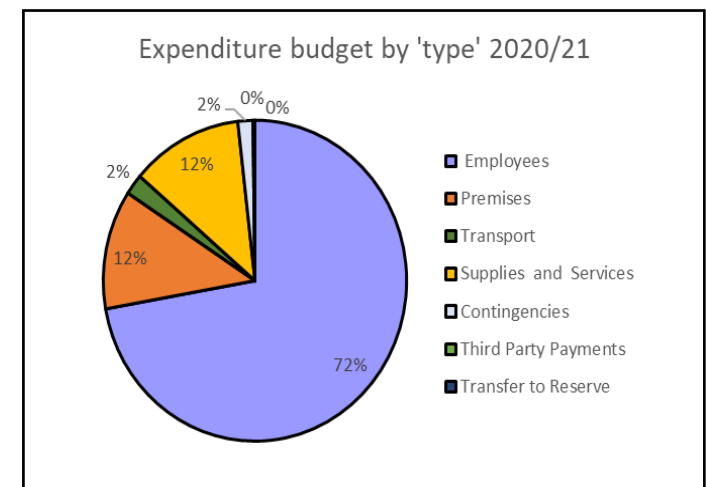


Bids for Capital Funding
Agreed in principle by RASC:

- West Ham Park Playground
- East Heath Car Park
- Chingford Golf Course

More information requested by RASC:

- Finsbury Circus Reinstatement
- The Monument Visitor Centre
- ParkLife (Wanstead Football)
- Parliament Hill Athletics Track
- Queens Park Toilets (Chairman's request)



COL Staff Survey

TOP 3 Highest Scoring	%	BOTTOM 3 Lowest Scoring Questions	% Positive
I have the skills I need to do my job effectively	94%	The City of London Corporation manages change effectively	32%
I am interested in my work	93%	I believe that action will be taken on	33%
I am clear about what I am expected to achieve in my job	87%	Poor performance is dealt with effectively where I work	34%

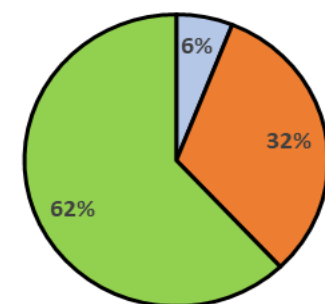
Action Being taken includes:

Improving Communication: All staff updates from SLT and Committees, staff briefings on 'change' including fundamental review.

Leadership: Open door sessions, visibility of managers, one to one's, appraisals,

Key Customer Feedback

Visitors satisfaction rating of open spaces site from snapshot survey



Other Good Very Good

Performance Measures

We will contribute to a number of Corporate Performance Measures including: FOI responses, health and safety investigations, sickness absence, budgets, employee volunteering

We will also set Departmental performance measures including:

Performance Measure	Performance target 2019/20	Department Outcomes	Department Activity
Retaining Green Heritage Site Accreditation and Green Flag Awards	13 Green Heritage Awards 15 Green Flag Awards	Our open spaces, heritage and cultural assets are protected, conserved and enhanced	Protect our heritage: developing partnership funding bids where possible
Number of tennis courts booked	31,500	People enjoy good health and wellbeing	Provide a sustainable range of sports and recreational opportunities
Number of visits to our heritage visitor attractions	1,124,400 visits	People feel welcome and included	Improve the visitor and cultural offer
Active management of our ancient trees	Baseline	Our habitats are flourishing, biodiverse and resilient to change	Protect and enhance our sites biodiversity

What's changed since last year...

- Completed the Programme of events celebrating 125 years of Tower Bridge and 30 years custodianship of Hampstead Heath.
- Natural England declare a new National Nature reserve; South London Downs NNR, covering Coulsdon Commons and Happy Valley, in partnership with the London Borough of Croydon
- Retendered OPM Control Methods contract and a partner with the Forestry Commission in their OPM pilot study.
- City Gardens fleet is ULEZ compliant
- Events policy agreed and implemented for the Department and all divisions
- Delivered improvement projects in City Gardens including Senator House and St Alphrage's Gardens
- Introduce longer lease durations allowing greater capital investment / external funding capacity under powers created by the Open Spaces Act 2018

Equalities and Inclusion Priorities:

- Improve accessibility within our sites, subject to funding.
- Improve inclusivity at our sites.
- Increase our collection and analysis of 'protected characteristics' data
- Develop our Learning programme offer to Special Needs Schools.
- Implement the agreed transgender policy.

Other activities that we will be undertaking this year under the headings of our three objectives.

Open Spaces and Historic Sites Are Thriving and Accessible

- Protect our heritage: developing partnership funding bids where possible (10d)
- Progress reviews, drafting, approval and implementation of management / conservation / heritage plans (11b)
- Reduce the negative environmental impacts of our activities (11a)
- Review security and access control provision (1c)

Spaces Enrich People's Lives

- Provide a sustainable range of sports and recreational opportunities (2d)
- Improve the visitor and cultural offer, including the development of facilities, new technologies, customer service and a programme of events celebrating our anniversaries, historic sites and nature (4a)
- Develop our 'learning offer' (3b)

Business practices are responsible and sustainable

- Deliver opportunities arising from improved management capability from the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018 (1c)
- Make more effective use of IT and technology and adopt 'smarter' ways of working (9b)
- Support the development of asset management plans and master plans for each site and influence the City Surveyors implementation of their operational property review (12a)
- Maintain our regional and national influence with regard to environmental, open space, burial, heritage and tourism matters (11d)
- Implement the recommendations arising out of the workforce plan, staff and customer surveys (8a)
- Develop our apprenticeship programme and volunteering opportunities across the Department (8d)
- Progress the prioritisation of services to mitigate efficiencies and establish long term sustainable service provision (5c)

Appendix 1 provides the detail that sits behind these action statements.

◆ Numbers in brackets show links to the outcomes and actions within the Corporate Plan

Our delivery partners and key stakeholders include:

Local community groups, forums and local residents

Host and neighbouring local authorities and the GLA

Forestry Commission, Natural England and National Trust

Parks for London, GiGL, Action Oak

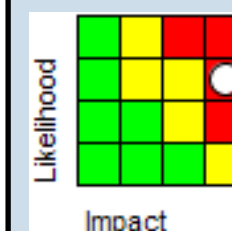
Historic England & English Heritage

National Governing Bodies of Sport and local sports groups

Consultation Committees and Forums

City of London Departments

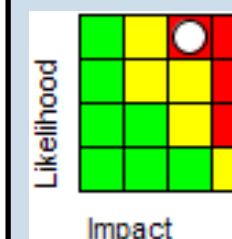
Departments three red risks:



OSD 013 Wanstead Park Reservoirs (Score = 24)



OSD 004 Repair and Maintenance of Buildings & structural assets (Score = 16)



OSD 005 Pests and Diseases (Score = 16)

Appendix 2 – Performance Measures 2020/21

Performance Measure Description	2019/20 Actual (annual)	2020/21 Target (annual)	2020/21 Actual (annual)
Green Heritage Site Accreditation	13 Green Heritage Site Accreditations	Retain 13 Awards	ACHIEVED 13 Green Heritage Site Accreditations
Green Flag Awards	15 Green Flag Awards	Retain 15 Awards	ACHIEVED 15 Green Flag Awards
Improving the condition of our Sites of Special Scientific Interest	No change to 2018/19 as Natural England officers have not been able to undertake a new assessment	Favourable = 12 (28%) Unfavourable recovering = 22 (52%) Unfavourable - no change = 7 (17%) Unfavourable - declining = 1 (2%)	No change as Natural England officers have not been able to undertake any new assessments
Reducing our environmental footprint	Water consumption 30% reduction on 18/19 data. Electricity usage has reduced by 0.5%	Reduction on previous years consumption	Electricity consumption reduced by 11.4%, Gas consumption reduced by 10%, Water consumption reduced 4.8%. Total PV energy generation 111,607 KW/HRS (Jan to Dec 2020)
Influencing planning authorities development approvals and planning policy documents	Comments provided on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning application. habitats regulation assessment, Green Infrastructure Strategy. Developed Mitigation Strategies with host local authorities	Commentary	Comments provided on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pre-planning and planning applications local plan consultation SANGS strategy SPD's Mitigation strategies City Biodiversity Action Plan SDP being drafted
Active management of our ancient trees as part of the Countryside Stewardship (CS) Schemes at Epping Forest and Burnham Beeches.	EF - 80 trees completed - managed by re-pollarding or crown reduction Burnham Beeches - 9 trees completed, managed by crown reduction.	Epping Forest – 354 Burnham Beeches – 61 Targets are flexible CS target is a ten-year fixed total, the planned annual level of management can change due to weather and ground conditions and procurement constraints.	Burnham Beeches – Work undertaken on 32 trees Epping Forest - Work put on hold due to uncertainty of CS grant and impact of Covid-19 on staff resources
The number of 'visitors' to the Open spaces webpages.	686,677	930,000	NOT ACHIEVED 806,142
Learning & volunteer programme measures	Increase across the learning impacts:	No target set due to Covid 19	Nature connection (11%) Understanding (1.5%)

