



Epping Forest & Commons Committee

Date: MONDAY, 20 MAY 2019

Time: 11.30 am

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members: Peter Bennett
Caroline Haines
Alderman Robert Howard
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Gregory Lawrence
Sylvia Moys
Benjamin Murphy
Jeremy Simons
Graeme Smith
Deputy Phillip Woodhouse

For consideration of Business Relating to Epping Forest Only

Verderer Nicholas Munday
Verderer Michael Chapman DL
Verderer Melissa Murphy
Verderer Dr. Joanna Thomas

Enquiries: Richard Holt
Richard.Holt@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Lunch will be served in the Guildhall Club at 1pm

N.B. Part of this meeting could be the subject of audio/visual recording.

**John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive**

AGENDA

Agenda

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. APOLOGIES

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

3. ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

To receive the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 25 April 2019 appointing the Committee and setting its Terms of Reference.

For Information
(Pages 1 - 2)

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Committee are invited to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 29.

For Decision

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

The Committee are invited to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 30.

For Decision

6. MINUTES

To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee meeting held on 11 March 2019.

For Decision
(Pages 3 - 14)

7. 2019/20 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Decision
(Pages 15 - 32)

8. THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY FOR 2019-23

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Information
(Pages 33 - 48)

Burnham Beeches & The Commons

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Report of the Superintendent of The Commons.

For Information
(Pages 49 - 56)

10. PROPOSED NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE STATUS FOR THE COULSDON COMMONS AND HAPPY VALLEY

Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Decision
(Pages 57 - 76)

11. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS ANNUALISED FIGURES UPDATE FOR BURNHAM BEECHES

Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Information
(Pages 77 - 82)

Epping Forest

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest.

For Information
(Pages 83 - 92)

13. ELECTION OF EPPING FOREST VERDERERS 2020

Joint report of the Town Clerk & the Director of Open Spaces.

For Decision
(Pages 93 - 104)

14. EPPING FOREST OPERATIONS PROGRAMME FOR 2019/2020

Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Decision
(Pages 105 - 118)

15. 2019 COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP GRANT APPLICATION

Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Decision
(Pages 119 - 134)

**16. PROPOSED HONEY LANE (A121) PEDESTRIAN CROSSING POINT –
ADJACENT WOODGREEN ROAD/FOREST SIDE JUNCTION**

Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Decision
(Pages 135 - 140)

**17. EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN – EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC
– MATTERS 1 & 16 LEGAL COMPLIANCE/EPPING FOREST PROTECTION**

Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Decision
(Pages 141 - 172)

18. LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE UPDATE

Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Information
(Pages 173 - 188)

19. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda

21. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

For Decision

22. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

To agree the non-public minutes of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee meeting held on 11 March 2019.

For Decision
(Pages 189 - 192)

23. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Information
(Pages 193 - 194)

24. SEF 14/19 FOOTBALL ARTIFICIAL GRASS PROVISION UPDATE

Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Information
(Pages 195 - 252)

25. NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

26. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

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ESTLIN, Mayor	RESOLVED: That the Court of Common Council holden in the Guildhall of the City of London on Thursday 25th April 2019, doth hereby appoint the following Committee until the first meeting of the Court in April, 2020.
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PPING FOREST & COMMONS COMMITTEE

1. **Constitution**

A Non-Ward Committee consisting of,

- two Aldermen nominated by the Court of Aldermen
- 8 Members elected by the Court of Common Council at least one of whom shall have fewer than five years' service on the Court at the time of their appointment
- the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee (ex-officio)
- plus, for the consideration of business relating to Epping Forest only, four Verderers elected or appointed pursuant to the Epping Forest Act 1878.

2. **Quorum**

The quorum consists of any five Members.

For the purpose of non-Epping Forest related business the quorum must consist of five Committee Members who must be Members of the Court of Common Council.

3. **Membership 2019/20**

ALDERMEN

- 1 Robert Picton Seymour Howard
- 1 Robert Charles Hughes-Penney

COMMONERS

- 4 (4) Jeremy Lewis Simons
- 4 (4) Graeme Martyn Smith
- 3 (3) Peter Gordon Bennett
- 3 (3) Caroline Wilma Haines
- 3 (3) Gregory Alfred Lawrence
- 6 (2) Sylvia Doreen Moys
- 2 (2) Benjamin Daniel Murphy
- 5 (1) Philip John Woodhouse, Deputy

together with the ex-officio Members referred to in paragraph 1 above and:-

Verderers pursuant to the provisions of the Epping Forest Act, 1878:-

- Michael Chapman, D.L.
- Nicholas Munday
- Melissa Murphy
- Dr. Joanna Thomas

4. **Terms of Reference**

To be responsible, having regard to the overall policy laid down by the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee, for:-

- (a) exercising of the powers and duties of the Court of Common Council as Conservators of Epping Forest (registered charity no. 232990) and the various additional lands which have been acquired to protect the Forest in accordance, where appropriate, with the Epping Forest Acts 1878 and 1880 (as amended) and all other relevant legislation.
- (b) the ownership and management of the following open spaces in accordance with the provisions of the Corporation of London Open Spaces Act 1878:-
 - Coulsdon and other Commons (registered charity no. 232989), the other Commons being Kenley Common, Farthing Downs and Riddlesdown
 - West Wickham Common and Spring Park (registered charity no. 232988)
 - Ashted Common (registered charity no. 1051510)
 - Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common (registered charity no. 232987)

- (c) appointing such Consultative Committees as are considered necessary for the better performance of its duties including:-
 - Ashted Common Consultative Committee
 - Burnham Beeches Consultation Group
 - Epping Forest Consultative Committee
 - West Wickham, Spring Park and Coulsdon Commons Consultative Committee
- (d) expressing views or making recommendations to the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee for that Committee's allocation of grants which relate to Epping Forest and Commons.

EPPING FOREST & COMMONS COMMITTEE

Monday, 11 March 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest & Commons Committee held at
Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 11 March 2019 at
11.30 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Philip Woodhouse (Chairman)
Graeme Smith (Deputy Chairman)
Peter Bennett
Alderman Sir Roger Gifford
Caroline Haines
Alderman Gregory Jones QC
Gregory Lawrence
Sylvia Moys
Jeremy Simons
Verderer Michael Chapman DL
Verderer Melissa Murphy
Verderer Dr. Joanna Thomas
Verderer Nicholas Munday

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Carl Locsin	- Town Clerk's Department
Alison Elam	- Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Michael Radcliffe	- City Surveyor's Department
Nicholas Welland	- City Surveyor's Department
Tim Munday	- Department of the Built Environment
Paul Monaghan	- Department of the Built Environment
Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces & Heritage
Gerry Kiefer	- Open Spaces Business Manager
Paul Thomson	- Superintendent, Epping Forest
Hadyn Robson	- Support Services Manager
Jacqueline Eggleston	- Head of Visitor Services (Epping Forest)
Jeremy Dagley	- Head of Conservation (Epping Forest)
Jo Hurst	- Business Manager (Epping Forest)

1. APOLOGIES

Further to the Chairman's suggestion Members changed the order of business and items were considered in the following order: Items 1-7, Item 12, Items 8-30.

Apologies were received from Jeremy Simons who informed the Town Clerk that he would have to leave the Committee meeting early.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee held on 14 January 2019. A Member raised that the 'Forest Commission' should be corrected to 'Forestry Commission' in the minutes. A Member noted several typographic errors within the public minutes and requested that the minutes be agreed subject to those corrections.

MATTERS ARISING

The Superintendent confirmed that the letter to the student to congratulate them on their painting of Epping Forest featured on the City of London School for Girls Christmas card had been sent.

RESOLVED – That, pending the corrections above, the minutes of the meeting on 14 January 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **BREXIT UPDATE**

The Director of Open Spaces was heard regarding implications of Brexit for the management of Epping Forest and the City Commons. The Director of Open Spaces reassured Members that the long-term risk associated with the Brexit process were being considered by the Open Spaces Department and the department were in discussions with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the post-Brexit grant arrangements which will remain initially similar to EU levels until 2021.

RESOLVED- that the update be noted.

5. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding the Epping Forest & Commons Committee's Terms of Reference. The Chairman noted that Verderer Nicholas Munday will be added to the Verderers listed in the Committee's Terms of Reference. In addition, the Chairman raised that the two Aldermanic appointments to the Committee changed simultaneously and requested in future that these appointments are to be staggered to allow for an Alderman with experience of the Epping Forest & Commons Committee to provide continuity.

A Member of the Committee raised that they did not believe that the Committee's Terms of Reference accurately reflected the proposed constitution of the Epping Forest Act 1878. The Superintendent noted that this issue had been raised before and addressed at Committee. The Superintendent confirmed that the Comptroller and City Solicitor's judgment would be provided to the Member.

RESOLVED- that: -

- I. The terms of reference of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, subject to any comments, be approved for submission to the Court of Common Council in April, and that any further changes required in the lead up to the Court's appointment of Committees be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman; and
- II. The frequency of the Committee's meetings be agreed.

6. FINAL DEPARTMENTAL HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLANS 2019/20 - OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the final high-level business plan for the Open Spaces Department for 2019/20. A Member noted that Capital funds were required for the developments at Wanstead Park and questioned whether these funds had been costed in the business plan. The Director emphasised that the Plan covered Local Risk budgets rather than Capital. The Chamberlain confirmed that they were aware of the funds needed at Wanstead which was being addressed through the Gateway project process.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

7. EPPING FOREST CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE DRAFT MINUTES

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Epping Forest Consultative Committee 13 February 2019.

A Member of the Committee questioned the accuracy of the approval timeline, for a proposed major event to be held in September 2020, added to the draft minutes for Member's information and commented that the timeline did not clarify when public consultation would take place. The Director of Open Spaces replied by outlining that there would be two key stages within the decision-making process; in May the Epping Forest and Commons Committee will consider whether to grant 'in principle' permission for the event to be held and, if approved, the event provider will apply for licenses to each of the required responsible authorities, which would be administered by the relevant local authority. Public consultation regarding the detail of the event would then be undertaken, before the Local Authority determines whether to licence the event. A Member commented that this would mean that the key decision would be taken after the event organisers had already spent a large amount of money.

The Chairman commented that public surgeries were already in progress with key groups and highlighted the meeting of 9 March 2019 at The Temple, Wanstead Park. The Deputy Chairman added that the matter had also been discussed at the Epping Forest Consultative Committee in October of 2018. The Director of Open Spaces confirmed that an informal consultation process had begun in the Summer of 2018 and application to the relevant local authority would involve a formalised public consultation. A Member commented that it

was important to make clear that the time for public consultation had already started.

RESOLVED-that the minutes be noted.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Epping Forest which provided Members with a summary of the Epping Forest Division's activities across December to January 2019. The Superintendent of Epping Forest made the following points.

Operational Property Review

The Superintendent informed Members that an Operational Property Review would be considered by the relevant Committees including the Epping Forest & Commons Committee in May. It was noted that the report would detail the proposed exchange of a number of properties on the Woodredon Estate. Following a question from the Chairman the Superintendent confirmed that the properties which were considered surplus had not yet been determined.

Fly Tipping

The Superintendent noted that incidents of Fly Tipping were sixty two percent down within Epping Forest and informed Members that a vehicle had been seized in connection to fly tipping in the area. In addition, it was explained that the City could choose to either sell the seized vehicle or for it to be crushed. Members agreed to have the vehicle crushed as the example set would be helpful in deterring future offenders. A Member of the Committee thanked the volunteers active within the Forest for their work to combat fly tipping and commented that a small hardcore were still persistent with fly tipping. The Superintendent confirmed that those persistently fly tipping often had a connection to organised crime and therefore were difficult to prosecute. Replying to a Member's question it was confirmed that the City of London Corporation was keen to work with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on a scheme related to fly tipping.

Police Incidents

Members were informed by the Superintendent of two incidents involving the police which took place within Epping Forest. The Superintendent detailed an incident of armed police response to two men dressed in army uniforms and explained the incident was not serious as the two men were metal detectorists. Following this a Member questioned if the City of London issued licenses for metal detectorists within Epping Forest. The Superintendent explained that licenses were not issued for the use of metal detectors. Members noted a second incident involving an unexplained death within the forest.

Rough Sleepers

The Committee was informed that four rough sleepers' sites had been cleared within Epping Forest with all the occupants given assistance by Redbridge Homeless Team or St Mungo's Homeless Charity.

Visitor events

The Superintendent informed Members of a number of visitor events in Epping Forest and noted specially the *Your View of the Forest* event and the talk on the 2018 fire at Wanstead flats. It was also noted that five organisations connected to the Forest had received awards from City Bridge Trust.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

9. **BUSINESS PLAN DEVELOPMENT AT EPPING FOREST**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the 2019-22 Business Plan for Epping Forest. The Superintendent introduced the report and highlighted that given the size of the Forest Individual Site Plans (ISP) and Planning & Development Notes (PDN) would be necessary to manage delivery of the Management Strategy and Business Plan.

A Member of the Committee commented that the works included in the Theydon Bois Green ISP would be affected by the previous agreements with the Theydon Bois Parish Council and requested that a list of local authorities' schemes, which affect the business plan, be added to provide context. The Superintendent replied that the Theydon Bois Green Individual Site Plan references the Care and Maintenance Agreement.

A Member questioned what the reasoning was for the requirement for 'hand cutting' referenced with relation to Highway verge management. The Superintendent explained that this was required in some locations because of the presence of parked cars adjacent to the Highway verge. A Member noted the number of Coal-tax posts within Epping Forest and questioned the responsibility for the maintenance of the posts. The Superintendent confirmed that the City Surveyor held the responsibility for the maintenance of the coal posts.

Replying to a Member's query on the Epping Forest Management Strategy the Superintendent confirmed that the strategy would be considered by the Epping Forest Management Plan Working Group in the next few months so that future ISPs can be assessed against the Committee's strategic objectives.

It was suggested by a Member that a digest of the ISPs and PDNs was placed on City of London Corporation website. The Superintendent explained that a review was underway into the Website's content and the Member's point would be considered as part of that process.

RESOLVED- That the Theydon Bois Green Individual Site Plan (ISP) and Highway Verge Management Planning and Development Note are approved for public consultation.

10. **EAGLE POND DRAFT CONSERVATION STATEMENT**

The Committee considered a joint report of the City Surveyor and the Director of Open Spaces on the Conservation Statement for the heritage landscape of Eagle Pond. The Superintendent explained that key lessons had been learned from a similar project at Highams Park and that the Statement included 19 policies to protect the landscape. Also noting that all aspirational projects were

clearly described as being subject to further Committee approval and external funding.

A Member requested clarification on the ownership of Eagle Pond and questioned if the City of London Corporation held responsibility for the maintenance of the Large Raised Reservoir. The Superintendent confirmed that the statutory undertakers included the City Corporation who hold in trust the Pond and the west bank; Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service who own the dam and the south bank and the London Borough of Redbridge who own the Snaresbrook Road frontage. Currently only Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service contributed to the maintenance of the dam. A Member questioned whether, as a fellow statutory undertaker, the City could request more public access to Snaresbrook Crown Court gardens. The Superintendent confirmed that the City Surveyor had a policy regarding more public access which needed to be balanced with the security requirements of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service.

Replying to a question from a Member of the Committee the Director of Open Spaces confirmed that legal advice from the Environmental Agency had been received regarding the joint responsibilities of statutory undertakers and could be shared with Members.

RESOLVED- that Members approved the draft Eagle Pond Conservation Statement for public consultation.

11. PROVISION OF STAFF WELFARE FACILITIES AT CHINGFORD GOLF COURSE

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Chingford Golf Course Staff Welfare Facilities at Jubilee Retreat, where a new delivery mechanism was being sought following planning restrictions on the Committee's preferred option of a container-based facility. The Chamberlain informed the Committee that the project could be funded by a carry forward from the previous financial year.

It was highlighted by a Member that, once vacated, Flat 1 within the Chingford Golf Course complex could be utilised for rental income and questioned if the Officers had considered this option. The Director of Open Spaces replied that the potential for rental income at this property had been considered and confirmed that it was planned to be let as an Assured Shorthold Tenancy at £1,200 per month.

It was raised by a Member that the option of working with the Orion Harriers to share the existing clubhouse should be considered further. The Superintendent explained that shared ownership of the accommodation would cause a number of issues regarding the nature of the lease; information technology security and safeguarding. The Chairman agreed that the shared ownership with the Orion Harriers should be considered further as this represented a significantly decreased expenditure and the report be approved subject to officers conducting a review of potential shared facility options.

RESOLVED- Members approved that a Gateway 1-5 Authority to Start Work be submitted to the Projects Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee for March 2019 and associated capitalisation of local risk funds.

12. WANSTEAD PARK PONDS PROJECT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Wanstead Park Ponds Project. The report detailed the context of the Ponds at Wanstead Park and explained the required actions which needed to be taken advance the project to the next gateway.

RESOLVED- that: -

- I. The project proposal to progression to the next Gateway be approved; and
- II. That the budget of £150 000 to get to next gateway be approved.

13. MAJOR EVENT WANSTEAD FLATS UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the application for a large-scale music concert to take place on Wanstead Flats in September 2020.

A Member requested clarity on the expected income to be gained from holding agreeing the event at Wanstead Flats in September 2020. The Director of Open Spaces confirmed the complete details of the event would be available for Members consideration in the report presented Epping Forest & Commons Committee in May.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

14. EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN – RESPONSES TO THE INSPECTOR’S MATTERS, ISSUES & QUESTIONS (SEF 09/19)

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the Epping Forest District Council Local Plan. The Director of Open Spaces informed Members of the key issues included in the Local Plan including the Habitats Regulations Assessment, Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) and possible effect on the green belt. In addition, it was noted that the key hearing on the matter of legal compliance would be held on the 21st of May.

A Member commended the Officers for their work on the Local Plan and questioned whether there had been contact with the Lee Valley Parks Authority. The Director of Open Spaces confirmed that some informal meetings had been held with the Parks Authority during which agreement on the key issues had been established.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

15. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of ‘The Commons’ which provided an update on the issues across the nine sites within ‘The Commons’ division.

In reference to the Kenley Revival project the Chairman questioned whether the project's Principal Designer and Contract Administrator Avanti had replied yet to Beale and Company's letter noting the twenty-eight-day deadline. The Director of Open Spaces confirmed that no reply had been received from Avanti and speculated the intention from Avanti was to delay the process.

A Member enquired whether there had been any further progress on the Hillforts project mentioned in the report. The Director of Open Spaces clarified that the project was still being worked on and further information would be made public via the City of London website.

RESOLVED- that the update be noted.

16. **BURNHAM BEECHES AND STOKE COMMON CONSULTATIVE GROUP - DRAFT MINUTES OF 22ND JANUARY 2019**

The Committee received the draft minutes of the 22nd January 2019 meeting of the Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Consultative Group.

RESOLVED- that the minutes be noted.

17. **ASHTEAD COMMON CONSULTATIVE GROUP- DRAFT MINUTES THURSDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2019**

The Committee received the draft minutes of the 7 February 2019 meeting of the Ashtead Common Consultative Group. The Chairman thanked Sylvia Moys for Chairing the meeting on 7 February.

RESOLVED- that the minutes be noted.

18. **WEST WICKHAM, SPRING PARK AND COULSDON COMMONS CONSULTATION GROUP- DRAFT MINUTES OF 24 JANUARY 2019**

The Committee received the draft minutes of the 24 January 2019 meeting of the West Wickham, Spring Park and Coulsdon Commons Consultation Group.

RESOLVED- that the minutes be noted.

19. **PROVISION OF CAR PARK CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE AT BURNHAM BEECHES, RIDDLEDOWN AND FARTHING DOWNS**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the provision of car park charging infrastructure at Burnham Beeches, Riddlesdown and Farthing Downs. The Director of Open Spaces informed the Committee that, further to advice from the Town Clerk's Corporate Programme team, the project category would need to be adjusted to reflect the replacement of existing infrastructure.

RESOLVED- that: -

- I. The project proposal to progression to the next gateway (G5) is agreed; and
- II. That the budget of £5000 to get to the next gateway (G5) is agreed; and
- III. That the total estimated project cost of £130,000 is noted.

20. THE COMMONS MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES 2019-20

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the Commons management priorities for 2019-2020. The Chairman asked if the required expenditure for the management of Oak Processionary Moth had been incorporated in the Open Spaces department's financial plans. Replying to this the Director of Open Spaces confirmed that this expenditure had been included in the Medium-Term financial plan and Chamberlain's department informed accordingly.

RESOLVED- that the management priorities for The Commons for the period 2019-20 be agreed.

21. THE COMMONS, SPORTS AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces which reviewed the charges for sports facilities and miscellaneous items that are provided by The Commons Division and requested approval for the proposed charges for the financial year 2019-20.

The Chairman noted that there had been no review in the previous year and commented that it was important that this did not affect the reviews to the charges in the longer term.

RESOLVED- that the proposed charges for the 2019/20 financial year be agreed.

22. CATERING OPTIONS APPRAISAL REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Commons division's commissioned independent catering options appraisal report. The Director of Open Spaces informed the Committee that although the income to be gained is relatively low the diversification opportunity remained important.

A Member asked for clarification on whether the catering provider was planned to be internally sourced. The Director of Open Spaces explained that the catering provider would be sourced externally after being advertised to the open market and chosen in accordance with robust evaluation scheme. In addition, it was added that community options for catering providers would also be considered. Following a query from a Member of the Committee it was confirmed that the catering provider would be employed on a trial basis with regular reviews.

RESOLVED- that: -

- I. Further exploration of the potential identified at Riddlesdown Common be approved with further reporting to the Epping Forest & Commons Committee; and
- II. That it is agreed that no further work should be undertaken to pursue the provision of catering concessions for Ashted Common and Farthing Downs.

23. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions received in the public session.

24. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no urgent items considered in the public session.

25. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

26. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of their last meeting on 14 January 2019.

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting on the 14 January 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

27. **USE OF FOREST FUND FOR REFURBISHMENT OF LODGES**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Use of Forest Fund for the Refurbishment of Lodges.

RESOLVED- that the report be approved.

28. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk on action taken between meetings.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

29. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions received in the non-public session.

30. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was one item of non-public business received.

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Richard Holt
Richard.Holt@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Committee(s): Epping Forest and Commons Committee	Date(s): 20 May 2019
Subject: 2019/20 Committee Appointments	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
Report Author: Richard Holt	

Summary

The Committee is asked to consider its appointments for the next twelve months. Current membership of the various Consultative Committees and Groups as listed in Appendix 1. Provision for appointing a Member to serve as an observer on the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee is also referred to. It is expected that this appointment would encompass the strategic Open Spaces capacity of that Committee.

Recommendations

It is **recommended** that:-

1. Consideration be given to the appointment and composition of the following Consultative Committees and Groups:
 - **Ashted Common Consultative Group;**
 - **Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Consultation Group;**
 - **Couldson Commons, West Wickham & Spring Park Consultation Group;**
 - **Epping Forest Consultative Committee;**
 - **Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee; and the**
 - **Epping Forest Management Plan Steering Group.**
2. Consideration be given to the appointment of a representative to the **Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee** for the ensuing year as a local observer for this Committee.

Main Report

Background

The Committee makes a number of appointments to Consultative Committees and Groups that fall within its remit. Although these are reviewed annually it is within the gift of the Committee to set up groups and working parties as required based on the management of projects being undertaken during the year.

Options

That consideration be given to making the various appointments detailed in the report, from amongst the Committee membership. Consideration would then be given to filling any subsequent vacancies from existing or former Common Councilmen.

- The Committee are asked to appoint **the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and three** representatives onto the Ashted Common Consultative Group.
- The Committee are asked to appoint **the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and two** representatives onto Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Consultation Group.
- The Committee are asked to appoint **the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and three** representatives onto the Coulsdon Commons, West Wickham & Spring Park Consultation Group.
- The Committee are asked to appoint **the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and three** representatives onto the Epping Forest Consultative Committee.
- The Committee are asked to appoint **the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and four** representatives onto the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee
- The Committee are asked to appoint **the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and three** representatives, along with all four Verderers, onto the Epping Forest Management Plan Steering Group.
- The Committee are asked to appoint **one** representative onto the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee.

Implications

There are no financial, legal or risk implications.

Conclusion

That consideration be made to making appointments to the various Consultative Committees, Steering Groups and Management Projects detailed in the report.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Existing 2018/19 Membership
- Appendix 2 Epping Forest Consultative Committee Terms of Reference
- Appendix 3 Ashted Common Consultative Committee Terms of Reference
- Appendix 4 Coulsdon Commons, West Wickham & Spring Park Consultation Group Terms of Reference
- Appendix 5 Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Consultative Group Terms of Reference

Contact: *Richard Holt* Tel: 020 7332 3113 Richard.Holt@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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EPPING FOREST AND COMMONS COMMITTEE- COMMITTEE
APPOINTMENTS 2019/20

EXISTING 2018/19 MEMBERSHIP

Epping Forest Management Plan Steering Group

Philip Woodhouse
Graeme Smith
Sylvia Moys
Benjamin Murphy
Verderer Chapman
Verderer Murphy
Verderer Thomas

Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee

Philip Woodhouse
Graeme Smith
Sylvia Moys
Gregory Lawrence

Epping Forest Consultative Committee

Philip Woodhouse
Graeme Smith
Sylvia Moys
Benjamin Murphy
Verderer Chapman
Verderer Murphy
Verderer Thomas
Verderer Munday

Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Consultation Group

Philip Woodhouse
Graeme Smith
Sylvia Moys

Ashted Common Consultation Group

Philip Woodhouse
Graeme Smith
Sylvia Moys
Jeremy Simons

Couldson Commons, West Wickham & Spring Park Consultation Group

Philip Woodhouse
Graeme Smith
Sylvia Moys
Jeremy Simons

Open Spaces and City Gardens Representatives

Verderer Thomas

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Epping Forest Consultative Committee – Terms of Reference

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Purpose of Committee

1. The Epping Forest Consultative Committee considers and discusses areas of current concern or debate at Epping Forest. It receives public reports prior to their consideration by Epping Forest and Commons Committee and provides advice or opinion on those matters.
2. Minutes of meetings and outcomes of the Consultative Committee's discussions are considered by the Epping Forest and Commons Committee in a public report to inform decision making. Likewise, most recent minutes of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee are to be reviewed by the Consultative Committee.
3. The EF Consultative Committee is not a formal decision-making body, but views will be noted in formal reports to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee.
4. Consultative Committee meetings are to be scheduled several weeks prior to Epping Forest and Commons Committee to consider papers and matters arising, with sufficient time scheduled for revisions to papers to be made for Epping Forest Committee, and minutes to be included in documentation.
5. If an Epping Forest and Commons Committee meeting is not immediately preceded by a Consultative Committee, then the papers for that meeting will be circulated to Consultative Committee members electronically, with comments received and circulated by Town Clerks.

Conduct, attendance and other principles

6. The City of London Member's Code of Conduct 2018, associated guidance, declarations appendices and all subsequent revisions apply to Members of this Committee.
7. Should an attendee fail to attend 2 or more out of four consecutive meetings, their place may be forfeited. The Epping Forest and Commons Committee may choose to reallocate this space to an alternative interested organisation.
8. Although not a decision-making Committee, deliberations should be sufficiently well attended for advice to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee to be considered representative. For those reasons minimum attendance of four representatives of locally interested organisations is required.

9. Consultative Committee Members are representatives of their organisation, but Code of Conduct and other legal and administrative requirements apply to individuals. Every effort will be made to accommodate attendance by nominated proxy in unavoidable circumstances, but such substitutions may not always be possible and must not be considered routine.

Scheduling, location and public access

10. Meetings are scheduled at Loughton (as far as is possible), as the geographic centre of Epping Forest. Alternative venues may be considered by agreement.
11. Meetings are on a weekday evening, avoiding school and public holidays.
12. There will be a minimum of three meetings a year thereafter.
13. Should a change of frequency or location, including peripatetic meetings be preferred by this forum, that request must be made to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee.
14. Meetings will be held in public (numbers subject to venue capacity). Public questions are at the discretion of the Chairman.

Allocation of positions

15. The EF Consultative Committee has representation from Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Verderers and other members of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee where interested.
16. Meetings are Chaired by the Chairman of Epping Forest and Commons Committee or Deputy Chairman or other nominated official in their absence.
17. The Superintendent of Epping Forest and other City of London officers will attend as required.
18. The meetings are administered by a representative of City of London Town Clerks Department.
19. Attendants are nominated members of groups holding a specific interest in Epping Forest, either with large membership, a broad geographical spread across the Forest and with knowledge or interest in the themes of heritage; recreation/sport; conservation; general/informal use or voluntary

and friends' groups.

20. Tenants, business partners or other organisations with commercial interest in Epping Forest (or wider City of London Open Spaces) are not invited to attend as other routes exist for such input.

21. Groups nominating a representative must be formal, constituted organisations.

22. Invitations to express interest and to nominate representatives are advertised through print media, social media, email and direct correspondence by City of London. Applications require details of how the nominating organisation meets the above criteria.

23. A balance of themes of interest is ideally met as follows:

Conservation <i>Conservation groups in Forest, or with wider remit</i>	3
Friends/Voluntary <i>Formal working groups e.g. litter pickers groups, 'Friends of' etc.</i>	3
Heritage <i>Historical societies, rural preservation etc.</i>	2
Informal users <i>Schools, Youth groups, families associations, local forums and interest bodies</i>	2
Recreation <i>Recreational user groups – e.g. walkers, riders, cyclists</i>	3
Sports <i>Formal organised sports on Forest e.g. Golf, Football, cricket running etc.</i>	3
	16

24. Should more expressions of interest be received than can logistically be accommodated, selection will be made by members of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee by the following (not in order of importance):

- Size of membership
- Geographical area of interest (i.e. area of Forest covered)
- Theme of interest
- Record of attendance (once established)

25. Epping Forest and Commons Committee may appoint further members or co-opt representatives (for example subject matter experts) to attend where it deems appropriate.

26. The Consultative Committee serves as established for three years (starting in 2018), after which the invitation and nomination process outlined above is repeated.

Requirements and responsibilities

27. Nominated representatives must meet criteria similar to those set out by the Electoral Commission for eligibility for local government election:

- At least 18 years old
- Not employed by the City of London, or another organisation holding a commercial interest in Epping Forest or other CoL open spaces.
- Have not been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including suspended sentences), without the option of a fine, during the five years before nominations close.
- Not disqualified under the terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations).

28. Representatives must commit to representing the views of their organisation and members.

29. Representatives must share agenda and documentation internally within their organisation (subject to confidentiality) as well as minutes and outcomes of discussions.

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Ashtead Common Consultation Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The main purpose of the Ashtead Common Consultation Group is to assist the delivery of the latest Ashtead Common Management Plan which itself is a product of extensive stakeholder consultation. The aim of the Management Plan is to ensure an appropriate balance between the needs of access and nature conservation and thereby protect and conserve Ashtead Common *in perpetuity*.

1. To consider the annual work programme as set out in the management plan.
2. To identify and agree areas where further public consultation may be required.
3. To consider any major changes to the plan that may arise from time to time.
4. To consider, where appropriate, issues raised by the local community, or visitors and to assist the Superintendent in resolving them.
 - In addition, outcomes of Ashtead Common Consultation Group meetings should not:
 - Compromise the long-term welfare of the site
 - Conflict with the site's use for quiet enjoyment
 - Harm the conservation status of the site

Membership

7. Members of the group are invited to attend a series of meetings on the basis that, together, they ensure a broad representation of the local community and/or belong to organisations and bodies that are closely associated with, or have a direct interest or effect upon, the work carried out at Ashtead Common.
8. The City of London has statutory responsibilities and interests and will always be represented at the Group. Other bodies such as Natural England and Historic England also have statutory interests in the management of the sites and they will be invited to attend as meeting agendas dictate.
9. Membership of the Group will be for a period of four years after which you may be invited to serve for a further period of four years.
10. The Group will identify and welcome additional participants who have an interest in the management of Ashtead Common and accept the terms of reference

Attendance by members of the public.

11. Members of the public may attend. Any member of the public wishing to bring an issue to the attention of the Consultation Group must provide a minimum two weeks written notice and provide details as required, to the Chairman and Superintendent who will consider its inclusion on a future agenda as appropriate.

General

12. The Chairman of the Epping Forest & Commons Committee or his nominated representative shall be Chairman of the Committee.
13. Outputs from the Ashtead Common Consultation Group will inform the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, which remains the decision making body.
14. Meetings will be held not less than once per year (plus an annual 'external site meeting' to view works carried out and discuss forthcoming project issues).
15. The Group will meet formally in January or February each year.
16. Meetings shall take place locally to Ashtead Common.
17. The Town Clerk to convene the meetings and prepare and circulate the agendas and be responsible for the minutes, supported by local Officers where appropriate.
18. A further meeting or site visit may be arranged each year should circumstances require – see **Appendix 1**.

Appendix 1

Protocol for additional meetings site visits

For additional meetings/visits to be held for consideration of essential business by Officers or Members of Consultative Committees/Groups between scheduled meetings.

- i. A minimum of five members of the Consultative Committee/Group, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman must be in agreement to do so.
- ii. The minimum notice period for calling an additional meeting/visit is 28 days.
- iii. The nature of the issue must be submitted in writing to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Superintendent at least 14 days before the meeting.
- iv. The Chairman or Deputy Chairman and the Superintendent will preside at all additional meetings/visits.

Coulsdon Commons, West Wickham & Spring Park Consultation Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The main purpose of the Coulsdon Commons, West Wickham & Spring Park Consultation Group is to assist the delivery of the latest management plans for the Commons which themselves are a product of extensive stakeholder consultation. The aim of the management plans is to ensure an appropriate balance between the needs of public access and nature conservation and thereby protect and conserve the Coulsdon Commons, West Wickham & Spring Park *in perpetuity*.

1. To consider the annual work programme as set out in the management plans.
2. To identify and agree areas where further public consultation may be required.
3. To consider any major changes to the management plans that may arise from time to time.
4. To consider, where appropriate, issues raised by the local community, or visitors and to assist the Superintendent in resolving them.

In addition, outcomes of the Consultation Group meetings should not:

- Compromise the long-term welfare of the sites.
- Create conflict with each site's use for quiet enjoyment.
- Harm the conservation status of the sites.

Membership

7. Members of the group are invited to attend a series of meetings on the basis that, together, they ensure a broad representation of the local community and/or belong to organisations and bodies that are closely associated with, or have a direct interest or effect upon, the work carried out at the Coulsdon Commons, West Wickham & Spring Park.
8. The City of London has statutory responsibilities and interests and will always be represented at the Consultation Group. Other bodies such as Natural England and Historic England also have statutory interests in the management of the sites and will be invited to attend as meeting agendas dictate.
9. The Ward Councillor(s) local to the Open Space may be represented on the Group according to the duration of their election in that specific role.
10. Otherwise, membership of the Consultation Group will be for a period of four years after which you may be invited to serve for a further period of four years.
11. The Consultation Group will agree and welcome additional participants who have an interest in the management of the Coulsdon Commons, West Wickham & Spring Park and accept the Terms of Reference.

Attendance at meetings by members of the public.

12. Members of the public may attend meetings of the Consultation Group.
13. Any member of the public wishing to bring an issue to the attention of the Consultation Group must provide a minimum two weeks written notice and provide details as required, to the Chairman and Superintendent who will consider its inclusion on a future agenda as appropriate.

General

14. The Chairman of the Epping Forest & Commons Committee or his nominated representative shall be Chairman of the Group.
15. Outputs from the Consultation Group will inform the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, which remains the decision making body.
16. Meetings will be held not less than once per year (plus an annual 'external site meeting' to view works carried out and discuss forthcoming project issues).
17. The Consultation Group will meet formally in January or February each year.
18. Meetings shall take place locally to Coulsdon Commons, West Wickham & Spring Park.
19. The Town Clerk to convene the meetings and prepare and circulate the agendas and be responsible for the minutes, supported by local officers where appropriate.
20. A further meeting or site visit may be arranged each year should circumstances require – see **Appendix 1**.

Appendix 1

Protocol for additional meetings site visits

For additional meetings/visits to be held for consideration of essential business by Officers or Members of Consultation Groups between scheduled meetings.

- i. A minimum of five members of the Consultation Group, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman must be in agreement to do so.
- ii. The minimum notice period for calling an additional meeting/visit is 28 days.
- iii. The nature of the issue must be submitted in writing to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Superintendent at least 14 days before the meeting.
- iv. The Chairman or Deputy Chairman and the Superintendent will preside at all additional meetings/visits.

Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Consultative Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The main purpose of the Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Consultative Group is to assist the delivery of the latest Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Management Plans which themselves are a product of extensive stakeholder consultation. The aim of the Management Plans is to ensure an appropriate balance between the needs of access and nature conservation and thereby protect and conserve Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common *in perpetuity*.

1. To consider the annual work programme as set out in the management plans.
2. To identify and agree areas where further public consultation may be required.
3. To consider any major changes to the plans that may arise from time to time.
4. To consider, where appropriate, issues raised by the local community, or visitors and to assist the Superintendent in resolving them.
 - In addition, outcomes of Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common Consultative Group meetings should not:
 - Compromise the long-term welfare of the site
 - Conflict with the site's use for quiet enjoyment
 - Harm the conservation status of the site

Membership

7. Members of the Group are invited to attend a series of meetings on the basis that, together, they ensure a broad representation of the local community and/or belong to organisations and bodies that are closely associated with, or have a direct interest or effect upon, the work carried out at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.
8. The City of London has statutory responsibilities and interests and will always be represented at the Group. Other bodies such as Natural England and Historic England also have statutory interests in the management of the sites and they will be invited to attend as meeting agendas dictate.
9. The Ward Councillor(s) local to the Open Space may be represented on the Group according to the duration of their election in that specific role.
10. Otherwise, membership of the Group will be for a period of four years after which you may be invited to serve for a further period of four years.
11. The Group will identify and welcome additional participants who have an interest in the management of Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common and accept the terms of reference.

Attendance by members of the public.

12. Members of the public may attend. Any member of the public wishing to bring an issue to the attention of the Consultative Group must provide a minimum two weeks written notice and provide details as required, to the Chairman and Superintendent who will consider its inclusion on a future agenda as appropriate.

General

13. The Chairman of the Epping Forest & Commons Committee or his nominated representative shall be Chairman of the Committee.
14. Outputs from the Burnham Beeches And Stoke Common Consultative Group will inform the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, which remains the decision making body.
15. Meetings will be held not less than once per year (plus an annual 'external site meeting' to view works carried out and discuss forthcoming project issues).
16. The Group will meet formally in January or February each year.
17. Meetings shall take place locally to Burnham Beeches.
18. The Town Clerk to convene the meetings and prepare and circulate the agendas and be responsible for the minutes, supported by local Officers where appropriate.
19. A further meeting or site visit may be arranged each year should circumstances require – see **Appendix 1**.

Appendix 1

Protocol for additional meetings site visits

For additional meetings/visits to be held for consideration of essential business by Officers or Members of Consultative Groups between scheduled meetings:

- i. A minimum of five members of the Consultative Group, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman must be in agreement to do so.
- ii. The minimum notice period for calling an additional meeting/visit is 28 days.
- iii. The nature of the issue must be submitted in writing to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Superintendent at least 14 days before the meeting.
- iv. The Chairman or Deputy Chairman and the Superintendent will preside at all additional meetings/visits.

Committees	Date
Policy and Resources Committee (for decision)	04/07/2019
Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee (for information)	11/06/2019
Hampstead Heath Committee (for information)	05/06/2019
Education Board (for information)	23/05/2019
Epping Forrest and Commons Committee (for information)	20/05/2019
Community and Children's Services Committee (for information)	08/05/2019
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (for information)	29/04/2019
Health and Wellbeing Board (for information)	26/04/2019
Subject The City of London Corporation's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for 2019-23.	Public
Report of Kate Smith – Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance	
Report Author Sufina Ahmad – Corporate Strategy Manager	For decision

Summary

This paper presents at Appendix One the proposed final version of the City of London Corporation's (City Corporation) Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for 2019-2023. The vision is that: *London and the UK are world-class sport and physical activity destinations, supporting the economy, communities and individuals.* The key outcomes and activities include the City Corporation working with others to deliver successful major sporting events for London and the UK, sport engagement activities that strengthen community cohesion, and work that ensures people have access to and participate in sport and physical activity.

The Corporate Strategy and Performance Team (CSPT) developed this strategy following a decision in December 2018 at Policy and Resources Committee to invest in sport engagement work. It is based on research and discussions with internal officers in the following departments, who will also support its delivery: Town Clerk's, Community and Children's Services, Remembrancer's, Built Environment and Open Spaces. External colleagues from Sport England and London Sport also offered their input. The strategy aligns to our Corporate Plan for 2018-23, specifically outcomes 2, 3, 4, 7 and 10. Policy and resources Committee is asked to approve the strategy and Public Resources and Economic Development Sub Committee is asked to endorse it.

Recommendations

Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee/Hampstead Heath Committee/Education Board/Epping Forest and Commons Committee/Community

and Children's Services Committee/Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee/Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- i. Note and endorse the proposed final version of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy – subject to any changes discussed in the meeting being incorporated.

Policy and Resources Committee is asked to:

- ii. Approve the proposed final version of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy – subject to any changes discussed in the meeting being incorporated.

Main Report

Background

1. In December 2018, Policy and Resources Committee approved a paper setting out a strategic approach to sport engagement activities by the City Corporation, which included the decision to invest in a Sports Engagement Manager, based in the Corporate Affairs Team. Consequently, it was felt that the City Corporation would benefit from a strategy document on sport and physical activity. The CSPT was asked to develop this strategy, which it did through desk-based research and meetings with the following internal and external colleagues:
 - a) Sam Hutchings – Town Clerk's
 - b) Eugenie de Naurois – Town Clerk's
 - c) Nick Bodger – Town Clerk's
 - d) Daniel McGrady – Community and Children's Services
 - e) Andrea Laurice – Built Environment
 - f) Gerry Kiefer – Open Spaces
 - g) Xenia Koumi – Community and Children's Services
 - h) Sam Bedford – Community and Children's Services
 - i) Simon Cribbens – Community and Children's Services
 - j) Greg Knight – Community and Children's Services
 - k) Steve Garrett – Sport England
 - l) Emily Neilan – London Sport.

Current Position

2. The strategy, in terms of its vision, outcomes, activities and success measures are summarised on the second page of Appendix One. The content has been inspired by the City Corporation's existing work supporting major sporting events, major mass participation sporting events, campaigns and commissioned work to encourage people from all backgrounds to participate meaningfully in sport and physical activity. It also draws from the strategic sport and physical activity work that is being carried out by the Department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sports, Sport England, London Sport, Public Health England, the Greater London Authority and the World Health Organisation.
3. For the purpose of this strategy, the City Corporation has defined sport and physical activity as follows:

Sport relates to any and all individual or team sports and physical activity is any bodily movement that requires the expenditure of low, moderate or high levels of energy, this can include activities such as walking, dancing, playing and other recreational pursuits. Exercise is a sub-category of physical activity, and it is defined as something that is planned, structured and repetitive, and aims to improve or maintain one or more components of physical fitness.

4. The City Corporation's vision is that '*London and the UK are world-class destinations for sport and physical activity, supporting the economy, communities and individuals*'. The City Corporation will work with relevant local, regional and central governments, infrastructure bodies including Sport England and London and Partners, national governing bodies for sport, businesses, civil society organisations and individuals and communities directly to deliver the work outlined in the strategy.
5. The three key outcomes the City Corporation aims to achieve are:
 - a) London and the UK are world-class global destinations for major sporting events.
 - b) Community cohesion is strengthened through sport and physical activity.
 - c) People have access to and participate in sport and physical activity.
6. The City Corporation will achieve these outcomes by building on our existing work and supporting the development and delivery of bids for major sporting events that benefit communities and the economy in London and the UK, alongside events, campaigns and activities that encourage individuals and communities to access and participate in sport and physical activities, including those activities that bring communities together positively.

