

Committee(s): Natural Environment Board	Dated: 16/05/2024
Subject: City of London Natural Environment Youth Board	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Leading Sustainable Environment, Diverse Engaged Communities, Flourishing Public Spaces
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: Emily Brennan	For Decision
Report author: Alice Rogers, Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report invites members to consider establishing a City of London Youth Natural Environment Board as part of the ongoing efforts of the City of London Environmental and Outdoor Learning Project. This board will be advisory rather than an official City of London board and will bring together current pupils and alumni from City of London schools, providing a platform for youth voices to influence environmental policies and cultivate leadership and advocacy skills in sustainability. Key benefits include youth empowerment, collaboration, innovation, education, community engagement, and advocacy for educational initiatives. The proposal details a governance structure and channels of communication between the Natural Environment Board and the Youth Board.

The collaborative interaction between the proposed Youth Board and the established City of London Natural Environment Board could provide a unique opportunity to mobilise youth voice to drive environmental action and sustainability within the City of London Corporation.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Endorse the establishment of the City of London Youth Natural Environment Board as per outlined in the accompanying report.

Main Report

Background

1. As a result of activity executed by the Environmental and Outdoor Learning Network run by Simon Lightman of King Edward's School Witley and the Education Strategy Unit, members identified a gap in opportunity for youth voice to be central to key decisions made around sustainability at the City of London Corporation.
2. In alignment with the recent inauguration of the newly appointed Natural Environment Board, the Environmental Outdoor Learning Network is seeking to integrate youth perspectives into the board's decision-making processes via the proposed informal Youth Board, ensuring that the voices of young people are heard and valued in shaping sustainable policies and initiatives within the City of London Corporation.
3. The objectives of the Natural Environment Youth Board would be to:
 - i. facilitate collaboration among students and alumni across City of London schools on environmental projects.
 - ii. • Provide a forum for youth voices to influence and shape environmental policies and initiatives within the City of London.
 - iii. • Foster leadership and advocacy skills among youth in the realm of environmental sustainability.
 - iv. • Present innovative ideas and solutions to the City of London Natural Environment Board for consideration and implementation.

Current Position

4. For the full proposal, see **appendix one**.

Options

5. Approve the establishment of the Youth Natural Environment Board:
 - i. There may be minimal cost implications for this option that primarily relate to coordination of board activities and officer time spent supporting reporting.
 - ii. The benefits of supporting the creation of the Natural Environment Youth board are; higher levels of engagement in environmental advocacy and decision-making; strengthened collaboration among the City of London Family of schools; innovative solutions to environmental challenges facing the Corporation and improved levels of community engagement.
 - iii. There is a low risk identified around ensuring the youth panel is diverse.
6. Designate lead teacher coordination role:
 - i. In electing a lead teacher, members will benefit from clear leadership and coordination of the Youth Board. It will also enable effective liaison with the City of London Natural Environment Board.

- ii. Risk levels associated with designation of a Lead teacher is low and linked to potential staffing changes. This could be mitigated by deputising to another participant in the existing Environmental and Outdoor Learning Network.
7. Agree the communication mechanisms and governance structure as proposed **in sections 4 and 5 of appendix one.**
- i. A structured approach to the Youth Board with clear roles, responsibilities and reporting requirements will enable a diverse range of young voices to become central to the board's decision-making processes.
 - ii. There are potentially low costs associated with inviting Youth Board members to board meetings.
 - iii. The risk level of this decision is low and is linked to student absence or differing levels of engagement across the Family of Schools.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. Strategic implications – The proposal for the establishment of the City of London Natural Environment Youth Board strongly aligns with and supports the delivery of our Corporate Plan in several key areas.
- i. By facilitating collaboration among students and alumni across City of London schools on environmental projects, it contributes to the goal of engaging diverse communities.
 - ii. The proposal directly supports the Corporation's aim to create a vibrant, thriving destination by engaging youth in potential leisure and community offers directed by the Natural Environment Board.
 - iii. The focus on environmental sustainability and the involvement of youth in policy development and advocacy resonate with the Corporate goal of leading sustainable environment due to the plan's emphasis on climate action.
9. Equalities implications – the establishment of the board will aim to provide a platform for diverse youth voices, including those of different genders, races, religions, sexual orientations, and abilities, to actively engage in environmental advocacy and decision-making processes. Through a democratic process, the proposal seeks to empower all individuals, irrespective of their backgrounds, to become agents of change in their communities and contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable future for the City of London Corporation.
10. Climate implications- Through advocacy of policy development and engagement with sustainability projects via the Natural Environment Board, this proposal supports the corporation's Climate Action Strategy 2020-2027's aims of supporting the achievement of net zero, as well as communities benefitting from a clean, green and safe environment.

Conclusion

11. The collaborative interaction between the City of London Natural Environment Youth Board and the City of London Natural Environment Board represents a unique opportunity to harness the energy, creativity, and passion of youth in

driving environmental action and sustainability within the city. By fostering meaningful engagement, mutual learning, and inclusive decision-making, both boards can work together towards a greener, more resilient future for the City of London.

Appendices

- Appendix 1- City of London Corporation Natural Environment Youth Board Proposal, written by Simon Lightman at King Edward's Witley

Author

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