

## Appendix 1: Progress against key objectives / actions (categorised by Natural Environment Strategy). Quarter One (April-June) 2024-25

Culture and Projects Section includes Learning Team, Heritage and Museums Team, Carbons Removals Project Team

<b>1</b>	<b>Nature Conservation and Resilience strategy</b>		
	<b>Action/Objective</b>	<b>Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)</b>	<b>Also contributes to:</b>
1.12	The City of London Corporation's Climate Action Strategy goals are met for the open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Carbon Removals Project funding and the project plan for Year 4 (2024-25) was approved by Policy and Resources Committee and the Carbon Removals Project Board.</i></li> <li><i>The project aims to maintain current carbon sequestration of 16.2kt, increase sequestration by 0.21kt and support biodiversity objectives through its activities.</i></li> <li><i>Carbon Removals: All workstreams planned for this reporting year are now underway.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Culture, Learning and Heritage Strategy</b>		
	<b>Action/Objective</b>	<b>Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)</b>	<b>Also contributes to:</b>
4.1	Deliver learning activities which incorporate the 'pathways to nature connection' and which facilitate an increase in participants' feelings of nature connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>In May, the Learning Team opened two new pond platforms at two teaching gardens in Hampstead Heath, welcoming learning participants from schools and local community groups. These new assets have been a positive addition in support of the successful schools learning programme.</i></li> </ul>	Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy Community Engagement Strategy

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>In addition to delivering the ever-popular schools learning programme at West Ham Park, during Q1 the Learning Team expanded its learning provision for participants 13-25 with special educational needs and disabilities, funded through a grant from the Cultural and Creative Learning Fund.</i></li> <li><i>The Learning Team at Epping also hosted sessions for young unaccompanied asylum seekers, working in partnership with the Corporation's Virtual School, and for young people from a pupil referral unit. The team have worked in partnership with Tindersticks (community interest company), to expand the programme for young people.</i></li> </ul>	
4.2	Develop synergies between NE Learning, CoL Environmental Resilience and CoL Climate Action, and provide opportunities for children and young people to get involved and make a positive contribution to biodiversity and environmental resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Grants of a total value of £70k were secured from the Cultural and Creative Learning Fund in April for the delivery of projects in academic year 2024/25. These projects included Green change-makers, Culturally Speaking and Change the Record.</i></li> </ul>	Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy Community Engagement Strategy
4.3	Collaborate with educators and researchers to develop an evidence-informed model of best practice in climate education and apply best practice to the NE learning programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>In April, the Learning team in partnership with the Barbican Children's Library delivered a successful project entitled New Leaf project over the Easter school holidays. Targeting children facing challenges such as poverty, disability, or caring responsibilities, this programme operated in collaboration with 'Ambition Aspire Achieve' and the City of London Early Help Team. Its mission was to extend the reach of cultural opportunities to those who may not</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy

		<p><i>otherwise access them. Held at the Barbican Libraries and Hampstead Heath, it offered participants a warm welcome and a wealth of enriching experiences, from shared lunches by the campfire amidst the beauty of Hampstead Heath to engaging in mindful movement and crafting stories inspired by nature, every moment is designed to ignite joy and curiosity. The project had positive impact on participants, including a 17% increase in feelings of wellbeing and a 28% increase in feelings of confidence to explore our spaces</i></p>	
4.4	Adopt sustainable practices, including an aim to achieve net zero, in accordance with Corporation policy and strategies e.g. the Climate Action Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Grants of a total value of £70k were secured from the Cultural and Creative Learning Fund in April for the delivery of projects in academic year 2024/25. These projects included Green change-makers, Culturally Speaking and Change the Record.</i></li> </ul>	Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy
4.5	Engage participants in activities which increase feelings of wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The New Leaf project had positive impact on participants, including a 17% increase in feelings of wellbeing and a 28% increase in feelings of confidence to explore our spaces</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy
4.6	Provide more opportunities for children to engage in outdoor play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Despite funding cuts in effect from April, the Learning Team was able to maintain its popular play offer at its two centres in Hampstead Heath during Q1, whilst undertaking an assessment of options to secure new income in support of maintaining the play offer in the longer-term.</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy Access and Recreation Strategy

