

Committee(s) Education Board	Dated: 21/06/2023
Subject: Education, Cultural and Creative Learning and Skills Activity Impact Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 8, 9 & 10
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 Information
Report author(s): Scott Caizley, Lead Policy Officer (Education, Culture and Skills)	

Summary

At its meeting on 28 April 2022, the Education Board approved the Annual Action Plan for the Education, Cultural and Creative Learning and Skills Strategies spanning the 2022/23 Academic Year. This report provides Members with an update on the impact against the Annual Action Plan to date.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. At its meeting on 28 April 2022, the Education Board approved the 2022/23 Annual Action Plan (AAP) for the Education, Cultural and Creative Learning and Skills Strategies spanning the 2022/23 Academic Year.
2. The Education Board has strategic oversight of the delivery of the City Corporation's Education, Cultural and Creative Learning and Skills Strategies. This report updates Members on the impact against the actions in the 2022/23 Annual Action Plan.
3. In contrast to previous years, during which previous AAPs were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the activities of the 2022/23 APP were able to progress unhindered. However, although the Education Strategy Unit (ESU) successfully resumed the implementation of activities, it still became necessary to adapt and modify the delivery of actions in response to the persisting economic challenges.

Impact Summary Highlights

4. For 2022/23, the ESU has delivered 5 Headteachers Forums, 3 Skills Forums and 3 Cultural and Creative Learning Forums. All schools across the Family have a staff representative with many schools also having strong governor representation within the Forums. Feedback from Forum members continues to highlight the importance of the Forums and the benefit of belonging to the 'City Family of Schools', particularly when developing partnerships and sharing best practice.
5. Feeding into the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, the Environmental Picnic Day was successfully executed at Epping Forest on 16 September 2022. The event was led by the Natural Environment Learning team and supported by the ESU. Pupils actively participated in morning workshops centred around habitat exploration and understanding the historical significance of the Stone Age. The enriching experience was further enhanced by a picnic lunch, fostering a connection with nature and promoting environmental stewardship.
6. The Education London 2030: Social Mobility - The New Challenge in London conference was held on 3 October 2022 at the Guildhall. In collaboration with CoLAT, the event convened 113 stakeholders, including Members, Senior Leadership Teams, educational leaders, Members of Parliament, Education Directors, charities, social enterprises, businesses, and Higher Education representatives. The conference provided a platform for insightful discussions and the exploration of best practices to address social mobility challenges in London. This gathering of key decision-makers and experts facilitated the sharing of innovative ideas and strategies to overcome barriers to social mobility.
7. The Christ's Hospital School Maths Challenge, a London-wide event hosted by Christ's Hospital, invited Year 5 pupils to engage in diverse mathematical tasks encompassing puzzles, pentominoes, playing cards, tangrams, dominoes, and other competitive games. The event showcased the City's commitment to fostering numeracy skills and provided a stimulating environment for young learners to excel in their mathematical abilities.
8. Christ's Hospital collaborated with the Stephen Spender Trust to organise the Christ's Hospital Poetry Translation Day on 3 February 2023. Year 5 pupils were invited to engage in an immersive experience providing them with an opportunity to explore and experiment with creative translations of poems in Ukrainian and French. The event not only nurtured linguistic abilities but also fostered creativity and cultural appreciation among the participating pupils.
9. So far, the ESU has successfully organised two away days at both the City of London School in April and City of London Freeman's School in June. These events are part of an ongoing series of away days aimed at fostering constructive discussions on forthcoming strategies. Attended by key stakeholders including Members, ESU representatives, and CoLAT officials, these away days have effectively facilitated collaboration and will ensure efficient design of the new strategies. This initiative showcases the ESU's commitment to coproduction, fostering engagement and driving positive change in the education, creative & cultural and skills landscapes.
10. The ESU, in partnership with Chess in Schools & Communities, successfully organised the annual Chess Tournament at the Guildhall for pupils across the Family of Schools. To improve accessibility and foster inclusivity, preceding the

tournament, virtual training workshops for pupils were arranged. The tournament, involving students from Year 4 to Year 12, promoted intellectual stimulation and engagement in the historic Livery Hall. A total of 118 pupils benefited from the event, with medals and trophies awarded to commend the exceptional skills demonstrated by the winners.