Recommendation

7. This Committee is asked to review, discuss and approve/endorse the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy today. If there are any changes required following today's discussions, then these will be incorporated before the strategy is shared externally with stakeholders.
8. It is also recommended that in the future, the direction of travel outlined in this strategy would be integrated into the wider City Corporation Health and Wellbeing Strategy, rather than continuing to require a separate strategy.

Implementation

9. If this strategy is approved, it is proposed that the Sports Engagement Manager, currently being recruited to, would lead on ensuring that it is delivered, by working in partnership with colleagues from Town Clerk's (Corporate Affairs, Cultural and Visitor Development, Events and Economic Development teams), Community and Children's Services (Commissioning, Public Health and Community Engagement teams), Remembrancer's (Events team), Mansion House, Built Environment (Strategic Transportation team) and Open Spaces (Central Management team) to:

- a) Look at the effectiveness and impact of existing and planned activities.
- b) Ensure that all activities relating to the strategy align to at least one of the three identified outcome areas and therefore the Corporate Plan.
- c) Determine the effectiveness of all activities against the to be agreed qualitative and quantitative success measures for each activity.
- d) Recommend if the activities should be continued as they are, repurposed, or stopped.
- e) Deliver activities within the resources available – monitoring impact and spend to inform corporate planning.
- f) Design and implement the action plan for the strategy.

Corporate and Strategic Implications

10. Corporate and Strategic Implications:

This strategy will support the following outcomes and associated high-level activities within the City Corporation's Corporate Plan for 2018-23:

Outcome 2: People enjoy good health and wellbeing

Outcome 3: People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.

Outcome 4: Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.

Outcome 7: We are a global hub for innovation in financial and professional services, commerce and culture.

Outcome 10: We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration.

This strategy also supports the work outlined in the following corporate strategies: Joint Health and Wellbeing, Social Wellbeing, Mental Health, Education, Visitor Destination, Corporate Volunteering and Transport.

- 11. **Security Implications:** The City Corporation will ensure that security needs are met when delivering major sporting events, involving Health and Safety, Security and City of London Police colleagues as needed.
- 12. **Financial and Resourcing Implications:** Existing budgets and the Hospitality Working Group budget will be used to deliver the activities outlined in this strategy. The work will be coordinated by the Sports Engagement Manager – which is a new permanent resource – alongside existing officer resource.
- 13. **Equalities Implications:** All activities will need to comply with the priorities set out in the City Corporation's Equalities and Inclusion Action Plan, ensuring that the diverse needs of individuals and communities this work is aimed at are met.
- 14. **Legal Implications:** Any legal agreements or partnerships that the City Corporation considers or enters in to, particularly as part of major sporting events, will need to be signed off by the Comptroller and City Solicitor's department – ensuring that early steer and sign off is sought wherever possible.

Conclusion

15. This Committee is asked to approve/endorse the proposed final version of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for 2019-23, which utilises the City Corporation's role across different sectors and geographical areas in pursuit of a vision that *'London and the UK are world-class destinations for sport and physical activity, supporting the economy, communities and individuals.'* If approved, its delivery will be led on by the Sports Engagement Manager with a range of colleagues from different internal departments.

Background Papers

Enhancing Sport Engagement – Policy and Resources Committee, 13/12/2018

Appendices

Appendix One – Proposed Final Version of Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, 2019-23.

Sufina Ahmad

Corporate Strategy Manager

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Appendix One – Proposed Final Version of Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, 2019-23

Sport and Physical Activity Strategy – Proposed Final Version, 04.04.19
Strategy Authors: Sufina Ahmad, Corporate Strategy Manager and Ioana Tamas, Graduate Trainee

Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, 2019-23.

Foreword by the Chair of Policy and Resources and Town Clerk

To be added, post approval at officer and Member Committees.

Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Chair of Policy and Resources
Committee

John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

April 2019

Our definition of sport and physical activity

Sport refers to activities that require physical exertion and involve individuals or teams, and physical activity is any bodily movement that requires the expenditure of low, moderate to high levels of energy, e.g. walking or dancing. Exercise is a sub-category of physical activity.

Why sport and physical activity matters to us

The City Corporation aims to contribute to a flourishing society, support a thriving economy and shape outstanding environments, as set out in our Corporate Plan (CP). We want to raise London and the UK's profile globally: driving and inspiring engagement with and participation in sport and physical activity and contributing to London and the UK's attractiveness for individuals, communities and business. This drives improvements in physical and mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

Who we will work with

We will continue to work with individuals and communities across London and the UK, including our residents and workers in the Square Mile – focussing on those that are 'inactive' and less likely to engage with sport and physical activity. The Sports Engagement Manager alongside colleagues from across the organisation will work with relevant local, regional and central governments, sport infrastructure bodies, businesses, civil society organisations, national governing bodies of sport and individuals and communities to deliver the work outlined in this strategy.

Our Vision

London and the UK are world-class destinations for sport and physical activity, supporting the economy, communities and individuals.

Our Outcomes

London and the UK are world-class global destinations for major sporting events .

Links to CP Outcomes 7 and 10

Community cohesion is strengthened through sport and physical activity.

Links to CP Outcomes 3 & 4

People have access to and participate in sport and physical activity.

Links to CP outcomes 2 & 3

Our Activities

- Support the development and delivery of bids and partnerships for major sporting events.
- Deliver events and activities to celebrate and promote major sporting events.
- Offer signposting and information services to visitors.
- Promote London and the UK's major sporting events offer nationally and internationally.

- Promote major sporting events to local communities to drive engagement with sport and physical activity.
- Develop and deliver inclusive events during major sporting events.
- Attract mass participation sporting events are delivered for the benefit of local communities and local schools.
- Champion resident-led ideas for sport and physical activity.

- Promote active travel.
- Commission sport, exercise and physical activity services for our residents.
- Deliver public health led campaigns on sport and physical activity for our residents, workers and pupils.
- Make best use of our own assets to encourage sport and physical activity.
- Raise awareness of the benefits of sport, exercise and physical activity across our activities, institutions and assets.

Our Success Measures

This strategy will result in an increased number of major sporting events in London and the UK, driving economic benefits and delivering improvements in physical and mental health for individuals and communities, including our residents, workers and pupils in the Square Mile, through increased access to and participation in sport and physical activity. Finally we will support Londoners to be more active.

Introduction and vision

The City of London Corporation (City Corporation) is the governing body for the Square Mile, dedicated to a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK. This strategy outlines our vision, approach and commitment to sport and physical activity until 2023. It is an externally-focussed strategy that complements the strategic priorities set out in Central Government's '*Sporting Future*' Strategy; Sport England's '*Towards an Active Nation*' Strategy; Public Health England's '*Everybody Active, Every Day*' Briefing; and the Greater London Authority's (GLA) '*Sport for All of Us*' Strategy.

Our definition of sport and physical activity is based on the definitions used by Sport England and the World Health Organisation. Sport relates to any and all individual or team sports and physical activity is any bodily movement that requires the expenditure of low, moderate or high levels of energy. This can include activities such as walking, dancing, playing and other recreational pursuits. Exercise is a sub-category of physical activity, and it is defined as something that is planned, structured and repetitive, and aims to improve or maintain one or more components of physical fitness.

According to 2017/18 figures published by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on physical activity among the UK's population, 25% of people aged 16 years and over in England are categorised as physically inactive. Specific groups are more likely to be physically inactive compared with the wider population, including women and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

We are keen for this strategy to encourage and inspire individuals from all backgrounds and abilities to be active every day, as per the UK Chief Medical Officer's recommendations. We are defining an inactive person as someone who has done less than 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week – which is the definition used by Sport England in its '*Active Lives Survey*'. The Chief Medical Officer's definition of an 'active' person is someone who is physically active for more than 150 minutes a week, in sessions of at least 10 minutes.

Central Government is clear that investment in sport and physical activity brings significant benefits to individuals and communities in the UK through improvements in the following outcome areas:

1. Economic development –

Sport and physical activity can create jobs, promote growth, drive exports and increase levels of inward investment. The sport sector contributes £39 billion to the UK's Gross Domestic Product and it plays a significant role in supporting the UK Government's GREAT Britain Campaign, which promotes the UK abroad in a number of areas including our tourism offer.

2. Social and community development –

Sport and physical activity can bring people together, often from different backgrounds, highlighting the positive aspects of their community and the place where they live, resulting in greater levels of community cohesion.

3. Physical health –

Sport and physical activity can reduce the risks associated with a range of common health conditions, including musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), cancer, dementia, strokes, heart disease and diabetes. In addition to the health benefits, tackling symptoms associated with common physical and mental health (see below) conditions, also helps to reduce costs to businesses associated with sickness absence among the workforce.

4. Mental health –

Sport, exercise and physical activity can increase self-confidence and contribute to the reduction of symptoms relating to a range of mental health conditions, such as stress, anxiety and depression.

5. Individual development –

Sport and physical activity can positively contribute to improving educational attainment and learners' behaviours and attitudes, as well as support the development of characteristics and skills, for example team working, communication and problem solving.

These outcome areas align to our organisational strategic aims, as set out in our Corporate Plan for 2018-23, to contribute to a flourishing society, to support a thriving economy and to shape outstanding environments.

In London, the GLA, Sport England and London Sport are working in partnership to make London ***the most physically active city in the world***. There are two major priority areas within our own Sport and Physical Activity Strategy which resonate with this work and which we wish to prioritise:

1. Major Sporting Events

London is globally recognised for its ability to host inspiring major sporting events, resulting in increased levels of positive social and community development, as well as improvements in the local, regional and national economy – especially through increased levels of inward investment and increased numbers of visitors.

2. Increased levels of sport and physical activity

All Londoners can access and participate in sport and physical activity, resulting in improvements in their physical and mental health, individual development and community cohesion.

Furthermore, we feel that investment in sport and physical activity is essential right now, in the face of:

- Economic uncertainty and risks of stagnation alongside cost of living increases.
- Political uncertainty relating to UK trade agreements and our ability to develop partnerships abroad.

- Changing perceptions of London as a welcoming and attractive place to be for residents, workers, visitors and businesses, as highlighted through London's ranking in the Global Brand Index.
- Challenges to community cohesion – exacerbated in London due to the levels of transience across different population demographics and well evidenced in strategies and research by the Greater London Authority.
- Reductions in public sector spending on sport and physical activity.
- Higher prevalence of mental and physical health conditions for people that are inactive, as evidenced by Public Health England and Sport England.
- An ageing population and the health and social challenges that this brings, including increasing levels of loneliness and isolation, as evidenced by Public Health England and Sport England.

Going forward, **our vision** is that:

London and the UK are world-class destinations for sport and physical activity, supporting the economy, communities and individuals.

What we will do

The outcomes and activities that we have identified for this strategy are based on our existing expertise and work in this space, which relates to co-designing and co-delivering major sporting events and mass participation sporting events; encouraging recreation and physical and sporting activities across our 11,000 acres of open spaces; and designing and delivering commissioned and public-health led activities for residents and workers in the Square Mile. Activities relating to these areas or work include, but are not limited to:

1. Technical support, such as volunteer training, road closures and route planning and an extensive hospitality offer for major sporting events and mass participation sporting events.
2. Campaigns and activities to encourage sport and physical activity among the City's worker population, such as those delivered through the Business Healthy programme and the Active City Network.
3. Commissioned services that encourage sport and physical activity for our residents in the Square Mile.
4. Open Spaces designed and maintained to encourage physical recreation, as well as access to sporting facilities such as playing fields, athletics tracks, tennis courts etc.

We have therefore outlined the following three outcomes and associated activities in order to fulfil our vision –

Outcome 1: London and the UK are world-class global destinations for major sporting events.

This means that we will prioritise the following types of activities:

- a) Contribute proactively to all stages of bid development and delivery for London and the UK to host major sporting events.
- b) Facilitate the development of cross-sectoral partnerships, collaborations and promotional materials to support with bids for major sporting events. These should align with – and seek to support where possible – existing strategic goals and aspirations set out in our Corporate Plan, including for example our commitments to responsible business practices, health and wellbeing, the promotion of sugar reduction and healthier eating and ensuring the City remains a global destination for financial and professional services, commerce and culture.
- c) Deliver exceptional events and activities for major sporting events in our iconic venues, through welcome receptions and dinners, celebrations with athletes, Freedom of the City ceremonies etc.
- d) Provide support to others in delivering outdoor major sporting events, including route decision-making, road closures, traffic diversions, parking enforcement etc.
- e) Facilitate and/or support volunteer training programmes during major sporting events.
- f) Offer signposting and information services to visitors at major sporting events.
- g) Promote London and the UK's major sporting events offer during international and national trade visits undertaken by our staff, the Chair of Policy and Resources and the Lord Mayoralty.
- h) Promote the positive benefits of London and the UK's major sporting events to the media at a local, national and international level.

To deliver this outcome, we will work in partnership with the relevant local, regional and central governments, infrastructure bodies, such as Sport England and London and Partners, businesses, national governing bodies and civil society organisations involved in the major sporting event that is being bid for.

Outcome 2: Community cohesion is strengthened through sport and physical activity.

This means that we will prioritise the following types of activities:

- a) Co-design of bids for major sporting events to include provision for a range of inclusive events, including 'fringe' events that positively engage and benefit local communities, including our residents, workers and local schools, including the City of London family of schools.
- b) Support the design and delivery of mass participation sporting events for local communities, including our residents and workers.

- c) Champion resident and worker-led ideas in the Square Mile, as well as ideas from other local communities we work with, e.g. through our Open Spaces, that encourage sport and physical activity.
- d) Engage City businesses in sporting activities as supporters and contributors, e.g. through funding, volunteers etc.

To deliver this outcome, we will work in partnership with local communities, our residents in the Square Mile, event organisers and visitors to our Open Spaces. This work will particularly seek to target:

- Individuals within communities that are completing less than 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week, who are therefore considered 'inactive'.
- Communities in London that are less likely or able to engage with sport and physical activity, e.g. disabled people, older people etc.

Outcome 3 People have access to and participate in sport and physical activity.

This means that we will prioritise the following types of activities:

- a) Promote and support active travel, i.e. cycling and walking, for all abilities throughout the Square Mile.
- b) Adopting an evidence-based commissioning approach, using feedback from residents and insights collected through the Sport England '*Active Lives Survey*'.
- c) Delivery of public health-led campaigns for residents and workers in the Square Mile that result in increased access to and participation in sport and physical activity.
- d) Utilisation of City Corporation-owned assets, such as our cultural venues, our estates and our open spaces to encourage sport, physical activity and recreation for residents and workers.
- e) Continue to remove barriers to engaging in outdoor recreation activities, such as walking, cycling and jogging across City Corporation-owned open spaces.
- f) Raise awareness of the importance of sport and physical activity across our various activities, institutions and assets.

To deliver this outcome, we will work in partnership with our residents and workers in the Square Mile. This outcome seeks to support mainly:

- Residents and workers that are completing less than 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week and are therefore considered 'inactive'.
- Residents, workers, visitors and pupils that are less likely or able to engage with sport and physical activity, e.g. disabled people, older people, those with caring responsibilities etc.

The work relating to the outcomes and activities outlined above will be led on by the Sports Engagement Manager, but it is expected that support will be offered by colleagues based in Corporate Affairs, Media, Cultural and Visitor Development, Mansion House, Events, Built Environment, Community and Children's Services, Public Health and Open Spaces.

Implementation and measures of success

This strategy builds on the current work that we are doing around sport and physical activity for the benefit of individuals and communities across London and the UK, and our residents and workers in the Square Mile specifically. The workstreams relating to this strategy will be periodically reviewed by an internal group of officers from the following departments:

- Town Clerk's Department – Corporate Affairs, Cultural and Visitor Development and Events teams.
- Department of Community and Children's Services – Commissioning, Public Health and Community Engagement teams.
- Remembrancer's Department – Events Team.
- Department of Built Environment – Strategic Transportation team.
- Open Spaces Department – Central Management team.

Colleagues from our Economic Development Office and the Lord Mayoralty's Office will attend the group when needed.

Areas of work that the group will discuss include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Looking at the effectiveness and impact of existing and planned activities.
2. Ensuring that all activities relating to the strategy align to at least one of the three identified outcome areas and therefore the Corporate Plan.
3. Assessing the effectiveness of all activities against the to be agreed qualitative and quantitative success measures for each activity.
4. Recommending if the activities should be continued as they are, repurposed, or stopped.
5. Delivering activities within the resources available – monitoring impact and spend to inform corporate planning.
6. Designing and implementing the action plan for the strategy.

The internal working group will be facilitated by a Sports Engagement Manager, based within the Corporate Affairs Team, who will support the delivery of this strategy generally and outcomes one and two of this strategy specifically.

Success for this strategy includes delivering:

1. Increased numbers of major sporting events in London and the UK, resulting in more opportunities for economic, social and/or community development.
2. Improvements in physical and mental health for individuals and communities, including our residents and workers in the Square Mile, through increased access to and participation in sport and physical activity.
3. Supporting Londoners to be more active.

Links to our Corporate Plan

Our vision as the governing body of the Square Mile, as set out in our Corporate Plan for 2018-23, is a *'vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK'*. We aim to do this by *contributing to a flourishing society, supporting a thriving economy and shaping outstanding environments*. This strategy will support the following outcomes and associated high-level activities within the Corporate Plan:

- **Outcome 2:** People enjoy good health and wellbeing
We will:
 - Promote equality and inclusion in health through outreach to our working, learning and residential communities and better service design and delivery.
 - Raise awareness of factors affecting mental and physical health.
 - Provide advice and signposting to activities and services.
 - Provide inclusive access to facilities for physical activity and recreation.
- **Outcome 3:** People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.
We will:
 - Provide access to world-class heritage, culture and learning to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
 - Cultivate excellence in academia, sport and creative and performing arts.
- **Outcome 4:** Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.
We will:
 - Bring individuals and communities together to share experiences and promote wellbeing, mutual respect and tolerance.
 - Support access to suitable community facilities, workspaces and visitor accommodation.
- **Outcome 7:** We are a global hub for innovation in financial and professional services, commerce and culture.
We will:
 - Strengthen local, regional, national and international relationships to secure new opportunities for business, collaboration and innovation.
 - Promote London for its creative energy and competitive strengths.
- **Outcome 10:** We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration.
We will:

- Create and transform buildings, streets and public spaces for people to admire and enjoy.
- Protect, curate and promote world-class heritage assets, cultural experiences and events.

This strategy also supports the work outlined in the following corporate strategies: Joint Health and Wellbeing, Corporate Volunteering, Social Wellbeing, Mental Health, Education, Visitor Destination and Transport. All work delivered through this strategy will also comply with the priorities set out in our Equalities and Inclusion Action Plan.

Conclusion

We are pleased to make a commitment to sport and physical activity through this strategy that builds on our values and commitment to individuals, communities and stakeholders across the Square Mile, London and the UK. Investing in sport and physical activity related work has the potential to deliver positive social and economic outcomes for all. To deliver this strategy successfully we recognise that we must collaborate with others and learn from the work that we do in this space, in order to address the challenges and opportunities identified in this strategy.

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1. Committee(s):	Date(s):
Epping Forest & Commons Committee	20 May 2019
Subject: Superintendent's Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of 'The Commons'	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>This report provides a general update on issues across the nine sites within 'The Commons' division that may be of interest to members and is supplementary to the monthly email updates.</p> <p>Recommendation Members are asked to note the contents of this report.</p>	

Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common

1. The quarry site at East Burnham ceased operating for 4-6 weeks while preparations were being made for working the next phase. An annual report on the dust levels over the last year has been received which concluded that, on average, dust deposition rates at most locations were slightly lower than the previous year. There was however no significant increase or decrease from previous years. A few monitoring periods registered results that are defined as 'objectional' but it was not possible to conclude whether these were due to quarrying activities or natural seasonal variations.
2. Officers have received an advanced copy of the South Bucks District Council (SBDC) Local Plan prior to public consultation under Regulation 19 in mid-June. Two areas relating to Burnham Beeches are yet to be finalised pending reports from consultants, so the proposals are lacking some details, including those of the mitigation strategies. A meeting is planned with Planning Officers and Natural England to finalise those details.
3. A meeting was held with a sub group of the Farnhams' Parish Council who are working on a neighbourhood plan. Officers reminded them about the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment and gave them the background to our work with the District Council and Natural England in relation to planning issues.
4. The Superintendent gave a presentation to the full cabinet of SBDC which included an update on various issues in relation to Burnham Beeches and outlined the City's position in relation to the new Local Plan and the issues raised through the Habitats Regulations Assessment. The Superintendent also provided Councillors with an

update of dog-related Public Space Protection Orders and their important role in maintaining a balanced approach to recreational use across the site. The opportunity was also taken to inform Councillors of the Open Spaces Act, 2018 and the influence and opportunities it provides. Councillors expressed their thanks and appreciation for the work of the City at both Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common.

5. An application has been submitted to Wood, consultants for Heathrow Airport, for funding under their requirement to deliver biodiversity net gain as a result of the third runway development. Officers have received an indication that they will be invited to a meeting with Heathrow to discuss the proposals further. The Conservation Officer also attended a workshop about the biodiversity work carried out as part of the planning process.
6. Work has continued under the Countryside Stewardship grant and liaison maintained with our Natural England Officer over the requirements for monitoring.
7. The Beeches hosted a regional meeting of Natural England (NE) officers in March which included a walk led by the Conservation officer and Head Ranger. This was a useful opportunity to discuss joint working and future help that NE could provide for ongoing and future protection of the Beeches.
8. Work on the new Burnham Beeches management plan has continued with a series of staff consultation days focussing on key elements of the plan.
9. A new 3-year lease to run the Cafe in Burnham Beeches was been signed just before Easter and works to fit out the café are virtually complete. While the café was closed the opportunity was taken to undertake a range of necessary cyclical maintenance works and these have now been completed. The new café operated as an effective temporary 'pop up facility' for the Easter Weekend and is now open again 7 days a week
10. Two specialists in lichens working for PlantLife under the 'Back from the Brink' Heritage Lottery Programme spent two days in Burnham Beeches transplanting a Red Data Book lichen, *Pyrenula nitida* from (what was thought to be its last host in the Beeches), an old pollard that had died, onto suitable donor trees nearby. They also did a little more survey work and found the same species on a couple more trees and another related even rarer one, *Pyrenula nitidella* as well. A full report is expected in due course.
11. Volunteers and staff have now moved on to spring and summer work programmes – with preparations underway for the return of grazing animals in late April and May when cows and ponies come back to the Beeches and cows to Stoke Common. Works have included fence repairs and invisible fence testing prior to the return of the livestock.

