

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	24 February 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?	<b>N</b>
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 Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Bob Warnock – Open Spaces Department	

### Summary

The report sets out the draft Hampstead Heath 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 sites and the impacts on wildlife.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members agree the draft Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan 2021-2024 (appendix 1).
- Members agree the draft Hampstead Heath 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. Officers have reviewed the AWP in light of the additional restrictions associated with COVID-19.
2. The revised Hampstead Heath AWP Projects for 2021-22 will be presented to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee for discussion in April 2021.
3. The draft Highgate Wood Divisional Plan 2021-24 and revised Highgate Wood AWP Projects for 2021-22 will be presented to the Highgate Wood Consultative Group for discussion on 21 April 2021.

4. The draft Queen's Park Divisional Plan 2021-24 revised Queen's Park AWP Projects for 2021-22 will be presented to the Queen's Park Consultative Group for discussion on 21 April 2021.
5. Officers will present the Highgate Wood Divisional Plan 2021-24 and the Queen's Park Divisional Plan 2021-24 for Members approval in May 2021 along with the AWP Projects for 2021-22.
6. Officers have updated the Hampstead Heath Conservation and Ecology AWP for 2021-2022 to take account of the requirements for additional ground restoration. Members are asked to approve the Hampstead Heath Conservation and Ecology AWP (appendix 2).

### **Management Framework**

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

### Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan

8. The three-year draft Hampstead Heath 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.
9. **HH5 - Celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hampstead Heath Act.** The steps to make the Open Spaces Charities better able to receive gifts, donations and legacies has seen the establishment of specific project based donations web pages. The Chamberlain has confirmed that such project based funding is ring-fenced and can be held until completion of the project. Discussions with the Chamberlains are continuing regarding more general donations towards the work of the Charities.
10. **HH9 - Playgrounds.** Officers are working with a young local resident and her family to discuss opportunities to collaborate with the local community to refurbish the Heath Extension playground.
11. Officers have engaged a Landscape Architect to prepare site drawings. An online meeting will then be arranged to develop a concept design in consultation with the local resident and Members of the local community.
12. The local resident has successfully developed a series of fundraising initiatives through her website and is committed to engaging with the local community to help raise funds to support the improvements at the playground.
13. **HH10 - Savernake Road Entrance Improvements.** A Project to improve the Savernake Bridge entrance to the Heath is being undertaken in Partnership with

the London Borough of Camden and Heath Hands. In relation to the works on the Heath, appendix 3 sets out the proposed concept design.

14. **HH18- Promote Health Connections.** The Leisure and Events Manager will provide an update at the meeting.
15. **HH20 - Dog Walking Code of Conduct and the Professional Dog Walking Licence Scheme.** Following approval of the Licensing Scheme from the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee, Officers have received correspondence from a number of concerned Professional Dog Walkers and their clients/customers.
16. Officers and the Chair have met with representatives of the Hampstead Heath Professional Dog Walkers Association to discuss the implementation of the Licencing Scheme. Moving forward, Officers will continue to discuss the implementation of the Licencing Scheme with the Heath's Dog Walking Community.
17. Due to the impacts of the third National Lockdown, it is proposed to move the implementation date of the Licencing Scheme is revised to 1 October 2021.
18. **HH26 - Planning.** Since the submission of the City of London response to the Planning White Paper, Officers have liaised Whitehall and Parliament to determine how the Bill will progress through its various stages. The next step in the process is a Government response to the consultation. This will be a detailed published response which should address the points raised during the consultation process, including the points raised by the City of London.

#### Hampstead Heath Annual Work Programmes (AWP)

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. The 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.
22. Scrub and bramble management has also been impacted and will be delayed until autumn/winter 2021-2022.
23. 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.

24. 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, Ranger and Keeper Teams in the Spring and Autumn.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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**

28. The costs of implementing the proposed Hampstead Heath 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.
29. Project HH14 set out within the Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan requires Capital Funding, which is yet to be secured. Submissions will be proposed as part of the annual capital bidding process.

### Resource Implications

30. 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

31. 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

32. No Impact.

### Risk Implications

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

### Equality Implications

34. Ahead of implementing projects set out in the Divisional Plan a Test of Relevance: Equality Analysis will be undertaken and where appropriate a full equalities analysis.

### Security Implications

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

### **Conclusion**

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

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Draft Hampstead Heath Divisional Plan 2021-2024
- Appendix 2 - Draft Hampstead Heath Conservation and Ecology Annual Work Programme 2021-2022
- Appendix 3 - Savernake Bridge Proposals

### **Contact**

Bob Warnock  
Open Spaces Department  
T: 020 7332 3322  
E: [bob.warnock@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:bob.warnock@cityoflondon.gov.uk)