

**ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST
MEETINGS OF THE STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
& THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Date: 17th September 2026

Location: Creativity Pavilion

CC: 1800hrs

SAC: 1900hrs

Report Title: Charitable Trust Progress Report

Purpose: To update the SAC & CC on progress of Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust during FY 2026/2027

1. Recommendations

1.1 To note the contents of this report.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report summarises progress to date in FY 2026/27, aligned to the Trust's Vision to **"Create a Sustainable Home for All That We Do."** Updates under each strategic goal highlight the most material delivery milestones, issues, and achievements since the previous report. Vision and Goals can be found at Appendix 1

3. **Provide Great Entertainment and Culture for All:** *Accessible and welcoming, we will continue to challenge ourselves to gain better understanding of our current and future audiences and their needs, ensuring our Cultural and Entertainment programme reflects the tastes and innovations of the time. We will support and develop opportunities for artists to showcase their talents and reach new and diverse audiences.*

3.1 Delivery remains strong across both the commercial and cultural programme, with a varied and high-quality schedule spanning concerts, theatre, corporate events and exhibitions.

3.2 Several high-profile concerts performed strongly during the period. Highlights in the Great Hall included three nights of Empire of the Sun, while the Summer Season returned in July with successful performances from The Maccabees, Wet Leg, Super Furry Animals, Richard Ashcroft and two nights of The Streets. Kaleidoscope Festival, headlined by Rudimental, sold out and received excellent audience feedback and reviews.

- 3.3 Following Kaleidoscope, indoor football screenings were held in the West Hall for England's quarter-final and semi-final matches.
- 3.4 Kaleidoscope Festival 2027 is now on sale and 2027 summer season concerts will go on sale over the coming months.
- 3.5 The Red Bull Soapbox Race returned to Alexandra Palace for its seventh edition, welcoming thousands of spectators to the Park for a celebration of creativity, engineering and entertainment.
- 3.6 The Theatre programme continued to deliver a broad range of activity, including An Evening with Alice Osman, Ricky Gervais and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Mandle Cheung. The Theatre also hosted a highly successful two-week run of *Malory Towers*, a co-production with Emma Rice. The production achieved over 90% ticket sales and received numerous four and five-star reviews, further demonstrating the Theatre's established and loyal audience base.
- 3.7 Leisure and ancillary offers continue to play an important role in the year-round visitor experience. The quieter summer trading period at the Ice Rink has allowed the team to undertake essential maintenance works and facility improvements ahead of the busy autumn and winter season.
- 3.8 The Boathouse continues to operate seven days a week, opening from 10:00 to 16:00 on weekdays and 09:00 to 17:00 at weekends. A targeted local marketing campaign is now live to increase awareness and drive footfall. Pedalo hire has performed particularly well during the summer period; however, due to reduced water levels in the lake, operations have had to be paused.
- 3.9 The Summit Rooftop Experience continues to attract both local and national visitors and is becoming an increasingly important year-round attraction for Alexandra Palace. A dedicated summer marketing campaign is currently underway to increase awareness and drive additional visitor numbers.
- 3.10 Alexandra Palace is supporting the Government's Great British Summer campaign. Alongside the wide range of free family activities available across the Park, a series of Summer Savings offers have been introduced to help families make the most of their visit. These include discounted boat hire, reduced-price skating sessions, money off children's meals at both the Boathouse and Phoenix Bar & Pizzeria, and discounted tickets for the Summit experience.
- 3.11 The pre-registration campaign for the Alexandra Palace Fireworks & Drone Festival is now live. The event will take place on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November 2026. Saturday's event will feature an 8.00pm display alongside a German Bier Festival, while Sunday will have a stronger family focus, including an earlier 6.00pm

display. Ice skating, the bonfire, DJ tent and funfair will operate across both days. Information for residents and the wider community will be shared in due course and published on the Alexandra Palace website. Tickets are on sale from 2nd September, with further details to be announced nearer the event. Details of road closures will be published and proactively shared with residents nearer the time of the event.

- 3.12 Teams are now preparing for a busy autumn and winter period across the venue. The live events programme includes several concerts in the Great Hall and returning exhibitions, while the festive season will feature a production of *Sherlock Holmes* in the Theatre, *Cinderella on Ice*, and the return of Festive Skate.

