

<b>Committee(s):</b> Education Board	<b>Dated:</b> 28/04/2022
<b>Subject:</b> Environmental Outdoor Learning Update, including Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	2, 3, 8 & 11
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	N
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
<b>Report author:</b> Torri Stewart, Lead Strategy & Impact Manager Scott Caizley, Lead Policy Officer	

### Summary

This is the first of a new regular update informing Members of Environmental and Outdoor Learning (EOL) activity. It updates Members on current EOL projects, including, the 'Queen's Green Canopy' activity, the 'Primary Environmental Day' and the 'Climate and Nature' summer school.

This report also highlights the role that education can play in helping the City of London Corporation achieve its goals to shape outstanding environments and contribute to a flourishing society.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to note the updates shared in this report. Member are also asked to note that EOL will become a standing item at Education Board meetings moving forward.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2018-23 outlines aims to contribute to a flourishing society and to shape outstanding environments. In addition, the City Corporation has committed to the Climate Action Strategy 2020-2027. This strategy undertakes to work with creative and educational sector partners to deliver sustainable initiatives.
2. The Education Board have strategic oversight of the delivery of the City Corporation's Education, Cultural and Creative Learning & Skills Strategies 2019-23. The Education Board and Education Strategy Unit (ESU) are therefore able to initiate and amplify activities to help the City Corporation

achieve its ambitions related to biodiversity, sustainability and the environment. In the 2020/2021 academic year, 7 interventions funded by the City Schools Premium Grant took place at a total cost of £105,000.

3. Highlighting this, at its meeting on 3 December 2021, Members were updated on some of these youth-focused environmental projects focused on the circular economy, biodiversity, and climate action. These were:
  - Forest School programmes
  - 'Climate and Nature' summer school in partnership with the Ellen Macarthur Foundation
  - MockCOP
4. Young people are passionate about helping to protect the environment. They are increasingly keen to be involved in, and lead environmental projects. They also value the positive impact that physically challenging, outdoor activity can have on their wellbeing and self-development.

### **Current Position**

6. Since its meeting on 3 December 2021, the ESU have further developed and coordinated EOL activities for learners across the City Family of Schools in partnership with Open Spaces.
7. As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) team have invited the City Corporation to contribute to QGC activities. Ashtead Common, Burnham Beeches and Epping Forest have been nominated as part of the 70-strong 'Ancient Woodlands' initiative. The QGC is currently split into three divisions: (1) Education of the younger generations; (2) Ancient Woodland/ trees and (3) Planting.
8. Our 'Primary Environmental Day' is an upcoming activity which will form part of the QGC, delivering on 'educating the younger generations' and 'planting'. The activity will take place on 14 September 2022 and will be hosted by the ESU in partnership with the Epping Forest and the Open Spaces team. The aim of this project is to bring pupils from the City of London Primary Schools (including pupils in the prep sections of our independent schools) to an environmental day at Epping Forest. The day will include workshops with the Forest School, Learning and Environment teams. Each school will be presented with a QGC sapling that is suitable to be planted in their school grounds and cared for by pupils in years to come.
9. Following the success of the 2021 Leadership in Global Change (LIGC) 'Climate and Nature' summer school, Members of the Education Board were keen to support other young people across the City Family of Schools to attend LIGC in 2022. The ESU will identify demand for this opportunity across the Family of Schools moving forward.
10. In addition to these school-based projects, the Adult Skills and Education Service (ASES) currently has 15 apprentices from Open Spaces on Level 2

and Level 3 work-based training programmes in Horticulture and Landscape. Apprentices in these areas will complete their training in 2022 and 2023.

11. A range of collaborations with external and internal partners will enable the delivery of EOL activity. Moving forward we will expand this list to increase the number of EOL opportunities that are available.

### **Proposals**

N/A

### **Options**

N/A

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

19. Environmental Outdoor Learning is aligned to the goals and outcomes of the following strategies and plans:
  - The City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2018-23
  - Education, Cultural and Creative Learning and Skills 2019-23 Strategies
  - Climate Action Strategy 2020-2027
  - Environment Department Plan 2022/23

### **Conclusion**

This report has provided Members with an update on current EOL activity and highlighted the value of EOL for learners and for the City moving forward. To acknowledge the wider interest of the Board, and at the Chair's recommendation, EOL will be included on the Education Board's upcoming agendas as a standing item. Moving forward Members are invited to share any knowledge, contacts or information that might maximise the potential of the efforts in this area.

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