

<b>Committee:</b> Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee	<b>Date:</b> 2 December 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Open Spaces Departmental Risk Management	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1, 2, 5, 8, 11, 12
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No.
<b>If so, how much?</b>	-
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	-
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	-
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Open Spaces	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report Author:</b> Martin Falder, Project Support Officer	

### Summary

This report provides the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee with an update on the management of risks faced by the Open Spaces Department. Risk is reviewed regularly by the Department's Senior Leadership Team as part of the ongoing management of the operations of the Department.

The department reports on the following nine risks:

- OSD 001 – Health and safety (Amber)
- OSD 002 – Extreme weather and climate change (Amber)
- OSD 004 – Repair and Maintenance of Buildings and Structural Assets (Red)
- OSD 005 – Pests and diseases (Amber – reduced from Red)
- OSD 006 – Impact of development (Amber)
- OSD 007 – Maintaining the City's water bodies (Red)
- OSD TBM 001 – The effect of a major event in central London on the tourism business at Tower Bridge and Monument (Amber)
- OSD 010 – Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) Fleet Purchase Risk (Amber)
- CR32 – Wanstead Park Reservoirs (Red) (Corporate risk)

Risks related to COVID-19 are managed corporately under a separate risk register which was accepted by Audit and Risk Management on 1 October 2020. Risks relevant to the Open Spaces Department have been attached at Appendix 4 for information.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report and:

- Approve the Departmental risk register as outlined in this report and at Appendix 2

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The Open Spaces Department's risk registers conform to the City's corporate standards as guided by the Risk Management Strategy 2014, and all of our departmental and divisional risks are registered on the Pentana Risk Management System.
2. The Open Spaces Department manages risk through a number of processes including: Departmental and Divisional risk registers, the departmental health and safety improvement group, divisional health and safety groups and risk assessments. Departmental risks are reviewed by the Department's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) on a regular basis.
3. The Charity Commission requires Trustees to confirm in the charity's annual report that any major risks to which the charity is exposed have been identified and reviewed and that systems are established to mitigate those risks. These risks are to be reviewed annually. Each Open Spaces Committee is presented with relevant risk registers twice a year which fulfils this requirement.

### **Current Departmental Position**

4. Appendix 2 shows the Departmental risks. Officers are undertaking a range of actions at a divisional level and these actions aim to reduce the 'current departmental risk score' to achieve the 'target score'. As previously, the Departmental risk register layout, provides cross references to the relevant cross divisional risks and lists the actions which are being taken to reduce (or maintain) the risk, together with a 'latest note' on progress.
5. The Epping Forest & Commons, Hampstead Heath, Highgate Woods & Queen's Park, West Ham Park, Port Health & Environmental Services, and Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committees receive their relevant divisional risk registers in separate reports.
6. Risks related to COVID-19 are managed corporately under a separate risk register which was last accepted by Audit and Risk Management Committee on 1 October 2020. Risks relevant to this committee have been attached at Appendix 4 for information.

### **Current Risk Scores**

7. Eight departmental risks remain unchanged from the previous report agreed on 14 July 2020. These risks are summarised below, along with their rating and score. Full details about the current risk status and the actions being taken divisionally to manage or reduce these risks can be found at Appendix 2.
8. OSD 001 – Health and safety (Amber, 8) represents the health and safety risks involved in the work of the Open Spaces department. This has been assessed to remain at Amber, and to be escalated if necessary. The target remains at the same level as the current risk, and we accept this level of risk.

9. OSD 002 – Extreme weather and climate change (Amber, 6). The current and target score remain at the same level, and we accept this as an ongoing risk involved in the work of the department.
10. OSD 004 – Repair and Maintenance of Buildings and Structural Assets (Red, 16). This risk score remains at red due to the current CWP budget and the mounting bow wave of works which we do not have the resources to address. The target score for this risk remains at the elevated level of Red (16), as we are focused on maintaining at the current level of risk, and do not anticipate being able to reduce this risk score within this financial year.
11. OSD 006 – Impact of development (Amber, 12). This item remains at the level previously reported due to the careful monitoring of planning decisions by officers. The target score is the same as the current score. We accept this level of risk at present.
12. OSD 007 – Maintaining the City’s water bodies (Red, 16). This remains at the same level as previously reported. If the necessary works are undertaken, we hope to reduce this to Amber by 2022. At present, it remains at Red.
13. OSD 010 – Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) Fleet Purchase Risk (Amber, 12). Although the rollout of ULEZ stage one was successfully managed by the Parks & Gardens division, the expansion of the boundary in October 2021 will impact several other sites in the North London and Epping Forest divisions. This remains at the same level previously reported, but may escalate if the procurement process is not resourced appropriately. We aim to reduce this risk to Green (4) by the expansion date on 25 October 2021.
14. OSD TBM 001 – The effect of a major event in central London on the tourism business at Tower Bridge and Monument (Amber, 12). Regular meetings held with the CoLP Counter Terrorism Section indicate this remains at Amber. The target score remains at the same level as the current score at present.
15. CR 32 – Wanstead Park Reservoirs (Red, 24). This is a Corporate-level risk included in this report for information, as it was accepted into the Corporate Risk Register on 28 January 2020. If works proceed on schedule, we aim to reduce this risk to Amber (8) by June 2024.
16. One departmental risk has dropped from Red (16) to Amber (12). OSD 005 – Pests and diseases was agreed to operate on a six-monthly target schedule, whereby we aim to reduce the risk to Amber (12) by winter via a programme of remedial works, including OPM spraying and Massaria surveys. This process was successful in 2020, and the risk has therefore been dropped to reflect this work. We nonetheless expect the risk to increase to Red (16) again by next summer, as this is, by its nature, a seasonal risk.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

17. The Departmental and divisional risk registers will help us achieve the Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023 aim to:
  - Shape outstanding environments
  - Contribute to a flourishing society

Within which they will help deliver the outcomes:

- We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment.
- Open spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained.
- People are safe and feel safe

18. The Departmental risk register reflects the risks associated with delivering the Open Spaces Department's Business top line objectives and associated outcomes:

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

### **Conclusion**

19. The need to systematically manage risk across the Department is addressed by the production of this risk register, as too are the requirements of the Charity Commission. This document in turn will inform the collective risk across the department's business activities.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Risk Scoring grid
- Appendix 2 – Departmental Risk register
- Appendix 3 – Departmental Risk Score & Target Matrix
- Appendix 4 – Covid-19 Risks Relevant to the Open Spaces Department

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