- 3.13 The PDC World Darts Championship will move into the Great Hall for the first time in December 2026, increasing overall event capacity and reinforcing Alexandra Palace's position as the event's long-term home. The championship will run from Friday 11 December 2026 to Sunday 3 January 2027 and will comprise 36 sessions. A test event may also be held in advance of the championship. The outdoor beer garden, event activations and sections of the terrace will only be accessible to event customers to support security and event delivery. Tickets go on sale in September.

- 4. **Build Climate Change Resilience:** *Actively responding to the climate change emergency, we will strive and challenge ourselves to take the Palace off grid within a generation, lessening our impact on the environment, reducing our energy consumption and harnessing the parkland to build climate resilience.*

- 4.1 Alexandra Park and Palace is committed to making environmentally and financially sustainable choices that address climate change while protecting this historic site for future generations. Our ambition is to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2041, in line with Haringey Council's target. While the technical solutions needed to reach net zero are well understood, progress is currently constrained by limited funding. APP's annual energy consumption is significant, with gas use equivalent to around 850 households and electricity use equivalent to approximately 1,740 households, representing the energy demand of one to two London neighbourhoods.

- 4.2 To deliver net zero in a practical and affordable way, APP has developed a phased carbon reduction programme with support from the Mayor of London's Local Energy Accelerator and Zero Carbon Accelerator. The strategy is structured around three work packages: energy efficiency, renewable energy generation and heat decarbonisation. This approach prioritises reducing energy demand and costs first, creating a stronger foundation for future investment in renewable technologies and low-carbon heating systems. Collectively, these measures have the potential to

substantially reduce emissions from APP's estate, which is currently one of the borough's largest sources of carbon emissions.

- 4.3 Given the challenging funding environment for public sector, heritage and charitable organisations, APP is currently prioritising Package 1: Energy Efficiency. This package focuses on practical, phased improvements that reduce wasted energy while respecting the Palace's heritage fabric, including upgrades to heating and lighting controls, improved monitoring and metering, optimisation of system settings, and measures to reduce heat loss. These projects offer strong value for money and reduce energy consumption equivalent to the gas use of 39 households and the electricity use of 167 households. Importantly, they also improve visitor comfort and prepare the estate for future decarbonisation measures.
- 4.4 Looking ahead, APP's longer-term ambitions include Package 2: Renewable Generation and Package 3: Heat Decarbonisation. Renewable generation options include solar photovoltaic installations on buildings and car parks, as well as potential wind energy projects, helping to reduce energy costs and reliance on the grid. Heat decarbonisation would replace existing gas boilers through the development of an on-site heat pump solution. These measures could deliver substantial carbon savings, including reducing gas demand equivalent to between 550 and 710 households. However, both packages require further development work and significant external funding, which is not currently available. As a result, APP's immediate focus remains on delivering energy efficiency improvements while building the evidence base and seeking future investment opportunities.
5. **Protect Our Heritage Assets:** *Reverse the decline in the heritage asset by raising the funds needed to tackle the backlog of conservation and infrastructure repair and maintenance across the estate. We commit to utilising innovative sustainable materials and methods at every opportunity.*
 - 5.1 A comprehensive building-wide drone survey has been completed across the Palace, using both daytime and night-time flights, high-resolution imagery and thermal imaging. This is the first survey of this type undertaken across the whole building. The data will be used to develop a detailed three-dimensional record of the Palace, identify defects and areas of heat loss or water ingress, and strengthen the evidence base for future fabric maintenance and capital investment.
 - 5.2 Planning and development of the Great Hall Bridge project continues. The team is progressing the scope and design requirements, with the next stages being developed alongside the operational and heritage constraints of the Great Hall.
 - 5.3 The refurbishment of the Ice Rink mezzanine toilets has been completed. The works form part of the continuing programme to improve the condition and quality of

customer-facing facilities while addressing areas of the building that require targeted investment.

