

APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BOARD STRATEGY OBJECTIVES (January to March 2025)									
1	NATURE CONSERVATION & RESILIENCE								
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	Progress Q4	Also contributes to:		
						(Jan-Feb-Mar)	CE	A&R	CH&L
1.1	Protect and enhance the biodiversity of our open spaces	1	Management plans are in place to ensure that their biodiversity and natural assets are conserved, engaged with stakeholders, and are implemented.	1	Management plans in place for all sites with annual reporting on progress		X	X	X
		2	SSSI condition improvement and Species Recovery plans are in place for all our sites.	2	SSSI improvement and species recovery plans in place for key habitats and species				
		3	Species records and other biological data are regularly gathered and professionally managed.	3	A central NED repository for biological reports is established	Commons Staff covering the AC/WWCC and BBSC completed training on the use of the biological records database, 'Recorder'. Improvement plan prepared for progressing data entry of historic records.			
		4	Community support and engagement in the conservation of our open spaces is increased.	4	Biological survey records uploaded onto national recording databases within 12 months of collection	Meeting with the SBIC Manager held to scope out options for data management. AC and WWCC investigating options for grant aid through a	X	X	X

						possible third party to help with progressing data management			
				5	Volunteer involvement in biodiversity monitoring and habitat restoration	At Ashtead Common: 1,980 volunteer hours. At West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons: 1,220 volunteer hours At Burnham Beeches and Stoke Commons 1325.75 volunteer hours	X		X
1.2	Increase the resilience of our open spaces within a wider, interconnected natural landscape	1	Greater and more effective engagement with the planning system to influence the protection of our open spaces in the most relevant way.	1	Percentage of Local Authority plan consultations responded to	Over the year 2024-25 100% check on the planning lists. 7 planning application responses sent plus one neighbourhood planning consultation response and comments on the Epson and Ewell local plan. Response also sent on the Surrey Hills National Landscape consultation. Comments submitted by the AD on the GLA LNRS as part of the Citywide submission At BB – SAMMs agreement and mitigation strategy in place resulting in no new build with 500m of SAC boundary			

						and contribution payments for development with 5.6km			
		2	Landscape connectivity around our open spaces is enhanced through collaboration with other organisations and stakeholders.	2	Participation in landscape partnership initiatives	<p>At Ashtead Common: Collaboration with EA and Local Flood Authority on leaky dams plus attendance at the Surrey Biodiversity & Planning Conference 2025. Epsom and Ashtead Commons SSSI Forum met in March.</p> <p>At Burnham Beeches and Stoke Commons Annual review meeting held with Buckinghamshire Council on the SAMM Project. The SE Planning Inspectorate where also hosted for a visit to look at the management of SAMM on the ground.</p>	X		
		3	Reduced visitor impact on priority habitats and other important sites through sustainable visitor and mitigation strategies being in place and implemented.	3	Ecological monitoring of visitor impact (various measures)	SAMMs visitor impact monitoring in place inc. new for 24/25 base line path surveys, vegetation wear, habitat fragmentation and monitoring of specific indicator species			
		4	Damaging introduced species monitored and kept under control.	4	Damaging Introduced Species policy prepared and implemented	At Burnham Beeches . American Grey Squirrel control undertaken and follow			

						up works on Rhododendron seedlings during this period			
		5	Climate resilience plans prepared for each open space.	5	Climate resilience plans completed	A draft plan was created in September 2024. Work is now underway as part of the CAS Mainstreaming Climate Resilience workstream to understand the most effective way to embed the actions in the plan. This action is now expected to be complete by the end of March 2027. Updated major emergency (fire) plan produced for Ashtead Common	X		
1.3	Establish a natural capital-based management process across our open spaces.	1	Baseline natural capital valuation for NED undertaken	1	Natural capital assessment completed for the open spaces				
		2	Natural capital monitoring and reporting system established.	2	TBC- Monitoring measure will be developed from the baseline assessment				
		3	The City of London Corporation's Climate Action Strategy goals are met for the open spaces	3	ktCO2e removed each year from NE open spaces	At AC/BBSC new Fire foggers purchased and staff completed training on their use. Across the Commons field staff completed wildfire training course Leaky Dam project at AC is in progress and pending further approvals for the EA			

