

<b>Committee(s):</b> Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 8 February 2023
<b>Subject:</b> Assistant Directors Update	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 &amp; 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 Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Stefania Horne, Assistant Director	

### Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park since December 2022.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report

### Main Report

#### Management Framework

1. An update on Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25 projects is attached (appendix 1).

#### Events

2. Recent events include:
  - Hampstead Heath Christmas Fayre (1 December 2022 – 8 January 2023)
  - Christmas Day Swim (25 December 2022)
  - New Years Day Swim (1 January 2023)
  - Middlesex Centenary Cross Country (21 January 2023)
  - Parliament Hill Ice Swim Hootenanny (PHISH) at the Lido (21 January 2023)
3. Upcoming events include:

- 2-3 May Local Football competition Parliament Hill
- 10-14 May Affordable art Fair (to be finalised)
- 16 and 18 May Local Tennis competition Parliament Hill
- 20 May Night of 10K Personal Best
- 21 May Hampstead 4 Heart walk - British Heart foundation

4. A comprehensive list of events is attached at appendix 2.

### **Swimming**

5. A project on a page summary has been prepared in relation to the Swimming – Safety, Access and Security Capital Project (appendix 3).

### **Athletic Track**

6. A Gateway 3/4 report forms part of the meeting agenda.

### **Queen's Green Canopy**

7. 11 trees that have been donated as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative were planted at the Hampstead Heath Extension forming a new avenue on the south western side of the cricket pitch. Heath Hands helped to plan further 11 trees on the Heath. A special alder tree was presented to Greater London's recipients by the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, at a special Gifting Ceremony, which took place on the morning of Monday 3rd October, at The Royal Hospital Chelsea. The tree for Hampstead Heath was planted in Golders Hill Park.

### **Car Parking Enforcement**

8. A contractor has been identified to implement the proposals for a streamlined enforcement system. The new system will be launched in April 2023.

### **Partnership Working**

9. English Heritage is currently developing a masterplan for Kenwood. The plan will assess how Kenwood can best fulfil its potential as a cultural centre and a place of inspiration, relaxation, creativity and learning. This presents clear opportunities whilst the Natural environment strategic framework is developing and the Assistant Director will work more closely with Curatorial Director at English Heritage in the next few months to make sure that the strategic developments between Hampstead Heath and Kenwood remains aligned,
10. The Partnership with Heath Hands is stronger than ever. The Charity is very successful in delivering volunteering sessions with over 11,000 hours contributed by volunteers since April 2022 including 400 volunteer sessions and over The Delivery of the Camden Council's Health Walks project has been transferred to Heath Hands, giving opportunities to contribute to the health and well being of local communities.

## **Good News**

11. A recent survey of bat boxes on Hampstead Heath uncovered a number of bats with three species identified including Common and Soprano Pipistrelles and a Noctule. This survey indicates there is a healthy population of bats on the Heath and that they are using the boxes the Conservation Team have installed.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

12. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society, Support a thriving economy and Shape outstanding environments.
13. The projects and works 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, 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.

## Financial Implications

14. Donations are currently being sought for the following project:
  - Model Boating Pond Island - wildlife sanctuary (£50,000). The project includes works to install additional reed beds and protect the island at the Model Boating Pond. £6,253.00 has currently been raised towards this project.
15. Donations can be made via the City of London website: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/donate-to-hampstead-heath>

## Resource Implications

16. No impact.

## Climate Implications

17. 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

18. No impact.

## Risk Implications

19. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register, which forms part of the meeting agenda.

### Equality Implications

20. No impact.

### Security Implications

21. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register, which forms part of the meeting agenda.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Sub-Divisional Plan 2022-25 (January update)
- Appendix 2 – List of proposed events for 2023
- Appendix 3 – Project on a Page (Swimming Capital Project)

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