

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	25 January 2021
<b>Subject:</b> Management Framework	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11 &amp; 12</b>
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?	
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Open Spaces	<b>For Discussion</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Bob Warnock – Open Spaces Department	

### Summary

The report sets out the draft Divisional Plan 2021-2024 and Conservation and Ecology Annual Work Programme 2021-2022 for Hampstead Heath. These documents have been prepared recognising the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on the Open Spaces and Staff resources and capacity. The overarching priority for 2021/22 will be ground restoration projects to mitigate the impact of the increased footfall across the Heath.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members provide feedback on the draft Divisional Plan 2021-2024 (Appendix 1).
- Members provide feedback on the draft Conservation and Ecology Annual Work Programme 2021-2022 (Appendix 2).

### Main Report

#### Current Position

1. The AWP for 2021-22 was drafted ahead of the implementation of the third National Lockdown. Therefore, it is now necessary for Officers to review the AWP in light of the additional restrictions associated with COVID-19. The full revised AWP for 2021-22 will be presented to Members for discussion in April 2021.
2. However, Officers have updated the Conservation and Ecology AWP for 2021-2022 to take account of the requirements for additional ground restoration and is presented for Members discussion (appendix 2).

## **Management Framework**

3. The Management Framework for Hampstead Heath comprises the Management Strategy, Divisional Plan and Annual Work Programme.

### Divisional Plan

4. The three-year draft Divisional Plan 2021-2024 (appendix 1) has been updated and re-formatted to reflect the outcomes in the Management Strategy. As set out with the Divisional Plan, the dates of some projects are subject to change due to the on-going impacts of COVID-19 and the third National Lockdown.

### Annual Work Programmes (AWP)

5. The draft AWP 2021-2022 establishes our commitments for the year and comprises of both Cyclical Work and Project Work. It is the mechanism for prioritisation, planning and delivery and demonstrates how our work contributes to the Outcomes of the Management Strategy.
6. Due to the impacts of COVID-19 during 2020, a number of the Project Works detailed within the 2020-2021 AWP have been delayed and where possible these have been carried forward into the 2021/22 AWP.
7. Grass cutting programme in 2020 was impacted, as Staff resources were redirected during early 2020 in response to the first National Lockdown. As with path maintenance, the major increase in numbers of visitors using the Heath has made it difficult for Staff to access areas and undertake works.
8. Scrub and bramble management has also been impacted and will be delayed until autumn/winter 2021/2022.
9. The completion of the moth survey has been pushed back to 2021-22. Volunteer monitoring for reptiles, amphibians and dragonflies has been reduced in 2020.
10. Many parts of the Heath especially areas near the Highgate and Hampstead chains of ponds have suffered extensive ground damage due to high visitor number over the Covid lockdowns in 2020/21 and notably over the Christmas and New Year period. Works will be carried out to reinstate these areas, but this can only commence when the temperatures and light levels increase, in March and April. Careful consideration will need to be given to fencing areas off as this could impact the public's ability to adhere to social distancing requirements. These restoration works will be a priority for the Conservation and Ranger Teams in the Spring and Autumn.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

11. The Divisional Plan and AWP 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, in particular the following Corporate Plan outcomes:

- (2) People enjoy good health and wellbeing.
  - (4) Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.
  - (5) Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible.
  - (11) We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment.
  - (12) Our spaces are secure, resilient and well maintained.
12. The Divisional Plan and AWP also meets 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.
13. The Divisional Plan and AWP embed 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

14. The costs of implementing the proposed Divisional Plan and AWP will be met primarily through the Superintendent's Local Risk Budget which requires effective prioritisation of resources and funding. Wherever possible, opportunities will be sought for external funding and partnership working to support these essential works.
15. A number of projects set out within the three year Divisional Plan require Capital Funding, which is yet to be secured. Submissions will be proposed as part of the annual capital bidding process.

#### Resource Implications

16. At the time of writing, the Heath is currently operating only critical and essential services as a result of the third National Lockdown. Staff resources are being prioritised keeping the site open, safe, accessible and secure.

#### Climate Implications

17. 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

18. No Impact.

#### Risk Implications

19. There is a risk that works will be further impacted by COVID-19..

#### Equality Implications

20. No Impact.

## Security Implications

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

## **Conclusion**

22. The draft Divisional Plan sets out the priority projects 2021-2024. The accompanying Conservation and Ecology AWP establishes our commitments for 2021-2022.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Draft Divisional Plan 2021 - 2024
- Appendix 2 - Draft Conservation and Ecology Annual Work Programme 2021 - 2022

## **Contact**

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