


<p align="center">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p align="center">CABINET</p> <p align="center">5 MARCH 2018</p>	
<p>MAKING LONDON A NATIONAL PARK CITY</p>	
<p>Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Residents' Services – Councillor Wesley Harcourt</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification - For Decision</p> <p>Key Decision: Yes</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Mahmood Siddiqi - Director, Transport, Highways Parks & Leisure</p>	
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report seeks formal endorsement of the campaign to make London the world's first 'National Park City'.
- 1.2. The National Park City campaign is seeking the support of organisations, individual wards, and ward councillors across London to add weight to its campaign.

The aim is for Londoners to declare Greater London the world's first National Park City and to help;

- Ensure 100% of Londoners have free and easy access to high-quality green space
- Connect 100% of London's children to nature
- Make the majority of London physically green
- Improve London's air and water quality, year on year
- Improve the richness, connectivity and biodiversity of London's habitats
- Inspire the building of affordable green homes
- Inspire new business activities

- Promote London as a Green World City
- Nurture a shared National Park City identity for Londoners.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. To endorse the campaign to make London the world's first 'National Park City'.
- 2.2. To encourage all Hammersmith and Fulham councillors to declare their ward's support for the scheme.
- 2.3. To note that the process to declare support is straight forward and can be done via the following web site -
http://www.nationalparkcity.london/ward_support

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. Progressing the proposals to make London a National Park City was a recommendation of the resident-led Biodiversity Commission, which was charged by the Council to examine the issues affecting biodiversity in the borough.
- 3.2. Cabinet on 15th January 2018 welcomed the Biodiversity Commission's report findings and resolved that the Council promotes the findings and recommendations.
- 3.3. In December 2017, following work by the Council's Parks Commission and the Council's pledge to protect open space, Cabinet agreed to give special protection to many of the borough's green spaces, preserving them in perpetuity for future generations.
- 3.4. The aim is that an individual 'deed of dedication' will be created with open spaces charity Fields in Trust (FiT), while also working closely with local park groups. FiT has already declared their support for the National Park City initiative.
- 3.5. The Council wishes to build social, economic, and physical environments that create the necessary conditions to protect, promote, and support health and well-being. It is aiming to ensure that all public policies contribute to protecting and improving people's health and well-being.
- 3.6. The protection of the borough's green spaces reflects the Council's determination to be the best in the country. It has strong links to our Community Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (CSPAN) (2017-21), and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy aiming for the borough to be a "Healthy, Caring Place". Specifically, this will support a life course approach - "start well, stay well and age well" and will seek to reinforce 'health prevention is better than cure'.
- 3.7. One of the direct benefits of the Council's previous decision to work with FiT and protect our parks in perpetuity is that the Council has already secured a £5,000 revenue grant aimed at creating a project to get inactive community members more active.

- 3.8. The working partnership with FiT should also enable the Council to benefit from their positive associations with a number of national organisations across the country. These formal partnerships include: The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), Rugby Football Union (RFU), Football Association (FA), Sport England and the Heritage Lottery fund.

4. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 4.1. The Council is determined to become the greenest borough in the country. We want to entice wildlife to our streets, parks, and gardens. We will ensure that future developments in the borough are more environmentally-focused than ever before, encouraging spaces for nature, and improving the quality of life for everyone in Hammersmith & Fulham.
- 4.2. All our green spaces, including the 13 parks and open spaces managed by the Council that have been awarded Green Flag status, are valued, and provide many health and recreation benefits for residents.
- 4.3. In December 2017, as part of the Council's ambition to be the best and most environmentally positive borough in the country, Cabinet agreed to give special protection the borough's green spaces, preserving them in perpetuity for future generations through a deed of dedication with FiT, ensuring these treasured spaces can be enjoyed for many years to come.
- 4.4. London's overall landscape is central to our health and prosperity and the quality of the capital's built and natural environment – its green, blue, and open spaces – is what makes it one of the world's most desirable cities in which to live, work, and invest.
- 4.5. Over the last 18 months, a movement has been growing in London to make the city a greener, healthier, fairer and even more beautiful place to live. The objective of the movement is to achieve National Park City status for Greater London.
- 4.6. The Greater London National Park City initiative has already gained support from more than 100 organisations, ranging from small community groups to universities and large companies. In addition, the London Assembly unanimously passed a motion to help develop the proposals and further support has been given from Parliament and local government.
- 4.7. The aim is for Londoners to declare Greater London the world's first National Park City and thereby help to:
- ;
- Ensure 100% of Londoners have free and easy access to high-quality green space
 - Connect 100% of London's children to nature
 - Make the majority of London physically green
 - Improve London's air and water quality, year on year

- Improve the richness, connectivity and biodiversity of London's habitats
- Inspire the building of affordable green homes
- Inspire new business activities
- Promote London as a Green World City
- Nurture a shared National Park City identity for Londoners.

5. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 5.1. The London National Park City initiative has three core aims:
1. Connect more people to nature and the outdoors, improving their health, wellbeing and social cohesion
 2. Create high quality greenspace and better places in London, delivering improvements for wildlife, people's enjoyment and an attractive and sustainable environment for living and working in
 3. Promote the identity of London as the world's first National Park City, helping residents and visitors to appreciate the potential for a rich cultural life anchored in its outdoor heritage.
- 5.2. It is also working to link people who live in London and other cities to the national and international family of nature reserves, national parks and other protected areas. Two of its targets are to connect 100% of London's children to nature, and to make more than 50% of London physically green and blue.
- 5.3. To become a National Park in England, Natural England (the Government's adviser for the natural environment in England) "must view a landscape as an extensive tract of country".
- 5.4. London, with its distinctive, urban natural and cultural heritage, historic landscape, and many opportunities for outdoor recreation, meets many requirements for becoming a National Park. However, it isn't considered an extensive tract of country in the spirit of existing legislation. As such, the intention of this initiative is to transform Greater London into a National Park City, a new kind of National Park that sits outside of current legislation.
- 5.5. London can become a National Park City once the majority (328) of London's 654 wards, the Mayor of London, and the London Assembly have declared their support.
- 5.6. As at 13th February 2018, the total number of London wards declared is 346 (52.9%). For Hammersmith & Fulham, Munster, Palace Riverside, Parsons Green and Walham, Ravenscourt Park, Sands End, Town. 6/16 (38%) are currently showing as declared on the London Park City Website. The campaign is now set to work with the London Mayor and other stakeholders to take this forward. It would therefore be a timely point for the borough to confirm its commitment to the campaign.

- 5.7. 85% of Londoners think that making London a National Park City is a good idea and 84% think that it is something London Councils and the Mayor of London should support.
- 5.8. Councillors can declare their wards support for the scheme at: http://www.nationalparkcity.london/ward_support website (see Appendix 1 – Declaration of Support).

6. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 6.1. It is intended that the London National Park City will:
- be privately and commercially funded, and not require any public funding
 - avoid duplicating work being done by others
 - not have any formal planning powers or add new layers of bureaucracy
 - not manage any parks
 - add value by creating an unprecedented opportunity to make London not just a political, financial and cultural centre, but an ecological centre too.
- 6.2. No funding is being sought from London's councils or central government. The National Park City Foundation will be funded through a mixture of private giving, corporate giving, and corporate services.
- 6.3. Given the importance of keeping London's ability to grow, develop and remain the dynamic city it is, London cannot adopt the planning restrictions that National Parks have. Instead, being a National Park City presents an opportunity to build green infrastructure and services, creating a more sustainable long-term future for London.
- 6.4. Creating new housing remains a priority in London. If London becomes a National Park City, it is hoped this will encourage the creation of more sustainable, better connected, denser, greener, higher quality housing with more cohesive communities and networks and with a stronger and greener sense of place.
- 6.5. Unlike the UK's other National Parks, London National Park City would not control development or prepare planning policies. These powers would remain with the Greater London Authority, the 32 London boroughs, and the City of London Corporation. It is not intended to add another layer of bureaucracy to decision-making in London.
- 6.6. In 2017, the Mayor of London committed to making London a National Park City by applying some of the key principles of National Parks to London. His draft Environment Strategy stated that London being a National Park City would mean 'giving everyone opportunities to experience, enjoy and benefit from the natural environment. It would also highlight the uniqueness of the city's green infrastructure. In addition, it would be better managed to the benefit of people and nature, and the economy of the city on which all Londoners depend.'

- 6.7. The definition of a National Park City in the Mayor's draft Environment Strategy is a 'city where people and nature are better connected'. According to the strategy, it will bring opportunities to create a common vision of the environmental, social and economic benefits of London's green infrastructure. It will provide a framework to promote investment in London's natural capital and green infrastructure, and will ensure effective coordination, better valuation and more innovation from all those involved in protecting and enhancing London's Environment.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1. The Strategic Leadership Team have been consulted on this report.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. It is not expected that there will be any negative implications for protected groups in making London a National Park City. However, any new landscaping of public areas may have negative impacts on some disabled people if it reduces accessibility to public space. The Council is establishing a co-production framework within the new Public Services Reform Department and this will be used to ensure that access to the public realm will be maintained or enhanced by any environmental improvements across the borough.
- 8.2. Implications completed by Peter Smith, Head of Policy and Strategy, tel. 020 8753 2206.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 9.2. Comments completed by Rhian Davies, Monitoring Officer, tel. 0208 753 2729.

10. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 10.2. Comments completed by Mark Jones, Director for Finance and Resources, tel. 020 8753 6700.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 11.1. Air quality, climate change and flooding are costly environmental issues that do not respect borough boundaries. All of these can be mitigated by a strong greening strategy that boosts natural habitats and improves biodiversity. The National Park City would help to deliver London's enormous potential to become an even better environment for wildlife.

11.2. There is an incredible opportunity to harness community power to improve the quality of London's urban habitats and environmental risks.

11.3. Implications verified by: Michael Sloniowski, Risk Manager, tel. 020 8753 2587.

12. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

12.1. There are no implications from any impact of the proposals in the report on businesses in the Borough.

Implications verified by David Burns, Head of Housing Strategy, 0208 753 6090.

13. COMMERCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1. There are no commercial implications arising from this report.

Comments completed by Joanna Angelides, Procurement Consultant, tel. 0208 753 2586.

14. IT IMPLICATIONS

14.1. There are no direct technical implications arising from the recommendations in this report. If any technical systems are engaged at later date in the initiative, then IT Services will need to be consulted to assess any potential implications.

14.2. If the proposed partnership working with local community groups (see paragraph 3.4) involves the handling and/or sharing of personal or official sensitive data then a Privacy Impact Assessment will be required asap to ensure all potential data protection risks are properly assessed and mitigating actions agreed and implemented to ensure effective and efficient collaboration, some of which will need to be included in the forthcoming tender packs. For example, a contract schedule or SLA that includes or incorporates H&F's information sharing agreement template.

Implications verified by: Ciara Shimidzu, Head of Information and Strategy, tel. 020 8753 3895.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	None		

Appendix 1 – Declaration of Support

“In recognition of London’s extraordinary, inspirational and distinctive living landscape; its ability to give, support, home and bring joy to life, and the will of Londoners to unlock its awesome natural potential, we declare that Greater London should become the world’s first National Park City.

World renowned for its cultural heritage and as a centre of global commerce, it’s also a place where people and wildlife live together. National Park City status celebrates London’s significant natural heritage, recognises its value in supporting and improving the lives of residents and visitors, and affirms that a healthy environment is essential to the prosperity of any city.

The London National Park City exists in recognition of all that has been done and will be done to conserve, enhance and benefit our natural, cultural and built heritage, and to inspire us all to build a greener, healthier and fairer city.

This Declaration celebrates the extraordinary diversity and interdependence of London’s people, communities, places, wildlife, habitats and ideas. It recognises that all residents and visitors have the potential to positively shape the Greater London National Park City, and that it exists to benefit and be enjoyed by all.

This Declaration calls for a London National Park City Partnership to be established, and challenged to inspire and support individuals, groups and organisations to better enjoy, understand and care for our city; to protect and enhance our natural and cultural heritage, and foster the wellbeing of communities.

In recognition of all this, I give my support for London to be declared a National Park City.”