12. Staff and volunteers have also undertaken a range of signage improvements – with new entrance information signs being installed at four locations at Stoke Common and a new sign at Druids oak at Burnham Beeches. An element of the sensory trail - the sound sticks – had started to rot away so a local artist has been employed to remake the item and volunteers will help install them soon.
13. Volunteers are undertaking the annual whole site reptile survey at Stoke Common during April and May. They have also helped the team tidy up the external café seating area before the new tenant took over. Staff and volunteers have also continued to undertake a range of monitoring work – from the ‘Eco volunteers’ checking response of young pollard trees to cutting experiments to staff working with the local bird club and other volunteers to undertake early morning surveys for lesser spotted woodpeckers.

PARTNERSHIPS

Kenley Revival update

14. The Buildings Research Establishment (BRE) presented interim findings of the test panel trials designed to identify a solution to the thaumasite sulphate attack issue that has occurred during the restoration of the heritage features of the airfield. Some deterioration was noted in the alternative mortars being tested, but further analysis is required to ascertain if this is due to sulphate attack. Colleagues in the City Surveyor’s Department are being consulted on how best to interpret the final report when it arrives in June so that a technical solution can be considered.
15. The City’s legal advisors, Beale and Company, are providing guidance on the options available to resolve the dispute over responsibility for the issues experienced and how to remedy them. However, it is clear that the matter must now await the final report from BRE before the protocol for construction and engineering disputes can define responsibility for costs and delivery of the agreed remedial works. At this moment in time it is not possible to determine if the process will take a commercial or legal route. A formal report to this committee will follow once a way forward has been determined. Legal costs are currently being met locally and noted for any potential claim or commercial agreement.
16. The new PIP funded Legacy Officer, Linda Duffield, started on April 1st. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge about Kenley’s history and WWII.
17. School workshops delivered at Trinity School and Hillcroft School engaged 80 students in the story of Kenley.

18. A display about Kenley was visited by 70 people who attended an event to meet the new calves at Merlewood.
19. The company manufacturing the 23 new interpretative signs, 'Allsigns', have concluded that they cannot manufacture two of the sign types (large and small wings) in metal as originally specified. The Kenley Board decided to accept their recommendation to make them using Glass Reinforced Plastic instead. This change will not be obvious to the casual observer and brings the benefit of greater strength and ease of replacement should the need arise. Croydon planners are currently being consulted on this minor material change.

Proposed NNR.

20. Progress continues to be made on the declaration of the proposed National Nature Reserve covering the Coulsdon Commons and Happy Valley. Media plans and a launch event are being developed by the partners (City of London, London Borough of Croydon and Natural England) in readiness of final confirmation with draft dates under consideration. Details to follow once available.

The West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons

21. The bye-law board along Wood Way (Spring Park) had fallen over and was reported by a member of the public. The Ranger team has been working closely with the City Surveyor and have assessed all remaining bye-law boards. Consequently, eight were found to be faulty and have been removed from the various sites.
22. The recruitment for Information Ranger has been successful the new Officer has recently joined the team.
23. A series of management Plan 'visioning' meetings have been organised to discuss the future management of the West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons, Spring Park and West Wickham. The vision meetings for Farthing Downs and Kenley have now been held and focused on habitat management, Ranger tasks, onsite.
24. The grazing management across Coulsdon Commons is also being reviewed and a report written which was discussed during a staff meeting at the start of April. A follow up meeting has been organised for June. Following the discussions, three potential future grazing models are being evaluated in depth
25. The cattle have left the barn at Merlewood Estate Office and are grazing across the Coulsdon commons. Wilf, the bull, has also joined the cows and calves on Lower Woodplace Farm field.

26. In parallel to 23 above, similar reviews are taking place at Burnham Beeches, Stoke Common and Ashtead Common to identify the detailed costs of the various 'historical' models adopted at each site and ascertain if efficiencies can be achieved.
27. High and medium risk tree safety inspections have been carried out across all sites and the resulting work specification submitted to City Procurement and a contractor has been appointed. The work will be carried out over the next few weeks.
28. A contractor has cleared trees along Hayes lane, Kenley, to mitigate the tree safety risk.

Ashtead Common

27. Winter work concluded with the completion of veteran tree management work in district 10 at the northern edge of the common. Approximately 75 veteran trees were climbed by contractors, and many more were halo released by contractors and volunteers.
28. Bat detectors have been installed in two of the veteran tree districts. Ranger Zuza Featherstone is conducting an MRes study into the effects of the veteran tree management programme on bats.
29. A meeting with Natural England on April 12th explored the options for Ashtead to apply for Countryside Stewardship funding from January 2022. Key to this is a consideration of the extent to which the veteran tree management programme will need amending to suit the schemes requirements.

Incidents

Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common

30. There were 16 reported incidents during the period
31. Three incidents related to fires at the Beeches which were all small scale, 2 at site bins and one in woodland, and dealt with by the ranger team
32. A group of 8 traveller caravans and associated vehicles moved into the main car park on Lord Mayors Drive, at Burnham Beeches, late afternoon on Sunday the 3rd March. They moved on by early evening on the 4th March following actions by site staff and by Bailiffs at a cost to local risk budgets of £4000. Plans to install height barriers to reduce this type of incident, have been brought forward.

33. The other incidents include 3 fly tipping incidents at the Beeches and Stoke Common and 2 incidents with dogs not on leads in the on-lead area requiring follow up action – both resulted in final warning letters to the parties involved.
34. An unpaid FPN issued for an incident relating to a dog being walked off lead in the on-lead area at the Beeches in October 2018 – has been passed to the City Solicitor for follow up action

Ashtead Common

35. Motorbikes on the common – reported to the police.
36. Sewage leak on footpath 28 – currently being investigated by Thames Water.

The West Wickham and Coulsdon Commons

37. Coulsdon Common – Children throwing stones in to the yard; Theft of wood from Stites Hill Road, three incidents of youths chasing cattle in Merlewood paddock. Ranger patrols now increased and local Safer Neighbourhood Team informed; contents of two dog waste bins emptied and contents scattered across the Common; dead fish reported in car park at Coulsdon Common football pitch.
38. Farthing Downs – A dead pony was reported as being ‘dumped’ but the animal was in fact on Croydon land and reported to them.
39. Kenley Common – Theft of felled timber along Hayes Lane
40. Riddlesdown – Reported rough sleeper. Safer Croydon Team advised and person has now moved on.
41. West Wickham Common – Car crashed on West Wickham Common, but occupants were uninjured. The car has been recovered and no significant damage to the Common.

Filming, major events and other activities

Burnham Beeches

42. Events at the Beeches included: Easter half term trail and 4 ‘simply walk’ events, meet the Ranger events – one in march attracting 160 people to look at reptiles and amphibians in a 2 hour period. The Beeches also hosted a number of school events and a day for the Ancient Tree Forum attended by 25 delegates, from a variety of organisations including CoL staff, to promote the VETcert certification for specialists working on veteran trees and which included a walk to show case some of the recent work on the veteran trees.

43. The West Wickham & Coulsdon Commons

44. The Ranger team delivered 3 guided walks – 2 x Ramble with the Farthing Downs Ranger events and a Healthy Hearts walk on Coulsdon Common Coulsdon.

45. Caterham Scouts visited Coulsdon Common and supported the Ranger to clear the pond.

Andy Barnard. Superintendent of The Commons

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Committee(s): Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee Epping Forest and Commons Committee	Date(s): 8 April 2019 20 May 2019
Subject: Proposed National Nature Reserve status for the Coulsdon Commons and Happy Valley	Public
Report of: Colin Buttery, Director of Open Spaces	For Decision
Report author: Andy Barnard, Superintendent of the Commons	

Summary

At the January 2019 meeting of this Committee, Members authorised Officers to progress the declaration of a proposed National Nature Reserve (covering the Coulsdon Commons and Happy Valley) with Natural England and in partnership with the London Borough of Croydon, so that a formal proposal could be developed and reported by May 2019. Additional meetings with Natural England and the London Borough of Croydon have since ensued.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- i. Approve the confirmation, by Natural England in summer 2019, of the ‘South London Downs National Nature Reserve’ with completion of their formal declaration process by November 2019.

Main Report

Background

1. National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are a Natural England declaration that reflects the recreational and conservation value of important sites across England. NNRs are recognised as being ‘our finest wildlife sites’. There are currently 224 NNRs in England, covering 360 square miles (0.7% of England).
2. Natural England produced a new NNR strategy in 2017 that encourages the consideration of additional NNR’s across England that meet their strategic criteria. Appendix 1
3. There are currently only two NNR’s in Greater London i.e. Richmond Park and Ruislip Woods.
4. Two of the City’s Open Spaces already have NNR status; both are within The Commons Division namely, Burnham Beeches NNR in Buckinghamshire (declared 1992) and Ashted Common NNR in Surrey (declared 1995).

5. In January 2019 your Committee authorised Officers to progress the designation of a pNNR (covering the Coulsdon Commons and Happy Valley) with Natural England and the London Borough of Croydon, so that a formal proposal could be developed and reported by May 2019.
6. At that time Members were also informed that the name of the new NNR, should it be declared, is to be 'The South London Downs National Nature Reserve' a name that recognises both its geographic location within Greater London and its geology.
7. NNR's are declared by NE under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949. Private landowners that manage the NNR network must meet the standards set by NE to become an 'Approved Body'
8. The City of London has been an 'Approved Body' since 1992. The process of attaining Approved Body status for LBC will run concurrently alongside the NNR declaration.
9. The declaration of land as a NNR not only recognises the high recreation and conservation value of the site but the high standards of management expertise necessary to maintain their value. The NNR declaration is a high profile opportunity for the City to celebrate the importance of the Commons to local people and the conservation and access work being undertaken.
10. A map of the proposed NNR (pNNR) boundary is shown as **Map 1**. It consists of some 417 hectares of land of which approx. 36% is designated by Natural England as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There is scope to further enlarge the boundary of the NNR later should that be desired.

Current Position

11. Discussions have continued between The City of London, LBC and NE since January 2019 and agreement reached concerning the shared organisational Vision, Mission and Objectives for the pNNR. These are documented as the 'Joint Statement of Intent' and shown below:
 - a. **NNR Title:** South London Downs National Nature Reserve.
 - b. **NNR Vision:** The South London Downs nature is restored, enriched and treasured by the people it supports.
 - c. **NNR Mission:** To ensure the South London Downs NNR thrives. We act beyond boundaries. We harness the power of partnership, combining passion, science and innovation to create resilient landscapes, rich in wildlife, where people can engage with the natural world
 - d. **NNR Objectives:** Land owners will work in partnership, within available resources, to achieve the vision of the NNR by:
 - i. Managing the NNR across ownership boundaries to harmonise the benefits of biodiversity, science and recreation;
 - ii. Working collaboratively to maximise positive management;

- iii. Engaging local communities and visitors in the maintenance, enhancement and further landscape resilience of the NNR via volunteering, education, research and recreation;
 - iv. Developing long term monitoring programmes to increase understanding of the natural environment
 - v. Working collaboratively to provide opportunities to enhance the health and wellbeing of local communities and visitors through engaging and creative projects;
 - vi. Ensuring the NNR is appropriately recognised in local planning policies and local decision making
 - vii. Sourcing external funding for collaborative projects
 - viii. Enhancing landscape resilience, joining up with external sites to extend the reach of the NNR as opportunities arise
- 12. A detailed document providing further the background information to the pNNR can be found in Appendix 2.
- 13. It is proposed that governance of the partnership will be developed at an early stage of the partnership and once the declaration is approved. Consideration is currently being given to the eventual adoption of the 'Consultative Group' approach that already operates across The Commons but other models remain possible and the eventual approach should be given time to take shape.
- 14. Officers of LBC are taking a similar report through their procedural channels and anticipate approval in readiness for formal declaration of the pNNR by July 2019.
- 15. Natural England have formally expressed their support to the City of London concerning the declaration of the new pNNR and have set out the timetable for their internal procedures leading to formal designation. Appendix 3.
- 16. NE has also developed a very useful Q&A document to provide background information and assist consistent messaging. Appendix 4.

Proposals

- 17. It is proposed that:
 - a. Members approve the designation of the pNNR, subject to successful:
 - i. Approval by LBC
 - ii. NE status confirmation – July 2019
 - iii. NE Declaration – November 2019
 - b) A tentative launch date to be determined but likely to be timed to coincide with National Park City week 21-28 July 2019 to which Councillors, Members, Officers and Members of the public will be invited to attend. Early discussion indicate that Wednesday 24th July best suits the various partners.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

18. The recommendations of this report supports the Corporate Plan with particular reference to the following aims:

- a. Contribute to a flourishing society**
- b. Shape Outstanding Environments**

And supports the Open Spaces Business Plan as follows:

- a. Open Spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible.**
- a. Spaces enrich people's lives.**
- b. Business practices are responsible and sustainable.**

Implications

- 19. Experience at Burnham Beeches and Ashted Common indicates that NNR status does not place an additional funding burden on the City. Indeed the status can attract additional funding, particularly towards the cost of education, research and monitoring as well as help to raise the landowners profile and facilitate grant applications.
- 20. Management activity on the City's Coulsdon Commons within the pNNR, will continue to be met from local risk budgets according to the available resources and with continuing reliance on external grants and income generation.
- 21. The proposal provides opportunities to build closer working partnerships with the London Borough of Croydon and perhaps other local landowners to develop shared management plans, objectives and projects with the prospect of making more efficient use of available resources.
- 22. NNR status does not bring greater legal protection (or management obligation) to the land but it does accord high reputational value to NNR landowners and can give greater weight to environmental protection issues as part of Local Authority Local Plans.

Open Spaces Charities

23. The Coulsdon Commons are Registered Charity No 232989. Officers have been asked to remind Members that decisions they take in relation to the relevant charity must be taken in the best interests of that charity

Conclusion

- 24. NNR status is considered to be cost neutral yet provides enhanced reputational value to the owners of the land and their management of the natural environment and will facilitate further grant funding opportunities.
- 25. NNR status of the Coulsdon Commons, as part of the South London Downs NNR, would demonstrate the City's commitment to the Government's strategic aim to create landscape scale conservation projects.
- 26. Officers of the City of London, London Borough of Croydon and Natural England, recognise the value of designating the Coulsdon Commons and,

Happy Valley as the South London Downs NNR and seek authority to proceed according to the timetable shown in paragraph 17.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Natural England's NNR Strategy

Appendix 2. Further background. South London Downs NNR

Appendix 3. NE letter of support to the City of London Corporation

Appendix 4. Q&A briefing paper

Map 1. pNNR boundary, SSSI status and ownership.

Background papers

December 2018 and January 2019 reports to Open Spaces and Epping Forest and Commons Committees.

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National Nature Reserves

At the heart of conservation in the 21st Century

A Strategy for England's National Nature Reserves in the 21st century: for conservation, environmental research and people



National Nature Reserves

At the heart of 21st century conservation

England's National Nature Reserves are the crown jewels of England's natural heritage. We manage them in the best way possible.

From Lindisfarne in Northumberland to The Lizard in Cornwall, these rare and precious sites secure our country's wonderful wildlife and rich geology for us all.

We want to inspire people, promote learning, and encourage involvement in the wider landscape.





© Natural England/Alison Dwyer

Conservation

National Nature Reserves are our finest sites for wildlife and geology. Placed at the heart of healthy and strong landscapes, we can make sure their abundant wildlife brims over to enrich surrounding areas.

We will invite more landowners to join the National Nature Reserve network, helping to reflect the diversity, range and richness of our natural heritage. With more sites joining the National Nature Reserve network, we will make more space for nature.



© Natural England/Paul Gendell

Environmental research

National Nature Reserves are our natural laboratories. They will be widely used for experimentation and long term monitoring to increase our understanding of our natural environment. They will demonstrate the very best conservation practice and inspire environmental scientists, young and old alike.



© National Trust Images/John Birch

People

National Nature Reserves' high quality and accessible habitats offer many ways to enjoy and engage with our natural heritage. Whether improving our wellbeing, taking part in citizen science opportunities or volunteering, we will help more people get actively involved in their local site.



© Natural England/Peter Southworth

Partnerships

We will build on existing local partnerships to create stronger links between National Nature Reserves and their surrounding landscapes and communities. We will collaborate on environmental research and together offer more opportunities for people to enjoy their local sites.



Sandscale Hawes NNR

© National Trust / Paul Harris

Support England's National Nature Reserves

England's National Nature Reserves embody our natural diversity: our multi-layered geology, ferny woodlands, ancient grasslands and heaths, glimmering wetlands, and wild coasts and moorlands. Here nature comes first, protecting wildlife and inspiring individuals.

The National Nature Reserve Strategy has been created by a partnership of public bodies, wildlife charities and other representatives. We developed a shared vision and a common purpose to take forward the founding purposes of NNRs – conservation, environmental research and places for people – putting them at the heart of 21st century conservation.

Interested? Go and explore, get involved in your local sites and enjoy your natural heritage.

The NNR Partnership comprises

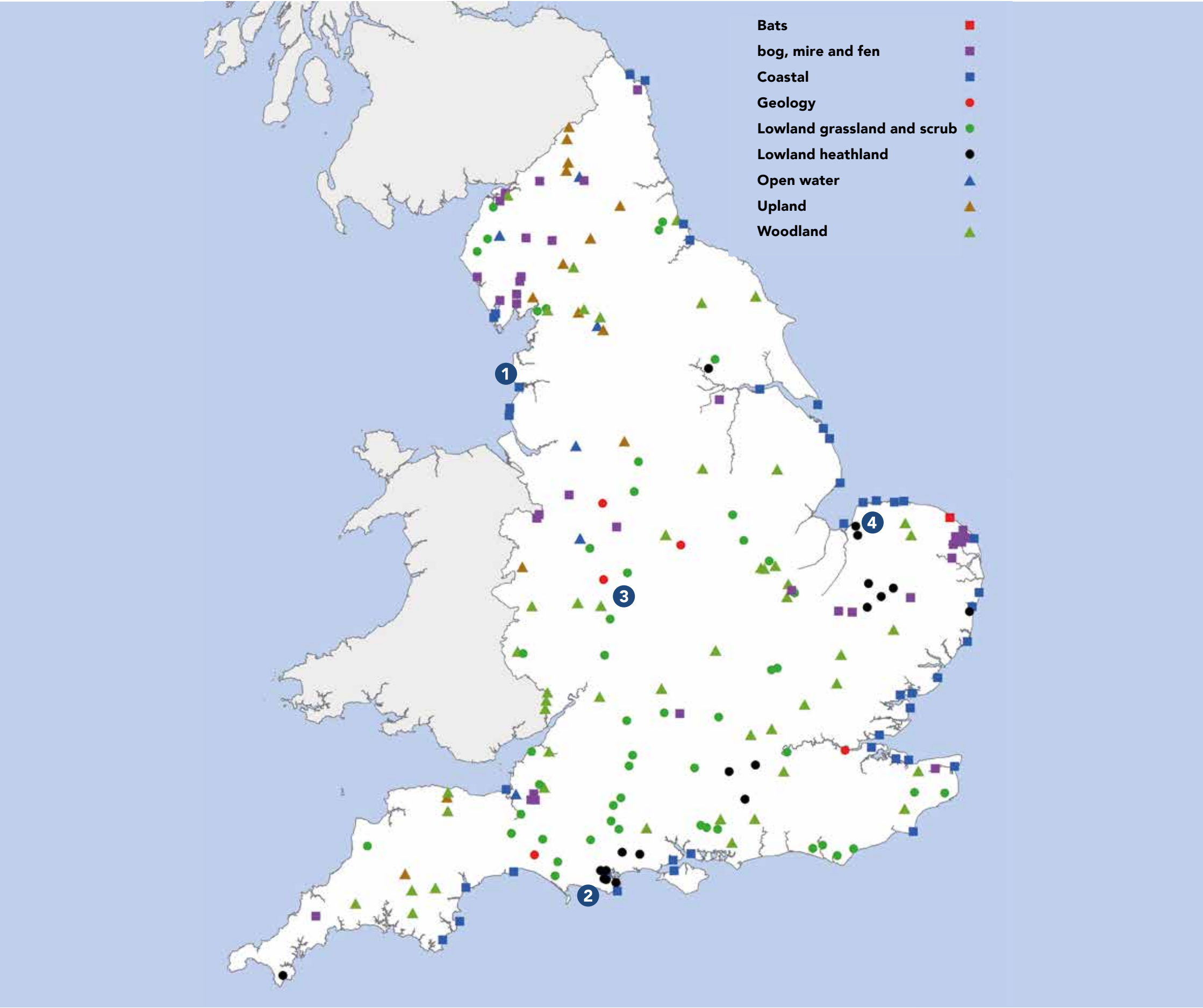
Butterfly Conservation, Escrick Estate, the Forestry Commission, the National Trust, Natural England, Plantlife, RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts and the Woodland Trust.

Front cover images clockwise from top left:

Below Sheepscombe Common © Natural England/Peter Wakely; Lindisfarne © Natural England/John Dunn; Walkers on Shapwick Heath © Natural England/Paul Glenahilly; Crinoid fossils © Natural England/Peter Wakely; Waxcap © Natural England/Julian Dowse; Pond dipping, Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe Dunes © Natural England.

England's National Nature Reserves

The map shows the location and types of NNRs in England. The examples illustrate how current initiatives will help achieve the aims of the Strategy on a larger scale across the country.



