

Committee(s) Establishment Committee Education Board Policy and Resources Committee	Dated: 8 September 2021 9 September 2021 16 September 2021
Subject: Joint Annual Report for the 'Social' Strategies: Responsible Business, Social Mobility, Digital Skills and Climate Action Strategies for 2020-21	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 5, 8, 9
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Caroline Al-Beyerty, Chamberlain and Chief Financial Officer David Farnsworth, Managing Director, Bridge House Estates Damian Nussbaum, Director of Innovation and Growth Andrew Carter, Director of Community & Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Chris Oldham, Corporate Strategy & Performance Officer	

Summary

This report presents a combined annual report of the Responsible Business, Social Mobility, Digital Skills and Climate Action Strategies for 2020-21.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- i) Note the progress made in the delivery across the four strategies in 2020-21.

Main Report

Background

1. The [Responsible Business Strategy 2018-23](#) was approved at Establishment Committee in May 2018. The [Social Mobility Strategy 2018-28](#) and the [Digital Skills Strategy 2018-23](#) were both approved by Policy and Resources Committee in September 2018. The [Climate Action Strategy 2020-27](#) was approved at Policy and Resources Committee in September 2020.
2. The annual reporting of these strategies is not a statutory commitment but, in previous years, Members have come to expect a formal report on the delivery of

these strategies to evidence the City of London Corporation's continued commitment to social inclusion and responsible business.

Current Position

3. Last year, a combined Annual Report was presented for the Social Mobility and Digital Skills Strategies, recognising the strategic alignment between the two strategies and the integrated nature of digital and social inclusion. As Members were content with this approach of annual strategy reporting, it was decided that the Responsible Business Strategy 2018-23 and the Climate Action Strategy 2020-27 could also be amalgamated in the annual report for 2020-21.
4. These four strategies are being looked at together in one combined annual report as they cover the 'Social' element of the Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) measures for judging the sustainability and societal impact of the City of London Corporation. This also reflects the direct strategic alignment in promoting social mobility as a key outcome from the Responsible Business Strategy, and that attaining a good level of digital skills is an important determiner to improve an individual's social mobility.
5. As well as aligning with the Social Mobility and Digital Skills Strategies, the Responsible Business Strategy also covers the corporate commitment to ensure the health of the planet, directly correlating with the Climate Action Strategy's aim of achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2040 in the Square Mile. Similarly, the effects of severe climate change, were the City Corporation to fail in its mission of achieving Net Zero by 2040, would have a disproportionately negative impact upon the social mobility of disadvantaged groups.
6. The annual report will be distributed in digital form only and will be a public document available to the City Corporation's external audiences via the internet site. The intention is that the annual report will demonstrate the City Corporation's continued commitment to champion social and digital inclusion and responsible business.

Proposals

2020-21 Annual Report for the Social Strategies

7. The combined Annual Report for the Responsible Business, Social Mobility, Digital Skills and the Climate Action 'Social' Strategies shares the key highlights, case studies, performance data and partnerships that are involved for each of the Responsible Business Strategy's two outcomes, the Social Mobility Strategy's four outcomes, the Digital Skills Strategy's three priorities, and the Climate Action Strategy's Year One Project Plan. It recognises the achievements for the year September 2020 to September 2021, the learnings from the COVID-19 recovery mission and reaffirms the City Corporation's commitment to the Responsible Business Strategy 2018-23, the Social Mobility Strategy 2018-28, the Digital Skills Strategy 2018-23 and the Climate Action Strategy 2020-27. It can be found at **Appendix 1**.

Options

N/A

Key Data

See Appendix 1 for KPIs.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. Strategic implications – The Annual Report provides an overview of the delivery on the Responsible Business, Social Mobility, Digital Skills and Climate Action Strategies. Furthermore, the Annual Report delivers on the following Corporate Plan outcomes: 3: People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential; 5: Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible; 8: We have access to the skills and talent we need; 9: We are digitally and physically well-connected and responsive.
9. Financial implications – There are no financial implications relating to the proposal set out in this report.
10. Resource implications - Combining the officer level governance and reporting for the Responsible Business, Social Mobility, Digital Skills and Climate Action Strategies has reduced the resource requirement. This has meant that the joint report could be delivered despite reduced resources in the Corporate Strategy and Performance Team due to Covid-related secondments and savings requirements.
11. Legal implications - There are no legal implications relating to the proposals set out in this report.
12. Risk implications - There are no risk implications relating to the proposals set out in this report.
13. Equalities implications - The Social Mobility Strategy includes strategic aims to overcome barriers for people with protected characteristics and socioeconomic disadvantage, and will promote equality of opportunity.
14. Climate implications - The strategic focus on green jobs and investment reflects the commitments and aims of the Climate Action Strategy.
15. Security implications - There are no security implications relating to the proposals set out in this report.

Conclusion

16. This report presents work in support of the Responsible Business, Social Mobility, Digital Skills and Climate Action Strategies. The Joint Annual Report reflects the achievements and progress made in 2019-20 towards the delivery of the Responsible Business, Social Mobility, Digital Skills and Climate Action Strategies.

Appendices

Appendix 1: 2020-21 Annual Report for the 'Social' Strategies: Responsible Business, Social Mobility, Digital Skills and Climate Action Strategies

Chris Oldham

Corporate Strategy and Performance Officer, Town Clerk's

E: chris.oldham@cityoflondon.gov.uk

T: 07394 559137