

Committee(s): Education Board	Dated: 06/02/2023
Subject: Environmental & Outdoor Learning Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 3, 8 & 11
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
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: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Discussion
Report author: Torri Stewart, Lead Strategy & Impact Manager	

Summary

This report updates Members with the current position regarding Environmental & Outdoor Learning (EOL). The report:

- Highlights the important role that EOL will play in helping the City of London Corporation achieve its goals to 'shape outstanding environments' and 'contribute to a flourishing society'.
- Highlights the value and significance of EOL within the City of London Corporation's Family of Schools
- Informs Members that EOL will be a priority consideration in the development of the Education Board's updated strategies
- Notes the formal appointment of Alderman Robert Howard as the new Lead Member for Environmental & Outdoor Learning.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the updates shared in this report.

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

commits to working with creative and educational sector partners to deliver sustainable initiatives.

2. The Education Board has 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.

3. Aligned with this, school leaders, teachers and in particular young people are also passionate about helping to protect the environment. They are increasingly keen to be involved in, or to lead environmental projects.

4. This is illustrated by activity that has taken place across the City Corporation's Family of Schools over the last two years, including a pupil-driven multi-school climate action conference, a climate and nature summer school, nature focused residency trips for secondary pupils, and a primary environmental day. The growing significance of EOL is further reflected in future activity planned across the schools including operations-focused eco awareness drives, larger scale pupil-led conferences and residential trips that are focused specifically on environmental awareness.

Current Position

5. In February of 2023, development of the new strategies for the Education Board will begin in earnest. This task will be completed in the first quarter of 2024, with a view to these strategies being activated for the Family of Schools in September of 2024.

6. To acknowledge and reflect the passion and drive around climate action and EOL that is present within the City Corporation and its Family of Schools, and to facilitate an acceleration of activity taking place in these areas, EOL will be an area of critical focus during the development of the new strategies.

7. To help drive delivery in this area before the new strategies are in place, and as approved in its meeting on 2 December 2022, Alderman Robert Howard has been appointed as the Education Board's lead member on Environmental and Outdoor Learning. This appointment will involve Alderman Howard focusing and holding the Education Unit to account for impact and progress regarding EOL, leveraging influence across the City and its partners and promoting EOL widely.

8. The Education Strategy Unit has started a dialogue around EOL with the Natural Environment Unit, the Climate Action Team, and Alderman Robert Howard, and a strategic position is currently in development.

Proposals

N/A

Options

N/A

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. EOL 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 Strategies 2019-23
- Climate Action Strategy 2020-2027
- Environment Department Plan 2022/23

Conclusion

This report has highlighted the value of EOL for the City Corporation and its Family of Schools, and informed Members that EOL will be a critical consideration in the development of the new Education Board strategies. It has also informed Members that efforts will be amplified in the coming year through the collaborative efforts of the ESU, the Natural Environment Unit, the Climate Action Team, and the newly appointed Lead Member for Environmental and Outdoor Learning, Alderman Robert Howard.

Torri Stewart

Lead Strategy & Impact Manager

T: 07935 514 463

E: torriano.stewart@cityoflondon.gov.uk