1 Partnership

The **Ribble Estuary National Nature Reserve** is a shining example of partnership working, bringing together RSPB, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Flood defence improvements have been combined with habitat creation, to deliver much needed local climate change adaptation and provide invaluable new wildlife sites close to Britain's most important estuary for birds. On completion, the expanded NNR will be the largest of its kind in northern England.



2 Conservation

The renowned wildlife of the **Purbeck Heaths** is already represented in three well established National Nature Reserves. Now Natural England, RSPB, the National Trust and other land managers are working together to harmonise management across the wider area of the Purbeck heathlands.



3 People

Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve is one of the most notable geological locations in the British Isles, famous for its large numbers of beautifully preserved Silurian limestone fossils. Located in an urban setting, the site's wardens and volunteers excel at providing activities and information for audiences ranging from local visitors to geologists around the world.



4 Environmental Research

Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve has long been used for a wide range of research both by Natural England and by the wider scientific communities. Subjects include heathland restoration and management, geomorphological studies and species dynamics. In one example, studies of nightjar feeding flights showed how these mysterious birds are using a string of National Nature Reserves across Norfolk as their flyways.

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Appendix 2.

South London Downs NNR - Further Background

The Chalk Downlands of the proposed NNR is a combination of SSSI and non SSSI land, owned and managed by the City of London Corporation and the London Borough of Croydon. The proposed NNR (pNNR) area includes the following SSSI's:

- Riddlesdown (Calcareous Grassland, Vascular Plant assemblage and Scrub)
- Farthing Downs and Happy Valley (Lowland Grassland, Calcareous Grassland, Greater Yellow Rattle & Woodland)

The pNNR also includes non-designated land:

- Coulsdon Common
- Kenley Common
- Hawkhurst
- New Hill
- Sanderstead to Whyteleafe countryside area (SWCA)

Croydon has the largest population of all the London Boroughs, its urban location emphasises the importance of the areas access to nature and open space is very important for this population. The pNNR would be the third in London and with its location on the urban perimeter, it could connect a large population with the natural landscape. The extensive area semi-natural Downland habitats, is the largest remaining in greater London. The pNNR will contain two SSSI's with the land outside of equally important habitat, mostly managed within agri-environment schemes. The pNNR area offers huge recreational opportunity and access to nature for some of the 363,378 (2011) (384,837 - 2017 estimate population) people living in Croydon and populations beyond.

The pNNR would cover an area of 417ha, with a huge variety of habitats and species, including: Calcareous Grassland, Scrub Mosaic, Broadleaved Woodland, Mixed Woodland, Yew Woodland, Neutral Grassland. Key species - Greater Yellow Rattle, Orchid Sp., Speckled Wood Butterfly, Sliver-wash fritillary, Dogs Mercury, Rampion, Small Blue Butterfly, White Mullein, Kidney Vetch

The pNNR's current boundary is owned and managed by The City of London Corporation and the London Borough of Croydon. Both organisations have a track record of conservation across these sites others in their ownership. The City of London Corporation are already an approved body, managing Ashted Common NNR in Surrey and Burnham Beeches in Buckinghamshire.

NE's involvement in the area is primarily through the protected sites and the management of the agri-environment schemes held by both land owners.

NNR opportunity – The new strategy delivered in 2017 opened up an opportunity to improve our national network of NNR's. This pNNR embodies the 4 key elements of the new strategy, contributing to conservation, environmental research, access for people and

building on partnerships. There are plenty of future opportunities in and around the pNNR for health, wellbeing, education and nature conservation.

The pNNR is a chance to strengthen engagement beyond the existing 'audience'. It will reconnect local people and those visiting from further afield. This includes physical connection, mental connection, interdependence between nature and people and the reliance on the services nature provides (clean air/water /soil/ flood protection etc.).

There could be potential for future collaboration with other adjacent landowners to improve the chalk downlands and connect with other adjoining boroughs.

13th March 2019

Our ref: South London Downs NNR



Colin Buttery
City of London Corporation
Irish Chamber,
1 Guildhall Yard,
London
EC2V 5AE

Natural England
Area 5A Nobel
House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Dear Colin,

Proposed declaration of the South London Downs National Nature Reserve

This letter confirms Natural England's support for the declaration of a new National Nature Reserve (NNR) in South London. Natural England are looking to take forward the proposal to declare the South London Downs NNR, including land owned and managed by the City of London and the London Borough of Croydon. The proposed South London Downs NNR will comprise of 417ha of land on the urban fringe of London.

Natural England are working on the proposed NNR with an aim to launch in summer 2019 and official completion of declaration by November 2019. The declaration process outlined below is subject to change depending on Natural England board proceedings.

Declaration process:

Proposal to NNR estates panel – Approved 6th December 2018 (complete)

Proposal to Senior Leadership Team – April 2019

Proposal to Natural England Board – June 2019

Launch Event - 21- 28th July National Park City Week

Internal NE documentation complete – Declared November 2019

The approved body status for London Borough of Croydon will run concurrently alongside the NNR declaration.

Yours Sincerely,

Adam Wallace

Strategy and Partnerships Manager – Thames Team

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South London Downs National Nature Reserve: Question and Answer briefing (Q&A)

What is the proposal for the South London Downs National Nature Reserve?

The proposal is to declare a 417ha of land along the border of Croydon and Surrey as a National Nature Reserve. The new National Nature Reserve will be the third in Greater London (Ruislip Woods and Richmond Park being the other two). With its unique location on the edge of a large urban area, it will represent and further underline the importance of this asset for the local people and wildlife.

What is a National Nature Reserve?

National Nature Reserves were established under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to protect some of our most important habitats, species and geology and additionally provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research. They have the ability to inspire. They are places where protecting wildlife goes hand in hand with learning, understanding and enjoyment, whilst offering great opportunities for people to experience wildlife at first hand and to learn more about nature conservation. There are currently 224 National Nature Reserves in England covering 360 square miles (0.7% of England), managed by a range of organisations including Natural England.

Why is this land being declared a National Nature Reserve?

Situated on the edge of the urban area of the London Borough of Croydon and adjacent to the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty, the National Nature Reserve will enable the land to continue to be managed in an exemplary way, particularly the chalk grasslands and the associated wildlife. A collaborative approach across a larger tract of land will allow landscape scale nature conservation to be better planned and help maintain the important lowland grassland, woodland and scrub mosaic that exists there. The National Nature Reserve has huge recreational potential and provides access to nature to the large urban population of Croydon living nearby. It also provides excellent opportunities for education and research.

Declaration as a NNR not only recognises the high recreation and conservation value of the area, but also the high standards of management expertise required to maintain that value. NNR declaration would increase the profile of the site, opportunities to celebrate the importance of the area to local people, and raise awareness and understanding of conservation work being undertaken.

What is the vision for the South London Downs National Nature Reserve?

The overarching vision is that nature is conserved, enriched and reconnected to people. The mission is to ensure the South London Downs National Nature Reserve thrives. The partners will act beyond boundaries, harnessing the power of partnership, combining passion, science and innovation to create resilient landscapes, rich in wildlife, where people can engage with the natural world.

Who will be responsible for the National Nature Reserve?

Natural England is responsible for declaring or un-declaring National Nature Reserves in England. Natural England has a statutory role to offer support and advice on the management plans for the National Nature Reserves.

The National Nature Reserve will be managed by two leading 'Approved Bodies': the City of London and London Borough of Croydon, who own the land within the National Nature Reserve. They will co-ordinate management, engage with local groups and the general public to deliver the objectives to achieve benefits for nature, recreation and enjoyment, inspiration and learning, health and wellbeing, and research.

At a national level, there is a NNR partnership, which Natural England co-ordinates, made up of cross organisational National Nature Reserve land owners and managers across the country who come together to help shape and deliver the partnership strategy.

What are the overarching objectives for the National Nature Reserve?

There are several agreed objectives for the National Nature Reserve:

- The landowners will work in partnership, within available resource, to achieve the vision of the National Nature Reserve by:

- Managing the National Nature Reserve across ownership boundaries to harmonise the benefits of biodiversity, science and recreation;
- Working collaboratively to maximise positive management;
- Put people at the heart of the National Nature Reserve, engaging local communities and visitors in the maintenance, enhancement and future landscape resilience of the National Nature Reserve via volunteering, education, research and recreation;
- Developing long term monitoring programmes to increase understanding of the natural environment;
- Working collaboratively to provide opportunities to enhance the health and wellbeing of local communities and visitors through engaging and creative projects;
- Ensuring the National Nature Reserve is appropriately recognised in local planning policies and local decision making;
- Sourcing external funding for collaborative projects that achieve the National Nature Reserve vision;
- Enhancing landscape resilience, joining up with external sites to extend the reach of the National Nature Reserve as opportunities arise.

Isn't there already a lot of protection for this land?

152.47 ha of the pNNR is protected as a nationally important Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for chalk grassland, a diverse variety of woodland, scrub mosaic and neutral grassland habitats. The area supports rare orchid species, yellow rattle and butterflies associated with chalk grassland. The new National Nature Reserve offers the opportunity to extend these sites to bring together land that is owned by different bodies. The bodies aim to manage the land in a co-ordinated way, including SSSI's and land with high wildlife value, but isn't currently notified as a SSSI. The National Nature Reserve will provide a unique opportunity for the London Borough of Croydon and City of London to work with others to create a collective vision for the wider landscape and provide additional benefits for wildlife and people, including education and research.

It is recognised that NNR status across ownership boundaries would present partnership opportunities that could bring benefit to the long-term management of the Commons and Happy Valley whilst providing a significant contribution to the Government's strategic desire to protect England's most precious natural assets.

How it is declared?

The Approved Bodies are required to officially commit to manage the National Nature Reserve. Natural England's Executive Board approves the declaration of National Nature Reserve under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. The proposal for the National Nature Reserve will be reviewed by the Natural England Board and a decision taken on whether to proceed or not. It will take several weeks for the National Nature Reserve to be confirmed as a National Nature Reserve by Natural England after this time.

How can I find out more about this?

The City of London Corporation

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/city-commons/farthing-downs/Pages/default.aspx

London Borough of Croydon

www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/parksandopenspaces/parksatoz/happy-valley-park

Natural England

www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-nature-reserves-in-england

Can I have a say about this?

Please contact the relevant organisations through the details provided on the websites above.

Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest & Commons Committee	20 May 2019
Subject: Public Spaces Protection Orders annualised figures update for Burnham Beeches	Public
Report of: Superintendent of The Commons	For Information
Report author: Head Ranger Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common	
Summary At this committee on the 11 th September 2017 Members requested that annualised Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) figures are presented to the Committee each year. The information contained in this report summarises the enforcement activity undertaken at Burnham Beeches in relation to PSPOs in a 12-month period 01/04/2018 to 31/03/2019. During that period the number of recorded offences has declined by 13% when compared to the preceding 12 months 2017/18 and almost 44% (43.9%) since records commenced in 2015/16. Decreases vary across the individual PSPOs. There has been an 11% increase in the number of written warnings issued in 2018/19 when compared with 2017/18, albeit numbers remain low (ten). In addition to formal warnings four Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have also been issued in relation to breach of the PSPOs, 2018/19. Recommendation Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the content of this report.	

Main Report

Background

1. At the July 2017 meeting of this Committee members resolved to extend the effect of the existing DCOs at Burnham Beeches, once they had become PSPOs, for three years from 1st December 2017 and to authorise the Comptroller and City Solicitor to make replacement orders.
2. At the September 2017 meeting of this committee Members also: set the value of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN); approved the Dog Management Strategy and associated documents; and requested that annualised PSPO figures are presented to the committee.
3. The PSPOs came into effect on 20th October 2017, replacing the existing DCOs and were extended for a further 3 years on 1st December 2017.
4. The PSPOs in place at Burnham Beeches are as described in appendix 1. The preceding DCOs covered the same issues. These include owners failing to clear up dog fouling, setting the maximum number of dogs that an individual can walk at Burnham Beeches, defining a small exclusion zone around the cafe area and areas where dogs must be kept on a lead.

Current Position

5. Annualised PSPO figures for 2018/19 and 3 previous years.

Table 1

Incidents detail	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Order 1 - Fouling	11	11	7	7
Order 2 - Dogs off lead in the on-lead area	453	329	285	264
Order 3 - Dogs not under effective control in the off-lead area	46	30	27	16
Order 4 - Dogs taken into the dog free area	4	16	15	1
Order 5 - More than 4 dogs/person	3	0	0	2
Total DCO/PSPO incidents	517	386	334	290
Number of incidents resulting in a formal report/investigation	8	15	15	16
Number of formal written warnings issued	2	8	9	10
Number of FPN issued	0	0	0	4
Number of prosecutions	0	0*	1*	0

* Incident occurred in 16/17 – prosecution through magistrate court 2017/18

Current visitor numbers estimate - approximately 488000 people visits/annum

6. The figures in Table 1 indicate that the overall number of incidents dealt with is reducing year on year – but this is not consistently the case for all areas covered by the PSPOs.
7. Ten people received formal written warnings in 2018/19. Twenty-eight individuals have received formal written warnings in the last 4 years. This number is likely to grow as repeat offenders are increasingly identified over time and as a result it is probable that the number of formal actions will increase in future.
8. In addition to formal written warnings four individuals were issued with Fixed Penalty Notices in relation to breach of the PSPOs, 2018/19. Three have been paid at the discounted rate of £50. The fourth remains outstanding and has been passed to the City Solicitor for follow up action.
9. The approved PSPO and preceding DCO enforcement protocols made it clear that when enforcing the Orders, the City will not take a zero-tolerance approach to DCO/PSPO breaches. This means that in the majority of incidents the person concerned is asked to put the matter right, clean up after their dog, put it on lead, remove it from the dog free area, and if they comply no further action is taken beyond logging of the incident detail. As a result, the vast majority of incidents dealt with require no more than visitors being given information and or guidance by the Ranger team. However, where a breach is by someone who is well aware of the rules, a repeat offender, or where the person is unable or unwilling to put the matter right these will result in more formal investigation and action including final written warning and or FPN/ prosecution.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. The activity supports the City's Corporate Plan 2018-23 as follows:

Shape outstanding environments

- Our spaces are secure, resilient and well maintained.

The proposals in this report also support the Open Spaces Department Business Plan:

A. Open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible.

1. Our open spaces, heritage and cultural assets are protected, conserved and enhanced
2. Our spaces are accessible, inclusive and safe

B. Spaces enrich people's lives.

3. People enjoy good health and wellbeing
4. People feel welcome and included
5. Nature, heritage and place are valued and understood

Public Relations implications

11. Whilst the number of visitors to the Beeches increased with the introduction of effective dog management control measures in 2015/16 and to date remain higher than that year the use of PSPOs remains unpopular with some dog walkers. As such, individuals or organisations may reiterate their views in local and national media. In addition, formal enforcement activity in relation to PSPOs may attract interest from the media.

Conclusion

12. During the period 01/04/18 to 31/03/19 the number of recorded offences in relation to PSPOs at Burnham Beeches has declined by 13% when compared to the preceding 12 months 2017/18 and by 43.9% since records commenced in 2015/16. Decreases vary across the individual Orders.
13. There has been an 11% increase in the number of formal written warnings issued in 2018/19 when compared with 2017/18, albeit numbers remain low.
14. The number of recorded offences is likely to stabilise over the years as the issues become better understood by visitors. However, the number of formal actions may continue to increase as further repeat offenders are identified over time.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Summary of the PSPOs at Burnham Beeches

Background Papers

- Dog Control Order proposals– Report to EFCC – September 2014
- Effectiveness of Dog Control Orders – Report to EFCC - January 2017
- Dog Control Order Review. Report to EFCC – January 2017
- Proposal to extend the use of DCOs as PSPOs at Burnham Beeches – Report to EFCC – July 2017
- Public Spaces Protection Orders – Dog Management Strategy, Enforcement Protocol, Authorisation of Officers, Level of Fixed Penalty and signage – Report to EFCC Sept 2017

Andy Barnard

Superintendent of The Commons

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Appendix 1 –

Public Spaces Protection Orders Annualised figures update for Burnham Beeches at the Epping Forest and common Committee 20 May 2019.

Summary of the Public Spaces Protection Orders that apply at Burnham Beeches

- i. The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Burnham Beeches) Order 2017. This requires visitors to Burnham Beeches to remove dog faeces deposited by a dog for which they are responsible.
- ii. The Dogs on Leads (Burnham Beeches) Order 2017. This requires visitors to keep a dog for which they are responsible on a lead of not more than five metres in length. The order applies to specified parts of Burnham Beeches
- iii. The Dogs on Leads by Direction (Burnham Beeches) Order 2017. This requires visitors to put and keep a dog for which they are responsible on a lead of not more than five metres in length when directed to do so by an authorised officer. The order applies to a specified part of Burnham Beeches.
- iv. The Dogs Exclusion (Burnham Beeches) Order 2017. This excludes dogs from the café enclosure at Burnham Beeches.
- v. The Dogs (Specified Maximum) (Burnham Beeches) Order 2017. This limits visitors to Burnham Beeches to four dogs per person.

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Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest and Commons	20 05 2019
Subject: Epping Forest - Superintendent's Update for February to March 2019 (SEF 13/19)	Public
Report of: Colin Buttery. Director of Open Spaces	For Information
Report author: Paul Thomson – Superintendent of Epping Forest	

Summary

This purpose of this report is to summarise the Epping Forest Division's activities across February to March 2019.

Of particular note was an increase in fly tips, following a year of declining numbers; continued investment in work programmes to develop Countryside Stewardship application and a final version of the SAC Mitigation Strategy; works to remove fire damaged vegetation at Wanstead Flats; the submission of further evidence at the Epping Forest District Council Local Planning Examination in Public; improvements to Chingford Golf Course and a successful close to the grassroots football season.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Staff and Volunteers

1. A new Grounds/Greenkeeper was successfully recruited during the reporting period and commenced work on 10 April 2019.

Budgets

2. The Epping Forest Local Risk accounts closed with an overall £6,348.38 overspend which is 0.27% of the final overall net budget of £2,695,000. The budget for the purchase of three hybrid vehicles for the Forest Keeper service was transferred to capital accounts.

Weather

3. February was in line with the total rainfall for the past 5 years, with a total rainfall of 43.6mm, against an overall average for February 1979 – 2019 of 47.52mm. There was a total of 14 days of rainfall with the wettest day being the 28th where 8.8mm of rain fell. The unseasonably warm weather, the warmest since records began, saw paths beginning to dry out and water levels in brooks and streams beginning to fall.
4. March had a very wet start to the month with the total rainfall of 63mm falling in the first 18 days of the month. This total continues the pattern from 2018 of rainfall being well above the average of 38.33mm for this time of year. The second half of March was a stark contrast where no rain fell over the last 13 days. Temperatures were again above the long-term UK average with paths and brooks continue to dry out despite the very wet start to the month. Notable weather systems including Storm Freya (3rd-4th) and Storm Gareth (10th-13th) did not adversely affect the Forest.

Forest Services

Fly-tipping

5. There was a total of 70 fly-tips recorded over the period of February and March 2019, which is 11 (18.4%) greater than the same period last year. However, it should be noted that in 2018 the weather conditions were significantly different due to unseasonal 'Beast of the East' weather.
6. Roadsides locations dominate the most affected location type representing 45 or 64%. Some of the gated car parks have been targeted in the period, where dragons' teeth have been compromised or tips occurring during the day.
7. Builders waste and Household waste remain the dominant fly-tip waste type at 20% and 17% respectively. However, there has been a large increase in the amount of cannabis-related spent horticultural waste totalling 17% or 12 tips.
8. A much-reduced level of 20% of all fly-tips was recorded at Wanstead Flats.

Enforcement Activity

9. No Prosecutions or other case disposal took place during the period under report.

Rough Sleepers

10. The Forest Services team dealt with a number of rough sleepers in three local authority areas:
 - 10.1 London Borough of Redbridge (LBR) – Forest sites saw two rough sleepers were found in camps at Bushwood. Forest Keepers contacted the LBR outreach team and arranged a joint visit leading to successful placements for both rough sleepers. The camps were subsequently cleared by the litter team. LBR have increased the size of their homeless outreach team by four officers and have additional

resources to reduce homelessness within the Borough. Additionally, 5 old rough sleeper camps were cleared from various Forest locations.

- 10.2 London Borough of Waltham Forest. Also saw 2 rough sleepers who were found at Leyton Flats. Forest Keepers arranged a joint outreach patrol with St Mungo's and placements were found for both rough sleepers and the camps were cleared by the Litter team the following day.
- 10.3 Epping Forest District Council - Forest Keepers dealt with one rough sleeper who was approached by staff and was referred to the homeless team in EFDC, before being moved on.

Licences

- 11. A total of 54 licences for events were issued during the two months being reported, which yielded an income of £52,572.30 plus VAT (inclusive of 3 compounds totalling £34,671). 44 licences were issued during the same period in 2018 yielding income of £16,772.33.

Unauthorised Occupations

- 12. There were no unauthorised occupations during the reporting period.

Dog Incidents

- 13. Over the period of February and March, there were two dog incidents.

Deer Vehicle Collisions

- 14. Over the period of February and March, there were 17 recorded incidents of deer vehicle collisions.

Heritage; Landscape and Nature Conservation

Biodiversity and nature conservation

- 15. Two field surveys were carried out in relation to the acid heath/grassland and scrub habitats in the southern half of the Forest, which are important components of the SAC and SSSI interest. A specialist ecological consultancy, under the guidance of the Environmental Stewardship Officer and Head of Conservation, consolidated previous survey work from your officers and a botanical consultant and also conducted interviews with the Head Forest Keeper and London Fire Service. Following their own fieldwork, they then prepared detailed map-based management proposals for Wanstead Flats and Leyton Flats.
- 16. Many of these proposals may be eligible for Countryside Stewardship grant-aid. The proposals will form part of detailed Individual Site Plans to be considered as part of the Forest's new Management Strategy and also, possibly, for Leyton Flats, as part of the SAC Mitigation Strategy. However, due to the residual fire damage, works at the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) area of Wanstead Flats (between Centre and Lake House Roads) proceeded immediately in March. A map of the proposed works is appended to this report.