- 5.4 The Joint Control Room / Security Room project is approximately halfway through its construction programme. The project will bring together security control and event control functions within a single purpose-designed facility and includes significant upgrades to CCTV, access control and communications. Construction and technical coordination continues to be closely managed to protect the programme and planned occupation.
- 5.5 A complete planned shutdown of the Palace's main electrical transformers has been successfully undertaken as part of routine high-voltage maintenance. The overnight operation required the building's electrical mains to be fully shut down and involved extensive coordination across Property & Engineering, Security, IT, Operations and contractors. The shutdown was also used to identify and verify services supported by standby and backup power, strengthening future incident management and business continuity planning.
- 5.6 The EE infrastructure project is approaching completion, with final works and close-out activities now being progressed. The project represents a further improvement to the Palace's communications infrastructure and resilience.
- 5.7 The Great Hall 'Toblerone' replacement project has now been completed. The existing structures have been removed and replaced with new square-profile trusses, providing the opportunity to undertake a significant upgrade of the associated infrastructure. The Great Hall emergency lighting system has been overhauled, including improvements to lux levels and replacement cabling to meet current regulatory requirements. The new installation also provides improved control of the Great Hall lighting during events. As part of the project, PAVA cabling within the Great Hall has also been renewed and upgraded to improve system performance and output.
- 6. **Safeguard Our Green Lung for London:** *We will implement new technology and innovation to help local habitats and species thrive in our 196-acre park, whilst encouraging diverse audiences, new visitors and new communities to engage with and benefit from our unique environment through outdoor interpretation, events and activities.*
 - 6.1 The Park team prepared the site for the summer series of events by tidying shrub beds, cutting back brambles, and using soil and woodchip to make uneven areas of ground safe and suitable for public use.
 - 6.2 Drought conditions have had a visible impact on the Park, with grassed areas turning brown, young trees coming under pressure, and reduced water levels in the

lake and ponds. The team has prioritised watering young trees to support them through this challenging period.

- 6.3 A fire in the composting area within the paddocks was attended by the Fire Brigade and quickly brought under control. Familiarisation visits have since taken place with the Fire Brigade to highlight areas with limited access and the bespoke water outlets available across the Park for emergency use.
- 6.4 Further action has been taken to reduce fire risk in the Park, including reducing the volume of material in the composting area and bringing forward the meadow cut-and-collect operation to reduce the risk of grass fires. The Park Fire Management Plan has also been reviewed in light of more frequent drought and heatwave conditions.
- 6.5 The Park continues to benefit from significant volunteer support across a range of projects:
- AXA insurance: painting railings and bollards around the play area and lakeside
 - Dice (our ticketing partner): litter picking and archive volunteering
 - AP staff undertook a litter pick for World Environment Day
 - Friends of the Park: working in the ant hill meadow and strengthening the laid hedge in the Grove spinney
 - The Conservation Volunteers: glade management and woodland improvements in the Blandford woodland
- 6.6 The Friends of the Park celebrated their 20th anniversary with a fete in the Grove in June. Opened by the Mayor of Haringey, Cllr Dawn Barnes, the community event brought together live music from the Palace Band, the Swing Busters, the London Metropolitan Brass Community Band and the London Metropolitan Brass Senior Band. Family activities included Art in the Park, crown making and a nature scavenger hunt. Special recognition was given to Gordon and Jane Hutchinson for their long-standing leadership and commitment to the Friends since its creation.
- 6.7 Volunteer activity, the work of the Friends of the Park, and the outdoor learning programme all contributed to Alexandra Park being awarded Green Flag status for 2026. The award is the international quality standard for parks and green spaces, and this marks the 19th time the Park has achieved it. The London in Bloom judge visited in June, with the results due to be announced in September.
7. **Protect Our Archives and Share Our Stories In Innovative Ways:** *Celebrating our heritage and growing our reputation in the sector, we will provide environmentally sustainable facilities for the care of our valuable collections and archives to tell our stories and enable access to a wider range of people.*

- 7.1 The archive digitisation and storage project has progressed since the last report, with more than 1,000 drawings and plans now scanned and securely stored. Progress has been slower than anticipated because enhanced cyber security requirements introduced through the Cyber Essentials work have required a review of legacy technology used within the project.
- 7.2 Archive volunteers continue to play an important role in preserving, documenting and improving access to the archive material, helping to ensure the collections remain accessible and useful for future research, interpretation and engagement.
- 8. **Inspire And Engage Our Communities:** *Taking inspiration from our eclectic history and inspiring cultural assets, we will collaborate with our communities and partners providing a range of creative and engaging events and workshops, to help people of all ages and backgrounds gain skills, explore their creativity and improve their well-being whilst cultivating warm and affectionate attachments to everything we do.*
 - 8.1 Planning and development of displays and programming for the celebration of Ally Pally's BBC television's 90th anniversary continue following the launch of the heritage season on 10th August.
 - 8.2 Over the summer, regular programmes for older people, including Singing for the Brain and Café Palais, paused their usual sessions. In response, we delivered *Mindful Music and Movement* and took Café Palais on the road, visiting care homes across the borough. The first session, led by Kaos Choir leader Suzy Davies at Priscilla Wakefield House, brought live music and social engagement directly to residents.
 - 8.3 Alexandra Palace partnered with Pinhole London to deliver *Upside Down London*, a programme of heritage and early photography workshops during July. Participants explored the history of photography through the camera obscura and hands-on creative activities.
 - 8.4 Young people from across Haringey connected with local youth services at Alexandra Palace through a partnership with Haringey Council Youth Service and the United Borders bus, helping to raise awareness of local opportunities and support networks.
 - 8.5 Thirty students from Alexandra Palace Performing Arts School concluded the summer term with a celebratory performance in the Theatre, attended by 54 family members and friends. Over the summer, work also progressed on the rebrand of the school to *Palace Performing Arts*, supported by new films and evergreen digital marketing campaigns.

