

Committee: Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	Date: 26 May 2021
Subject: Report of Action Taken	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Leanne Murphy, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk under urgency or delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chair since the last meeting of the Committee, in accordance with Standing Orders No. 41 (a) and (b).

Recommendation:

- That Members note the report.

Main Report

Urgency request: Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities - Safety, Access and Security Improvements [11.05.21]

1. Members of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee are familiar with and supportive of the proposed Capital Project. Officers have provided updates at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee meetings since the 2020 Swimming Review was concluded in March 2020.
2. The Swimming Capital Project relates to implementing essential safety, access and security works across the four Swimming Facilities at Hampstead Heath. A full review of the Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities has been undertaken, in conjunction with Health and Safety advice received following a fatality at the Highgate Men's Bathing Ponds in June 2019. The Health and Safety Executive confirmed that there were no material breaches and provided written advice in relation to Lifeguard breaks and alertness, maximum bather loading, minimum Lifeguards numbers and Lifeguard training. The outcomes of the Swimming Review were agreed by Members in March 2020, and the Review set out the improvements required to address the essential long-term Health and Safety issues, visitor access, rapidly increasing demand and to secure the long-term financial sustainability of the Swimming Facilities.
3. Since March 2020, work has been completed to put together a detailed project brief, ready for submission into the City's 2020-21 Annual Bid Process, which ran from September 2020 – February 2021. The Project Brief was signed off by the Director of Open Spaces on 19 August 2020 and then submitted into the Annual Bid Process, putting the project on hold till further notice. In January 2021, it was announced that the project had been successful and received

approval, in principal enabling up to £755k of central funding from City's Cash resource, allowing this Gateway 2 report to be submitted and upon approval, permitting the project to continue.

4. The works already identified in the Gateway 1 (Project Brief) will be further developed through both architectural and engineering design support. The works are focused on improvements to safety, access and security across the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond, Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond, Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond, and Parliament Hill Fields Lido.
5. Approval was sought under the urgency procedures to enable the Capital Project Gateway 2 Report to be considered as a decision item at the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee on 12 May 2021 and the Projects Sub-Committee on 17 May 2021, which are before the next meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee (HHHWQPC) which meets on 26 May 2021. By taking the report as an urgency for the HHHWQPC, the project timeline can be accelerated at a faster pace and the safety, access and security improvements can progress quicker ahead of a busy summer season.
6. Whilst there would not be any budgetary benefits, there would be programme benefits and the additional time would help Officers to start the design development stage sooner, which is good due to the risk of this stage getting delayed (potentially) through the extensive stakeholder consultation. By starting the delivery phase sooner, is a benefit due to the tight window we have before the mid to peak season starting.
7. Action taken: The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman, agreed to:
 - approve the progression of this Capital Project to implement safety, access and security works across the four Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities and that it progress to Gateway 3/4 on the Regular route;
 - That budget of £54,000 (excluding risk) is approved to reach the next Gateway;
 - Note total estimate cost of £697,000 (excluding risk), £755,000 (including £58,000 of costed risk post-mitigation);
 - That a Costed Risk Provision of £10,000 is approved to reach the next gateway (to be drawn down via delegation to Chief Officer);
 - Note that some minor works have had to be delivered already regarding H&S and infrastructure, but these do not change the overall scope, budget or programme of this project as have been funded separately.

Conclusion

8. Background papers for Members are available from Leanne Murphy on the email address provided below.

Leanne Murphy

Town Clerk's Department

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