

Appendix 1: Progress against key objectives / actions (categorised by Natural Environment Strategy). Quarter Two (July-September) 2024-25

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

1 Nature Conservation and Resilience strategy			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter Two 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
1.12	The City of London Corporation's Climate Action Strategy goals are met for the open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In July, a successful hand-over of the Carbon Removals project was achieved and all project workstreams captured in updated project management documentation.</i> <i>In September, the reversion of arable land to wildflower meadow at Copped Hall commenced with ground preparation and seed sowing. This work forms part of activities to increase carbon sequestration by 0.21kt and support biodiversity objectives.</i> 	

4 Culture, Learning and Heritage Strategy			
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
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"> <i>The Learning Team have continued to facilitate nature and heritage learning at Epping Forest, providing school workshops at the Tudor Hunting Lodge and outdoor learning sessions at Barn Hoppitt.</i> <i>The Learning Team also hosted sessions for young unaccompanied asylum seekers, working in partnership</i> 	Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy Community Engagement Strategy

		<p><i>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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The team have updated all school session plans to enhance pathways to nature connection for delivery of sessions at Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest and West Ham Park.</i> <i>In addition to delivering the ever-popular schools learning programme at West Ham Park, during Q2 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> 	
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"> <i>In July, The Learning and Heritage teams oversaw the successful recruitment of a project officer to deliver the 'Green Change-Makers' project at Keats House and the Adventure Clubhouse at Hampstead Heath.</i> 	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"> <i>The Learning Team collaborated with the Education Strategy Unit and King Edward's School, Witley to prepare the launch the NE Youth Board.</i> 	Community Engagement Strategy

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"> <i>In July, The Learning and Heritage teams oversaw the successful recruitment of a project officer to deliver the 'Green Change-Makers' project at Keats House and the Adventure Clubhouse at Hampstead Heath.</i> 	Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy
4.5	Engage participants in activities which increase feelings of wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In Q2, the Learning Team delivered bespoke learning sessions and undertook photography with park users and a range of other activities in support of the weekend of celebration for West Ham Park's 150th anniversary on 20-21 July.</i> 	Community Engagement Strategy
4.6	Provide more opportunities for children to engage in outdoor play.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 Q2, whilst undertaking an assessment of options to secure new income in support of maintaining the play offer in the longer-term.</i> 	Community Engagement Strategy Access and Recreation Strategy
4.7	Provide opportunities for adult volunteering to increase wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A Learning volunteer contributed photographs for the West Ham Park 150 anniversary exhibition.</i> 	Community Engagement Strategy
4.8	Engage participants from London boroughs with high levels of deprivation and child poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In July, the Learning Team partnered with Hackney Council to support their 10x 10 programme, which is a new initiative to support every child in Hackney to achieve 10 amazing activities by the time they are 10 years old.</i> 	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"> <i>In addition to delivering the ever-popular schools learning programme at West Ham Park, during Q2 the Learning Team expanded its learning provision for participants 13-25 with special educational needs and disabilities, funded</i> 	Community Engagement Strategy

		<i>through a grant from the Cultural and Creative Learning Fund.</i>	
4.10	Provide bespoke learning sessions for children and young people with additional needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>See above.</i> 	Community Engagement Strategy
4.11	Provide opportunities for apprenticeships and traineeships leading to skills and career development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Learning Team hosted a young person on a work placement at Epping Forest supporting both the Learning and Epping Forest teams.</i> 	
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"> • <i>The Learning Team have continued to facilitate heritage learning at Epping Forest, providing school workshops at the Tudor Hunting Lodge and outdoor learning sessions at Barn Hoppitt.</i> 	
4.13	Provide activities which enable participants to build confidence to explore green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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> • <i>In addition to delivering the ever-popular schools learning programme at West Ham Park, during Q2 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> 	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"> <i>In July, the Learning Team partnered with Hackney Council to support their 10x 10 programme, which is a new initiative to support every child in Hackney to achieve 10 amazing activities by the time they are 10 years old.</i> 	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"> <i>See above</i> 	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"> <i>In Q2, the Learning Team delivered bespoke learning sessions and undertook photography with park users and a range of other activities in support of the weekend of celebration for West Ham Park's 150th anniversary on 20-21 July.</i> <i>During Q2, the Heritage team led the research, design and production of an outdoor exhibition on the history of West Ham Park, which was displayed at both Guildhall Yard and subsequently at West Ham Park to coincide with the weekend of celebration for its 150th anniversary on 20-21 July.</i> <i>During Q2, 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 young designers' workshops and an on-line survey.</i> 	Community Engagement Strategy

4.17	Conserve and enhance our heritage assets in accordance with statutory requirements, sector guidance and best practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Heritage Team managed the reinstatement of the Highgate Roman Kiln and replica kiln into Highgate Wood, together with a temporary exhibition detailing the connection between the kiln and Highgate Wood. This work formed part of a successful Highgate Heritage Day on 1 September. This was followed by a successful Turning Earth open day event on 21 and 22 September, where the replica kiln was fired for a second time.</i> <i>In July, options for the repair of Wanstead Grotto and Landing Stage were considered by Epping Forest and Commons Committee. The approved option was to repair the Grotto to a condition sufficient to remove the asset from the Heritage at Risk Register. The number of heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk Register in Q2 is four, with a target of four by Q4.</i> 	
4.18	Ensure a consistent approach to the management and promotion of our heritage assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Heritage team on behalf of Keats House charity progressed a new 5-year licence with Keats Community Library to continue their library service from 10 Keats Grove.</i> <i>The number of visitors per annum to our managed heritage attractions in Q2 is Keats House 4,200 (comparable with 4,206 visitor numbers in Q2, 2023-24) and The Monument 51,778 (a 12% decrease in numbers compared with Q2, 2023/24).</i> 	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"> • <i>At Keats House, between July and September 2024, a total of 12 sessions have been delivered to over 250 students from 12 different schools. Summer School 2024, on the theme of 'The Outer Limits' engaged a further 36 students from five schools, three of which were high pupil premium schools which had not visited Keats House in the current year. Keats House also took part in Open House Festival 2024, with 387 people visiting the house for free on Sunday 15 September.</i> • <i>During Q2, the Heritage team led the research, design and production of an outdoor exhibition on the history of West Ham Park, which was displayed at both Guildhall Yard and subsequently at West Ham Park to coincide with the weekend of celebration for its 150th anniversary on 20-21 July.</i> 	Community Engagement Strategy
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5	Income Generation		
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
5.1	Revenue Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Income from admissions and school group visits to Keats House by Q2 was £23k. From April 2024, Keats House increased charges for its core learning offer to bring it in line with the Natural Environment Learning Team's charging structure. Income from The Monument £164k (a 25% decrease in income compared with Q2, 2023-24).</i> • <i>In Q2, an assessment of options to increase revenue to support the play offer at Hampstead Heath was completed (and reported to HHHWQP Committee in Q3).</i> 	<p>Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy</p> <p>Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy</p>

6	People Management		
	Action/Objective	Progress update (Quarter One 2024-25)	Also contributes to:
6.1	Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In July, both dedicated Carbon Removals Project roles were successfully recruited to, with the new members of staff receiving corporate inductions and visiting key sites and meeting with local site teams.</i> • <i>In July, The Learning and Heritage teams oversaw the successful recruitment of a project officer to deliver the ‘Green Change-Makers’ project at Keats House and the Adventure Clubhouse at Hampstead Heath.</i> • <i>In August, the Learning Team successfully recruited a new part-time Learning Officer to support the learning offer at Epping Forest.</i> 	<p>Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy</p> <p>Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy</p>