

<b>Committee(s):</b> Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 5 October 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Vision and Priorities for Parliament Hill Improvements	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12</b>
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	<b>No</b>
If so, how much?	<b>N/A</b>
What is the source of Funding?	<b>N/A</b>
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Executive Director, Environment	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Stefania Horne, Assistant Director	

### Summary

This report provides Members a vision for improvements at Parliament Hill.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Agree to develop a Vision for improvements at Parliament Hill

### Main Report

#### Background

1. In 2007, a proposal for improvements to Parliament Hill was considered as part of a wider proposal to the Heritage and Lottery fund. This was over 15 years ago and clearly the priorities for the area need to be reassessed in order to agree the principles and a Vision that can be adopted for future funding opportunities.
2. New priorities and strategic frameworks are currently being discussed as part of the establishment of the new Natural Environment Division, including an emphasis on Nature recovery and visitor and community engagement. Any new Vision should take into account the current Divisional Plan and other new policies applying to the open spaces as a whole, whilst always reflecting the unique character of the Heath, and local issues.
3. A fresh proposal in Camden to re-develop the nearby Murphy's yard, which had been paused, has created an opportunity to emphasise the value of Hampstead Heath to the local planning authority as very important green infrastructure for Camden residents.

4. A new Vision and principles for Parliament Hill improvements would identify opportunities that could then be developed into detailed costed proposals for future funding from planning obligations linked to developments in the local area.

### **Vision and concepts for improvements**

5. The Vision for improvements at Parliament is based on the following principles:
  - The emphasis on the Heath's Nature conservation delivering the new priorities of the City's Climate change strategy and the Nature recovery strategy for the Natural Environment Division.
  - A pedestrian priority to ensure visitor can enjoy the natural space.
  - The need of a defined visitor hub to strengthen the recreational value of the area in line with the Charity Objectives, and with interpretation in line with the Natural Environment Division's Visitor Strategy.
  - Repurposing the buildings to generate more community value.
  - Improvements to the Leisure and recreational value
  - Harness opportunities to increase the learning and education value, in line with the Natural Environment Learning Strategy.
6. As part of the Vision, the following initial improvements are considered :
  - The creation of Sustainable drainage with the introduction of a wetland area that can resolve some of the drainage issues on site. This will also create new habitats and increase the biodiversity value.
  - Defined pedestrian access routes that can minimise soil erosion and increase safety of pedestrians.
  - Refurbishment of buildings for a better community use.
7. Further proposal will need to be included and developed into a final Vision following conversations with stakeholders and users
8. There is an opportunity to scope the improvements of the Gordon House Road entrance in line with any proposed development at Murphy's yards with an improved public realm proposal although at this stage this cannot be defined.
9. Parliament Hill is also hosting a number of leisure and recreational facilities including an Athletic Track, a Lido, a cricket pitch and a bowling green. The development of these facilities is progressing with separate projects and proposals that will feed into the Vision.
10. The Vision for the improvements are at this stage conceptual and further engagement and consultation is needed to develop detailed proposals. An initial proposal is attached in appendix 1.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

11. The proposals outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy.

12. The proposals outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of 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 and C: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors.

#### Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications at this stage.

#### Resource Implications

14. There are no resources implications at this stage

#### Climate Implications

15. Included within the Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25 are a series of projects which contribute towards achieving the City of London's Climate Action Strategy, which was launched in October 2020. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions. The Climate Action Strategy will be embedded into future strategies which are currently being drafted within the Natural Environment Division.

#### Legal Implications

16. There are no legal implications at this stage.

#### Risk Implications

17. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity and Queen's Park and Highgate Wood Charity Risk Registers. Any risks arising from this proposal will be included in a project risk register.

#### Equality Implications

18. The new booking system will not change the opportunity to book for all section of the community. A telephone booking opportunity will remain in place.

#### Security Implications

19. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Hampstead Heath Charity Risk Registers.

### **Conclusion**

20. This report sets out a high-level vision for the Parliament Hill area. The Vision for the improvements are at this stage conceptual and further engagement and consultation is needed to develop detailed proposals and finalise the Vision.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – High level improvement proposals for Parliament Hill

### **Stefania Horne**

Assistant Director, Natural Environment

T: 020 7332 3322

E : [stefania.horne@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:stefania.horne@cityoflondon.gov.uk)