Performance Measure Description	2019/20 Actual (annual)	2020/21 Target (annual)	2020/21 Actual (annual)
	nature connection (19%) confidence (13%), well-being (5%), understanding (1.5%)		Sample size too small for comparison for well-being and confidence.
Increase the amount of directly supervised volunteer work hours	24,394	No target set due to Covid 19	1,407
Increase the amount of indirectly supervised volunteer work hours	3,051	No target set due to Covid 19	3,535
Increase the amount of unsupervised volunteer work hours	19,935	No target set due to Covid 19	12,745
Increase the number of visits to our heritage visitor attractions (Tower Bridge, Monument, Keats House, The Queens Hunting Lodge hub and The Temple)	1,100,110	No target set due to Covid 19	57,172
Improve customer satisfaction at our heritage visitor attractions (Tower Bridge, Monument, Keats House, Epping Forest experience)	Visit England Annual Quality Attraction Assessment Scheme survey not undertaken for Epping Forest	No target set due to Covid 19	Quality Assessments not taken place due to Covid-19
Increase the number of hours of tennis court usage	33.550	No target set due to Covid 19	50,663
Apprentice performance	81% pass their training qualification (4 left before the end of the course) 20% (that we know of) have got jobs, 25% have progressed from level 2 to level 3	No target set due to Covid 19	Not measurable as apprentices impacted by Covid 19
Average number of days per FTE short term sickness	3.37	3.37	ACHIEVED 2.77
Health and safety accident investigations	89%	85%.	NOT ACHIEVED 84%
Open Spaces Net expenditure (OS Director local risk & OS Committee budgets only)	£12,633,989	£13,177,000	NOT ACHIEVED £13,238,360
Open Spaces Income target (OS Director local risk & OS Committee budgets only)	£4,862,303	£5,556,000	NOT ACHIEVED £4,747,545

Committee(s): Open Spaces and City Gardens West Ham Park Education Board Epping Forest and Commons Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park	Dated: 13 July 2021 13 July 2021 9 September 2021 13 September 2021 29 September 2021
Subject: Two year review of the Open Spaces Department's learning programme 2019-21	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Director, Open Spaces Department	For Information
Report author: Abigail Tinkler, Head of Learning	

Summary

This report and appendices provide Members with an overview of the Open Spaces learning programme from 2019 to 2021. The programme has received core funding since April 2019 and delivers school, youth, play, community and volunteering opportunities to children and adults at Hampstead Heath, West Ham Park and Epping Forest. Key highlights include:

- The programme engaged over 44,000 participants in facilitated learning activities over the two years.
- The programme continued to reach audiences in need during the Covid pandemic, producing an innovative programme in line with each stage of restrictions.
- Programme evaluation showed a positive change across five impact areas: connection, understanding, wellbeing, confidence and involvement.

Recommendation

Members are asked to: Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. In 2016 the Open Spaces Department launched a new centrally co-ordinated learning programme. Following a successful three years, the Open Spaces Department's resource base was increased to provide core funding for the learning programme from April 2019.
2. The programme was developed in response to concern over health and wellbeing inequalities as people in deprived areas face barriers to accessing nature and associated health and wellbeing benefits. The programme has the following aims and outputs:

- Engage urban and deprived communities close to three open spaces: Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest (including Wanstead Flats) and West Ham Park
- Deliver five learning impact areas: understanding, confidence, involvement, wellbeing, and connection
- Schools service operating out of Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest, West Ham Park
- Green Talent programme working with young people struggling in education and/or furthest from the job market
- Play activities at Hampstead Heath
- Volunteer development and community engagement.

Current Position

3. This report provides, as Appendix 1, a detailed two year review of the Open Spaces learning programme from 2019 to 2021.
4. The review outlines the successful school, play, youth, community and volunteering programme delivered in 2019-20, including:
 - Schools service operating from Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest and West Ham Park, reaching students in London's most deprived boroughs including Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney, Islington, Haringey, Brent and Camden.
 - Green Talent programme working with young people struggling in education and/or furthest from the job market, including pupil referral units, young carers and young refugees.
 - Play activities at Hampstead Heath, reaching children and families from some of the most deprived wards to the south of the Heath, including Gospel Oak Ward where there is 39% child poverty.
 - Volunteer development and community outreach work, including a successful partnership with 'Ambition, Aspire, Achieve', an organisation that works and supports families from very deprived areas in Newham.
 - The 2019-20 programme reached over 40,000 participants and exceeded its participation target by 7%.
5. The review outlines the innovative approach taken in response to the Covid pandemic and associated restrictions, including:
 - A series of nature-focused activities which schools and families could do themselves – for example, showing children how to create eco art or make a bird feeder. Activities were designed to include children at home with only limited resources by using simple items such as old cereal packets and milk cartons. Printed activity sheets were shared via food banks, community centres and hostels, reaching families who may not have access to a computer.

- Reaching out to groups in need, including a hostel for homeless families, young people who had been suffering from anxiety and depression over lockdown, and unaccompanied refugee minors, offering bespoke programmes including a virtual tour of Epping Forest.
 - Responding to concerns over the impact of the pandemic on mental health with new sessions designed to improve wellbeing, including an in-school sessions for schools who were unable to visit our Open Spaces, and outdoor facilitated sessions for groups of five (plus one facilitator) to coincide with the 'rule of six' outdoors.
 - An adapted school programme to engage the vulnerable children, children with special educational needs and disabilities, and key worker children who were attending schools (which were otherwise closed) within walking distance of West Ham Park and Hampstead Heath.
 - Regular in-school nature sessions for autistic children, bringing nature learning to the school whilst they were unable to travel to West Ham Park due to staff shortages during lockdown.
6. The programme's innovative approach to engagement through the Covid pandemic was featured in the Evening Standard, City Matters, Ham and High, Pro Landscaper and Epping Forest Guardian.

Key Data

7. The programme engaged 44,487 participants in facilitated learning activities over the two years. Of these, 40,369 participated in 2019 – 20, and 4,118 participated in 2020-21 when Covid restrictions limited face-to-face participation.
8. The school programme engaged schools in 15 London boroughs, including the seven London boroughs with the highest levels of poverty: Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney, Islington, Haringey, Brent and Camden.
9. The programme made a positive difference across the five learning impact areas, including:
- 107% increase in learning volunteers' feelings of confidence to explore our Open Spaces
 - 22% increase in family participants' sense of wellbeing
 - 15% increase in school programme participants' feelings of connection to our Open Spaces
 - 74% increase in Green Talent participants' feelings of involvement
 - 47% increase in Green Talent participant's understanding of the importance of green spaces.

(School and family programmes are one-off engagements, whereas Green Talent and volunteer engagement are longer term and have a greater impact. Evaluation toolkits developed by University College London and University of Derby.)

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. The OS learning programme contributes to the delivery of all three of the CoL Corporate Plan's overarching aims and seven of the twelve outcomes:

- **Contribute to a flourishing society:**
People are safe and feel safe; People enjoy good health and wellbeing; People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential; Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.
- **Support a thriving economy:**
We have access to the skills and talent we need.
- **Shape outstanding environments:**
We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration; Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained.

11. The OS Learning Programme delivers aspects of the CoL Social Mobility Strategy, CoL Education Strategy, and OS Business Plan. See appendix two for details.

Financial summary

Year	Actual Exp £	Actual Inc £	Actual Net Income/Expenditure £	Budgeted Net Income/Expenditure £
2019/20	357,655	39,654	318,000	395,000
2020/21	336,019	6,784	329,235	312,000

12. The 2019/20 budget was underspent due to vacant posts within the team. The 2020/21 budget was overspent due to reduced school income following school closures and restrictions (COVID-19).

Conclusion

13. The Open Spaces Learning Programme was successful in engaging 44,487 participants in facilitated activities from 2019 to 2021. The programme adapted to the restrictions and impacts of the Covid pandemic and continued to reach Londoners living in areas of poverty and deprivation, young people struggling with mental health, children with special educational needs and disabilities, and vulnerable children. Evaluation also showed that the programme had a positive impact on participants' understanding, wellbeing, confidence, connection and involvement with nature.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Review of the Open Spaces Learning Programme 2019-21
- Appendix 2 Strategic Value
- Appendix 2 Learning Principles
- Appendix 3 Maps showing school programme reach and areas of deprivation

Background Papers

Three year review of the Open Spaces Learning Places' programme 2016 – 19

Abigail Tinkler, Head of Learning, Open Spaces Department

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Appendix One

Open Spaces Learning Programme Review

2019 - 2021

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Executive Summary

The Open Spaces Department's innovative learning programme facilitates change across five impact areas: understanding, confidence, involvement, wellbeing, and nature connection.

The learning programme was developed in response to a growing consensus that spending time in nature is beneficial to health and wellbeing, and a concern over health and wellbeing inequalities as people in deprived areas of London face more barriers than most to accessing nature. The programme provides a key method for the City of London to contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents of some of London's most deprived communities through connecting them more powerfully to their local green spaces. Audiences include school children growing up in poverty, young people excluded from mainstream schooling, and local people from communities that are under-represented in our green spaces. Delivery is focused on spaces located near areas of high deprivation, with programmes operating from West Ham Park, Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest.

During the last two years the core programme was delivered and then adapted to continue to provide a service during the Covid-19 pandemic.

- In 2019 – 20 the learning team delivered a successful face-to-face activity programme for schools, play, youth, community groups and volunteers
- In 2020-21 the learning team delivered an innovative, adapted programme in order to reach audiences with limited access to resources and outdoor space during the Covid pandemic.
- The programme exceeded its 2019-20 participation targets; however, face-to-face engagement was restricted in 2020-21 due to the Covid pandemic.

As 2019-20 and 2020-21 were very different years, rather than directly comparing outputs this report describes the approaches and outputs for each phase of the programme.

Key achievements

- The programme engaged over 44,000 participants in facilitated learning activities 2019-21.
1. The school service reached students in London's most deprived boroughs including Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney, Islington, Haringey, Brent and Camden.
 2. The Green Talent programme worked with young people struggling in education and/or furthest from the job market, including pupil referral units, young carers and young refugees.
 3. Play activities at Hampstead Heath reached children and families from some of the most deprived wards to the south of the Heath, including Gospel Oak Ward where there is 39% child poverty.
 4. The programme adapted in 2020-21 with targeted initiatives in-line with each stage of the Covid restrictions, including printed activity sheets delivered via food banks, activity

videos for use in school playgrounds, in-school nature wellbeing workshops, outdoor wellbeing programme for groups of six, an adapted Covid-safe school programme and Covid-safe play programme.

