

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	16 January 2023
Subject: Fees and Charges 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?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Stefania Horne, Assistant Director - Environment Department	

Summary

This report sets out the proposed fees and charges for a range of sports and services provided at Hampstead Heath for 2023-24.

The increase is in line with benchmarking and based on cost recovery, considering that the main costs are salary costs and also to continue to facilitate participation, taking account the rising costs of living.

It is proposed that the majority of charges are increased by 5% or increased to align with relevant benchmarks, as set out in appendix 1.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- The Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee discuss the proposed fees and charges for 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.

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 2023-24

4. It is proposed that the majority of charges are increased by 5%, or increased to align with relevant benchmarks, as set out in appendix 1.
5. Officers have undertaken benchmarking to ensure charges remain in-line with local providers. The level of inflation is over 10% (at December 2022) and the proposal to increase the majority of fees and charges by 5% is aligned with a number of London boroughs that are increasing around this level to encourage participation and accessibility noting the increased cost of living.
6. The proposed fees and charges include concessionary rates, offering a 40% discount on the standard adult charge, except where indicated.
7. Following local benchmarking we are proposing to increase car parking charges by 15% for 0-2 hours & 2-4 hours, and by 11% for the additional hours. The additional hours charge is set to discourage commuter parking to ensure the parking facilities are available for Heath visitors. Free parking is provided for Blue Badge holders.
8. Car parking charges will be subject to a wider Natural Environment review during 2023/24. A further report will be presented to Committee following the review.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic Implications

9. This 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).
10. 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.
11. 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

12. 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

13. Hampstead Heath (Charity No. 803392) is a registered Charity and the City of London Corporation is the corporate trustee. Members are reminded that any decision they take in respect of the Charity must be in the best interests of that Charity. The City of London Corporation has statutory powers to charge for a wide range of facilities and services.

Risk Implications

14. The projected income for 2023-24 could be further impacted by COVID-19, as recorded in the Natural Environment Risk Register.

Equality Implications

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

Climate Implications

16. The City of London Corporation has a 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

17. Hampstead Heath continues 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.
18. It is proposed that the majority of charges are increased by 5%, or increased to align with relevant benchmarks, as set out in appendix 1.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Fees and Charges for 2023-24

Contact

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