17. The works at Wanstead Heath (the SSSI area) involved the removal of all burnt vegetation and dead scrub within the main fire areas on the SSSI so that all potential fuel for a future fire was removed from site. This work was undertaken by the Operations Team. The work was followed by the creation of soil scrapes, where the polluted and nutrified top layer of soil was removed to expose the low nutrient gravelly and sandy soils below. Scrapes like these, but on a smaller scale, have proved very successful across the Forest and at Wanstead Flats itself in the past. These scrapes will now form the substrate for the recovery of rare and scarce heathland plants, including Heather which of course is specifically protected by the Epping Forest Act as well as under the SSSI notification (see photos below under *Contractors* section). In addition to the scrapes, a new low embankment of the removed soil has been formed and this should provide a free-draining area for nesting solitary bees and wasps for which the SSSI is renowned.

Agri-environment Schemes

18. Detailed work continued on the preparation for the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) application. By the end of March over 1,500 ancient trees were surveyed for consideration for pollarding and crown restoration.
19. Detailed exchanges also took place with the Rural Payments Agency and Natural England advisors to ensure compliance with the detailed evidence requirements for the Scheme as the application is developed. As part of the assembling of evidence, the GIS Officer, working with the Environmental Stewardship Officer, continues to prepare detailed maps of the environmental record for each of the many tens of parcels of land that will make up the Epping Forest application
20. On 28th March a formal request for a CSS application pack was made and Epping Forest was registered as an applicant site. This now allows a full application for CSS grant-aid to be submitted later this year.

Grazing

21. Three members from the Knepp Wildland projects grazing team met with the Epping Forest grazing team and visited sites across the Forest as well as Great Gregories winter housing facility. Information and ideas were exchanged, and further return visits have been planned to both sites for future knowledge sharing.
22. Continued investment in the Grazing project saw three new fixed water supplies on grazing sites that previously had water transported to them twice weekly by truck. A longer tractor drawn livestock trailer was purchased with hydraulics that can carry more animals and lower to the ground for loading. This allows animals to walk onto the trailer rather than climb up a steep ramp which often increased loading times when the animals were reluctant to climb. A new sliding security gate for Great Gregories was installed, alongside additional CCTV camera coverage with the provision of diesel fuel tank storage which has eliminated weekly journeys back to The Warren to re-fuel.
23. Eight Longhorns were purchased from the Rhyfel herd in Wales, which increases the Forest herd total to 195 animals.

24. A competitive tender was sought, and a local contractor appointed for a 3-year contract to cut and bale our winter feed for the cattle. Improved equipment used for feeding the cattle has enabled us to increase the bale size going forward with the new contract. This has meant a 25% financial saving per bale and will mean a decrease in the amount of plastic used and that would otherwise require recycling.

Heritage

25. Further detailed survey work, by the Biodiversity Officer and Grazing & Landscapes Project Officer, continued in relation to Copped Hall Registered Park and Garden to map and cost proposals for future management based on earlier recommendations from heritage consultants. These proposals, once considered by the Divisional management team would be brought as a report through the Committee process, ahead of any wider consultations and any potential grant applications in 2020 and beyond.
26. At Copped Hall some exploratory checks and excavations of sections of the ha-ha by specialist contractors, working for colleagues in City Surveyors, have also taken place to ascertain the work required for the preservation and repair of this important historic structure in the parkland. A report from City Surveyors on the condition of the ha-ha and the planned restoration work is expected later this year.

Contractors

27. A local contractor completed habitat conservation restoration and fire management control works at Wanstead Flats. The work followed up the mulching work of the Operations Teams and these are described in detail above under the *Biodiversity and nature conservation* section above.

Land Management

Town & Country Planning – Forward Planning – Local Plans

28. February and March involved the attendance of several Hearings at the Examination-in-Public of the Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) Local Plan. Representations were made on a number of matters raised by the Local Plan Inspector. These included discussions on the Green Belt, specific housing allocations around Harlow and green infrastructure (GI) and areas for alternative green spaces. As a result of representations made by your officers and consultants at the Hearings, EFDC officers have now promised that a GI Plan will be forthcoming having originally been left out of the Local Plan.

Town & Country Planning – Development Control

29. A moratorium on determinations of residential housing and other applications remains in place in Epping Forest District as a result of the issues surrounding the SAC (see above). However, a planning submission has been made in relation to Suntrap Field Centre and it has been agreed with the submitting party, London Borough of Waltham Forest, and the determining authority EFDC, that this application would be considered as part of the SAC Mitigation Strategy in recognition of the important contribution and benefits that may be provided by the continuation of the education service at this historic centre.

30. In addition, Natural England has issued advice to EFDC and all other authorities determining planning applications within the 6.2km Zone of Influence around the SAC. This advice includes the London Boroughs of Redbridge and Waltham Forest.

Land Registration

31. Ahead of the Lands Tribunal case for Forest Land at Broomhill Road, Woodford Green, discussions continued with the solicitor of the respondent.
32. In addition the Land Agency, Savills, was contracted by City Surveyors to begin negotiations on a new round of commercial wayleaves that remain to be resolved.

Operations

Habitat Works

33. **Arboricultural Teams** – one of the teams carried out mulching works using a hired machine during March. The priority work involved clearance of the burnt woody debris of broom and birch at Wanstead Heath, the SSSI section of Wanstead Flats. The work involved an extensive area of the SSSI and required careful working to the plans described under *Biodiversity and nature conservation*.
34. Other mulching work involved preparing ground for a London Borough of Culture event and clearing along the historic Bush Wood Lime Avenue to ensure that this feature remains clearly demarcated and protected in the landscape.
35. **Grassland Team** – The Grassland Team have progressed remedial works from the fire restoration plan. Rubble was removed following subsoiling works and the burnt scrub was cut back for fire prevention.

Risk Management Works

36. **Subsidence works** at Newlands Avenue and White Hall Lodge were completed and the cyclical maintenance works continue on subsidence issues.
37. **Tree Safety**: The contractor tree survey is now complete with 519 tree safety jobs identified.
38. The tree safety work programme for 2018/19 is almost complete and continues with work having been completed along the new Forest Boundary at Forest Glade, Highams Park. Work is underway with the local community to resolve a series of the boundary issues along the unadopted highway at Forest Glade.
39. **London Borough of Culture (LBoC)** – Large timber logs, which had been felled as part of the Tree Safety works, were supplied to the London Borough of Waltham Forest for chainsaw calving to be used for the LBoC Sculpture Trail.
40. **Highway Verge Management**: An order has been placed for the contract work of the Highway Verge Management programme for 2019/20. This work is due to start late summer.

Access Works

41. **Queens Green** - Oak bollards have been installed to replace failing chestnut posts along the boundary of Queens Green, High Beach to maintain parking restrictions.
42. **Bury Road Car park** – a new access point in to Bury Road Car Park has been created to allow access to and from the Chingford Golf Course overflow car park. A work programme to improve the overall ambience and function of the site has started with vegetation management and the repainting of the fencing around the café.

Visitor Services

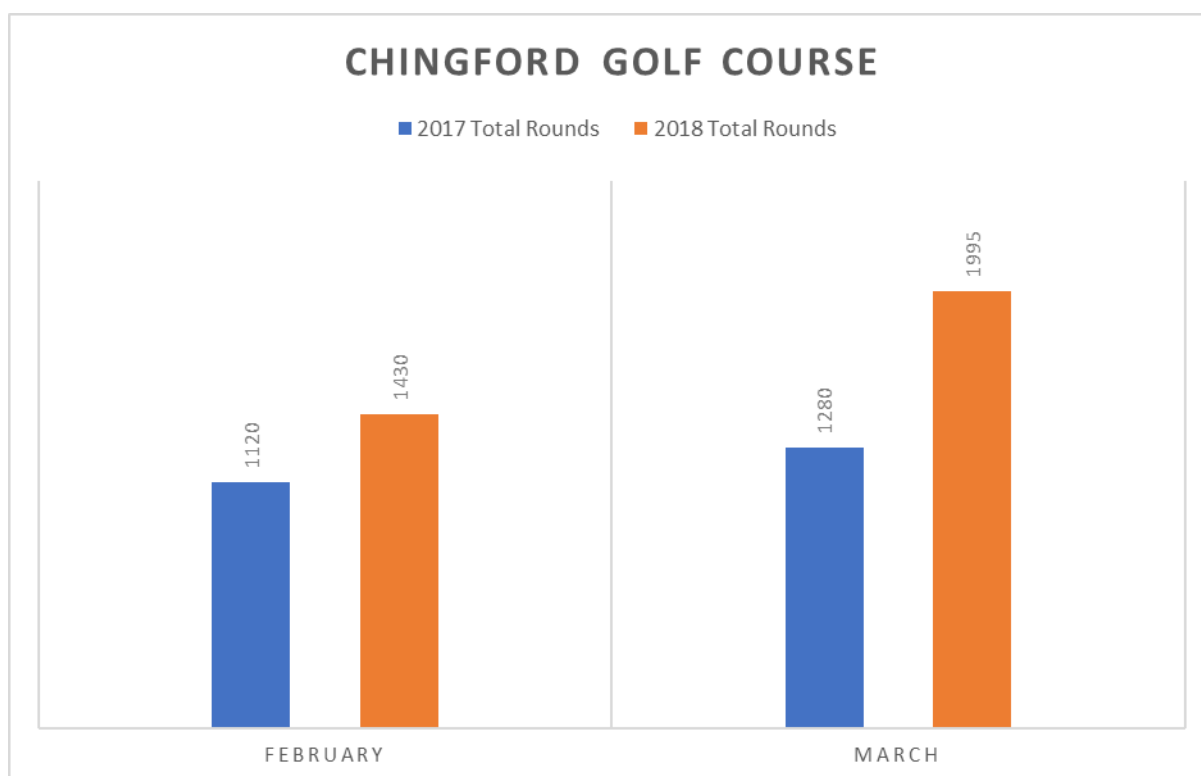
Chingford Golf Course

43. The Head Green Keeper and his team replaced the irrigation boxes on holes 1, 2, 10, 17 & 18 with new gate valves. This will help reduce the amount of water wasted from leaks during the summer period when the irrigation system is in use. All tees were spiked to help reduce compaction and promote better growth. Re-levelling & seeding of the 11th tee has been completed ready for play in May. Work was also carried out to the winter tee on the 18th hole where this was levelled and seeded. All machinery has been serviced and units ground and set up.
44. Total revenue from online sales this period is £4609.00, total revenue from reception was £33,637.48 broken down into

Breakdown of figures from Reception			
	2018/19	2017/18	Difference (+/-)
Green fees:	£27,092.55	£15,173.11	+£11,919.44
Drinks:	£752.90	£236.90	+£516.00
Hire Equipment:	£2578.00	£903.50	+1674.50
Shop Sales:	£1546.65	£1381.50	+164.15
Wanstead:	£1615.27	£572.50	+£1042.77
Horse Riding:	£52.11	NA	+£52.11

45. Compared to last year the total difference in revenue equates to an increase in income of £18,407.47 (93%)
46. Online bookings for the same period last year was £1571.50 compared to £4609.00 this year, making an increase of £3037.50 (193%).
47. Total revenue from reception last year was £18,267.51 compared to £33,637.48 in the current year, an increase amounting to £15,369.97. £52.11 of this year's takings is however from horse riding licences, which was administrated from The View last year.

48. The number of rounds for February & March last year was 2400. This year number of rounds for February & March was 3425. An increase of 1025. (43%)



Wanstead Flats Football

49. The season ended very positively on 5 May) with no outstanding debts from leagues and no public complaints about play related litter this season; which is a testimony to the effectiveness of the new weekend staffing structure. The new booking procedure also worked well allowing efficiencies to be made on the number of changing facilities needing to be open at any one time.
50. Parkrun attracted 2091 runners during the reporting period. This was 570 more than the same reporting period last year.
51. The Chingford League hosted the seventh, and final, event of their winter series at Harrow Road on 9 March. Over 200 runners participated and the post-run homemade bakes sale raised a tasty £380 for charity.

Visitor Numbers

52. Visitor numbers have revived so far this year with the temple re-opening, events held at QEHL and rebranding and new stock at the View possibly accounting for increases. The better weather compared to last year will have also had an influence.

Visitor Numbers	QEHL 2018	2018	View	2018	Temple	2018	High Beach	2018	Total	Total 2018
February	3380 ↑	1563	2125 ↓	2942	286 ↑	131	1654 ↑	1485	7445 ↑	6121

March	1830 ↑	377	3236 ↑	2439	220 ↑	0	1554 ↑	1068	6840 ↑	3884
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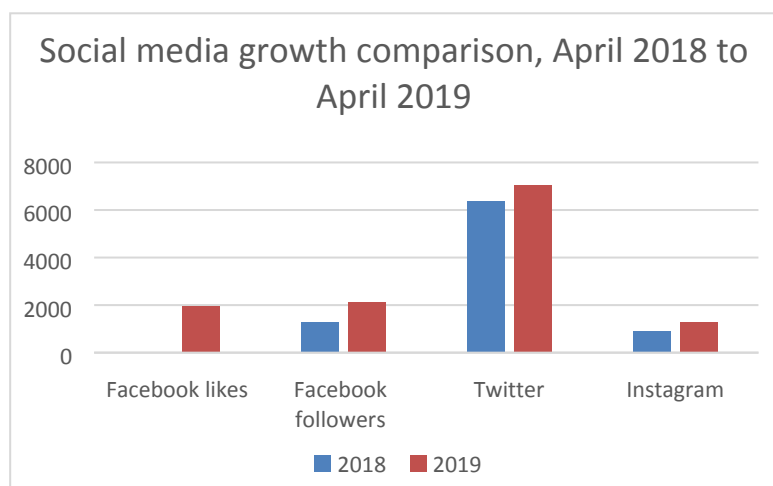
Visitor Services Events

53. London Borough of Waltham Forest Adult Learning Sessions continued with a full room of participants for Nature's Patchwork Purses.
54. There were hundreds of artwork contributions from children and adults as part of the Birds exhibition using new display material.
55. An Arts Council Museum development grant of £1,000 supported a diversity project based on sight impairment with a local Vision group. The Museum and Heritage Manager fed back the useful findings to London Museum Development Officers at a best practice training session.
56. New LED screens have been installed at the View and in the Caddy House at the Golf Course. A £500 museum grant subsidised the cost of the screen at The View. The screens highlight forthcoming events, special offers and suggested areas to visit on a rolling display.

Communication and Information

57. As of 24 April 2019 our social media following is:
 - Twitter followers: 7037 (10.5% increase on year)
 - Facebook followers: 2121 (63% increase on year)
 - Instagram followers: 1287 (45% increase on year)

58. The chart shows a comparison of our figures at the same point in 2018:



59. The Spring edition of 'Forest Focus' magazine was printed and distributed successfully, with articles including promotion of other CoL Open Spaces sites, pressures faced by Forest insects as a result of climate change, an update on London Borough of Culture, together with a digest of what is happening throughout Epping Forest.
60. A new Epping Forest leaflet was printed and will be distributed widely throughout the Epping Forest area.

61. New signage for Wanstead Flats is being designed, with implementation planned this summer.
62. New pop-up banners have been produced providing various Epping Forest awareness messages i.e. ground-nesting birds, fly tipping, fire safety, bluebells, fungi etc. in addition to general 'welcome' displays.
63. New Epping Forest wedding promotional banners have been produced and will be displayed in prominent Epping Forest locations.
64. A new, temporary, welcoming Epping Forest Visitor Centre frontage has been installed at the Visitor Centre in Chingford. The aim of this is to see whether visitor figures increase as a result of a more, bright and welcoming approach.
65. New, numbered and named signs have been produced, at the request of the Forest Keeper team. These are now in place on all gates throughout Epping Forest.

Major incidents

66. There were no major Forest incidents.

Appendices

- None

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Committee(s): Investment Committee – For Decision Epping Forest & Commons – For Decision Port Health and Environmental Services – For Decision	Date(s): 16 05 2019 20 05 2019 21 05 2019
Subject: Election of Epping Forest Verderers 2020	Public
Joint Report of The Town Clerk & the Director of Open Spaces	For Decision
Report authors: Alex Berry - Election Services Manager. Jo Hurst - Business Manager Epping Forest	

Summary

The Epping Forest Act 1878 provides that four Verderers be elected by the Commoners of Epping Forest to serve on your Committee for the purposes of Epping Forest business, and that these elections should take place every seventh year. The next election of Verderers must be held no later than 20 March 2020.

To enable the election to take place the 2013 Register of Commoners must be reviewed and formally settled. Nomination meetings then take place, followed if necessary, by a poll or polls. This report lays out the proposed timeline for this process.

A further report will be brought to Members on the dates for nomination meetings and polls. In a change to previous arrangements it is requested that delegated authority be granted to allow officers from the Town Clerk's and Open Spaces departments to administer the review and settlement of the Register of Commoners with the final version to be received by the Committee in January.

This report also reiterates the considered position of the Committee and that it and the Port Health and Environmental Services and Investment Committees should abstain from exercising Corporation proxy voting within the election.

Recommendation(s)

The **Epping Forest & Commons Committee** asked to:

- i. Approve the timetable for the election of Verderers outlined in this report.
- ii. Approve that the number of polling stations be kept at four in the northern parishes and one in the southern parishes, it being left to the discretion of the Town Clerk as to the precise location.

- iii. Delegate to the Town Clerk and the Director of Open Spaces authority to review the Register of Commoners and carry out all necessary procedural and administrative steps relating to the review and settlement of the Register and the subsequent election of Verderers.
- iv. Delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to approve the draft revised register to be placed on deposit prior to the settling of the Register in its final form.
- v. Delegate authority to the Town Clerk to hear any claims or objections and to settle the final form of the Register.
- vi. Delegate to the Town Clerk authority to settle the level of remuneration for the ten poll clerks should their services be required (such a fee reflecting the hours of poll and current rates for such work).
- vii. Note that the cost of the election (anticipated to be in the order of £15,000), will be met from the Town Clerk's Elections budget

The Epping Forest & Commons Committee, the Investment Committee and the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee are asked to:

- i. Agree that the proxy vote of each Committee will not be used for the 2020 election of Verderers.

Main Report

Background

1. This history of the Verderers dates from 1130 when their function was to act as Forest Magistrates enforcing Forest Laws while also looking after the wider interests of the Crown in Royal forest management. The 1878 Epping Forest Act disafforested Epping Forest but perpetuated the position of Verderer. With the change in the character of the Forest, and the decline in commoning, the Verderers have for many years now considered their role more widely representing both Forest residents and visitors, in addition to commoners.
2. The Epping Forest Act 1878 requires that elections are held every seven years to return four Verderers to serve on your Committee. Two Verderers are elected for the northern Forest parishes and two for the southern Forest parishes. Elections have been held every seventh year since 1880, no later than the twentieth day of March in each election year. The Verderers take office on the twenty-fifth day of March in the year of election.
3. The next election of Verderers must be held no later than 20 March 2020, and to enable this election to take place the Register of Commoners (those eligible to vote) must be reviewed and settled.

Current Position

Register of Commoners

4. The Register of Commoners is a register of those persons who have registered an entitlement to vote in the election of Verderers. The register is made in two parts:
 - a. the northern Forest parishes of Epping, Theydon Bois, Loughton, Waltham Holy Cross, Buckhurst Hill (formally part of Chingford) and Chigwell; and
 - b. the southern Forest parishes of Woodford, Walthamstow, Leyton, Wanstead, East Ham (formerly Little Ilford) and West Ham.
5. Commoners are those owners and occupiers of land and tenements lying within the ancient boundary of Epping Forest established by the last Perambulation (a walking survey by Forest Officials) made in 1642, officially referred to as the 'Perambulation made in the 17th year of the reign of Charles I'.
6. The working definition of commoners was established by caselaw subsequent to the Epping Forest Acts 1878 & 1880 restricted to owners and occupiers of land comprising at least half an acre of old enclosure and not covered by buildings (and capable of receiving cattle).
7. An "occupier" is someone with a legal interest in land, at least a tenancy. Both the owner of a qualifying piece of land and an occupier are entitled to be entered on the Register. Where several persons are joint tenants they are considered as one, and only one may be entered on the Register. If they fail to select one name, the Conservators will make the selection.
8. All new claims for inclusion on the register of Commoners are referred to the office of the Superintendent of Epping Forest which maintains all the relevant plans showing the ancient boundaries of the Forest.
9. The procedure for the revision of the Register of Commoners is as follows:
 - a. Notice of the intention of the Conservators to revise the Register is published in local newspapers and notices are displayed on the various notice boards in the Forest. In 2012, notice was published in the local papers of the Guardian and Gazette Group, and City AM. This year considerable use of social media, Forest Focus and Epping Forest website is also planned.
 - b. After the receipt and investigation of the claims the Town Clerk prepares a draft Register, and this is deposited by the end of September 2019 at Guildhall and various places in the Forest parishes for inspection. Notice of the deposit of the draft Register is again published in the City and local newspaper. This notice also confirms

the dates by which, and how any interested persons may apply to the Conservators to correct the Register by inserting or expunging any name.

- c. Meetings for settling the Register are held by the Town Clerk.
 - d. The Epping Forest and Commons Committee to receive the settled register in January 2020.
 - e. The Register to be re-printed in final form.
 - f. Notice is published and advertised in a similar manner to the former notices giving the date and place of the nomination meetings and, in the event of a poll or polls being demanded, the date of the poll or polls and addresses of the polling stations.
10. In 1993 your Committee agreed that for future elections two days be set aside for settling the Register: one day for a meeting in Guildhall and a different day for a meeting in the Forest. On this basis, the Register would be considered settled at the conclusion of the second meeting. It is recommended that authority be delegated to the Town Clerk and the Director of Open Spaces to carry out these administration and validation processes with the Town Clerk hearing any claims or objections and settling the Register; the settled Register to be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in January 2020.

Returning Office

11. Paragraph 13 of Schedule 4 of the Epping Forest Act 1878 provides that the Returning Officer for the elections shall be the Recorder of the City of London, or in his absence or inability, the Common Sergeant of the City of London, or in the absence or inability of both, a person appointed by the Lord Mayor of the City of London shall be the returning officer.
12. In establishing the dates for the Nomination meeting and Polls, officers will liaise with the Returning Officer, in addition to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to ensure their availability.

Nominations

13. A candidate for election as Verderer must be resident of one of the various parishes within the area of the Forest and must not be a Member of Court of Common Council.
14. Nominations are received at Nomination meetings. Separate meetings are held for the northern and southern parishes (but they may be held on the same day). Unless otherwise determined by the Returning Officer, these meetings shall be for the duration of one hour.

15. Any qualified person if he or she consents may be nominated by any elector and seconder. If at the expiration of the hour (or otherwise defined period), there are no more candidates than vacancies, the candidates shall be deemed to be elected. If there are more candidates than vacancies, candidates may be elected by a show of hands or otherwise as the Returning Officer thinks fit. However, if there are more candidates than vacancies, and a poll is demanded the Returning Officer will adjourn the meeting and arrange for a poll to be held not less than twenty-four hours and within three clear days after the meeting, and give appropriate notice of the places, date and time of polling.

Polling Stations

16. The Epping Forest Act requires the Returning Officer to cause to be entered in the polling books the name, description and address of every voter and for whom they vote. This approach which predated the Ballot Act 1872, later confirmed by the Representation of the People Acts, does not allow for a secret ballot and the arrangement will need to be carefully explained to voters in the event of a poll. There is no requirement in the Epping Forest Act 1878 as amended to provide subsequent access to the polling books so it should be possible to maintain the confidentiality of votes cast beyond that of the Returning Officer and the Poll Clerks.
17. At the election in 1993 there were nine polling stations, six for the northern parishes and three for the southern parishes. In 1998, your Committee agreed to reduce the number of polling station for the southern parishes to two. It was further agreed in 2005, to reduce the number of polling stations in the northern parishes to four and to one in the southern parishes. This reflected the fact that the electorate is very small, totalling no more than 150 in the northern parishes and 50 in the southern parishes.
18. As in the last election in 2012, it is recommended that the number of polling stations be kept at 4 in the northern parishes and one in the southern parishes, it being left to the discretion of the Town Clerk as to the precise location. At least one of the polling stations will be located in the parish of Epping as required by clause 21 of Schedule 4 of the Epping Forest Act 1878. (The 1880 Act clarifies that there is no requirement to have a polling station in the parish of Epping in the case on an election only for the southern forest parishes).
19. Paragraph 27 of Schedule 4 to the 1878 Act states that the Returning Officer, whether there is a poll or not, must as soon as practicable, publicly declare who has been elected and where there is a poll, the total number of votes given for each candidate, whether elected or not. It is therefore recommended that all polling books are brought to a nominated polling station immediately after polls close, the votes counted, and results declared publicly on that same evening.

Publicity

20. A full communications plan will be agreed with the Director of Communications.

Corporation of London Proxy Voting

21. In the past the Chairman of this Committee has exercised a proxy vote on behalf of the City as landowner in the northern parishes and the Chairman of the Port Health Committee as owner of the cemetery in the southern parishes. The Investment Committee also have potential votes through the ownership of the Kings Oak and Royal Forest Hotels. If this were to continue it would require a recommendation from this Committee and the Investment and Port Health and Environmental Services Committees to the Court of Common Council (as it is necessary for the proxies to be sealed by the Court of Common Council).
22. Your Committee of 9 July 2012 determined in consultation with the then Chairmen of the Investment and Port Health and Environmental Services Committees that the three Committees would not use the proxy votes as it presented a conflict of interest, as the Committees would be voting for one of its own Members. It is therefore proposed that a similar course of action be adopted for the elections in 2020.

Options

23. The Epping Forest Act 1878 provides for the election of Verderers. Accordingly, the election process has taken place every seven years since 1880. The City of London is obliged to conduct the next round of elections by 20th March 2020

Proposals

24. The following timetable is proposed:

Town Clerk to write to those on the existing register inviting claims	By 30 June 2019
Notice of intention to review register to be published in local newspapers and broadcast through website and social media channels	By 30 June 2019
Town Clerk to write to Local Authorities requesting them to check the Register against their electoral rolls	By 30 June 2019
Town Clerk to settle the Draft Revised Register	September 2019
Draft Revised Register printed and placed on deposit at Guildhall and The Warren for 6 weeks.	By 30 September 2019
Notice of deposited Register and details of Special Meetings for Settling the Register to be published in local newspapers, placed on Epping Forest notice boards and broadcast through website and social media channels	By 30 September 2019

Epping Forest & Commons Committee receive the Settled Register	January 2020
Settled Register printed and put on deposit	January 2020
Town Clerk to write to all those on Register notifying them of the details of the Nomination meetings and poll dates	By 31 January 2020
Notice of settled Register, Nomination meetings and dates & places of polls to be published in local newspapers, placed on Epping Forest notice boards and broadcast through website and social media channels	By 31 January 2020
Arrange with all persons with more than one registration to choose a polling station	By 31 January 2020
Nomination meetings	By 20 March 2020
Notify all on Register advising a poll has been demanded	As soon as possible after Nomination meeting.
Polling days (Polls for the north and south must be held on separate days)	By Friday 20 March 2020
Announce result	As soon as practicable after polling.
Verderers take office	25 March 2020

25. It is proposed that the dates for the nomination meetings and for the polls be presented to the next meeting of your Committee following consultation with the Recorder of the City of London, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

26. Elections of Verderers are required every seven years by the Epping Forest Act. This is supported by the Corporate Plan outcome 6(a) "We will promote regulatory confidence founded in the rule of law". The Verderers role in representing Epping Forest and its residents and visitors supports Corporate Plan Outcome 11 "We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment" and Outcome 12 "Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained" and all their sub clauses.

Implications

27. **Financial** In 2013 the actual out-of-pocket expenditure (notices, venue hire, printing and postage etc) was £12,150.90 As the 2013 Elections were uncontested no fees were paid to Poll Clerks. Allowing for inflation, out-of-pocket expenditure for 2020 is likely to be in the order of £13,000 - £14,000 plus (to be agreed) remuneration for Poll Clerks, and these costs will be met from the Town Clerk's Elections budget. Overall staff time was estimated at approximately £18,900 in 2013 across all departments involved and costs absorbed by those departments (not recharged) with the same planned this year (Comptrollers costs may be an exception).
28. **Legal** References to the relevant legislation are included within the body of the report. The Comptroller and City Solicitors Information Officers are advising on implications of GDPR on access to information held on the Register of Commoners and polling systems, but no significant issues are currently foreseen.

Conclusion

29. This report outlines the timescale and process for the Election of Verderers. Legislation provides that the elections be held every seventh year, no later than the twentieth day of March, and that the Verderers take office on the twenty-fifth day of March in the year of the election. In order to start this process notice will be given by the end of June this year of the intention to revise the register.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Map of the ancient Forest boundary, the Perambulation of King Charles I

Background Information

- 9th July 2012, Report to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee - Election of Verderers - dates of nomination and polls
- 9th July 2012 – Minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee
- 14th May 2012- Report to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee - Election of Verderers 2013
- 14th May 2012 – minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee

Alex Berry

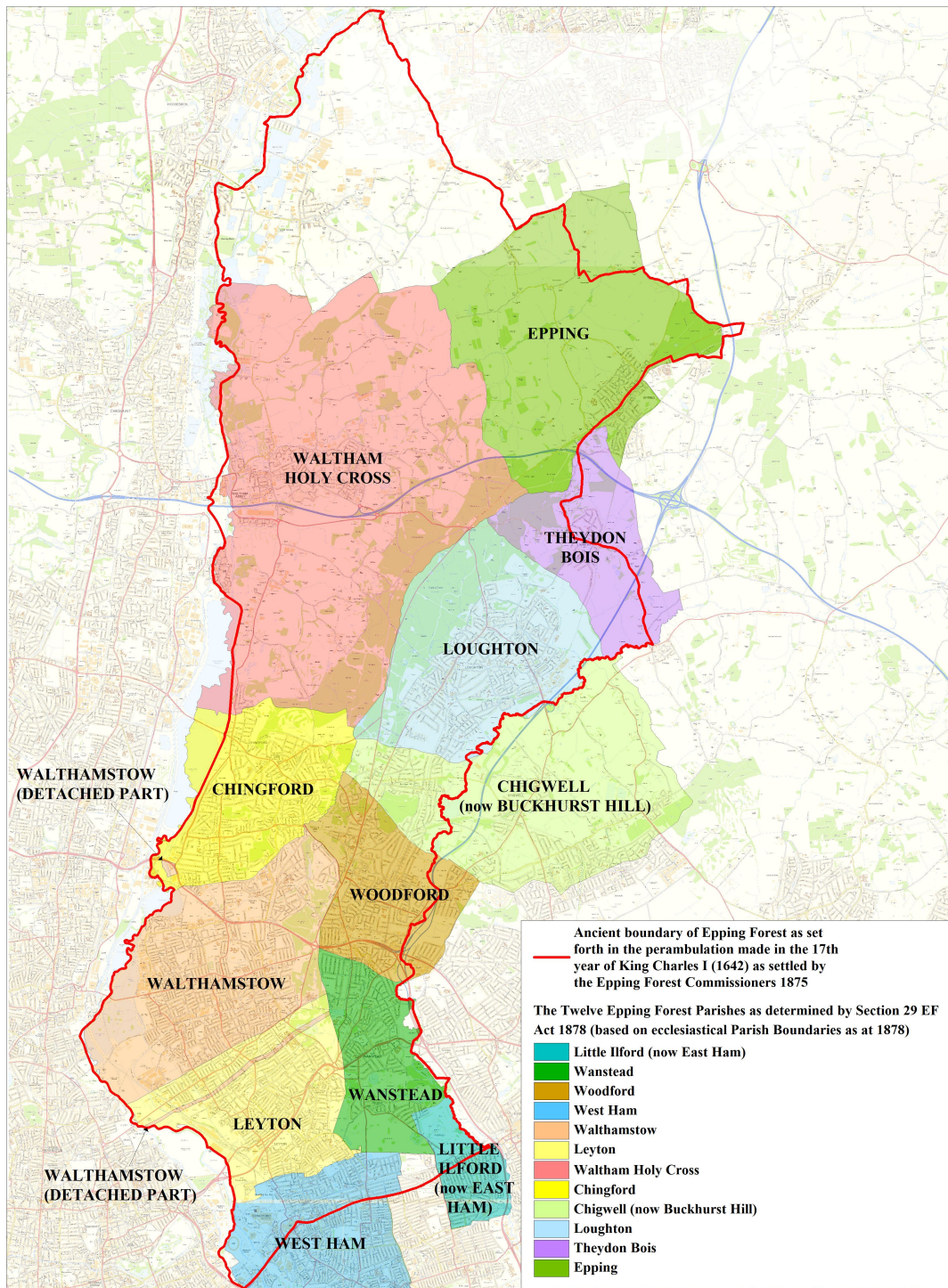
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EPPING FOREST - FOREST PARISHES AND PERAMBULATION



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Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest and Commons	20 05 2019
Subject: Epping Forest Operations Programme for 2019/2020 (SEF 14/19)	Public
Report of: Colin Buttery. Director of Open Spaces	For Decision
Report authors: Geoff Sinclair and Jeremy Dagley, Epping Forest	

Summary

This report outlines the conservation, visitor access and risk management projects proposed in the Forest for the year 2019/20.

The main theme for the habitat's conservation work continues to be operations aimed at managing the Favourable Condition of the Site of Special Scientific Interest, which has been supported through DEFRA funding. A focus in 2019 will be for each area worked under the 10-year HLS wood-pasture restoration programme to have a maintenance visit. The grazing programme will continue to expand with the key aim being to unite the Bury Wood and Chingford grazing areas to ensure more extensive, less intensive grazing over a longer season.

The work programme also addresses key areas of risk, particularly those related to woody vegetation along highway verges, fly-tipping, rough sleeping and tree safety. An issue for the coming year will be the continuing response to and resources required in relation to the increased risk posed by tree root nuisance and tree pests and diseases. There will also be attention focused on fire safety management building on lessons learnt in 2018 with fires across the Forest and specifically Wanstead Flats.

Access along the ride network is to be addressed through tackling over-growing vegetation through systematic survey and remedial work. We will be working with local volunteers to deliver access improvement at Highams Park

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the annual work programme as summarised in the main report.

Main Report

Background

1. This report describes significant conservation, visitor access and risk management projects proposed in Epping Forest for the programme year 2019-2020.
2. The work outlined below is drawn from the 2004-10 Epping Forest Management Plan and subsequent documents and strategies developed from that Plan (see Background papers below). The habitat work is also determined by Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) *Favourable Condition* and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) *Favourable Conservation Status* priorities which have been agreed and approved by Natural England.

Current Position

3. The Forest completed a 10-year Environmental Stewardship -Entry Level and - Higher Level Schemes (ELS-HLS) DEFRA-funded agreement with Natural England in October 2018. This programme involved both revenue and capital works funding for conservation work across the Forest grasslands, heaths, wood-pasture and, also, the grasslands of the Buffer Lands. The capital funding supported major works for both invisible and hard fencing installations. The grant also supported the grazing herd with an extra supplement for native breeds at risk. A new funding application for the successor scheme, Countryside Stewardship (CSS), is currently being developed to continue the management work for these key habitats.
4. A total of 189 ha of our grass and haylage cutting and the bulk of our highway verge cutting is now undertaken by local contractors Warren Smith Farming Ltd and Bush Wheeler Services respectively. Following a tender process, three-year agreements were made in 2018 with these local enterprises to deliver agreed works.

Proposals

5. The proposed 2019/20 programme focuses on the maintenance of the sites restored under the 10-year HLS wood-pasture restoration programme that ended in 2018, increasing the number of grazing cattle across Buffer Land and Forest grasslands and managing risks, particularly those related to woody vegetation on highway verges, tree pests and diseases, fly-tipping and tree safety. We will also be working on increasing the planned response to risks associated with Forest paths and tree root nuisance claims, both of which give rise to a significant number of our insurance claims.
6. Following the completion of the Individual Site Management Plans (ISMP) for Theydon Bois Green and Highams Park, work priorities will be incorporated into the Forest Management Plan as resources allow, with reduced activity associated with annual conservation. For 2019 this is likely to see continuation of grass mowing regimes, but also the removal of encroaching bramble and smaller scrub. In addition, work will continue with Natural England examining ways to

improve the Favourable Condition Status of the Highams Park compartment, although costed proposals would be considered for a CSS application later in 2020.

7. Following retendering in 2018, and the subsequent good performance of the contractors involved, it is proposed that we continue with bulk contracts for highway verge cutting and grassland management. In partnership with the City Procurement Service (CPS), the City Corporation will re-tender the haylage contract in 2019 on the basis of a three-year agreement being reached.

A Beautiful Wood Pasture - Wood pasture restoration

8. It is planned to focus activity on the maintenance of the areas opened up as part of the restoration programme under the 10-year ELS-HLS agreement. The maintenance requirements vary according to each area. In some, this year, grazing is sufficient (e.g. Long Running heath), in others mechanical flailing of regrowth may be required (e.g. parts of Bury Wood), whilst in other areas volunteers will continue conservation tasks.
9. Alongside the basic maintenance of the ground flora and tall vegetation, further work is being planned for management of the trees that have been opened up in these areas, particularly through continuing the re-pollarding cycle. These latter operations are being planned as part of the CSS application referred to in paragraph 3 above and subject to a separate report. If the CSS application is approved by your Committee and Natural England, winter work on some of the trees may begin in January 2020, focusing on key areas of Oak-Hornbeam lowland wood-pasture habitat, like Bury Wood.
10. All areas opened up in the ELS-HLS Programme were resurveyed in 2018/19 and proposals for the maintenance approaches to these sites, totalling an estimated 200 ha, are being reviewed. The aim for 2019/20 would be to start a cyclical maintenance programme and this year to fully assess the practical maintenance needs and commitments required for future years. It is proposed that this work will largely be undertaken with in-house staff.
11. In addition, some outstanding contract work on wood-pasture restoration at Lords Bushes would be completed, continuing the opening up of glades and rides and the haloing of ancient oak pollards there. A communication plan is to be part of this work to ensure that local residents and visitors are aware of the proposed works following feedback in 2018.

Grassland Management

12. Open grass areas across the Forest will be cut using a similar programme as in previous years with contractors undertaking around 50% of the work by area (72 hectares). The Wanstead Flats mowing regime is being reviewed and a new rotational mowing regime is to be organised. This will take account of the areas that were sub-soiled during the fires of 2018 and which may need restoration work to prevent the loss of acid grassland interest. It also seeks to build on the work of the rotational mowing of the last 10 years to maintain areas of good

quality for Skylark nesting, but also ensure removal of more of the old grass (or “thatch”) which remains a fire hazard.

13. In addition to this work on grassland restoration, discussions will take place with Natural England about the use of sub-soiling and mowing at Leyton Flats for extending and widening the fire-break network there (see paragraph 30 below also).

Volunteer Habitat Management Activity

14. Connected with the work on acid grasslands in the south of the Forest, staff and volunteers from The Wren Group and Wanstead Birders will continue with the ongoing Skylark census on Wanstead Flats. There are currently four possible territories being held this spring, but the key will be to observe whether each area sees young raised and also to monitor the number of broods that are achieved. A similar census will be undertaken for the Meadow Pipits, another declining ground-nesting bird.
15. At Wanstead Park Exchange Land support and advice will continue to be given to The Wren Group in its excellent volunteer conservation work on the grassland mosaic there, restoring butterfly habitats for species such as the Brown Argus.
16. The Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers (EFCV) will also continue their varied task programme across the Forest, focusing on the wood-pasture restoration, ponds and bogs (see also paragraph 23 below). This group’s invaluable work has contributed significantly to the achievement of habitat restoration, particularly on the smaller and more sensitive habitats like glades and bogs.

Grazing

17. As in 2018, the main aim will be to ensure extensive grazing rotated through the summer across the three large invisible-fenced areas of Fairmead, Bury Wood and Chingford Plain.
18. A *trial* grazing project will be implemented on the East Plain at Wanstead Park. An approximately 1800m *Boviguard*™ invisible fencing (IF) loop will be installed on the plain with the intention that cattle can graze from September 2020 onwards with a review of the project in 2021. Installing the *Boviguard*™ cable will require Archaeological Priority Area (APA) permission. Although the cable is buried no deeper than 15cm (6 inches), a walk-over survey would be conducted, as has been the case with previous IF cable laying in the Forest. In addition, a supervising archaeologist would be present on the day of the installation.
19. It is hoped this will provide a solution to managing this important area of acid grassland, with its distinctive ant-hills and important butterfly populations, as well as testing a way forward for managing other areas in the Park such as the Long Walk. This project will require a considerable amount of practical community support, as well as consultation, and development activity would be started during 2019.

Ponds/Lakes/Bogs

20. Monthly monitoring for Floating Pennywort at Wanstead Park will be continued during 2019 using a specialist contractor, with any outbreaks responded to as they appear.
21. During 2019 we will be working with colleagues from the City Surveyor's Department to confirm works to stabilise the substantial bankside erosion problems at Jubilee Pond. Additionally, at Highams Park with support from the City Surveyors Department we will be looking at a combination of 'hard' and 'soft' wharfing along the lake edge to reduce erosion of the bank and to improve water and habitat quality. Hard wharfing is the more traditional timber edge while soft wharfing is the use of plants to create a natural protective edge.
22. Following excellent clearance work at Speakman's Pond by volunteers from the (then) Epping Forest Centenary Trust, the tenders for removal and control programmes will be reviewed for the Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) New Zealand Pygmy-weed (*Crassula helmsii*).
23. *Froglife* was successful in its grant bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of Cow Pond (subject to a separate report to Committee in January 2018). Although, originally planned for winter 2019-20, the restoration work may not begin until later in 2020 as *Froglife* is seeking some further matched funding for the overall project which involves other sites outside the Forest. Nonetheless, it is expected that a small trial borehole, to check water levels prior to the start of excavation works will be carried out.
24. More minor works, largely by volunteers, will continue to be planned for the Forest bogs to ensure water levels are secured and over-growing vegetation removed. These follow recommendations on bog conservation following a 2016-2017 survey of all Forest bogs by the County Botanical recorder, Dr Ken Adams (see Background Papers below).

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) work

25. Monitoring of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM), using external consultants, would continue over at least 17 main sites as in 2018, with control measures taken as required. It is expected to see a large increase in the number of trees affected and the number of OPM nests. However, removal of nests will be targeted to where the most immediate risks of exposure to visitors are found.
26. The annual Japanese Knotweed control, which was featured recently in a horticultural magazine, will be carried out across the 3 or so remaining sites – with older sites also being re-checked.

A Welcoming Destination:

Ride and Path Management

27. A path management Policy Development Note (PDN) will be completed for the summer of 2019 following an audit of paths in 2018. This work has been slightly delayed, however, as the audit process was undertaken in a different way from that originally planned. A more robust path monitoring process is now in place that better meets the occupier's liability requirements.
28. From Aug/Sept 2019 it is expected we will commence a programme of works to tackle overgrowing vegetation along the track sides followed by works on the path side drainage. Within the SSSI area, once identified, any such work would be subject to evaluation and consent from Natural England. We will implement an annual path monitoring programme to cover a proportion of the paths each year. Routine maintenance of path edge vegetation will be continued across the whole network.

Bury Road Car Park

29. Following on from works to improve the traffic flow in the various car parks at Bury road in 2018/19 with colleagues from the Visitor Services team we will implement a programme of enhanced maintenance. This will seek to improve the look and feel of this increasingly popular area following on from investment by the City at the Golf Course and our Tenants in the Holly Trail Café and Go Further cycling.

Whitehall Plain Bridge

30. In association with the Department of the Built Environment we will continue to look at erecting a new bridge or raised boardwalk across the River Ching on Whitehall Plain in the location of the deteriorating culvert bridge. This activity has continued from 2018. In addition to the river crossing, sections of the paths leading to the bridge have been cut through by drainage grips creating muddy, deep hollows in places. Improvements over these eroded sections will be reviewed as possible additions to the bridge works.