						<p>BB Grey squirrel control is in progress and work on proposals for converting the Stag car park to semi natural conditions are underway. (A paper will be forthcoming to the EF & CC on this)</p> <p>Propping of ancient pollards at BB</p>			
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2	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT								
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	Progress Q4	Also contributes to:		
						(Jan-Feb-March)	NC&R	A&R	CH&L
2.1	Partnership: Creating meaningful and lasting partnerships	1	Build and sustain meaningful and lasting partnerships with the communities we serve.	1	Development of a Community Engagement Toolkit that provides guidance on best practice engagement in a variety of circumstances and contexts. (Complete by 31 March 2025)				
		2	Implement a holistic approach to community engagement that encourages active participation.	2	Development of a Community Engagement Toolkit that provides guidance on best practice engagement in a variety of circumstances and contexts. (Complete by 31 March 2025)				

		3	Cultivate and support successful partner organisations that support us in mission delivery.	3	Delivery of value-added activities in NE space: Number of partnership organisations that are delivering approved value added activities in NE spaces	Over the year 134 third party events held across the Commons by 47 organisations Partnership with youth charity Oxygen commenced at Ashted Common following their successful application for a CoL Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment award.	X		
2.2	Removing barriers: Identifying and removing barriers to participation in our spaces and work	1	Ensure diverse and representative participation in our work and spaces.	1	Development of a Community Engagement Toolkit that provides guidance on best practice engagement in a variety of circumstances and contexts. (Complete by 31 March 2025)				
		2	Create physical spaces that are as accessible as possible to as many people as possible.	2	Initial self-audit of access challenges and opportunities at each NE space, with relevant participating partners, updated annually.	Infrastructure audits completed across all Commons sites. BB carried out audit and promotion (via video) of Easy access path. Access audit undertaken at BBSc - findings will guide			

						future action & opportunities to improve Access/information and facilities where appropriate to protected & physical nature of open spaces.			
		3	Engage in continuous self-reflection to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.	3	Initial self-audit of access challenges and opportunities at each NE space, with relevant participating partners, updated annually.	AD and EEDI Rep for the Commons met and scoped the outline for an audit and development plan. Work to be progressed through 2025-26			
2.3	Ownership: Cultivating a sense of deep pride in and attachment to our spaces amongst users	1	Facilitate a deep sense of pride in and attachment to our open spaces among user groups and communities.	1	Volunteer programme: Participation in, as measured by hours given, number of participants, and funds secured	At Ashtead Common: 1,980 volunteer hours. At West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons: 1,220 volunteer hours At Burnham Beeches and Stoke Commons 1325.75 volunteer hours	X		
		2	Create opportunities for user groups and communities to provide additional resource to the Corporation to support mission delivery.	2	Fundraising programme: Donations across NE and at each space				

2.4	Thriving spaces: Creating spaces that attract people and improve their lives	1	Improve health and wellbeing through our open spaces through successful and effective community engagement.	1	Communications: Create a communications plan that promotes the health and wellbeing improvement opportunities at City of London Corporation open spaces.	At Ashtead Common . New Year ramble with 7 people. At Burnham Beeches 12 nordic walking events, 3 ramblers walks and 3 'Simply Walk' events held. A Forest Bathing event held with 14 participants		X	
		2	Deliver well-managed spaces that are widely understood as destinations for improved health and wellbeing.	2	Communications: Create a communications plan that promotes the health and wellbeing improvement opportunities at City of London Corporation open spaces.				
		3	Provide a diverse mix of opportunities for enrichment at our open spaces.	3	Portfolio of enrichment opportunities available at each space: Agree and track categories of enrichment opportunities available at each space, eg, active recreation, passive recreation, forest bathing learning, etc.				
		4	Create spaces where formative experiences occur.	4	Number of activities intended to engage people in experiences for the first time.	At Ashtead Common : 6 mega task events held to reach out to potentially new volunteers (95 people attended). Monthly DoE student work program events held. Graduate student supported for a period of work		X	

					<p>experience that included funding a chainsaw licence.</p> <p>At West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons: DoE student has been regularly volunteering for litter picking during the period. The annual Meet the Calves event attracted 650 people, mainly families with young children.</p> <p>At Burnham Beeches a Woodland Explorer event held and two Meet the Ranger events</p>			
2.5	Knowledge exchange: Continuous transfer of information between the Corporation and its customers	1	Ensure easy access to information about the Corporation, its open spaces, and our management practices.	1	Audit availability of digital and physical information from COL-managed information resources.			
		2	Catalyse improved behaviours in our spaces where needed.	2	Create a communications plan that promotes positive and encouraged behaviours in City of London Corporation open spaces, and provides clear information on the resources the Corporation commits to its open spaces.			