5. The programme made a positive difference across the five learning impact areas:

Connection:

15% increase in participants' feelings of connection to the Open Spaces after taking part in the school programme 2019-21

Confidence:

107% increase in participants' feelings of confidence to explore Open Spaces after taking part in the learning volunteer programme 2019-20

Wellbeing:

29% increase in participants' feelings of wellbeing after taking part in the learning volunteer programme 2019-20

Involvement:

74% increase in participants' feelings of involvement after taking part in the Green Talent programme 2019-21

Understanding:

47% increase in participants' understanding of the importance of green spaces after taking part in the Green Talen programme 2019-21

- The programme's innovative approach to engagement through the Covid pandemic was featured in the Evening Standard, City Matters, Hampstead and Highgate Express, Pro Landscaper and Epping Forest Guardian.
- The programme has delivered vital aspects of the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan, Social Mobility Strategy and Education Strategy.

Feedback

"It was fantastic to get outside, to a different – and very special space – and to do something real, hands on and outdoors... The learning ... was fantastic. No screens, no walls... Magic." Headteacher, Eleanor Palmer Primary School, Camden (Hampstead Heath)

"The session gave us a chance to see the children use collaboration skills, as well as concentration and resilience - all key values at Park Primary School. We would fully recommend this experience..." Teacher, Park Primary School, Newham (West Ham Park)

"Lockdown has been so tough on me and my son as he is only 13 months, so getting able to come here and see other children really makes me happy and seeing how happy he is in his face, thank you so much! We would be truly lost without this place." Participant, One O'clock Club (Hampstead Heath)

"As a busy family, it was fantastic to spend time outdoors together, work as a team and join in the fun and creative activities while learning new skills. The session was professionally organised, led by a very friendly and welcoming team member who put us at ease straight from the beginning." Participant, family workshop (Epping Forest)

Introduction

Background

The Open Spaces learning programme engages urban and deprived communities close to three open spaces: Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest (including Wanstead Flats) and West Ham Park.

The programme delivers five learning impact areas; understanding, confidence, involvement, wellbeing, and connection.

The programme consists of the following workstreams:

- a) Schools service operating out of Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest, West Ham Park
- b) Green Talent programme working with young people struggling in education and/or furthest from the job market
- c) Play activities at Hampstead Heath
- d) Volunteer development and community outreach work

The OS learning team brings together expertise in outdoor learning, schools, play, volunteering and youth work. Eight full time officers and one part time officer are located at the key delivery sites (Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest and West Ham Park), and an additional pool of casual educators and play workers support programme delivery.

Rationale

The learning programme was developed in response to:

- a growing consensus that spending time in nature is beneficial to health and wellbeing, whilst contact with nature is becoming more infrequent
- an understanding that access to green space is not equal, with people in deprived areas of London facing more barriers than most to accessing nature, which can impact on physical activity levels and mental health
- a concern that visitors to our Open Spaces are not always representative of the local communities, with Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups (BAME) and deprived communities under-represented
- a recognition that barriers to accessing green spaces exist for local communities, including fear of getting lost, a lack of confidence in the outdoors, a lack of understanding of the activities available, and a feeling that our spaces are 'not for them' (highlighted through consultation with communities adjacent to our Open Spaces)
- a concern about the attainment gap between disadvantaged school students and their peers
- a recognition of the value of play in young people's development, with natural play having a lasting impact on the development of children's connection, understanding and appreciation for the natural environment.

Strategic value

The programme contributes to the delivery of all three of the Corporate Plan's overarching aims and seven of the 12 outcomes. See appendix two for more information.

Impact areas

To tackle the challenge of a growing disconnect with nature and green spaces, the learning team design programmes to deliver change across five impact areas:

<i>Understanding</i>	<i>Confidence</i>	<i>Nature connection</i>	<i>Wellbeing</i>	<i>Involvement</i>
People understand the value and importance of green space	People are confident to use green spaces, as part of our activities or independently	People develop a sense of place with green spaces	People have restorative and meaningful experiences in green spaces	People take positive action for, and get involved with, green spaces

To maximise impact, the learning team target programmes to reach those who could benefit the most, including school children growing up in poverty, young people excluded from mainstream schooling, and local people from communities that were under-represented in our green spaces. A bespoke evaluation toolkit, developed in collaboration with academic partners at Derby University in 2018, has been used to measure impact across the five areas (information regarding this evaluation methodology is available on request), as well as a wellbeing evaluation toolkit developed by University College London.

Learning principles

A set of learning principles for schools and play inform programme development and delivery. The principles:

- map across the five impact areas
- bring together the expertise of the team and relevant research
- enable shared reflective practice and a shared vision for quality learning
- increase the level of active engagement of participants
- provide a tool for effective decision making and peer review

See appendix three for more information.

Evaluation toolkits

A bespoke evaluation toolkit developed by Derby University in 2018 was used to measure change across the five impact areas. An additional wellbeing evaluation toolkit from University College London was used to provide a more nuanced measure of psychological wellbeing. More details are available on request.

Programme review 2019-20

The 2019-20 programme delivered:

- a) Schools service operating out of Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest, West Ham Park
- b) Green Talent programme working with young people struggling in education and/or furthest from the job market
- c) Play activities at Hampstead Heath
- d) Volunteer development and community outreach work

The 2019-20 programme reached over 40,000 participants and exceeded its participation targets by 7%.

School services

Overview

High quality booked sessions were delivered to a wide range of schools at Epping Forest, Hampstead Heath and West Ham Park.

Sessions were delivered to support the National Curriculum and promote awe, wonder and inspiration as children learned through active engagement with the open spaces. Based on the unique features of the sites and the needs of schools, the programme provided rich opportunities to:

- Learn through first hand observation (e.g. exploring habitats, life cycles, seasons)
- Stimulate the imagination (e.g. creating stories inspired by nature, creating art work using natural materials)
- Give children an active role (e.g. pond dipping, orienteering, field work)
- Enable children to see the relevance and application of their knowledge and skills beyond the classroom (e.g. solving a real-life practical challenge such as assessing pond health or testing materials to build a dam)
- Uncover evidence of local history (e.g. finding bomb craters in the Epping Forest site)
- Develop team working skills (e.g. team den building).

The Epping Forest programme was based at The View visitor centre near Chingford, with sessions delivered in the adjacent forest and Tudor hunting lodge. The Hampstead Heath Programme operated from the Education Centre building in Parliament Hill Fields and the 'Glassroom Classroom' in Golders Hill Park, with sessions delivered in bespoke teaching gardens as well as the wider Heath. Both sites provided a variety of habitats for exploration. The Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath programmes have charges / income targets, and reach schools across multiple London boroughs, including Hackney, Waltham Forest, Harringay, Tower Hamlets, Islington and Camden. Programmes were offered from nursery to A level, with most visits coming from primary schools.

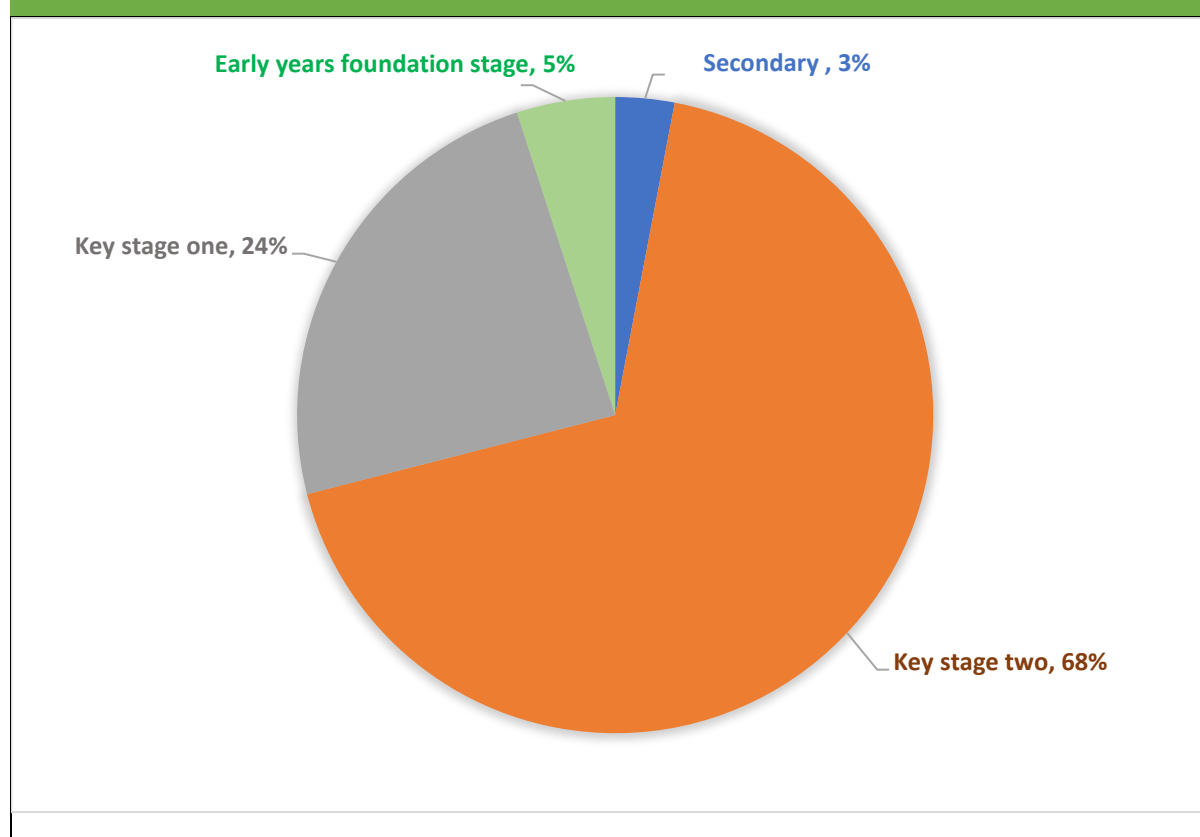
The programme at West Ham Park offers a free programme to primary schools in Newham, which is ranked in the worst four London boroughs for child poverty (Trust for London). The programme builds relationships with a small number of local schools, enabling repeat visits from multiple year groups, and works collaboratively with teachers to produce relevant outdoor learning sessions.