4.7	Provide opportunities for adult volunteering as a means to increase wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A new Learning volunteer was recruited, based at West Ham Park, to support the nature learning programme for children with additional needs. The volunteer also contributed photographs for the West Ham Park 150 anniversary exhibition.</li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy
4.8	Engage participants from London boroughs with high levels of deprivation and child poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Learning Team at Epping also hosted sessions for young unaccompanied asylum seekers, working in partnership with the Corporation's Virtual School, and for young people from a pupil referral unit. The team have worked in partnership with Tindersticks (community interest company), to expand the programme for young people.</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy
4.9	Provide bespoke learning opportunities for young people struggling with education, employment or mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In addition to delivering the ever-popular schools learning programme at West Ham Park, during Q1 the Learning Team expanded its learning provision for participants 13-25 with special educational needs and disabilities, funded through a grant from the Cultural and Creative Learning Fund.</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy
4.10	Provide bespoke learning sessions for children and young people with additional needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>See above.</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy
4.11	Provide opportunities for apprenticeships and traineeships leading to skills and career development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Learning Team hosted a young person on a work placement at Epping Forest supporting both the Learning and Epping Forest teams.</i></li> </ul>	

4.12	Engage participants in our learning, heritage and cultural activities which provide opportunities to explore, enjoy and feel safe in our spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Learning Team have continued to facilitate heritage learning at Epping Forest, providing school workshops at the Tudor Hunting Lodge and an Orienteering Through History workshop.</i></li> </ul>	
4.13	Provide activities which enable participants to build confidence to explore green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>In April, the Learning team in partnership with the Barbican Children's Library delivered a successful project entitled New Leaf project over the Easter school holidays. Targeting children facing challenges such as poverty, disability, or caring responsibilities, this programme operated in collaboration with 'Ambition Aspire Achieve' and the City of London Early Help Team. The project had positive impact on participants, including a 17% increase in feelings of wellbeing and a 28% increase in feelings of confidence to explore our spaces.</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy
4.14	Develop strategic partnerships with organisations that help to deliver our culture, heritage and learning offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>See above</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy
4.15	Ensure that our programming to build participants' fusion skills and confidence is informed by our communities of interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>See above</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy
4.16	Develop our communities of interest that participate in, advocate for, and support, our natural environment and heritage charities and assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>On 1 May, the Heritage team at Keats House launched a new exhibition showcasing the hidden histories of the house. The exhibition, which runs until 30 March 2025, provides a glimpse into the lives of some of the other people who called this house 'home' between 1816 and 1920.</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>During Q1, Culture and Projects Section led the delivery of community engagement activities at West Ham Park, seeking feedback on the future of the former nursery site. Activities delivered included 10 1-2-1s with local schools and groups, 5 pop-up events, 8 workshops with young people and an on-line survey.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Learning Team have continued to facilitate heritage learning at Epping Forest, providing school workshops at the Tudor Hunting Lodge and an Orienteering Through History workshop.</i></li> </ul>	
4.17	Conserve and enhance our heritage assets in accordance with statutory requirements, sector guidance and best practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In April, options for the repair of Wanstead Grotto and Landing Stage were produced by our appointed consultant, Alan Baxter Associates. The options were reviewed by Historic England and other key stakeholders and the level of repair necessary to remove the asset from the Heritage at Risk Register was confirmed. (This option was approved by Epping Forest and Commons Committee in July).</i></li> </ul>	
4.18	Ensure a consistent approach to the management and promotion of our heritage assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Heritage team presented the financial and operational position of The Monument to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee in May. In 2023/24 over 100,000 people visited the Monument; although an upward trend, this is still 60% of pre-pandemic visitor numbers. The Monument was closed on 88 of its normal opening days, resulting in c. £97k in lost income. Overall, the net cost of the Monument to the Corporation in 2023/24 was £105k.</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy Access and Recreation Strategy

4.19	Ensure our cultural programming is both informed by, and representative of, our diverse communities of interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>During Q1, the Heritage team led the research and design of an outdoor exhibition on the history of West Ham Park, ahead of its display at the West Ham Park 150 celebrations in July.</i></li> </ul>	Community Engagement Strategy
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<b>5</b>	<b>Income Generation</b>		
	<b>Action/Objective</b>	<b>Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)</b>	<b>Also contributes to:</b>
5.3	Grant Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Grants of a total value of £70k were secured from the Cultural and Creative Learning Fund in April for the delivery of projects in academic year 2024/25. These projects included Green change-makers, Culturally Speaking and Change the Record.</i></li> </ul>	Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy  Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy

<b>6</b>	<b>People Management</b>		
	<b>Action/Objective</b>	<b>Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)</b>	<b>Also contributes to:</b>
6.1	Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>A successful round of recruitment took place in April, May and June for the roles of Carbon Removals Project Manager and Carbon Removals Project Officer.</i></li> </ul>	Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy