

Report to	Mousehold Heath conservators 16 June 2017	Item
Report of	Head of citywide services	10
Subject	Mousehold Heath management plan 2018-2028 development - stage 1	

Purpose

To agree the vision statement and management objectives for the Mousehold Heath management plan 2018-2028 to enable work on stage 2 to commence, developing the management prescriptions and projects.

Recommendation

To:

- 1) approve the vision statement
- 2) approve the management plan objectives
- 3) schedule an additional management sub-group meeting to develop the management prescriptions for each management objective and the projects to deliver them for consideration at the September meeting of the Mousehold Heath Conservators.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority city of character and culture

Financial implications

Any financial implications arising from this report will have or will be met from approved budgetary provision

Contact officers

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Background documents

Report

Background

1. The Conservators resolved to agree the revised management plan format and proposed timescale and key decision making points for the Mousehold Heath management plan review at the Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting on 17 March 2017.
2. The outcomes for stage 1 of the review are an update of the factual information contained in the 2013-18 management plan and a vision and management objectives being defined.
3. It was resolved that the development of the vision and objectives would be done by the management sub-group and brought to the June Conservators' meeting for final discussion and approval. However, circumstances relating to resourcing the meeting and availability of members resulted in the sub-group meeting being cancelled.
4. The agreed revision of the management plan format to support a Green Flag application in 2018 involves linking the site's management objectives to the eight themes that Green Flag have identified as being required for a well managed site.

Vision statement

5. Vision statements are a public declaration of purpose, destination and the values that guide the decisions for the period of the plan.
6. A suggested vision statement for Mousehold Heath is:

'The Mousehold Conservators are committed to safeguarding the long future of Mousehold Heath as a high quality and accessible natural area for residents and visitors to the city to enjoy.

Mousehold Heath will be managed in a way that protects and enhances the valuable historic and natural features of the site, and provides opportunities for all to be involved in looking after, learning about and enjoying the heath.'

Management plan objectives

7. Management objectives, prescriptions and projects are developed to work towards delivering the vision.
8. The eight themes that Green Flag judge a site against, which they have identified as being required for a well managed, quality open space are:
 - Welcoming
 - Healthy, safe and secure
 - Clean and well maintained
 - Environmental management
 - Biodiversity, landscape and heritage
 - Community involvement
 - Marketing and communication
 - Management

9. Taking into account the eight themes for a well managed and quality public open space the following management objectives are proposed.
- a) To ensure Mousehold Heath is a welcoming place for people to visit.
(Entrances, access)
 - b) To protect Mousehold Heath and ensure that it is a safe and secure place to visit.
(Facility provision and safety, personal safety, dogs)
 - c) To ensure that Mousehold Heath is clean and well maintained.
(Litter management, grounds maintenance, tree maintenance, building maintenance, equipment maintenance)
 - d) To manage Mousehold Heath in a way that has a positive impact on the environment.
(Managing impact, waste reduction, chemical use, peat use)
 - e) To improve habitats and the natural environment for wildlife, to enhance the biodiversity of Mousehold Heath.
(Management of woodland, notable trees, heathland and grassland)
 - f) To safeguard the historic landscape, archaeological features and buildings of Mousehold Heath.
 - g) To provide opportunities local communities to be involved in in all aspect of our work.
(Committee, groups and associations involvement, surveys)
 - h) To promote Mousehold Heath to increase awareness, knowledge, understanding and sense of pride of Mousehold Heath
(Interpretation, events, educational activities and school visits)