Participation

School programmes	Target 2019-20	Actual 2019-20
Number of school participants at Epping Forest	2,640	2,589
Number of school participants at Hampstead Heath	8,360	8,554
Number of school participants at West Ham Park	3,200	5,033
Total number of school participants	14,200	16,176

The majority of participating students were primary school children from key stage two (7 to 11 year olds):

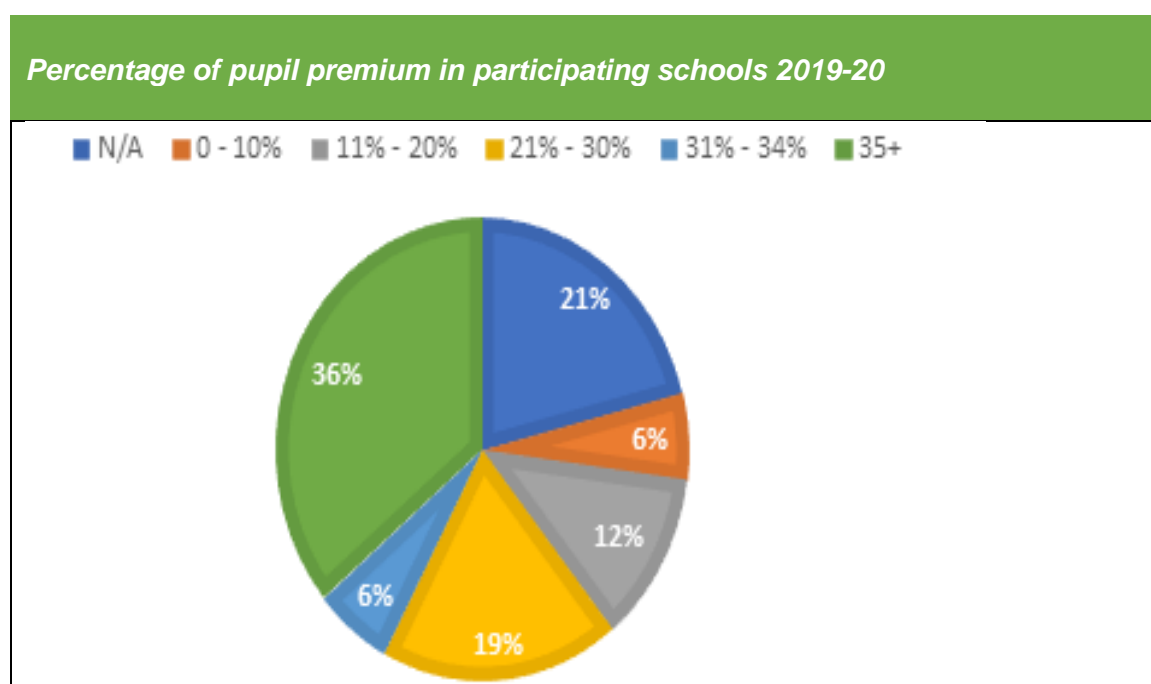
Percentage of secondary, key stage two, key stage one and early years foundation stage students, 2019-20



Reaching disadvantaged school students

There is a wide recognition and concern over the attainment gap between disadvantaged school students and their peers, and the OS learning programme has engaged schools in some of London's most deprived boroughs, including Tower Hamlets, Newman, Hackney, Islington and Haringey (see appendix 3 for maps illustrating the programme reach within areas of deprivation).

Pupil premium is an indicator of disadvantage as it is allocated to children who have been in receipt of free school meals, looked after or adopted from care. The average pupil premium level for primary schools in England is 21%, and 35% is high. Through monitoring school pupil premium as an indicator of disadvantage, we know that the school services have reached a significant number of these students; 36% of participating schools had a pupil premium level of 35% and above:



Evaluation

Connection:

- 81% of participants felt connected or very connected to our Open Spaces after taking part in a school workshop.
- 19% increase in feelings of connection to Open Spaces, compared to a 5% increase in 2018-19.

Confidence:

- 88% of participants felt confident or very confident to 'explore places like this' after taking part in a school workshop.
- 13% increase in feelings of confidence to explore Open Spaces, compared to an 8% increase in 2018-19.

Feedback

"Investigation with a practical application and context!" Teacher, Kentish Town Primary School ('Soil Scientists' workshop, Hampstead Heath)

"Children were able to experience aspects of Stone Age living as they were immersed into the forest environment. The session was great and nicely fitted into our work on the Stone Age to Iron Age. The objectives were met. Building the shelters was raw fun and the fire making was brilliant too." Teacher, Mandeville Primary School, Hackney ('Stone Age Survival' workshop, Epping Forest).



School students participating in an orienteering workshop on Hampstead Heath.

School workshops

All school workshops support the delivery of the National Curriculum. The school workshops offered at the different sites can be viewed on our website:

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/learning-at-hampstead-heath>

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/epping-forest/learning-in-epping-forest>

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/west-ham-park/learning-in-west-ham-park>

Increasing participation

During 2019-20 the school team created plans to increase the number of school students engaged in 2020-21, with an emphasis on schools with high pupil premium. The plans included new models of staffing and delivery, marketing, and increased income targets. These plans were put on hold due to the pandemic and associated school closures.

Green Talent

Overview

Green Talent worked with young people struggling in education and/or furthest from the job market, providing opportunities to explore careers in the environmental and green spaces sector. Targeting 13 – 18 year olds, as well as 19 - 25 year olds with additional support needs, the programme provided facilitated opportunities for young people to recognise and develop their individual talents and skills. For example, completing outdoor conservation tasks boosted resilience, confidence and self-esteem through the achievement of purposeful goals, and activities such as sharing food around a fire helped to build peer relationships by opening dialogues around a shared new experience. Case studies are available on request. Outputs included:

- Scoping study for the Green Talent project moving forward, including identifying target boroughs and youth provisions in boroughs adjacent to our Open Spaces sites.
- Respite session for Brent Young Carers - fire lighting, hot chocolates, and team shelter building challenge. An opportunity to pause responsibilities and enjoy spending time in nature.
- Culture Mile Work Experience programme - practical conservation and learning activities on Hampstead Heath (as part of a wider work experience programme led by Culture Mile Learning)
- Team building sessions for Wormwood Scrubs summer youth programme
- 12-week programme of outdoor learning and skill building at Meadway Pavilion Pupil Referral Unit, Barnet
- Horticulture hands-on learning sessions for Meadway Pavilion Pupil Referral Unit horticulture students, Golders Hill Park
- 10-week practical conservation programme for young people at Hampstead Heath
- Practical outdoor skill-building session for unaccompanied young refugees with the Refugee Council at West Ham Park .

