

Committee	Dated:
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	8 February 2023
Subject: Highgate & Queen's Park 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 Decision
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 Highgate Wood and Queen's Park 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 raising 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:

- Members agree the proposed fees and charges for 2023-24, as set out in paragraphs 5-7 and 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 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.

Consultation

4. The proposed charges have been presented to the Highgate Woods Consultative Group and Queen's Park Consultative Group by email. Feedback received from Members supports an increase of the charges by 5%.

Proposed Charges 2023-24

5. 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.
6. Officers have undertaken benchmarking (appendix 2) to ensure charges remain in-line with local providers. The level of inflation is substantially higher (9.2% in December 2022, Office of National Statistics) and the proposal to increase the majority of fees and charges by 5% is aligned with some London boroughs that are increasing around this level to encourage participation and accessibility noting the increased cost of living.
7. The proposed fees and charges include concessionary rates, offering a 40% discount on the standard adult charge, except where indicated.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic Implications

8. 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).
9. 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

10. 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

11. Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn (Charity No. 232986) is a registered Charity and the City of London Corporation is the corporate trustee for the Charity. Members are reminded that any decision they take in respect of either 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

12. Risks are recorded in the Natural Environment Risk Register, which forms part of the meeting agenda pack.

Equality Implications

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

Climate Implications

14. 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

15. 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 Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.
16. 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
- Appendix 2 – Benchmarking

Contact

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