

<b>Committee(s):</b> Education Board	<b>Dated:</b> 21/06/2023
<b>Subject:</b> Environmental & Outdoor Learning 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 & 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 and Impact Manager	

### Summary

This report updates Members on the current status of development work around Environmental & Outdoor Learning (EOL) and highlights its continued importance as an area of focus for the Education Strategy Unit. Key developments are:

- A period of research and consultation has taken place to comprehensively map the EOL landscape.
- Opportunities to contribute to, and/or co-develop initiatives which benefit the Family of Schools are being explored with a number of strategic and delivery partners.
- Proceedings are underway to identify, engage and inform EOL leads to help amplify EOL activity across the Family of Schools for the 2023/24 academic year.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to

- Note the 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 undertakes to work 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. Through this, the Education Board and Education Strategy Unit (ESU) are able to facilitate activities that will help the City Corporation achieve its ambitions related to biodiversity, sustainability and the environment. The ESU has committed to achieving this through the promotion of Environmental & Outdoor Learning (EOL).
3. In 2023 and 2024, the ESU will develop the new Education, Cultural and Creative Learning, and Skills strategies. EOL will be a key consideration during the development process, and a core component of these new strategies.

### **Current Position**

4. The ESU has established an ongoing dialogue with the Natural Environment and Climate Action Strategy teams to identify and develop more immediate EOL opportunities that will benefit both the Family of Schools and the natural environment. As a part of this, officers are currently consulting with the Climate Action Strategy team to understand the requirements of conducting a biodiversity gap analysis across the Family of Schools.
5. To understand EOL more comprehensively, ESU officers have also connected with external consultants including Harris Garrard Academy's highly experienced Sustainability Lead, the City of London School for Girls Sustainability lead who provides a 'Family of Schools' perspective, the Head of Learning at the Essex Wildlife Trust who consulted with the DfE to develop the Natural History GCSE and researchers at Nesta and the University of Warwick who are mapping out the green skills and green careers landscapes.
6. Further strategic development opportunities are being investigated with the Foundation for Education Development's Climate Change & Sustainability steering group, and the DfE team delivering the national Education Nature Parks and the national Climate Leaders Awards
7. Key external EOL delivery partners including, the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, the Outward Bound Trust, the London Wildlife Trust, the Essex Wildlife Trust, the Ellen McArthur Foundation and the Hive have been contacted to scope opportunities to co-develop initiatives with the Family of Schools – especially in relation to secondary EOL provision.
8. From this groundwork, a searchable directory of EOL platforms and partners has been developed to help the Family of Schools more easily identify and

pursue potential EOL opportunities. This directory includes a large number of high-profile organisations such as the Federation for Environmental Education and the WWF, as well as the close proximity contacts identified in recent months including Fulham Reach Boat Club, Capel Manor College, the Worshipful Company of Gardeners and the City's Natural Environment and Climate Action Strategy teams. Members are invited and encouraged to offer suggestions for inclusion in this directory.

9. To introduce the Family of Schools to this information, EOL leads have been identified at all schools. The ESU will focus communications on this group and encourage them to collaborate with each other to drive the EOL agenda forward 'on the ground'.
10. Broader initial communications have begun with an 'Introduction to EOL' session now delivered to all Family of Schools forums, and a starter pack now being distributed.
11. Alongside all of this, EOL has been identified as an area of strategic focus within the City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant, as well as the Cultural & Creative Learning funding offered to the City's family of Cultural partners. This has encouraged the development of 7 new EOL focused projects being developed so far for the 2023/24 academic year.

## **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 the status of current EOL activity and highlighted the important role that EOL will play in the development of the new strategies, for learners and for the City 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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