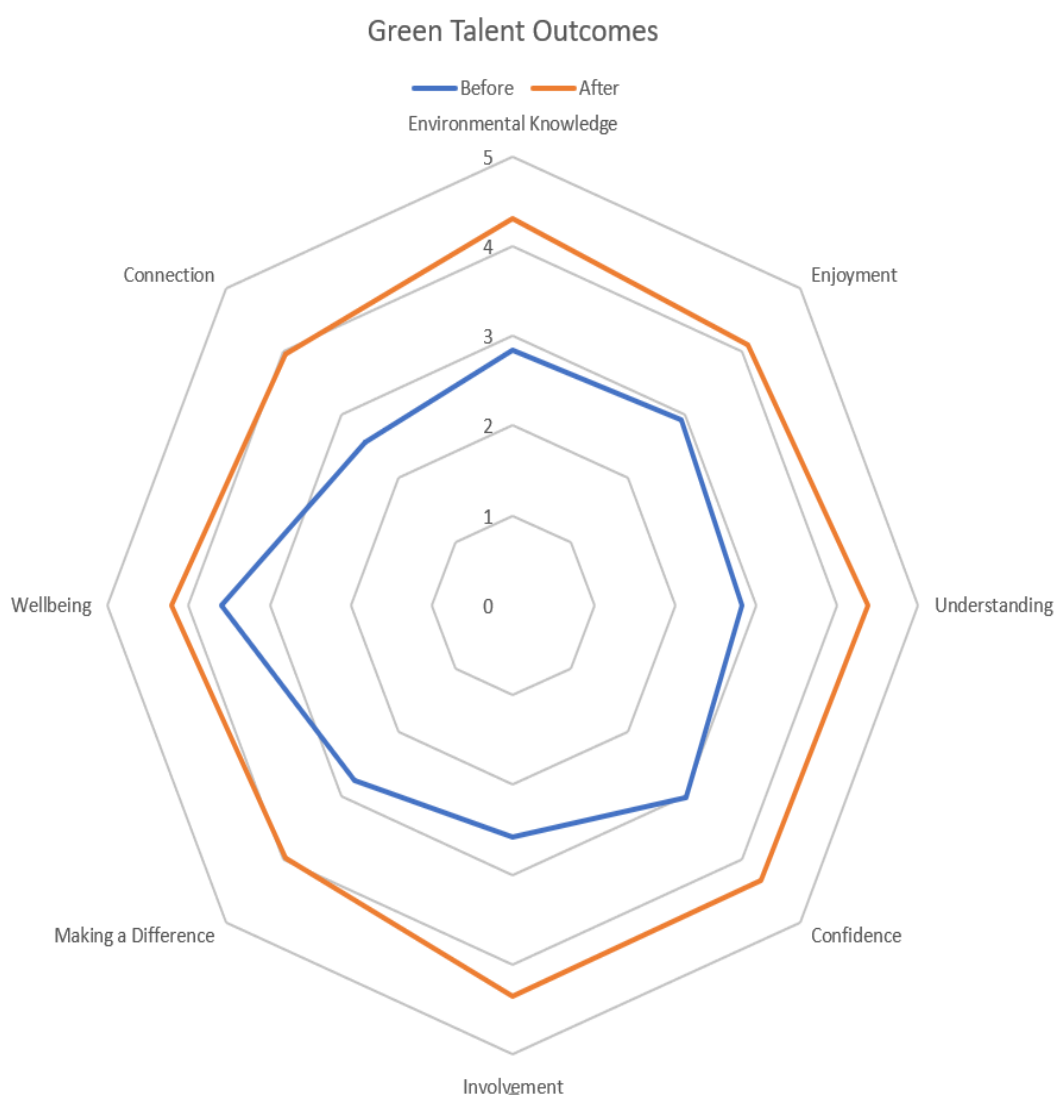
Participation

Green Talent 2019-20	Target	Actual
Total number of young people participating in the programme	85	90

Evaluation

Combining the evaluation toolkit developed in collaboration with Derby University together with some bespoke evaluation questions developed in collaboration with Green Talent Participants, the programme demonstrated a positive difference across the five learning impact areas as well as environmental knowledge, making a difference, and enjoyment.

The following 'outcomes star' shows participants' perceptions before and after taking part in Green Talent sessions.



Feedback

"It was great to see how the young people took to learning all the different skills you showed them... this was such a valuable experience for them all. From what the young people said afterwards they got a lot out of accomplishing the tasks and working together – making new friends, as some of them wrote on our feedback forms. You may also have heard them say that if they hadn't come they would just have been staying at home in their rooms, which is the worst thing for them in their situations." London Manager and Senior Children's Psychotherapist, Refugee Council

“I’ve really enjoyed being involved in this programme, it has given me the chance to take a much needed break from caring, meet other young carers and learn new skills. We’ve all really enjoyed this opportunity more than we thought we would. It has also been a great boost for our mental well-being”. Participant, Brent Young Carers



Respite session for Brent Young Carers, Hampstead Heath

Play Programmes (Hampstead Heath):

Overview

Two play centres at Hampstead Heath provide both indoor and outdoor play facilities, with an Adventure Clubhouse providing play facilities for under-16s, and a One O'clock Club providing play facilities for under-fives and their parents/carers. The centres are located in the south of the Heath, adjacent to the borough of Camden, which is ranked in the worst four London boroughs for income inequality (Trust for London), and close to areas of deprivation such as Gospel Oak ward where there is 39% child poverty (Open Data, Camden Council).

The play centres bring individuals and communities together to share experiences and promote mutual respect and tolerance. Analysis of postcode data from participants shows that the centres are engaging people from wards where poverty is high, such as Gospel Oak and Haverstock, as well as wards in which most areas are affluent, such as Hampstead Town. The play facility provides an open, welcoming space in which communities can meet and engage in a shared interest regardless of background and circumstance, thus supporting community cohesion.

The play centres were staffed by playworkers who were able to support young people's play and learning. The Adventure Clubhouse was open from April to October, offering a school

holiday programme and after school provision. The One O'clock Club was open all year round, offering afternoon sessions every weekday.

Both provisions were free to access and provided a space where children could play and engage in activities that they had freely chosen, including both facilitated play and free play. Outdoor play included den building, sand, mud and water play, obstacle courses and circus skills. Indoor activities included mask making, leaf printing and badge making. At the Adventure Clubhouse, outdoor adventure play structures were also provided.

Children over the age of eight were able to visit without an accompanying adult, which enabled children whose parents/carers are not able to take them to activities outside school to participate.

Participation

The 2019-20 play programme exceeded its targets and exceeded 2018-19 participation:

Play Programme 2019-20	Target 2019-20	Actual 2019-20
Number of young people attending the Clubhouse	8,000	8,035
Number of under-5s attending the One O'clock Club	8,500	9,208
Number of adults attending the One O'clock Club	6,500	6,709
<i>Total number of participants</i>	23,000	23,952



Nature craft activity at the Adventure Clubhouse



Sensory activity at the One O'Clock Club

Community engagement and volunteering

Overview

The learning team inspire and enable under-represented local communities to access and enjoy our open spaces. The provide targeted programmes including family learning and play sessions and volunteering opportunities.

The team facilitate volunteering experiences which enhance well-being and build connection to the green spaces and provide training and development opportunities.

The team provide training and volunteer management resources for staff across the Open Spaces department.

Outputs

- Partnership with 'Ambition, Aspire, Achieve', an organisation that works and supports families from very deprived areas in Newham, one of London's most deprived boroughs, supporting their audiences to engage with our learning programme and Open Spaces
- Social action project with a secondary school; the project developed activities and resources to engage residents in care homes in Waltham Forest, bringing aspects of Epping Forest to them (e.g. forest sounds, leaves, images, stories).
- Partnership with Newham Dementia group, looking at how a group of people with early dementia could access West Ham Park and what the Learning team could develop to engage with this group. Due to Covid restrictions this project was put on hold
- Development of new volunteer roles within the learning team – Epping Forest Schools Volunteer and Hampstead Heath Play Volunteer
- Partnership with UCL Art and Science faculty, supporting an undergraduate student to carry out a research project for our Learning Team. The project looked at how the Learning Team could make some activities more accessible to children with learning disabilities (case study available on request)
- Nature play programme on Hampstead Heath, designed to help families explore the natural world, understand the risks and benefits of natural play, and increase their confidence to play in natural settings. (Working in partnership with a range of local nurseries, play groups and family centres in Camden.).

Participation

Programme strands	Target 2019-20	Actual 2019-20
Number of learning volunteers engaged with the programme	20	16
Number of community engagement participants	500	572

Evaluation

Confidence: 107% increase in confidence to explore our Open Spaces after taking part in the 2019-20 learning volunteer programme.

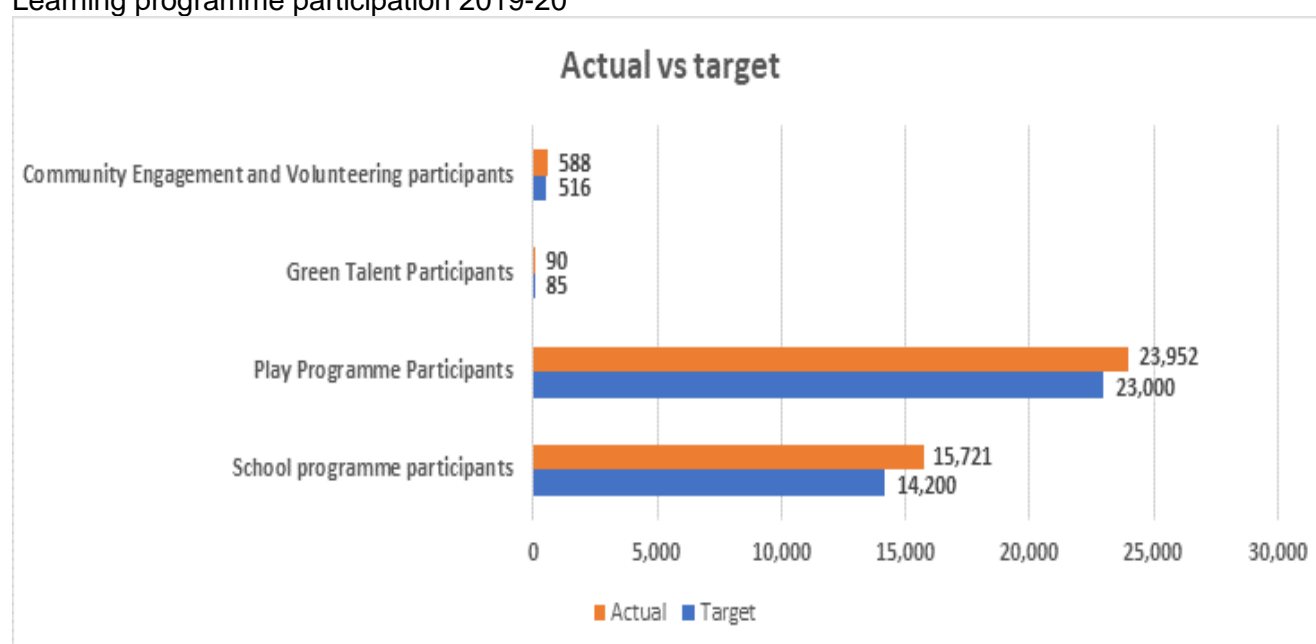
Wellbeing: 29% increase in feelings of wellbeing after taking part in the 2019-20 learning volunteer programme.

2019-20 Participation summary

The learning programme engaged 40,351 participants in 2019-20

Participants	Target	Actual
School programme participants	14,200	15,721
Play programme participants	23,000	23,952
Green Talent participants	85	90
Community engagement and volunteering participants	516	588
Total	37,801	40,351

Learning programme participation 2019-20



2019 – 20 Highlights summary

- Over 40,000 participants engaged in school, play, youth, volunteer and community engagement programmes.
- Programme evaluation demonstrated a positive change across the five learning impact areas.
- Schools in London's most deprived boroughs, including Tower Hamlets, Newham and Hackney, participated in the programme.
- Partnership with 'Ambition, Aspire, Achieve' facilitated programme participation for families from very deprived areas in Newham.
- Social action project for young volunteers helped to bring memories of Epping Forest to Waltham Forest care home residents.
- Bespoke respite session provided for young carers.
- Long term programmes for pupil referral units enabled young people to build confidence and skills.

