

Committee(s): Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee – For decision	Dated: 07/07/2022
Subject: Open Spaces Change of Name report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Executive Director	For Decision
Report author: Sally Agass, interim Director of Natural Environment	

Summary

The first purpose of this report is to regularise the process, commenced under Target Operating Model 1 (TOM1), to change the name of the current Open Spaces Committee to the Natural Environment Board.

The second purpose of this report is to request authority to bring back to this Committee revised Terms of Reference that reflect the need to make the work of the department responsive to the current and emerging needs of the open spaces for which the Corporation is the sole trustee.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report and approve the change of name for onward approval by the Court of Common Council and notification to the Charity Commission for change of name on the Charity Register
- Instruct officers to develop new Terms of Reference in line with the emerging Natural Environment strategies and in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission for consideration at a future Committee.

Main Report

Background

Court of Common Council, 03 December 2020 approved the creation of a new Environment Department under a new Executive Director. The change of name reflects the work of the new division whose name of Natural Environment was approved under a TOM1 reporting process undertaken by urgency (7 Committees and delegated authority (2 committees) during 2021 and this report is completing that process in line with the stated intention in the paper.

TOM1 was implemented during 2021/22 but the Natural Environment Division of the Environment Department was set aside to be completed at a later date because of the extent of the changes required and the need for a Charity Review across the Corporation. (Open Spaces has 10 charities under management)

Current Position

The current name of open spaces does not reflect the urgency of protecting and preserving our open spaces. The change of name better expresses the current work of the department who are responding to climate change and matters arising in the care and protection of our open spaces post COVID.

The proposed changes to the Terms of Reference, if accepted by this Committee, will form part of a continuum of activities that include the strategic work resulting from the Natural Environment Away Day on the 20th June 2022. Note: the away day summary and the strategic work to date are reported to this committee as Agenda item 5.

A change to the Terms of Reference is also an action within the Governance Section of the Charity Review work which is being undertaken by Natural Environment in collaboration with the Corporate Charity Review Group and which will be reported to this committee as part of the ongoing process of change to the Natural Environment Division.

Options

No options appraisal is relevant here as the course of action was previously established under TOM1

Proposals

This report is necessary to allow the role of the Members on the Open Spaces Committee to engage at a strategic level and to fulfil their role as facilitator to the other nine Charities.

The recommendations will support the delivery of the Natural Environment Charity Review, in particular the Governance Section

The recommendation, alongside the Natural Environment Away Day and Strategic Report will support the continuing development of the key strategies that can then be brought back to the Committee

Key Data

Not applicable

Corporate & Strategic Implications

None

Conclusion

The recommendations contained in this report to:

- Note the report and approve the change of name for onward approval by the Court of Common Council and notification to the Charity Commission for change of name on the Charity Register
- Instruct officers to develop new Terms of Reference in line with the emerging Natural Environment strategies and in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission for consideration at a future Committee.
- Will enable the Committee to fulfil its proposed strategic role and to further work on the Charity Review details of which will be brought to this Committee.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

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