

Committee: Natural Environment Board	Date: 16 May 2024
Subject: Draft High-Level Business Plan 2024/25 – Environment Department	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse engaged communities • Vibrant thriving destination • Providing excellent services • Flourishing public spaces • Leading sustainable environment
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
Report of: Bob Roberts, Interim Executive Director Environment	For Information
Report author: Joanne Hill, Business Planning and Compliance Manager	

Summary

In February 2024, the Natural Environment Board approved, in principle, the Environment Department’s high-level Business Plan 2024/25. This high-level Business plan provides a strategic overview of activity of the Natural Environment Division and City Gardens. Members asked that a revised version of the high-level Business Plan be brought back to the Board after the launch of the new Corporate Plan 2024-2029, with links to the new Corporate Plan outcomes shown.

This report presents, for your information, the revised version of the high-level Business Plan with the requested changes incorporated (Appendix A).

Detailed business plans for each of the Natural Environment charities are under development; these plans will set out the specific priorities and activities of each charity and will be subject to approval of the relevant Charity Management Committee in due course.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the revised version of the Environment Department’s high-level Business Plan 2024/25, for the Natural Environment Division and City Gardens. This version of the Business Plan incorporates changes requested by Members in February 2024.

Main Report

Background

1. In February 2024, your Board approved, in principle, the Environment Department's draft high-level Business Plan 2023/24 which covers the service areas within the remit of the Natural Environment Board and the three Natural Environment Charity Management Committees.
2. This high-level Business Plan sets out the key areas of work that will be undertaken during 2024/25, as identified by the Environment Department's Senior Leaders and their management teams, in consultation with other members of staff. The establishment of these core workstreams enables management teams to set appropriate objectives and action plans to achieve the top-level goals during the year ahead.
3. For the Natural Environment Division, the priority workstreams are to implement and begin to deliver the Division's core strategies. The performance measures shown in the high-level Business Plan are taken directly from the strategies.
4. The requirements of the corporate business planning cycle meant that the high-level Business Plan was written, and presented for approval, prior to the launch of the new Corporate Plan 2024-2029. Therefore, it did not detail how the work of the Natural Environment Division and City Gardens supports the new Corporate Plan outcomes. Members asked that a revised version of the high-level Business Plan be brought back to the Board after the launch of the new Corporate Plan 2024-29, with links to the new Corporate Plan outcomes shown.

Current position

5. This report presents, for information, the revised version of the high-level Business Plan with the changes requested by Members in February 2024 now incorporated (Appendix A).
6. Page 6 of Appendix A has been updated to show which of the Corporate Plan 2024-2029 outcomes are supported by the work of the Natural Environment Division and City Gardens. Five of the six outcomes are identified as follows:
 - Diverse engaged communities
 - Leading sustainable environment
 - Vibrant thriving destination
 - Providing excellent services
 - Flourishing public spaces

Work to align services with the new Corporate Plan will continue throughout 2024/25 and beyond.

7. Detailed business plans for each of the Natural Environment charities are under development: these plans will set out the charity-specific priorities, activities and associated performance measures and show how they support delivery of the

Natural Environment strategies and Corporate Plan outcomes. These business plans will be subject to the approval of the relevant Charity Management Committee.

Corporate and strategic implications – The Environment Department is working to align to the new Corporate Plan 2024-2029, through continued engagement and participation in the Strategy Forum, Strategic Planning Group and so on. It will shape its strategies and services appropriately to ensure they support achievement of the City Corporation's outcomes.

The Business Plan lists other key City of London strategies that the Natural Environment Division and the City Gardens team are helping to deliver. Any new strategies will be reviewed as they are approved and consideration given as to how the services can and will support their delivery. This will include the new Corporate Plan and the People Strategy.

Financial implications - The high-level Business Plan has been produced in liaison with Chamberlain's Department and takes into consideration opportunities to reduce expenditure and increase income in order to make necessary savings.

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) - The Department has established an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group. The Group is currently developing a Departmental EDI Plan which will align with the Corporate EDI Plan. Members of the group will lead on a range of EDI actions, including those set out in the Business Plan, to ensure compliance with the PSED across the department.

Resourcing implications - Any changes to resources will be brought to the relevant Committee(s).

Security implications - None

Conclusion

This report presents, for information, the revised version of the high-level Business Plan with the changes requested by your Committee in February 2024 now incorporated. Members are asked to note the Plan. Detailed business plans for each charity are under development and will be presented to the relevant Management Committee for approval in due course.

Appendices

Appendix A – Environment Department high-level Business Plan 2024/25: Natural Environment Division and City Gardens.

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