

Committee(s): West Ham Park Committee	Date(s): 16 May 2024
Subject: Planning for the 150 th anniversary for West Ham Park	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan (2024-2029) does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Diverse engage communities Leading sustainable environment Vibrant thriving destination Providing excellent services Flourishing public spaces
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Yes
If so, how much?	£35,000 - £55,000
What is the source of Funding?	Natural Environment local risk and external grants.
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Yes
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Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to the 150th anniversary celebration of West Ham Park's transfer to the City of London Corporation since the last Committee meeting on 19 February 2024.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report.

Main Report

1. West Ham Park was transferred to the City of London Corporation by the Gurney Family on 20 July 1874. Since then, the Corporation has steadfastly

overseen its protection, conservation, and improvement.

2. 150 years after the transfer, the Corporation will commemorate the anniversary with a programme of activities that celebrates the past, marks the present, and instills optimism for the future.
3. The Events Manager has been working with a steering group of Members, officers, and local stakeholders to deliver a diverse and varied programme of entertainment, workshops and sporting and wellbeing activities this spring and summer.
4. The programme of events is still being planned and finalised, but this report provides an overview. The themed program of activities will be delivered throughout the spring and summer that includes sports, learning and education, history, events, community activities and a green fair. The emphasis will be on the 20 and 21 July, in celebration of the actual anniversary of the transfer, with the first day focusing on music and culture, and the second focusing on sport and wellbeing. The current offering includes:
 - a. Spring and summer: The Learning Team will deliver a number of activities and events on Fridays, walks in the park will occur, the Friends of West Ham Park will continue to deliver community-based activities, the Newham Green Fair will occur on 6 May, Capital Kids Cricket will host activities on 24 June. In addition, the fun fair will support the 150th branding and celebration while on site in the park.
 - b. 20 July: The programme will culminate in a flagship event to mark the official transfer with a civic reception managed by the Remembrancer's, with invited guests including the City of London Corporation and London Borough of Newham. The day will begin at 12:30pm with a specially curated music event with a Bollywood theme, followed by a community music event hosted by the Friends of West Ham Park. In addition, the day will include children's themed activities, photography exhibitions, sustainability workshops, and a children's fair.
 - c. 21 July: This sports health and wellbeing day will feature a 'Give it a Go' event, featuring football activities sponsored by West Ham United, cricket, tennis, tai chi, athletics, and meditation, and will begin at 12.00pm and finish at 4.30pm.
5. With the support of Members and executive leadership, officers have secured and allocated c. £35,000 to ensure sufficient resources for the celebration programme. This funding will be used to support added event and programming delivery costs, additional grounds maintenance and reinstatement supply and material related costs, and the hiring of occasional casual staff required for additional tasks related to the increase in activities this financial year. Officers are also awaiting information on an application on

an additional £20,000 to fund an outdoor interpretive exhibition at two locations (The Guildhall and West Ham Park) to raise awareness and understanding of the park and the City Corporation's commitment, as well as the history of the site and its historic transfer to the City Corporation in 1874, similar to the successful and impactful exhibition displayed for Hampstead Heath's 150th anniversary. Any deficit will be covered by the Natural Environment local risk.

6. Officers invite all Members of the West Ham Park Committee to join this celebration, and a detailed event calendar will be shared once the programme is finalised in greater detail than noted in paragraph 4 above.

Financial Implications

7. As noted above covered in paragraph 5.

Resource Implications

8. The anniversary celebration will require additional operational resource as noted within this report.

Climate Implications

9. Included within the annual plan for 2023/24 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

10. No implications.

Risk Implications

11. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Equality Implications

12. No impact.

Charity implications

13. West Ham Park is a registered charity. Charity Law obliges a trustee to ensure that the decisions taken in relation to the Charity are taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Security Implications

14. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register.

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