Programme Review 2020-21

The learning team had prepared for 2020 – 21 with plans and resources in place to increase school engagement and associated income targets at Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest, deliver a targeted programmes for youth, community and volunteer engagement and continue the successful play programmes. However, the restrictions imposed by the Covid pandemic posed challenges, including school closures. Whilst this impacted on the number of people the learning team could engage face-to-face, the team continued their focus on reaching people living in deprived areas of London, and developed programmes to support children, families and communities living with limited access to outdoor space and resources.

Rather than working within distinct project areas, the learning staff worked flexibly as a team to produce resources and activities. Staff adapted to new ways of working, moving from face-to-face engagement with people and the outdoors to home-based desk working, and learning new skills such as film editing and digital design. The team innovated and adapted the learning programme to accommodate each phase of the pandemic.

March – July 2020

Key restrictions introduced: UK in lockdown and schools closed (although vulnerable and key worker children could attend).

During the first lockdown, the team created a brand-new series of nature-focused learning resources. Whilst there were already online resources available (e.g. National Trust and RSPB websites), the team sought to reach families who may have limited IT access, little/no outdoor space, and limited resources (e.g. crafting materials, science equipment). Activities were designed to use simple resources, such as old cereal packets and milk cartons. See www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/learningprogrammeresources

The team's nature-focused activities included both activity sheets and videos which schools and families could then do themselves, e.g. videos teaching children how to do a bug hunt and create eco art, and worksheets demonstrating how to make a bird feeder or sun catcher. The learning materials were sent to over 800 London schools, with teachers sharing the activities with the children at school and those at home, and printed activity sheets were shared via food banks, community centres and hostels, reaching families who may not have access to a computer or printer. The resources were also shared via local authority newsletters and websites (City of London, Camden, Islington, Newham, Brent, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest), and activity sheets were included in packs curated by Culture Mile Learning and A New Direction, reaching families in need across London.

The team also produced a learning pack of narrative based activities inspired by Epping Forest, history and time travel. A time travelling character, letters and clues engaged children in solving a mystery whilst exploring the history and heritage of Epping Forest from the home or classroom.

The team also developed guidance for managing volunteers during the pandemic for the Open Spaces Department. The guidance was regularly updated in accordance to changes within the Governmental guidance.

Outputs

- 1 heritage learning pack
- 30 activity sheets
- 7 activity videos
- Vounteering guidance for the Open Spaces Department

(See www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/learningprogrammeresources)

Reach

- 800 schools via OS Learning newsletters
- 74 community groups across Camden, Waltham Forest, Newham and Hackney
- 7 local authority newsletters/websites: City of London, Camden, Islington, Newham, Brent, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest
- 300 families via food bank deliveries from Aishah Help (Newham, Hackney and Tower Hamlets)
- 150 families via 'Food for London Project' (Waltham Forest)
- 13,500 families via Culture Mile Learning Play Packs
- 6,800 London families via A New Direction 'Let's Create Packs'
- A new webpage was created to host the activities, and links were regularly shared via Open Spaces divisional facebook/twitter, City Corporation social media feed, the Lord Mayor's feed and the Policy Chair's feed.

Evaluation

Evaluating the impact of the activity sheets and videos produced in the first few months of the pandemic was challenging. Initially the team focused on producing the resources and reaching children and families in need as a priority and did not develop an evaluation methodology prior to sharing these resources. Later in the year, they worked in partnership with UCL, supporting an undergraduate student to carry out a research study on the impact of these resources. Unfortunately, the data gathering phase of this project coincided with lockdown three where many staff in the community groups and charities (where the resources had been shared) were on furlough, making it very difficult to gather feedback. However, the surveys produced can be used again.

Feedback

"Thank you very much for the ideas during lockdown. I will be setting these as tasks for pupils via google classroom." Teacher, Curwen Primary School, Newham

"The learning resources and activity sheets provided by the City of London Open Spaces Team have been greatly appreciated by the families, children and young people we have been supporting during these challenging and unprecedented times. We have shared them as part of the weekly food and activity packs we have been delivering to the doorsteps of some of our most vulnerable children and young people during lockdown. Many of those we support do not have a garden or easy access to green spaces and have really been struggling during this period. The nature themed activity sheets and resources have been a really great way to promote positive activities and a great addition to the packs we've been delivering." CEO, Ambition, Aspire, Achieve (Newham)



Printed activity sheets delivered to England's Lane Hostel for homeless families in Camden, where families are living with limited space and resources.



Shelter created by Capel Manor Primary in Enfield, using one of our activity videos to engage the vulnerable and key worker children who were in school during lockdown one.



OS Learning resources included in Culture Mile Play Packs

August 2020

Key restriction eased: Groups of six allowed to meet outdoors

The team were able to work face-to-face with groups of up to five participants outdoors, and facilitated sessions at Epping Forest, Hampstead Heath and West Ham Park. In response to concerns over the impact of the pandemic on mental health, the sessions were designed to promote wellbeing by spending time in nature, learning new skills, discovering something new, being creative, and working together as a group. An evaluation toolkit developed by UCL was used to measure wellbeing before and after the sessions and results show that participants' wellbeing increased by an average of 22% after taking part in the session.

Activities included eco art, pond dipping, shelter building and nature crafts, and included both family learning sessions for all ages and nature-play sessions for children under 5 and their parents/carers.

The sessions were designed to keep people safe during the Covid-19 pandemic – the max group size was 6 (including the facilitator), and they took place exclusively outside with social distancing, hand washing stations or hand sanitizer are available, and all equipment cleaned before use.

The summer programme prioritized sessions for groups who may have struggled during lockdown, working with 'Ambition, Aspire, Achieve' in Newham to run a series of sessions for young people who have been struggling with anxiety and depression over lockdown, as well as other children and families local to its green spaces. The programme delivered a range of outdoor activities such as clearing leaves and watering plants, which boosted self-esteem and confidence.

Outputs

- 56 Family Nature Wellbeing sessions at Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest and West Ham Park
- 35 Nature Play sessions for under-5s and parents/carers at Hampstead Heath
- 6 Nature Wellbeing sessions for young people suffering from anxiety and depression at West Ham Park

Reach

- 232 family learning participants
- 144 nature play participants
- 33 young participants suffering from anxiety and depression

Sessions were fully booked at Epping Forest, West Ham Park and Hampstead Heath, although there were some cancellations due to bad weather.

Evaluation

- 22% increase participants' sense of wellbeing after taking part in a family Nature Wellbeing Workshop.

Feedback

"We had a brilliant outdoor session in Epping Forest... Our 9 year old daughter had so much fun building a shelter in the forest and engaging in eco art activities such as leaf bashing and stick spider webs. As a busy family, it was fantastic to spend time outdoors together, work as a team and join in the fun and creative activities while learning new skills. The session was professionally organised, led by a very friendly and welcoming team member who put us at ease straight from the beginning." Participants, Family Nature Wellbeing workshop, Epping Forest.



Children from the 'Ambition, Aspire, Achieve' project helping to clear leaves and water plants in West Ham Park, boosting confidence and self-esteem.



Mini clay models created at a Hampstead Heath Nature Play session

September – December 2020

Key restriction eased: Schools and indoor play provision reopen.

The learning team launched a Covid-safe programme for schools and play, reorganising the school programme to take place entirely outdoors, and opening the two play centres with new safety measures in place. Covid-safe changes included school groups working in their bubbles, OS Learning staff maintaining social distancing, enhanced cleaning, advanced booking for play programmes, and limits on the number of participants.

The team developed two new programmes for delivery in schools – a ‘Nature and Wellbeing’ workshop designed in response to concerns over the impact of Covid on mental health, and a ‘Habitats and Minibeasts’ session designed to help students to discover more within the school grounds. These programmes aimed to accommodate schools who were unable to travel due to the pandemic.

The team provided a weekly ‘Nature School’ at an inner-city school in Newham for a group of children with autism. The school were unable to visit our sites due to Covid restrictions. The team worked with the school to enrich their outside space with logs and natural materials, and delivered a variety of activities to encourage social interaction, hands-on exploration and connection with nature, such as making pine cone bird feeders and observing bird life together. The school were so delighted with the positive impact the sessions are having on the children that they created a ‘nature school hub’ within their school so that all classes can benefit, and plan to visit West Ham Park as soon as it is safe for them to do so.

The team ran regular weekly sessions for students from White Trees School – a specialist school for looked-after young people who experience behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. The young people benefitted from a varied programme designed to build confidence and connection with nature. The group spent time in Epping Forest, learnt new skills such as orienteering and wood carving, and contributed through activities such as litter picking.

The team ran Family Nature Wellbeing sessions at Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath over the autumn half term holiday.

The team continued to share activity sheets and videos, working with CoL’s ‘Our City Together’ team to include content within their newsletter and website.