		3	Ensure greater understanding among members of the public of the Corporation's efforts to preserve and care for our spaces.	3	Create a communications plan that promotes positive and encouraged behaviours in City of London Corporation open spaces, and provides clear information on the resources the Corporation commits to its open spaces.	Monthly e-newsletters delivered for each charity circulated. Messaging focusses on key conservation efforts and relevant information with a total of 2247 subscribers across all the Commons sites. Across the Commons 30 events were held with 1188 attendees			
		4	Improve service delivery by the Corporation at its open spaces through information exchange.	4	Development of a Community Engagement Toolkit that provides guidance on best practice engagement in a variety of circumstances and contexts. (Complete by 31 March 2025)				

3	ACCESS & RECREATION								
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	Progress Q4	Also contributes to:		
						(Jan-Feb- Mar)	NC&R	CE	CH&L

3.1	Balance the needs of visitors with the requirements of protecting the natural and heritage assets of the open spaces	1	Manage visitors to protect vulnerable areas.	1	Spatial masterplans created by 2025 to map wayfinding and visitor facilities to encourage use of most sustainable areas and away from ecologically sensitive locations.	A framework for Sustainable Visitor Use at Burnham Beeches report completed by Footprint Ecology			
		2	Plan for increased visitor numbers and improve durability of honeypot locations.	2	Site management plans developed by 2026, and a site-wide approach to physically managing the wear and tear on tracks and paths is articulated in annual site management plans.	Management plans in place for all sites.			
		3	Reduced visitor impact on priority habitats and other important sites through sustainable visitor and mitigation strategies being in place and implemented.	3	Annual visitor footfall survey conducted to monitor increase in numbers.	Yearlong visitor count process has been started at Burnham Beeches			
		4		4	Ecological monitoring of visitor impact (various measures)	At Burnham Beeches. Ongoing monitoring by CERs at regular intervals			
3.2	Enable the best possible visitor journey, creating the right information from pre-visit to a stress-free and	1	Provide clearly branded and accessible on-site wayfinding, interpretation and information.	1	On-site signage audited annually	At West Wickham and Coudsdon Commons: Procurement process completed on the design, manufacture and installation of Byelaw boards across the all the Commons.			

	enjoyable on-site experience	2	Provide easily accessible, clear and exemplary pre-visit information through digital platforms.	2	Standalone website created for each site by 2025	At BBSC Information point upgraded with new accessible and interactive displays.			
		3	Provide on-site infrastructure and welcome facilities to create exempt class sites that are renowned for the highest quality visitor experience.	3	Quality Accreditation is achieved				
		4	Make improvements to both informal and formal recreational facilities.	4	100% of Waymarked trails are audited annually to maintain standards	Site infrastructure checks completed at all sites. New Waymarker posts installed at Ashted Common			
3.3	Provide welcoming places that visitors from all backgrounds and abilities are comfortable to explore	1	Understand gaps in visitor profile.	1	Visitor profile survey undertaken by 2026				
		2	Work with partners to develop outreach to ensure wider audiences or are aware of and able to access sites.	2	Minimum of six outreach activities provided through partnership annually	31 events held over the period with 19 groups involved, including local schools, scouts/cubs/Beavers, running clubs, Conservation organisation and local businesses		X	
		3	Ensure that sites have least-restrictive access.	3	Least restrictive access achieved across whole landholding by 2026	Access audit carried out at BBSc to understand current position			
		4	Work towards excellence for physical access.	4	Accessibility information provided for every public facility on website by 2025	Promotion of facilities in partnership with Chilterns conservation board via access video at BBSC			

3.4	Build understanding and knowledge about the open spaces. Visitors will respect one another and will care for and advocate for the sites.	1	Information and education about the open spaces' culture, heritage and ecology will be provided through on site interpretation at visitor centres and through all marketing channels to increase understanding.	1	New interpretation panels created each year and websites updated monthly. Newsletters issued monthly	Monthly newsletter circulated by each Charity Total of 30 events held with 1188 attendees Information point at Burnham Beeches upgraded with new accessible and interactive displays		X	
		2	Respectful use of facilities and sites will be encouraged through engagement and instruction.	2	Codes of conduct are promoted on every site				
		3	Key messages are delivered through layered and targeted campaigns.	3	Seasonal engagement sessions provided on site (minimum one per season per site)	Multiple events held by each charity.			

