

<b>Committee(s):</b> Education Board	<b>Date:</b> 05/02/2024
<b>Subject:</b> Education Strategy Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	2,3,8 & 10
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Torri Stewart, Lead Officer, Strategy & Impact	

### Summary

This report updates Members on development work for the 2024-29 Education Strategy. The report:

- Explains that background work is now complete, including reviews of the internal and external education landscapes and a review of the previous strategies. Additionally, extensive stakeholder engagement has taken place including engagement with learners and parents from the Family of Schools.
- Provides an update on the potential priorities that have emerged and illustrates how these have been considered along with Member preferences to inform the working draft of the new strategy document (included in **Appendix 1**) which is presented for information.
- Asks Members to decide between two options regarding the final structure of the new strategic document.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the updates shared in this report and select one of the two options shared in paragraph 10.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. As noted in the February 2023 meeting of the Education Board, the Education, Cultural & Creative Learning and Skills Strategies 2019-23 expired at the end of the 2023 calendar year. As this fell in the middle of an academic year, to minimise disruption to schools and learners, the Education Strategy Unit (ESU) continues to deliver against these strategies until the end of the 2023/24 academic year. The existing strategies have 84 actions and 109 outcomes.
2. Development work for the new strategic framework started in 2023 through multiple workstreams. The ESU conducted desk research, which looked at three areas: (1) An analysis of the previous strategies; (2) Current and future challenges identified by research in education; and (3) Identifying opportunities within the Corporation. The intention is to commit to fewer actions and outcomes than the 2019-23 strategies in the interests of realistic and sustainable delivery and impact.
3. Parallel to this, extensive stakeholder engagement took place. In all, 121 people were engaged from groups including: teachers, headteachers, Trust CEOs, governors, education charities, education researchers, employers, arts & culture professionals, skills development specialists, the City of London Family of Schools, governors, local authority officers and Livery Companies & Guild Members.
4. Additionally, over 350 pupils across the Family of Schools were engaged via a pupil survey, and a group of parents from the City of London Family of Schools were engaged through a bespoke research project developed in collaboration with Brunel University.

### **Current Position**

5. During engagement sessions Members of the Education Board shared their preferences regarding the structure of the new strategy. Members felt that the new document should be less complicated, less siloed, and far more streamlined. Members also expressed their desire that the strategy focus only on aspects of education that the City Corporation can actually deliver or meaningfully influence.
6. After processing the findings of desk research and stakeholder engagement, seven areas have emerged as options for the priorities which will be central to the new strategy. These are (in no particular order):

Educational Excellence  
Health, Safety & Wellbeing  
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)  
Personal Development  
Employability  
Culture, Creativity & The Arts  
Technology

7. With these seven areas in mind the ESU has developed an initial working draft of the strategy document, which is available in Appendix 1. The draft gives an indication of direction of travel based on research, stakeholder engagement and Member input.
8. The draft is not complete but gives Members an opportunity to provide initial feedback. The draft references all seven potential priorities, but the number to be included in the final document is to be decided. The final number of actions per priority is still to be confirmed, and the actions as they stand are indicative only. At the next stage, along with general revisions, outcomes and impact measures will also be included for each priority, and a summary outlining Implementation and Delivery will be added. A full draft of the new strategy will be brought to the April Education Board committee meeting.

## **Options**

9. During engagement sessions Members shared their preferences regarding the structure of the new strategy. Members felt that the new strategy should focus only on aspects of education that the City Corporation can actually deliver or meaningfully influence. Members also expressed their desire that the strategy be less complicated, less siloed, and far more focused.
10. Based on this input a proposed structure was developed and shared with Members at an online engagement session. Through Member discussion, two schools of thought emerged that translated into two different options regarding structure. Members are asked to select one of the two following options to inform the structure of the final document:
  - 1) Include all seven priorities. This widens overall focus and allows for a more explicit commitment in each area but will result in a smaller number of actions and outcomes per priority.
  - 2) Specify only five priorities, by removing 'EDI' and 'Technology', and instead integrate these two areas across all activity. This tightens overall focus and allows for more actions and outcomes per priority but reduces how explicitly 'EDI' and 'Technology' are referenced.
11. Environmental and outdoor learning will be interwoven throughout each of the priorities agreed by Members, not as an explicit priority in its own right.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

12. Strategic Implications - This work is aligned to the goals and outcomes of the City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2018-23 and will be aligned to the new Corporate Plan which is currently in development by the Corporate Strategy and Performance Team. Adherence to the emerging 'golden thread' of strategies development is assured through the ESU's engagement with Corporation strategy development work.

## **Conclusion**

13. This report has highlighted the work that is currently in progress to support the development the 2024-29 Education Strategy and asked Members to decide the structure of the final strategy document by determining the number of priorities.

## **Appendices**

- **Appendix 1:** Working Draft - Education Strategy 2024-29

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