- 8.6 Twenty-seven volunteers attended the annual Volunteer Summer Social in the Theatre Courtyard. The event brought together volunteers and staff from across the organisation, including Fundraising, Parks, Theatre and Strategic Projects, recognising the vital contribution volunteers make to the charity.
- 8.7 Nineteen volunteers supported the Curatorial Team over the summer by digitising archive material and updating the collections management system. This work is helping to improve access to the collections and strengthen long-term stewardship of the Palace's heritage assets.
- 8.8 Twenty-five volunteers from AXA supported a park improvement day, painting railings across the site. Following the success of the event, discussions are underway to increase the company's volunteer contribution next year.
- 8.9 Development of new community growing spaces continued through the Community Herb Garden project, part of the wider *Wild in the Park* initiative. Volunteers and community groups have supported site preparation, groundworks and soil improvement, while new accessible raised planting beds are being constructed to encourage participation, biodiversity and pollinator-friendly habitats.
- 8.10 In September, Rhythm Stick will launch a new Events Management course for people who identify as disabled. The programme will provide employability skills and insight into careers across events, marketing, technical theatre and venue operations through sessions led by Alexandra Palace staff.
9. **Strengthen Our Overall Resilience:** *Safeguarding the assets for future generations, we will fortify our governance and raise funds through diversifying our revenue streams. This will include introducing a donor programme, building our corporate partnerships in line with our Values and attracting visitors all year round to the Park and Palace, creating a dynamic and sustainable future for the charity.*
- 9.1 Fundraising activity has continued to support delivery of the Strategic Plan. The wetlands crowdfunder, delivered in partnership with the Friends of Alexandra Park to support accessibility improvements in the Alexandra Park Wetlands, closed on 15 June. The campaign reached its initial £10,000 target within two days and raised over £24,000, with Gift Aid expected to increase the total income from the appeal.
- 9.2 The campaign also benefited from an anonymous £7,000 match-funding gift, which helped to encourage further public donations by matching contributions pound for pound. In total, more than 400 individuals supported the appeal, with gifts ranging from £5 to £1,000.

10. **Restore Derelict Spaces:** *Adopting an adaptive reuse approach to restoration, we will bring currently underused, inaccessible or derelict spaces back into use, unlocking potential and enabling us to welcome everyone through our doors with a wider range of activities, entertainment and experiences.*
- 10.1 Design work continues on the Creative Campus (phase 1) project, which includes the North East Office Building, Theatre Courtyard and Transmitter Hall. A Development Phase application is due to be submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in the winter. Further detail is provided in the Planning and Listed Building Consent Report.
- 10.2 The Panorama Room Replacement Project is also progressing, with planning and listed building consent applications expected to be submitted at the end of September. Further detail is provided in the separate Panorama Room Report. Both the Panorama Room and Creative Campus projects form part of the Strategic Plan.
11. **Establish new, Exciting Partnerships:** *Amplifying our purpose of enriching lives, we will strive to form stand-out partnerships with universities, colleges and creative institutes and employers to support skills development and career opportunities for people of all ages.*
- 11.1 Discussions are progressing with several partners on the development of heritage skills training at Alexandra Palace. Most significantly, Alexandra Palace is working with a local college and a heritage skills company to develop a pilot programme focused initially on lime plastering, with practical training proposed to take place on site.
- 11.2 The pilot will be recorded and evaluated to measure its impact and capture learning for future development. This evidence will help support the longer-term ambition for Alexandra Palace to become a Creative Campus and a centre for heritage skills training. Further detail on the pilot and wider programme will be provided in a future report.

12. Legal Implications

The Council's Director of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments.

13. Financial Implications

The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments.

14. Use of Appendices

- Appendix 1 - APPs Vision & Goals

15. Background Papers

None.