Outputs

- 2 new ‘in-school’ sessions developed
- 1 new ‘in-school’ weekly programme for children with autism
- New Covid-safe play programme and working practices for 2 play centres (Hampstead Heath)
- New Covid-safe school programme and working practices (Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest, West Ham Park)
- New weekly programme for looked-after young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (Epping Forest)
- 24 Family Nature Wellbeing sessions at Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest
- 2 facilitated sessions for young people suffering from anxiety and depression (West Ham Park, partnership with ‘Ambition, Aspire, Achieve, Newham’)

Reach

- 1,192 on-site school participants (Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest, West Ham Park, 42 sessions)

- 102 in-school workshop participants (2 sessions)
- 36 in-school autism programme participants (5 weekly sessions)
- 447 participants at the One O’Clock Club
- 100 participants at the Adventure Clubhouse
- 116 family learning participants
- 13 young people suffering from anxiety and depression (partnership with ‘Ambition, Aspire, Achieve, Newham)

Evaluation

Participants in bespoke sessions for young people suffering from anxiety and depression reported improvement across all five impact areas: connection, involvement, confidence, understanding and wellbeing.

Feedback

“In these challenging times, the staff at Hampstead Heath made our first school trip since March one to remember. With clear risk assessments, excellent pre and post visit communication and an amazing days worth of survival activities, it was a joy to see another side of our students beyond the gates of the school.” Teacher, Carlton Primary School, Camden

“The One o’clock club is a great place for young children, the two staff are wonderful and make us feel comfortable and make the children so happy, they always have time to talk and always there to help! Activities are fantastic and the resources are always so clean and tidy all the time. So happy when we come here!!” Participant, One O’Clock Club



Primary school programme at West Ham Park – the students enjoyed festive wreath making.

January – February 2021:

Key restrictions introduced: UK in lockdown and schools closed (although vulnerable and key worker children could attend).

Some learning team members were furloughed part time during the winter 2021 lockdown; however, when working, they continued to engage learners, and developed a flexible learning programme of activities for the key worker, SEND and vulnerable children who were attending school, which was offered to schools within walking distance of West Ham Park, Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest. For many schools it was challenging to come out on a trip at this time (reduced staffing due to illness or staff self-isolating and additional workload for teachers as they adapt to changes) however, a small number of local schools close to Hampstead Heath and West Ham Park were able to visit, often for regular weekly sessions. The outdoor learning sessions provided a great opportunity for the children in school to work together as a team, build wellbeing, and apply their classroom learning in a new context.

The team continued to run weekly in-school sessions for children with autism and worked with an evaluator to better understand the impact of the programme and the aspects of the development and delivery that enabled these outcomes.

The team continued to share nature-focused activity sheets and videos. The resources were shared with teachers across the UK via the Learning Outside the Classroom website and the UK School Trips newsletter, which has a search reach of over 400,000 educators, and via 'Find Fusion' - the CoL Education Strategy Unit's new digital platform for learning.

The team collaborated with the Refugee Council to provide a virtual exploration of Epping Forest for young unaccompanied refugee minors. The group of young people had experienced serious and often multi-layered trauma and took part in the session as part of a wider programme to help improve their wellbeing. Participants were shown an aerial video of drone footage over the Epping Forest area to give them a sense of the scale of the area, as well as being shown different areas in the forest by a learning officer using a live video link. The focus of the session was looking at the birds of Epping Forest, and the birds that the participants would be able to see in their local area.

Whilst the team was unable to work face-to-face with pupil referral units and looked-after children over January and February, they delivered a series of virtual sessions to New Rivers College (a pupil referral unit in Islington) based around skills and careers in the outdoors.

Outputs

- 29 school sessions for vulnerable and key worker school children at Hampstead Heath and West Ham Park
- 2 virtual careers sessions for PRU participants
- 1 virtual tour of Epping Forest for young refugees
- 1 new play programme for Camden families developed
- 5 sessions 'in-school' weekly programme for children with autism

Reach

- 350 on-site school participants (Hampstead Heath and West Ham Park)
- 36 in-school autism programme participants
- 9 young unaccompanied refugee participants (virtual session)
- 8 participants from Pupil Referral Units (virtual sessions)
- 1 evaluation report for in-school nature programme for children with autism produced by professional researcher

Evaluation

An evaluation report on the in-school nature learning programme for autistic children is available on request. The report highlights key strengths of the programme, including a child-centred teaching approach, time to explore, within a natural environment, creative, playful and purposeful activities, and providing supported risks and appropriate challenges. The report findings will be used to inform future practice and will be shared with the environmental education community.

Feedback

"The children in my group are all from the local area and yet they were talking about how the activity helped them see the park in a whole different way. After several lockdowns, it was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves in their local green spaces while learning key skills and working together as a team." Teacher, Park Primary School, Newham.

"It was such a special session, many of the children got to try fire lighting for the first time in their lives. In addition, many had been stuck indoors for longer than anyone would want because of lockdown! I really liked how you gave them just the right amount of guidance but then let them experiment in a safe way. Flint striking was a real lesson in perseverance. The children all asked when we could return and I promptly booked the Soil Science session." Teacher, Eleanor Palmer Primary School, Camden



School children taking part in a survival skills and team building workshop on Hampstead Heath

March 2021

Key restriction eased: Schools reopen March 8th; 6 people allowed to meet outdoors from March 29th.

Having worked with a small number of schools within walking distance of the Heath and West Ham Park (supporting key worker and vulnerable children), many of the teachers involved were keen to bring those who missed out whilst home-schooling. The team were ready to welcome schools back to our sites with a Covid-safe outdoor programme.

The team continued to collaborate with Camden Council to identify families who had struggled during lockdown, and began working with Chance UK, a charity that supports children with behavioral and emotional difficulties through a mentorship scheme. Targeted marketing and a priority booking system for a series of Nature Wellbeing sessions was created in advance of a series of sessions running over April. This was successful in engaging a total of 111 participants from these target groups (72% of all participants).

The team developed an outdoor nature-play programme aimed at children and parents/carers who would normally visit the One O'clock Club on Hampstead Heath and developed marketing materials and Covid-safe play activities for the reopening of the One O'clock Club in mid-April.

The team supported a school in Newham to develop their school grounds into a sensory garden and relaxation zone for children with special educational needs and children who need some space away from a traditional classroom environment. The team were able to give advice on planting and will follow this up with a facilitated session for students to prepare and plant the area in May.

The team worked with five CoL employee volunteers, who supported learning officers in delivering outdoor learning sessions for schools.

The team collaborated with the CoL Learning and Development team to design and deliver volunteer management training for staff across CoL.

Outputs

- 37 school sessions at Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest and West Ham Park
- 1 new play programme for Camden families developed
- 4 'in-school' sessions for children with autism
- 1 bespoke plan for an in-school sensory garden
- New training programme in volunteer management developed

Reach

- 945 on-site school participants
- 51 in-school autism programme participants
- 45 Nature Play participants

Evaluation

- 84% of participants felt connected or very connected to our Open Spaces after taking part in a school workshop.
- 84% of participants felt a strong sense of wellbeing in nature after taking part in a school workshop.

Feedback

"Year 6s really enjoyed the WW2 session at the park. As well as consolidating their knowledge of the topic, they were really stuck by how the park they know so well was impacted by the war - particularly seeing the bomb crater and allotment images and plot. The activities were all very hands on and having artifacts (and replicas) to physically interact with supported their engagement and understanding. All the sessions were carried out in a very safe way. We will definitely book this activity again next year." Teacher, Park Primary, Newham

"It's really nice to see them happy. They have smiles on their faces when they go there [to Nature School]. They really enjoy it. It makes me happy." (Teaching Assistant, Nature School for children with autism, Newham).



Nature learning resources developed for the 'in-school' nature programme for children with autism

2020-21 Participation summary

The 2020-21 learning programme engaged 4,017 participants in learning activities facilitated by a learning officer. These numbers are significantly lower than the target due to the restrictions of the Covid pandemic, which limited both opportunities to safely engage with audiences and the numbers that could be safely accommodated.

The figures below do not include self-led learning, e.g. using activity sheets and videos created by the learning team.

Participants	Target	Actual
School programme participants	18,350	2,722
Play programme participants	23,000	736
Green Talent participants	150	85
Community, family and volunteering participants	600	474
Total	42,100	4,017

2020-21 Highlights summary

- Activity sheets designed for families with limited resources or access to outside space shared with over 20,000 London families during the Covid pandemic.
- Bespoke school programme for vulnerable children, children with special educational needs and disabilities, and key worker children, engaging 1,257 participants during Covid lockdown 3.
- Two new 'nature wellbeing' workshops developed in response to the impact of the Covid pandemic on mental health, engaging 400 participants.
- Bespoke activities and virtual tour of Epping Forest delivered for unaccompanied refugee minors.
- Bespoke outdoor sessions for young people in Newham suffering from anxiety and depression.
- New 'in-school' nature programme for school children with autism, delivering 14 weekly sessions.
- New covid-safe play programme engaging 736 participants, engaging children and families with limited play space at home.

Summary 2019 - 21

- The Open Spaces Learning Programme delivered a successful two years, engaging 44,487 participants.
- Evaluation showed that the programme had a positive impact on participants' understanding, wellbeing, confidence, connection and involvement with nature.

Due to the Covid pandemic, the two years were very different:

- In 2019-20 the programme delivered a 'business as usual' programme of school, play, youth, community and volunteer engagement.
- In 2020-21 the learning team delivered an innovative, adapted programme in order to reach audiences with limited access to resources and outdoor space during the Covid pandemic and associated restrictions.

Appendix two

Strategic Value

Corporate Plan

The Learning programme contributes to the delivery of all three of the 2018 – 2023 Corporate Plan's overarching aims and seven of the 12 outcomes:

- ***Contribute to a flourishing society:***
 - 1. People are safe and feel safe.
 - 2. People enjoy good health and wellbeing.
 - 3. People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.
 - 4. Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.
- ***Support a thriving economy:***
 - 8. We have access to the skills and talent we need.
- ***Shape outstanding environments:***
 - 10. We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration.
 - 12. Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained.

