

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	19 April 2021
Subject: Open Spaces - Update on planning related matters	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	n/a
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: The Remembrancer	For Information
Report author: Philip Saunders, Parliamentary Affairs Counsel	

Summary

This report provides a brief update in relation to raising awareness of the importance of open spaces, specifically linked to the government's planning proposals, following discussions concerning the Planning White Paper at your last meeting.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Current Position

Recent Activity

1. Activity on planning has comprised:
 - Submission to Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) regarding the Planning White Paper
 - Formal response to the Planning White Paper Consultation
 - Raising awareness of the importance of Metropolitan Open Land in the House of Commons through the City's member of Parliament
 - Engaging with MHCLG officials regarding Metropolitan Open Land in the context of the Planning White Paper
 - Liaison with pan-London bodies, specifically London Councils

White Paper – Engagement

2. Detailed submissions have been made to the departmental consultation and to the MHCLG select committee's inquiry.
3. A senior MHCLG official, who has responsibility for planning, has been engaged and provided with details of the City Corporation's concerns regarding protections for Metropolitan Open Land (MoL), SSSIs and SACs. Further updates will be reported to this committee.

4. The City's MP, Nickie Aiken, has submitted a Question to MHCLG ministers highlighting the importance of MoL and requesting clarification of its status within the Government's planning reforms.
5. A further opportunity for raising a parliamentary question on MoL has been secured, the precise nature of its deployment depending upon the ministerial response mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

White Paper - Timing

6. It is understood that 44,000 responses were made to the Planning White Paper and, at the time of writing, the Government's formal response is not available.
7. Nevertheless, The Queen's Speech in May 2021 is likely to refer to a Bill designed to contain some or all of the proposals contained in the White Paper. The timing of the introduction of such a Bill is impossible to predict but may be after the parliamentary summer holiday.

Conclusion

8. Close liaison with MPs and departmental officials will be developed in order to secure reassurance regarding continued protection for open spaces in the City's custodianship.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

Planning White Paper report to Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's park Committee on 25 November 2020 - found [here](#).

Contact

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