

London National Park City Proposal Update

May 2017

Further to the “National Park City” proposal published in July 2015, the Greater London National Park City Foundation is being established to help make the London National Park City a success and support the development of a National Park City Network (previously referred to as a “Partnership”).

Charitable status

An application has been submitted for the London National Park City Foundation to become a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). The Network will not need a legal status and will be administered by the Foundation.



Charitable aims

Inspired by the purposes of the UK’s rural national parks, the 2015 proposal states that the purposes of the Network will be to:

- Encourage residents and visitors to better enjoy, understand and care for our National Park City
- Protect and enhance our urban natural and cultural heritage
- Foster the wellbeing of our communities
- Inspire individuals, groups and organisations to share and act towards these aims

Building on these, and with the support of the Charity Commission the charitable objects of the London National Park City Foundation are to:

- To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Greater London having aesthetic, architectural, historic, scientific or educational interest;
- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Greater London;
- To advance the education of the public in the heritage and culture of Greater London;
- To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater London the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants

The original 2015 proposal includes more specific aims that include 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
- Promote London as a Green World City
- Nurture a shared National Park City identity for Londoners
- *Inspire the building of green and affordable homes*
- *Inspire new business activities*

This update revises these final two aims (in italics) to:

- Inspire greener living
- Inspire new cross-sector activities, collaboration and opportunities

Inline with the requirements for being a charity, the Greater London National Park City Foundation will not be directly promoting business interests or the building of affordable homes, but if our work is successful, new opportunities in the business and housing sectors may arise. Exceptions may include raising public awareness of opportunities for recreation, celebrating best practice through awards or running open innovation competitions. In any instance, the initiatives will meet the Charity Commission's "public benefit" requirement.



Luke Massey

National Park City Mandate

The working definition for a National Park City is:

"A large urban area that is managed and semi-protected through both formal and informal means to enhance the natural capital of its living landscape. A defining feature is the widespread and significant commitment of residents, visitors and decision-makers to allow natural processes to provide a foundation for a better quality of life for wildlife and people."

The 2015 proposal stated that:

"In the UK, electoral wards are our smallest and most local political areas. Councillors are elected to every ward and local government council. Ward councillors are our most grassroots and accessible political

representatives. The principle of this campaign, therefore, is to gain the support of at least two-thirds of London's 649 wards, the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. In doing so, this will provide the legitimacy to transform the capital into an official National Park City."

The trustees of the National Park City Foundation have consulted with a range of experts and reviewed the principle of the campaign regarding the political threshold of support that is required to provide the legitimacy to declare the capital a National Park City. While the campaign will continue to recruit the support of two-thirds or more of the capital's elected ward teams, it has been decided that a simple majority (which includes the support of nearly 1000 councillors) and of reasonably mixed political representation spread across a large geographic area, along with the confirmed support of the Mayor of London and the London Assembly, is enough to demonstrate widespread political support.

This 2017 update revises the campaign's aim to:

The principle of this campaign, therefore, is to gain the support of the majority (328) of London's 654 ward teams across Greater London, the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. In doing so, this will provide the legitimacy to declare the capital a National Park City. We shall work to recruit the support of as many London ward teams as possible both before and after securing this mandate.

After any final formal declaration there will be significant preparation time to develop the National Park City Foundation, the National Park City Network and both inform and excite Londoners. This will be followed by a launch season of events and activities across the capital.



Luke Massey

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