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| Committee: | Date: |
| Open Spaces & City Gardens | 09 December 2019 |
| Subject: 2020/21 Events Fees and Charges – City Gardens | Public |
| Report of: Director of Open Spaces | For Decision |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>This report proposes that the fees and charges for events that are held in City Gardens sites throughout the 2020/21 financial year are increased by 3%.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the proposed 2020/21 fees and charges as set out in Appendix 1 of this report. | |

Main Report

Background

1. The City Gardens Team processes requests from members of the public, charitable groups and corporate organisations to hold events within its gardens.
2. Members approved the updated City Gardens Events Policy in July 2018. The policy does not need reviewing, however the Fees and Charges that are laid out in appendix 1 of that report are intended to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Current Position

3. The hire of City Gardens sites generates a small income that is used to contribute towards the maintenance cost of our sites and staff resources. In 2018/19 £7,000 was generated and at time of writing it is anticipated that a similar amount will be generated for the 2019/20 financial year. The most popular type of event continues to be wedding photography and associated celebrations with up to 50 participants.
4. Facilitating events has an impact not only on the gardens but also staff resources within the City Gardens team. Whilst the total amount of income delivered is relatively low, this is a service that is important to our communities

and needs to be financially sustainable and contribute towards the maintenance and upkeep of our gardens.

Proposals

5. It is proposed to increase Fees and Charges by 3% and then rounded up to the nearest £5. This percentage equates to the rise in staff salary increases, which presents much of the cost to the City in facilitating events.
6. This increase will be applied across the board to all Fees and Charges apart from deposit fees that will not be increased.
7. This increase will be implemented from 1st April 2020.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. The provision of a well-designed events programme supports a number of key City of London Corporate Plan outcomes as follows:
 - 4. Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.
 - 12. Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained.
9. It also supports a number of outcomes in the Open Spaces Departmental Business Plan:
 - Our open spaces, heritage and cultural assets are protected conserved and enhanced.
 - Our practices are financially, socially and environmentally sustainable.

Implications

10. **Financial Implications** - The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.
11. **Legal Implications** - - Section 7 of the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018 authorises the City to impose charges for temporary use of part of an open space for an event or for admission to an open space area where access is restricted for an event, and requires that the power be exercised in accordance with the relevant policy. Paragraph 15.8 of the Open Spaces Event Policy 2018 makes provision for the charges and also provides that the schedule of charges will be reviewed annually. The exercise of the charging power and the review of charges is in accordance with the 2018 Act and the Policy.

Conclusion

12. Events held in City Gardens are important to our communities. The proposed increase in Fees and Charges reflects increased costs, enables us to continue to facilitate events in a sustainable manner and provides a small amount of income that contributes towards maintaining our gardens and our staff resources.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Proposed Fees and Charges for 2020/21

Background Papers:

City Gardens Event Policy– Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee, 16 July 2018

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