11. In collaboration with the Parenting Circle, the ESU has co-produced a Parental Engagement Toolkit for the City's Primary and Secondary Schools. The Toolkits explore areas such as: behaviour; attainment, attendance, school readiness; early help; health and well-being and inclusivity with the aim of strengthening home-school relationships and improving outcomes for all pupils across the Family of Schools. As part of the development process, the City hosted a roundtable in January 2023 with attendees including the City Corporation's Head of Education and Early Years, the Strategic Director of Education and Skills, Chair of the Education Board, CEO of CoLAT, Department for Education officials, The Rt Honourable Lord Watson MP, Head of the Virtual School, Headteachers, Academics from the University of Oxford and Parents/ Carers. The toolkits are set to be piloted in Autumn 2023.
12. In May, the Chair of the Education Board hosted the annual Education Board Dinner at the Guildhall. The event brought together key stakeholders, including the Lord Mayor, Heads of Schools, Chair of Governors, representatives from the Family of Schools and many more from the City's extended network. The dinner gave pupils from the City of London Primary Academy Islington and the City of London Shoreditch Park the unique opportunity to take part in musical performances in both the Guildhall Art Gallery and the Old Library. Succeeding the Lord Mayor's speech, pupils from City of London Freeman's School, The City Academy Hackney, City of London Academy Highbury Grove and City of London Academy Highgate Hill participated in a 'Paddington Bear' themed debate. In total, 60 pupils and 19 teachers from across the City Family of School were directly involved in the dinner.
13. In September 2022, the Wren300 Project was launched in collaboration with the City of London Corporation, Diocese of London, City of London School, and St Paul's Cathedral to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Sir Christopher Wren's death. This year-long initiative incorporates music, visual art, and creative writing, bringing together pupils from across the Family of Schools through unique cultural and creative learning opportunities. Phase 1, held on 28 September, involved a project launch and introduction for teachers at St Stephen Walbrook church. Phase 2 featured full-day workshops at St Stephen Walbrook and St James Garlickhythe, engaging approximately 200 pupils from eight schools in choral singing, paper-cutting artwork, and poetry inspired by Wren's architecture. Pupil feedback highlighted their fascination and inspiration from the church architecture, newfound knowledge about Wren, and eagerness to visit St Paul's Cathedral. Phase 3 commenced on 19 June, gathering all pupils for singing rehearsals at St Stephen Walbrook church and a guided tour of St Paul's Cathedral. In July, their artwork will be exhibited at the Barbican Library, leading to Phase 4, which includes further rehearsals and a concert at Guildhall on 21 September. The Wren300 Project to date has showcased the impact of integrating arts and education to foster appreciation for architectural heritage and creative expression for young Londoners.
14. The attendance of the Strategic Director of Education and Skills in the Scrutiny Meeting process for performance and safeguarding led by CoLAT continues to

demonstrate a commitment to effective partnership. As in previous years, attendance in these meetings facilitates robust examination and support for City-sponsored academies, whilst also informing the grant-funding processes. The active involvement of the Strategic Director ensures the provision of necessary challenge and support, promoting transparency and accountability within the education sector.

15. The ESU and Liveries Education Network have delivered 3 meetings throughout the 2022/23 academic year. Liveries Education Network has continued to provide an opportunity for strategic level discussions for Livery Companies and related organisations. With members representing (as a whole) over 120 schools and educational establishments, the meetings continue to be well attended and this year have explored key areas such as: health and wellbeing for pupils and teachers, environmental and outdoor learning, school and Trust level governance as well as exploring ways to better engage Livery Company members in education and strategic consultation moving forward. The ESU continues to provide administration and logistical support to the network.
- The ESU have continued to deliver a governor training programme that ensures governors are up to date with latest statutory requirements and good practice. There is now further clarity on the roles and training for governors and governors are up to date with the latest statutory requirements and good practice. Training areas include finance, safeguarding and school and data performance. For the 2022/23 academic year, the ESU in collaboration with the Chair of the Education Board have also delivered 3 Chairs of Governors Forums. Attendance at Forums has also improved since restructuring the format of the meetings.

Options

N/A

Key Data

Embedded in the report.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

16. N/A. This report is for information only.

Conclusion

17. The Education Board is committed to ensuring that the delivery of its Education, Cultural and Creative Learning and Skills strategies are focused on evidence driven impact. This report outlines some of the key highlights from the 2022/23 academic year so far. As per previous years, a full report on the impact of the AAP will be brought to the Education Board's meeting in October 2023.

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