4 CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND LEARNING									
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	Progress Q4	Also contributes to:		
						(Jan-Feb-March)	NC&R	CE	A&R
4.1	Developing nature connection and pro-environmental behaviours	1	Deliver learning activities which incorporate the 'pathways to nature connection' and which facilitate an increase in participants' feelings of nature connection.	1	Percentage of participants' feeling connected to nature after taking part in a learning session				
		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.	2	Number of environmental resilience projects for children/young people delivered each year				
		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.	3	Number of climate education themes integrated in NE Learning Programmes per year				

		4	Adopt sustainable practices, including an aim to achieve net zero, in accordance with Corporation policy and strategies e.g. the Climate Action Strategy.	4	Percentage of our assets and programmes that have an up-to-date audit of their scope 1 and scope 2 emissions				
4.2	Developing wellbeing through spending time in nature or through our heritage	1	Engage participants in activities which increase feelings of wellbeing.	1	Percentage of participants feel happy or very happy after taking part in our activities	At West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons: Nature connection walk on Farthing Downs (2 events, 22 attended). Feedback forms with positive information about event			
		2	Provide more opportunities for children to engage in outdoor play.	2	Number of children and young people taking part in our play programme.				
		3	Provide opportunities for adult volunteering as a means to increase wellbeing.	3	Percentage of our volunteers who rate their experience as positive or very positive				
4.3	Providing more opportunities through education and employment	1	Engage participants from London boroughs with high levels of deprivation and child poverty.	1	Number of learning programme participants from the 15 London boroughs rated highest for child poverty.				
		2	Provide bespoke learning opportunities for young people struggling with education, employment or mental health.	2	Number of participants taking part in bespoke learning programmes for young people struggling with education, employment or mental health				

		3	Provide bespoke learning sessions for children and young people with additional needs.	3	Number of bespoke programmes for children and young people with additional needs each year.	At Ashtead Common: new partnership with youth organisation 'Oxygen'			
		4	Provide opportunities for apprenticeships and traineeships leading to skills and career development.	4	Percentage of our culture, heritage and learning workforce who are apprentices or trainees	At West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons: 2 Apprentices working towards Level 2 Award in Countryside Management and 1 just qualified and working as maternity cover for six months . At Burnham Beeches one apprentice is working towards Level 2 Award in Countryside Management			
4.4	Developing greater engagement, confidence and enjoyment	1	Engage participants in our learning, heritage and cultural activities which provide opportunities to explore, enjoy and feel safe in our spaces.	1	Number of people who participate in our programmes.	Across the Commons 1188 attended 30 events/walks/talks			
		2	Provide activities which enable participants to build confidence to explore green spaces.	2	Percentage of participants who feel confident or very confident to explore our spaces and sites after taking part.				
		3	Develop strategic partnerships with organisations that help to deliver our culture, heritage and learning offer.	3	Number of annual programmes delivered in partnership with others.	All charities: Over the quarter 19 different community groups worked with.			

		4	Ensure that our programming to build participants' fusion skills and confidence is informed by our communities of interest.	4	Number of annual programmes co-created with the community with a focus on skills development/ Adherence to community engagement toolkit.				
		5	Develop our communities of interest that participate in, advocate for, and support, our natural environment and heritage charities and assets.	5	Percentage of our heritage assets with an active social media account, website and supporter list.	All charities: 100% social media account			
4.5	Ensuring the effective care, management and promotion of our offer	1	Conserve and enhance our heritage assets in accordance with statutory requirements, sector guidance and best practice.	1	Percentage of our heritage assets with an up-to-date inspection regime and management plan in place.	Quinquennial Inspections of Heritage Assets through CSD			
		2	Ensure a consistent approach to the management and promotion of our heritage assets.	2	Percentage of our heritage assets with a business and marketing plan in place.				
		3	Ensure our cultural programming is both informed by, and representative of, our diverse communities of interest.	3	Number of annual programmes with a focus on engaging under-represented communities/ adherence to community engagement toolkit.				