

Committee(s) Policy & Resources Committee Natural Environment Board	Date: 18 January 2024 19 February 2024
Subject: Report of Action Taken Natural Environment Board – Terms of Reference	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	N/A
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: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Blair Stringman, Town Clerk’s Department	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(b) since the last meeting.

Recommendations

That Members note the action taken since the last meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee and Natural Environment Board.

Main Report

Since the last meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee and the Natural Environment Board, approval has been given under delegated authority arrangements, pursuant to Standing Order No. 41, as follows:

Decision: That, the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee & the Natural Environment Board consider any final changes to the Terms of Reference of the Natural Environment Board arising from discussion.

Reason for Delegated Authority: Delegated Authority was sought as in the context of the City Corporation’s ongoing charities review, the Natural Environment Board (NEB) was keen to ensure that it was appropriately constituted, with clear responsibilities, that allow them to exercise a strategic function for the City’s open spaces, without encroaching on the individual responsibilities of the individual management committees (Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park; West Ham Park; Epping Forest & Commons Committee).

Officers of the Environment Department suggested modifications that would enhance the definition of the Board's responsibilities, ensuring effective supervision of the Natural Environment Strategy while aligning with the Corporate Strategy and the governing documents of individual Natural Environment Charities. Additionally, the proposed changes would permit the inclusion of several non-voting external members on the Board, facilitating the introduction of diverse talent from a wider pool. This approach aims to attract individuals capable of enhancing the Board's decision-making processes. If accepted, an open and transparent recruitment process for these external appointments would be implemented.

Copies of background papers concerning this decision are available from Blair Stringman on request.

Blair Stringman

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