**London Green Spaces Commission: Meeting of 11 June 2019**

**Chair**:          Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, GLA

**Deputy Chair**: Cllr Julian Bell, Chair of London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee, Leader of Ealing Council **[Apologies]**

**Members:**   Fiona Brenner, Area Manager, Groundwork London | Prakash Daswani MBE, Cultural activist, Past Chief Executive of Cultural Co-operation |Fiona Dean, Director of Leisure, LB Southwark | Ruth Holmes, Design Principal, Landscape and Public Realm, LLDC | Nigel Hughes MBE Chair, Victoria Business Improvement District; Estate Surveyor, Grosvenor | Trina Lynskey, Chair of park user group Deptford Folk & Early Years Education Consultant | Nicola Mathers, Deputy Chief Executive/Head of Leadership, Future of London | Jill McLaughlin, Director, Swans Solutions | Peter Neal, Peter Neal Consulting | Tim Pope, PPL, Associate Director. Previously senior manager at PwC | Keith Townsend, Former Executive Director, Environment, LB Ealing and Adrian Wickham, Head of Business Development, Oracle Solicitors.

**Observers:** Chris Bunting, London Borough of Ealing| Matthew Gunyon, London Borough of Barnet| John Haxworth, Barton Willmore| Dr Meredith Whitten, Researcher and Katharina Winbeck, Head of Transports, London Councils.

**Officers:** Andrew Jones, GLA Environment Team, Ruth Knight, GLA Environment Team.

**Background**

Under **Policy 5.3.1 of the London Environment Strategy**, the Mayor committed to: *address under investment, and improve the management of London’s green infrastructure, by developing new business models and improving awareness of the benefits of London’s green infrastructure.* This includedestablishing a London Green Spaces Commission to develop new models for the delivery and management of London’s green infrastructure. The aim of the Commission is to support London boroughs to transform the way they manage and fund their services so that they can maintain or increase investment in parks and green spaces, in the context of substantial and ongoing constraints imposed on public sector funding.

**Meeting of 11 June 2019**

**The Chair welcomed Commissioners, Chris Bunting, Assistant Director Leisure, LB Ealing, Matthew Gunyon, Greenspaces Service Manager, LB Barnet and John Haxworth, Barton Willmore to the meeting.**

*Part A: Oral Evidence:*

Chris Bunting presented the LB Ealing’s Green Spaces Strategy and Ealing Parks Foundation to the Board. Members heard that Ealing planned to deliver cost reductions whilst developing entrepreneurial and commercial approaches to maximise value for money and secure new investment.

Matthew Gunyon presented LB Barnet’s Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2016 and the Natural Capital Accounting 2017 Strategy to the Board. Members heard that LB Barnet aimed to get the best out of parks and improve air quality by looking after and investing in Barnet’s greenspaces.

John Haxworth presented the online tool, Greenkeeper to the Board. Greenkeeper was developed to support investors and managers of urban green infrastructure. Freely available data sources had been combined with specifically commissioned smart data and emerging research findings to create a tool that helped model how green spaces could be transformed. Chris Bunting, Matthew Gunyon and John Haxworth answered questions.

*Oral Update on Written Feedback*

*Officers provided the Board with an update on the written feedback collected by the GLA Environment Team. Members heard that the call for written feedback was open for four weeks. During this four-week period, sixty responses were received. Eleven London Boroughs and six Friends Groups participated. The GLA Environment Team is working to ensure the Commission reaches new audiences in order to obtain more engagement with underrepresented groups and sectors. Members noted that there would be facilitated workshops to address a variety of greenspace issues and involve Boroughs in the Commission.*

*Discussion of Next Steps*

*The Next Steps paper was discussed and refined by the Board. This paper outlined a variety of workstreams and forms the basis of work going forward.*

**Cleared by**: Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, GLA

**Secretariat Officer:** Laura Marshall, Board Officer