

<b>Committee(s)</b> Policy & Resources Committee – for information Natural Environment Board	<b>Dated:</b> 18/01/2024 19/02/2024
<b>Subject:</b> Decisions taken under delegated authority or urgency powers	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	See Background Report
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	See Background Report
<b>If so, how much?</b>	See Background Report
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	See Background Report
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	See Background Report
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Chris Rumbles, Town Clerk’s Department	

### **Summary**

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

### **Main Report**

#### **Delegated Decision: Natural Environment Board – Terms of Reference**

##### **BACKGROUND:**

In the context of the City Corporation’s ongoing charities review, the Natural Environment Board (NEB) has been 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).

In response to these considerations, officers from the Environment Department proposed two revisions to the NEB Terms of Reference that:

- 1) strengthen the Natural Environment Board as a Strategic Committee co-ordinating the City of London Corporation’s overarching approach to the natural environment, whilst recognising the unique and historic charity trustee role of the Corporation in the management of the open spaces which is exercised through individual committees; and
- 2) Ensure the Board Membership includes individuals with specific skill sets and experience, that are required to successfully manage and promote the City Corporation’s open spaces.

In response to 1), revisions were presented that provided greater clarity on the role of the Board, to ensure oversight of the Natural Environment Strategy and alignment with the Corporate Strategy and the governing documents of the individual Natural Environment Charities.

In response to 2) it was proposed that a small number of non-voting, external members be introduced to the Board. This would allow the Board to introduce talent from a broader pool, attracting individuals that can enrich the Board's decision-making processes. If agreed, there would be an open and transparent recruitment process to those external appointments.

Following discussion at the Natural Environment Board on the 4 December 2023 and Policy & Resources Committee on the 14 December 2023 in accordance with Standing Orders, further minor amends were required to further improve clarity and distinction the roles of various committees. The Board and Committee therefore agreed to Delegate Authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Natural Environment Board and Policy & Resources Committee to consider any final changes to the Terms of Reference arising from discussions. These were presented for final approval and recommendation to the Court of Common Council in January 2024, to ensure the Board is able to start the recruitment process in good time for the 2024/25 civic year.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman consider any final changes to the Terms of Reference arising from discussion.

In accordance with Standing Orders 41 (a) and 41 (b), Members are asked to note the recent decision taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

Copies of background papers concerning this decision are available from Chris Rumbles on request.

**Contact:**

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