The learning programme also supports delivery of the following corporate strategies:

Social Mobility Strategy: Potential today, success tomorrow:

- Everyone can develop the skills and talent they need to thrive
- Opportunity is accessed more evenly and equally across society

Education Strategy:

- Provide an educational experience that enriches and inspires through access to the learning opportunities that the City's cultural, heritage and environmental assets offer, combining creativity, innovation and enterprise alongside tradition and continuity
- Provide high quality exposure to the world of work at all stages of education to enable pupils to make informed career choices

Open Spaces Department Business Plan:

- People enjoy good health and wellbeing
- Nature, heritage and place are valued and understood
- People feel welcome and included
- People discover, learn and develop

Appendix three

Learning principles

A set of learning principles for schools and play inform programme development and delivery. The development of the principles involved combining relevant research with the professional expertise of learning team members to create a shared approach to learning programme development and delivery.

Team members' professional expertise (accumulated over time through reflection on experience of learning programme development, delivery and evaluation) was valued from the start and cross-referenced with academic research.

Recognising the importance of children having time to explore green spaces to build connection and confidence, and emphasising doing and discovering to support participants as active learners, are just some highlights from these principles.

The principles:

- map across the five impact areas
- bring together the expertise of the team and relevant research
- enable shared reflective practice and a shared vision for quality learning
- increase the level of active engagement of participants
- provide a tool for effective decision making and peer review

The learning principles are available on request.

Appendix four

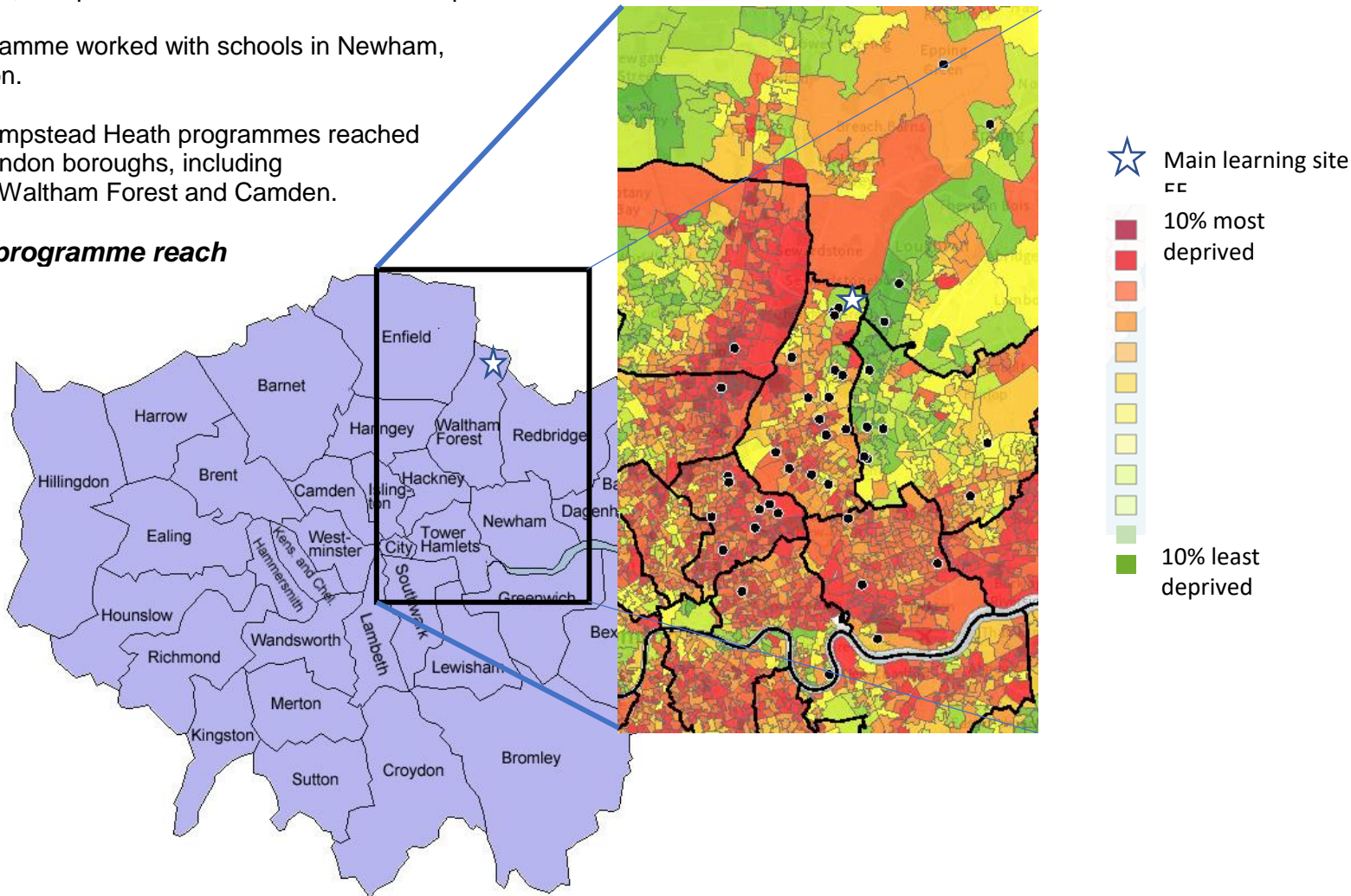
Maps showing school programme reach and areas of deprivation in London

Data from the Government Index of Multiple Deprivation for England is shown on the maps using a coloured scale. Schools participating in the Open Spaces Learning Programme (2019 – 2021) have been overlaid on the map, showing programme reach. The Index of Multiple Deprivation was created using indicators across seven domains: income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, living environment, and provides a measure of relative deprivation.

The West Ham Park Programme worked with schools in Newham, and area of high deprivation.

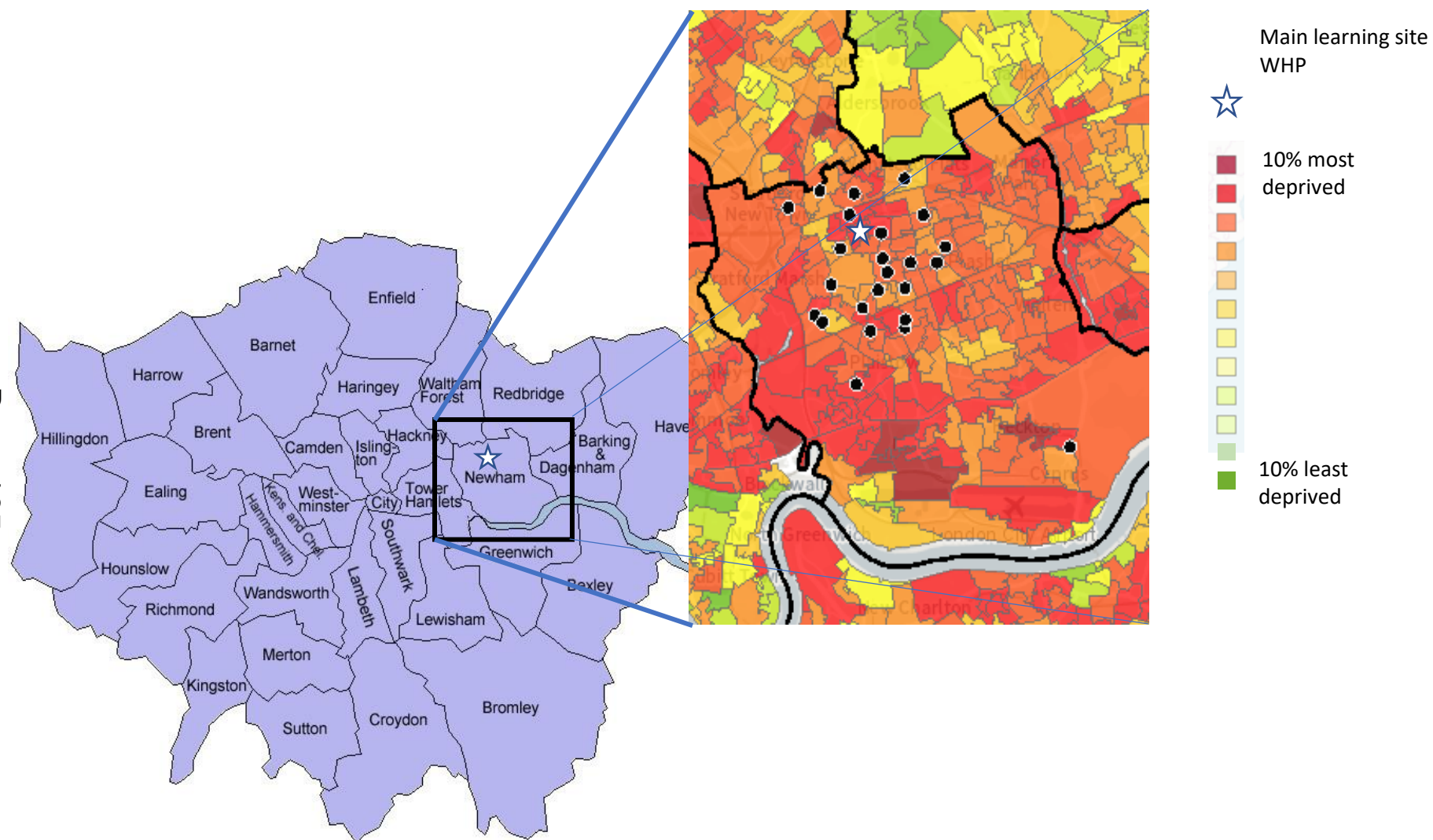
The Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath programmes reached schools across multiple London boroughs, including Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Waltham Forest and Camden.

Epping Forest school programme reach



West Ham Park school programme reach

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Hampstead Heath school programme reach

