

## Report – Education Board

# City of London Corporation: Education Strategy Update

*To be presented on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024*

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

### **SUMMARY**

This report is updating Members on Final development work for the 2024-29 Education Strategy and requests approval of the document (not it's design), so that it can progress to the next phase of delivery.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members approve the Education Strategy 2024-29, as set out in Appendix 1.

### **MAIN REPORT**

#### **Background**

1. As noted in the February 2023 meeting of the Education Board, the Education, Cultural & Creative Learning and Skills Strategies 2019-23 expired at the end of the 2023 calendar year. As this fell in the middle of an academic year, to minimise disruption to ongoing activity, the Education Strategy Unit (ESU), with the approval of Education Board Members, continued to deliver against these strategies until the end of the 2023/24 academic year (i.e. August 2024).

#### **Current Position**

2. Development of the new strategic framework, for September 2024-29, has been delivered through multiple workstreams. The ESU conducted research which looked at three areas: (1) An analysis of the previous strategies; (2) A review of the current and near-future education landscape; (3) Identifying opportunities within the Corporation.
3. In parallel to this, extensive stakeholder engagement took place. In all, 121 people were engaged from groups including: teachers, headteachers, multi-academy trust CEOs, governors, education charities, education researchers, employers, arts & culture professionals, skills development specialists, the City of London Family of Schools (FoS), local authority officers, Members of the Education Board and Livery Companies & Guild Members.
4. Additionally, over 350 pupils across the Family of Schools were engaged via a pupil survey, and a small group of parents from the Family of Schools were engaged through a bespoke research project developed in collaboration with Brunel University.

5. After distilling the combined findings of the landscape research and stakeholder engagement, seven areas emerged as options for the priorities of the new Education Strategy. These were, 'Educational Excellence'; 'Health, Safety & Wellbeing'; 'Equity, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EEDI)'; 'Personal Development'; 'Employability'; 'Culture, Sport, Creativity & The Arts'; and 'Technology'.
6. At the February 2024 meeting of the Education Board, Members decided that the new strategy should be structured around five explicit priority areas, these being:
  - i. Educational Excellence
  - ii. Health, Safety & Wellbeing
  - iii. Personal Development
  - iv. Employability
  - v. Culture, Sport, Creativity & The Arts

Alongside this, Education Board Members decided that Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EEDI), Environmental and Outdoor Learning, and Technology should exist as overarching themes that run through all activity in all areas. Inclusion of those with additional and special education needs is also a key feature.

7. At the April 2024 meeting of the Education Board, Members reviewed and approved the proposed lists of actions and outcomes associated with each priority area. Members were also updated on elements of preparatory work being developed to support delivery against the new priorities.
8. The start of the document features a foreword from the Chair of the Education Board and the 'Introduction' section has been updated to better illustrate 'golden threads' to the Corporate Plan 2024-2029. Particular attention has been paid to both the Equity, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and Environmental & Outdoor Learning sections which have been further expanded. The 'Context' section has also been updated to reference Technology more explicitly. Inclusion of those with additional and special educational needs has been strengthened.
9. To illustrate the fact that the City Corporation is already delivering work that aligns with the new priority areas, examples of existing activity have been included in each priority section's introduction. Additionally, the actions and outcomes listed in each priority section have been adjusted in line with input from the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Education Board.
10. Finally, over-arching measures have now been included in each priority section. These measures have been developed in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Education Board, the Strategic Director of Education and Skills, and the Corporate Strategy & Performance Team.
11. Given the cross-departmental nature of the strategy, your Policy and Resources Committee considered and endorsed the document at their September meeting. The draft Education Strategy was also shared with the Community and Children's Services Committee at their meeting in September 2024, for information.

## **Proposals**

12. With the development process for this piece of work now complete and it having been approved by Education Board and then by Policy and Resources Committee,

approval of Court of Common Council is now being sought to allow it to move into the production and delivery phase for the new academic year.

### **Strategic Implications**

13. This work is aligned with and will contribute to the outcomes of the City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2024-29, specifically 'Providing Excellent Services', 'Diverse Engaged Communities' and 'Leading Sustainable Environment'.

### **Financial Implications**

14. None, existing approved resources will continue to be deployed.

### **Resource Implications**

15. None, existing approved resources will continue to be deployed.

### **Legal Implications**

16. None

### **Risk Implications**

17. None

### **Equalities Implications**

18. An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken and reported to the Education Board in June 2024. It was concluded that there was no change required to proposals as the assessment did not identify any potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to advance equality have been taken.

### **Climate Implications**

19. None

### **Security Implications**

20. None

### **Conclusion**

21. This report has highlighted the work which has taken place to develop the 2024-29 Education Strategy and asks Members to approve the draft so that the work can progress to the next phase.

### **Appendices**

**Appendix 1:** Education Strategy 2024-29 Full Draft - August 2024

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.

SIGNED on behalf of the Board.

**Naresh Sonpar**  
Chair, Education Board