

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	24 January 2022
Highgate Wood Consultative Group (by email)	24 January 2022
Queen's Park Consultative Group (by email)	24 January 2022
Subject: Fees and Charges 2022-23 & 2023-24	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 3, 4, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Richard Gentry, Environment Department	

Summary

This report sets out the proposed fees and charges for a range of sports and services provided at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park for 2022-23 and 2023-24.

It is proposed that the majority of charges are increased by 4.9%, in line with the Retail Price Index figure (October 2021), or increased to align with relevant benchmarks, or to reflect the direct cost to the charity for providing the activity or service, as set out in appendix 1.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- The Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Highgate Wood Consultative Group and Queen's Park Consultative Group discuss the proposed fees and charges for 2022-23 and 2023-24, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

Main Report

Background

1. Charges for a wide range of services, recreation and sporting activities provided across the City of London Corporation's Open Spaces are reviewed annually, to ensure that prices and ticket options are relevant and appropriate.
2. The income generated from fees and charges contribute towards the cost of providing sports and recreational facilities across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.
3. Sports fees and charges are not based on full cost recovery and are significantly subsidised by the Charities to promote participation in formal and informal recreation to support health and well-being.

Proposed Charges 2022-23 and 2023-24

4. It is proposed that the majority of charges are increased by 4.9%, in line with the Retail Price Index figure (October 2021), or increased to align with relevant benchmarks, or to reflect the direct cost to the Charity for providing the activity or service, as set out in appendix 1.
5. Officers have undertaken benchmarking to ensure charges remain in-line with local providers.
6. The proposed fees and charges include concessionary rates, offering a 40% discount on the standard adult charge, except where indicated.
7. It is proposed to continue with the simplified pricing structure at the Parliament Hill Lido, and to extend the Junior swimming session tickets charges to the Bathing Ponds.
8. Sauna Season and day tickets are currently suspended due to Covid-19, however 2022-23 charges are proposed to enable this service to resume during the 2022 season, subject to Government Guidance.
9. Following local benchmarking we are proposing to increase car parking charges by 11.11% for 0-2 hours & 2-4 hours, and by 12.5% for the additional hours. However, taking account of these increases, the car parks across Hampstead Heath are still less expensive than local comparators. The additional hours charge is set to discourage commuter parking to ensure the parking facilities are available for Heath visitors. A phased approach to increase car parking charges was agreed by Members of this Committee in November 2019. Free parking is provided for Blue Badge holders.

Licenses

10. The application fees for Events have been held at £25 for Community Events and £50 for Commercial Events.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic Implications

11. This also contributes towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23. Contribute to a flourishing society (1-4), Support a thriving economy (5) and Shape outstanding environments (9-12).
12. The proposed fees and charges directly support 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.
13. The proposed fees and charges support the three objectives and outcomes set out in the Open Spaces Business Plan 2022-23 (a) Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible, (b) Spaces enrich people's lives and (c) Business practices are responsible and sustainable.

Financial Implications

14. The City's Financial Regulations require all Departments to recover full costs when setting charges to persons or external organisations or submit reasons to the appropriate service Committee when that objective is not met. It is therefore at the discretion of individual spending Committees to determine the actual level of fees and charges relative to the services they provide, after taking into account local considerations and priorities.

Legal Implications

15. Hampstead Heath (Charity No. 803392) and Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn (Charity No. 232986) are registered charities and the City of London Corporation is the corporate trustee for both Charities. When determining fees and charges to persons or external organisations, all departments should recover full costs, or submit reasons to the appropriate service Committee when that objective is not met. Members are reminded that any decision they take in respect of either Charity must be in the best interests of that Charity.

Risk Implications

16. The projected income for 2022-23 could be further impacted by COVID-19, as recorded in the Open Spaces Risk Register.

Equality Implications

17. A Test of Relevance has been completed in relation to the proposed fees and charges. A full Equality Analysis is not recommended.

Climate Implications

18. The City of London Corporation has a newly adopted Climate Action Strategy which seeks to achieve Net 0 by 2040. There will be a range of measures implemented to realise this including increasing carbon sequestration and storage across the Open Spaces alongside biodiversity enhancement and resilience measures.

Conclusion

19. Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park continue to provide excellent value for money sports and recreational opportunities. The income generated through fees and charges contributes towards the cost of providing sports and recreational facilities and maintaining Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.
20. It is proposed that the majority of charges are increased by 4.9%, in line with the Retail Price Index figure (October 2021), or increased to align with relevant benchmarks, or to reflect the direct cost to the Charities for providing the activity or service, as set out in appendix 1.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Fees and Charges for 2022-23 & 2023-24
- Appendix 2 – Benchmarking

Contact

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