

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Committee	Dated: 3 December 2024
Subject: Update to Hampstead Heath Management Strategy (2018-2028)	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes	-Diverse Engaged Communities -Dynamic Economic Growth -Leading Sustainable Environment -Vibrant Thriving Destination -Providing Excellent Services -Flourishing Public Spaces
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
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:	Katie Stewart, Executive Director Environment
Report author:	Bill LoSasso, Assistant Director (Superintendent), North London Open Spaces

Summary

This report summarises the work done to complete the planned midterm review of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy, which is attached in near-final form as an appendix, and seeks Committee approval to finalise the document and prepare for layout and publication.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the provided report and attached Hampstead Heath Management Strategy.

- Authorise the Superintendent, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to finalise the review to the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy (2018-2028)

Main Report

Background

1. As previously reported to this Committee, officers are updating all four management plans for the four open spaces that NLOS is responsible for (Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Queen's Park, and West Ham Park). Officers have retained a consultant with extensive experience in developing management plans and strategies for open spaces to support in that effort (Land Management Services).
2. As part of that effort, officers are completing the planned mid-term review of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy (2018-2028). The review of the Strategy ensured that it remains aligned with recent strategies that have been developed across the City Corporation in recent years, including the new Corporate Plan (2024-2029), Natural Environment Strategies (2024-2029), and Climate Action Strategy (2020-2027), as well as reflected world events, newly developed best practice, and experience gained in managing the Heath under the existing management plans.
3. While these new strategies and plans provide broad direction to NLOS in managing its sites and indeed will be furthered and delivered by our work at NLOS, the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy remains the primary guiding document for the management of Hampstead Heath.

Consultation

4. The 'Hampstead Heath Management Strategy Working Group' was formed from Members of this Committee and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee who opted in to participate in this planned review of the Strategy. All members of both committees were provided an opportunity to participate and to represent their respective committee during the process. The Working Group met two times for participatory engagement sessions with officers, Land Management Services, and this committee's chairman. In addition, members of the Working Group also provided additional written comments on circulated drafts of the Strategy while under development.
5. Additionally, the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee provided additional comments and input at its last committee meeting, as did the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum, whose members participated in a participatory engagement session and also provided written comments on the draft while under development.

Finalisation of the Reviewed Strategy

6. This draft is now in near-final form, subject to final comments of officers and this Committee and formal layout of the document for publication in alignment with relevant standards. Land Management Services will provide a presentation and overview of each plan for Members at the meeting on 3 December 2024.
7. Members are asked to note the work done to date, review the near-final draft, provide any final comments, and delegate authorisation to the Superintendent in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair to finalise the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy and prepare it for publication.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Financial implications

8. None from this Strategy. Future projects and initiatives in furtherance of the Strategy will have to be delivered in alignment with funding constraints.

Resource implications

9. Delivery of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy (2018-2028) will have to be delivered in alignment with funding constraints.

Legal implications

10. The City Corporation is responsible for ensuring that the Hampstead Heath charity fulfils its charitable purpose, which is the "preservation of Hampstead Heath for the recreation and enjoyment of the public". Upon approval and implementation, the management plans will assist the trustee in discharging this duty in accordance with the charity's objectives.

Risk implications

11. Risks are identified, regularly reviewed, and managed through the Hampstead Heath Risk Register

Equalities implications

12. The Heath Vision describes an inclusive and safe space that brings people together, where a diversity of people, activities and perspectives are welcomed and respected. One of the four Strategic Outcomes states: "The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors."

Climate implications

13. The Strategy was developed in consideration of the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy.

Security implications

14. Risks are identified, regularly reviewed, and managed through the Hampstead Heath Risk Register

Conclusion

15. The Hampstead Heath Management Strategy (2018-2028) has been reviewed at its midpoint as planned, in consultation as noted herein. The Strategy is now in near-final form, and authority is sought for the Superintendent, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to finalise and publish the document.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Hampstead Heath Management Strategy (2019-2018) following midpoint review
- Appendix 2 (via hyperlink): City of London Corporation Corporate Plan (2024-2029)
 - [Our Corporate Plan 2024-29 - City of London](#)
- Appendix 3 (via hyperlink): Natural Environment strategies (2024-2029)
 - [Natural Environment - City of London](#)
- Appendix 4 (via hyperlink): Hampstead Heath Management Strategy (2018-2028)
 - [Hampstead Heath Management Strategy](#)

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