Protected and Celebrated Heritage Landscapes

Wanstead Park: Parkland Plan

31. The Parkland Plan is now complete and will be brought for consideration to a future meeting of both the Epping Forest and Commons Committee and the Epping Forest Consultative Committee. A 'Shadow Project Board' was established in 2018 to provide coordination now that the Large Raised Reservoirs have been declared 'High Risk' by the Environment Agency, for taking forward both the statutory requirements under the Reservoirs and Flood & Water Management Acts (now that three Lakes in the Park); water supply; flood protection and the response to 'Heritage at Risk' through the Parkland Plan development proposals. Continuing this wider project development under an established Project Board will be an important focus for 2019.

Highams Park

32. We will be working with the Highams Park Community Interest Company (HPCIC) to improve access to the lake edge through path and lake edge standing improvements and the erection of new orientation signage. The HPCIC has obtained the funding for the materials and a combination of staff and volunteers will undertake the works.
33. During 2019 it is proposed that we work with local volunteers to seek funding for proposals to develop a north-south multi-user surfaced path through the Park either by restoring the west bank original estate coach drive or following the strong 'wish way' on the east side of the lake. Any work proposals in Highams Park, which is part of the SSSI and SAC and a locally listed Park, would require consent from Natural England and the London Borough of Waltham Forest, and may also require further consultations locally.

Butlers Retreat

34. If funding allows works will be undertaken at Butlers Retreat to renovate the seating area to the front of Butlers Retreat to improve the quality of the grass reinforcement mesh surfacing, together with the high wear. We will also surface the seating fixed seating area to the rear of the building.

Churchill Avenue: Woodford Green

35. The delayed re-working of the London Plane and Poplar tree avenue at Woodford Green, that leads up to the Winston Churchill statue for tree safety purposes will be actioned this year. A community and stakeholder information process has been initiated with the aim that arborists would start work in September 2019 when ground conditions are favourable and bird nesting has ended. It is proposed that we undertake the phased replanting of the avenue and subject to the outcome of the public information process, and a potential public appeal, replanting will occur during November/December 2019.

A Resilient Environment:

Highway Verge Management

36. Ongoing maintenance of highways edge vegetation will largely be contracted out through a three-year agreement with a local provider. In-house teams will focus on the more challenging locations where there are a number of constraints such as frequent parked cars and on maintaining sightlines at path and road junctions. One significant task will be the management of roadside elm alongside Bell Common, Epping which would be managed over the next 2 years by reducing the height of the elms to ensure the hazards of falling stems are removed. The work at Bell Common has been delayed from 2018.

Tree Safety

37. Trees identified for hazard removal will be a significant proportion of spring and summer programmes for the Arborist Teams. The annual tree safety survey program is undertaken by contractors and this is to be retendered this year on a

three-year basis. Overall, works to make good dangerous trees takes up the equivalent of one arborist team's year.

Fire Safety

38. Some 6km of fire control lines are cut at least twice a year in the summer on Leyton and Wanstead Flats. Following the fire at Wanstead Flats the need for additional preventative measures will be reviewed in association with Natural England and the Fire Service. The particular considerations will be the need to de-fuel certain habitats; reduce the impact of scrub in forming a 'ladder' for the fire to reach the crowns of larger trees and the need to consider more fully the risks associated with adjacent infrastructure, such as residences; petrol stations; electricity sub-stations and road and rail links (see also habitat work above).

Insurance Claims

39. In association with the City of London's insurance, management policies for Tree Root nuisance and a Policy Development Note will be prepared for the Autumn 2019. This is one area where each year the City Corporation receives substantial legal claims and it is increasing evident that a review of practice is desirable. Working with our insurers we will investigate the benefits of preventative measures in locations with a cluster of subsidence claims. One possible project being considered for work in the winter of 2019/20 is to reduce the tree cover along Mays Lane, Chingford. Reducing the tree cover will help to reduce subsidence and tree safety liabilities and will also provide the opportunity to improve a currently overlooked part of the Forest. The intention would be to achieve a condition where it will be relatively cheap and easy to maintain the Lane and also to ease monitoring of the safety and root nuisance problems.

Large Raised Reservoirs (LRR):

40. Woody and herbaceous vegetation will be kept cut on raised reservoirs. Further works will follow on from the six-monthly Panel engineer inspections and will be undertaken in association with the Built Environment Department. In line with requirements in our water abstraction licence from the EA we will initiate works to improve the flow of water to the lakes via the local drainage network. This will involve some improvement to ditches to ensure the water flows more directly to the lakes and also investigation of drainage pipes out falling into the lakes to check they are running smoothly.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

41. The proposals outlined above contribute to two of the three Corporate aims to:
- Contribute to a flourishing society;
 - and
 - Shape outstanding environments
42. For the Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2019-20, the proposals fulfil all 12 outcomes of the three top line Objectives, which are that:

- open spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible;
- spaces enrich people's lives;
- business practices are responsible and sustainable.

43. Epping Forest Management Plan - Management Plan - The proposals match a number of the Epping Forest Vision for the 21st Century's key visions including:

- Epping Forest's position as a unique and ancient landscape for people and wildlife will be strengthened;
- The Forest will retain its natural aspect with the diversity of wildlife habitats enhanced and the features of international importance protected;
- Epping Forest will be highly valued as part of a larger and fully accessible protected landscape area.

Implications

44. **Financial** - The work outlined in the proposed work programme is to be covered by the local risk budget of Epping Forest Division. Additional grant aid and public fundraising will be sought where available to fund agreed activity.

45. **Legal** - Formal consent for these works has been sought from Natural England under Section 28E of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) for the SSSI and as required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 in relation to the SAC. Additional consents for work in locally listed landscapes and APAs will be sought during the year.

Conclusions

46. The work outlined above covers a large number of the Forest compartments and addresses key access issues across the Forest ride and pathway network and also risk management work, particularly along Forest roadsides and boundaries. The habitats programme, although reduced in scope to allow a full review this year, is the continuation of several decades of conservation work and a commitment to achieve the Favourable Condition of the SSSI compartments and Favourable Conservation Status of the SAC.

47. Volunteers will continue to be instrumental in delivering a significant proportion of the work on a number of key projects in 2019/20, including wood-pasture restoration and ponds work and their important contribution is acknowledged.

48. In-house teams will deliver much of the work detailed in the report. Contractors will be used to support implementation of the grass-cutting and highway vegetation management works as well as the key area of the wood-pasture restoration work at Lords Bushes.

Appendices

- Grazing Programme 2019

Background Papers

- The Epping Forest Management Plan 2004-2010;
- The Barn Hoppit Wood-pasture Restoration Plan 2006-2011;
- The Lords Bushes and Knighton Woods Integrated Site Plan 2004-2010;
- The Wanstead Flats Integrated Site Plan 2006-2011;
- Theydon Bois Green Individual Site Management Plan (2018)
- Highams Park, Little Sale and Oak Hill Woods Individual Site Management Plan (2019)
- Branching Out Stage II Project Plan (Nov 2008) – including the Keystone Trees and Grazing Strategies;
- SEF 01/13 Epping Forest & Commons Committee Report: Grazing Expansion Plan for Implementing the Epping Forest Grazing Strategy. 13th Feb 2013.
- Wanstead Park Conservation (2011);
- SEF 50/16 Epping Forest & Commons Committee Report: Epping Forest Grazing Expansion Plan Continuity Arrangements. 21st November 2016
- The Topology and Vegetational History of Some Epping Forest Sphagnum Bogs (Report to EF Conservators - K.J. Adams 2017).
- Highway Verge Management Policy Development Note (2018)

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Site	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Forest Land								
Big View / Sunshine North & South			6					
Long Running				8				
Deershelter Plain			10					
Bury Wood / Fairmead		20						
Warren Wood Slope					from deershelter			
Chingford Plain (2K Loop)		12						
Chingford Plain North / Burywood					from chingford 2K loop			
Fernhills		10						
Trueloves		10						
Whitehall Plain / Birbeck								
Addisons Meadow								
	52	0	16	0	8	0	0	0

Site	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Buffer Land								
Warren Fields		7						
Conservators Pound		9						
Warlies Estate								
West park		30						
Warlies Hay Meadow								
Brookmeadow Paddock								
Brookmeadow Field								
Black Barn Field								
Osier Bed Field								
Track / Temple								
Copped Hall								
Behind the Hall								
Ridge / Trafalger								
Deer Park								
North / South 18 Acres								
39 Acres								
Gt Gregories								
Concrete Road Field		2						
Railway Field								
Top Field								
Woodredon								
Woodredon Paddock		2						
Raveners Farm								
North Farm								

Grazing Programme 2019


Grazing

Hay

Site	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Forest Land								
Big View / Sunshine North & South								
Long Running								
Deershelter Plain								
Bury Wood / Fairmead								
Warren Wood Slope								
Chingford Plain (2K Loop)								
Chingford Plain North / Burywood								
Fernhills								
Trueloves								
Whitehall Plain / Birbeck								
Addisons Meadow								

Site	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Buffer Land								
Warren Fields								
Conservators Pound								
Warlies Estate								
West park								
Warlies Hay Meadow								
Brookmeadow Paddock								
Brookmeadow Field								
Black Barn Field								
Osier Bed Field								
Track / Temple								
Copped Hall								
Behind the Hall								
Ridge / Trafalgar								
Deer Park								
North / South 18 Acres								
39 Acres								
Gt Gregories								
Concrete Road Field								
Railway Field								
Top Field								
Woodredon								
Woodredon Paddock								
Raveners Farm								
North Farm								

Grazing Programme 2018

Grazing 

Hay 

Site	Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov	
Forest Land																
Big View / Sunshine North & South																
Long Running																
Deershelter Plain																
Bury Wood / Fairmead																
Warren Wood Slope																
Chingford Plain (2K Loop)																
Chingford Plain North / Burywood																
Fernhills																
Trueloves																
Whitehall Plain / Birbeck																
Addisons Meadow																

Site	Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov	
Buffer Land																
Warlies Estate																
West park																
Warlies Hay Meadow																
Brookmeadow Paddock																
Brookmeadow Field																
Black Barn Field																
Osier Bed Field																
Track / Temple																

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Committee(s): Epping Forest & Commons	Date(s): 20 05 2019
Subject: 2019 Countryside Stewardship Grant application (SEF 18/19)	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Decision
Report author: Sally Gadsdon, Environmental Stewardship Officer and Jeremy Dagley Head of Conservation, Epping Forest	

Summary

External funding to support our continuing restoration and management of Epping Forest's internationally important wood-pasture habitats is being sought from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS). This would continue the partnership funding established with Natural England under the predecessor scheme, Environmental Stewardship (ES). It is proposed to seek Committee's feedback on the proposals for funding both through the Management Plan Steering Group (MPSG) in May, examining detailed proposals, followed by your Committee for approval of the application as a whole in July. The submission of the grant application would be in late September 2019. To maximise income from this grant, it is proposed in 2020 to submit a second application for funding on areas of the Forest not covered by the first application, and, in the same year, a third application for the Buffer Lands.

Funding is being sought to contribute to the essential and high priority nature conservation management of the Forest with emphasis on:

- maintaining and/or enhancing the condition of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC);
- consolidating the improvements made in key habitats management, including wood pasture, heathland and grassland, under the predecessor scheme (ES);
- the care of ancient pollarded trees for which the Forest is renowned;
- continuing to develop the grazing project and expansion plan;
- undertaking other necessary access and estate management works covered by the Scheme's various grants such as ride widening, fire break provision and visitor welcoming signage.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- note the grant application timetable.
- approve the proposed engagement and approval process with Epping Forest & Commons Committee.
- approve making two separate applications for funding for the Forest in 2019 and 2020 and a third application for the Buffer Lands in 2020.
- approve the range of operations and Forest locations that are proposed to be funded through this grant.

Main Report

Background

1. Since 1989, and with the notification of the Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1990, Forest habitat work has specifically addressed the nature conservation objectives of the Epping Forest Act 1878 and subsequent national wildlife conservation acts, in particular the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended (W&C Act 1981) and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act 2006). Since its designation in 2005 as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), international legislation has become increasingly significant in determining the management of the Forest.
2. The objectives have always included the protection of the pollards and the heathland flora, such as heather and gorse. They have been refined over time on the basis of scientific knowledge about the rarity and vulnerability of various habitats and species, as well as on the basis of an understanding of the growing importance of the Forest in sustaining internationally-threatened biodiversity (e.g. Forster's Knot-hole Moss, heathland, fungi and insects of hollowing trees, the ancient trees themselves).
3. For nearly twenty years, and for many decades beforehand, this conservation work was funded almost entirely by the City through its grant to the Epping Forest Charitable Trust, although annual woodland grants from the Forestry Commission assisted latterly. However, from 2008 direct financial support for environmental conservation became available from the UK government, supported by the European Union. A successful application for these funds ensured that for the last ten years from 2008 to 2018, external grant-aid, in the form of Environmental Stewardship's twin grants of Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship, has been received to support this important work.
4. This grant, which largely supported wood-pasture restoration, grassland and heathland management and grazing, has provided over £1.6M towards the Forest's conservation.
5. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) is the successor scheme. It supports the UK Government's strategic vision for its 25-year Environment Plan

and is aimed at enabling the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to achieve one of its main strategic objectives. The main priorities of the scheme remain the protection and enhancement of the UK's natural environment.

6. With over 7% of the UK's wood-pasture, a habitat of Principal Importance (NERC Act 2006), the City of London's conservation work will be contributing significantly to the UK Government's commitments under the internationally-agreed Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the Bonn and Bern Conventions to which the Government is a signatory.
7. External funding is critical for Epping Forest's local risk budget to be able to undertake this vital conservation work. Maximising income is especially important as the funding from another government scheme, Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), which has contributed up to £120,000 each year since 2005 to local risk budgets, is highly likely to decline to zero by 2028, if the UK leaves the European Union and the proposed Agriculture Bill comes into legislation.

Current Position

8. An application for CSS funding for the Forest is in preparation and this paper presents the timetable for application and engagement with Committee and an outline of the work for which funding is likely to be sought.
9. The proceeding paragraphs outline the CSS application process and timetable, as well as a proposed timeline for engaging with Committee. Further on, the types of work for which funding will be sought are outlined. Lastly, it will be explained why the application for the Forest needs to be split across two applications in 2019 and 2020.
10. An application for CSS funding for the Buffer Lands will be prepared in 2020.
11. The Scheme is administered by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA), with technical expertise and support provided by Natural England (NE).
12. The timetable for applying to the scheme is as follows:
 - a. 3rd May 2019 – deadline for applying in outline, to ensure consideration for funding;
 - b. June – August 2019 – negotiations with Natural England to identify the most appropriate balance of funding;
 - c. 31st August 2019 – deadline for application of agreed funding proposals;
 - d. 30th September 2019 – deadline for requesting any changes and to request a formal agreement offer;
 - e. October – December 2019 – receive and sign the legally binding agreement for funding;
 - f. 1st January 2020 - 31st December 2029 – agreement duration with delivery of work as determined by the grant options chosen.

13. Engagement with Epping Forest & Commons Committee has been and is proposed as follows:

- a. January 2018 – a report was submitted to Committee with the intention of applying in 2018. Scheme requirements meant the preparations could not be delivered in time to apply. Committee was updated of this situation in May 2018.
- b. May 2019 – by the time of May 2019 Committee the Management Plan Steering Group (MPSG) would have been presented with an outline of the range of work and locations in the Forest for which funding would be sought. The MPSG would be invited to give feedback on the work proposals.
- c. 8th July 2019 – report to Committee on the full proposals for the 2019 CSS application. Committee's approval sought to proceed to conclude negotiations with Natural England.
- d. Note – as the conclusion to the negotiations with Natural England will fall in August, there will be a limited opportunity to make changes to the funding proposals in September.
- e. 9th September 2019 – report to Committee presenting the specific proposals agreed with Natural England and seek Committee's approval for submission of the application.
- f. For the 2020 Forest and 2020 Buffer Land applications detailed proposals will be presented to the MPSG and reported to Committee. This will be undertaken during autumn 2019 to spring 2020. Approval to submit these two 2020 applications will be sought in early summer 2020.

14. Epping Forest Consultative Committee will receive a report for information in June 2019. There will be some opportunity to feedback on specific proposals, but the report will largely be for information as reporting on this topic to your Committee started before the Consultative Committee was fully constituted.

15. The preparation of the application is in a number of phases:

- a. A high level of detail and evidence for each Forest Compartment and habitat is required to enter CSS. With the large size of the Forest, and to maximise funding from this Scheme, it is proposed to submit an application in 2019 for part of the Forest and apply for funding for the rest of the Forest in 2020.
- b. The thrust of the CSS application is to ensure financial support for operations that are currently commitments (e.g. grassland management) or have already been identified as required (e.g. maintenance of pollarded and haloed areas of wood-pasture). The components of the work are set out below.
 - i. Maintain the areas managed under the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS), notably the wood pasture restoration areas in each Forest Compartment (across about 390ha). To fully restore and maintain wood-pasture habitats, work will continue to increase light in these core areas to promote ground flora establishment, to ensure conditions are enhanced for specialist invertebrates, including Stag

Beetle, to encourage re-growth of areas of scrub, to protect ancient oaks and their seedlings . Much of this work will involve carefully selective tree-felling and reduction of over-grown veteran hornbeam pollard canopies. There will also be a cyclical programme of mechanical flailing/mowing required for areas under the pollards. Other work will involve the management of heathland, scrub and grasslands.

- ii. Care of veteran trees – Epping holds the greatest number of ancient pollarded trees in the UK. Since 1984 many Hornbeam pollards have been re-pollarded across the Forest. Focusing on the core sites of previous Management Plans and the 2008 – 2018 ES Scheme, these re-pollarded trees will be kept in cycle as planned by further lopping work. In addition, arborist operations will centre on managing the existing Keystone Trees, originally identified under the *Branching Out* Project. Many of these Keystone Trees require no further management over the next ten years but a proportion require follow-up cutting of their re-growing canopies to ensure their stability and vitality.
- iii. Care of the SAC habitats – this is management of habitats of European importance, these are the beech woodlands and heathlands.
- iv. Ensuring recovery of condition in the SSSI, which means as well as maintaining the condition of currently favourable areas, other work will seek to improve the condition of areas that are still classified by Natural England as ‘Unfavourable’ condition (**Appendix 1** provides a list of these areas). The types of work this will involve are selective tree felling, opening up/haloing around veteran trees to increase light to them and the reduction of infilling, over-shading trees.
- v. Deliver the grazing programme which is key for the management of wood pasture, heathland and grassland habitats.
- vi. Seeking funding for other work already intended such as ride widening, opening up areas for visitors and fire breaks.
- vii. The provision of new interpretation boards at carefully chosen locations across the Forest that are popular entry-points for visitors. These will help to orientate visitors and explain the special features of the area so that visitors can get the most out of their time in the Forest.

- c. Funding from the grant will also be sought to offset the costs incurred in the preparation of the 2019 and 2020 applications themselves.

Options

- 16. Delivery of the work – It is currently envisaged that the operations would be delivered by a mixture of in-house teams, contractors and volunteers. This balance would be based both on the affordability of utilising contractors and the capacity of the in-house arborist teams after statutory obligations have been discharged and other work priorities have been assessed. The July report to

Committee will give further details on the indicative costs and options for the balance of work.

Proposals

17. It is proposed to engage with Committee following the timetable given in paragraph 13 (a – f). The MPSG would be the forum to review the proposals for the CSS grant in detail. Full details will be available to all members of Committee on request, and a thorough overview of work and areas of the Forest included will be presented to Committee for approval in July 2019.
18. It is proposed that the CSS funding should be accessed in three separate applications between 2019 and 2020 to maximise funding and to allow the field survey work and site assessments to be carried out with current staff resources. Due to the Scheme's rules, as the Forest has commoners' rights, a separate application must be submitted for the Buffer Lands. One application will be submitted in 2019 for the Forest, and a second application in 2020 will be submitted for the Forest along with a third application for the Buffer Lands.
19. To seek funding for the areas of work outlined in paragraphs 15b i – vii above.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

20. Our Corporate Plan (2018-2023), whose vision includes "To shape outstanding environments", aims to:
 - a. Provide thriving and biodiverse green spaces and urban habitats
 - b. Provide environmental stewardship and advocacy, in use of resources, emissions, conservation, greening, biodiversity and access to nature
 - c. Protect, curate and promote world-class heritage assets
21. The works that could be funded by the CSS grant would contribute to fulfilling Our Corporate Plan because:
 - a. Work would be undertaken to manage internationally important SAC habitats and populations of veteran trees as well as nationally important SSSI habitats. The aim is to see an improvement in condition of all of these.
 - b. Work would be undertaken that would benefit several scarce species that have increased in number during the time HLS work was undertaken. These include the plants: Lousewort, Adder's Tongue, Heather, Ragged Robin; the insects: White Admiral, Purple Emperor, and possibly the birds Goshawk and Song Thrush. The aim is that the Forest's specialist biodiversity, especially saproxylic fungi and insects, would continue to increase during the work funded by CSS.
 - c. The interpretation boards and other works that make the Forest a welcoming place will increase the potential access to nature by our visitors.

- d. In 2020, funding to help conserve a number of historic features will be investigated.

22. The Open Spaces Business Plan 2019-20 includes the outcomes and departmental activities:

- a. Outcome: Our habitats are flourishing, biodiverse and resilient to change
- b. Outcome: Our open spaces, heritage and cultural assets are protected, conserved and enhanced
- c. Outcome: Nature, heritage and place are valued and understood
- d. Activity: Protect and enhance our sites' biodiversity
- e. Activity: Improve the visitor and cultural offer

23. In addition to paragraph 20, the work funded by CSS would help to increase habitats' resilience to change by improving their condition making them more stable to adapt to future conditions. Funding will also be sought to contribute to the approved grazing expansion plan.

Implications

24. **Financial implications:** Work is being done to maximise the funding brought in through the grant. Analysis will be undertaken to calculate how much the grant will cover internal and external costs and, therefore, how much contribution will be required by the Local Risk budget and in-house staff resources. Under the Environmental Stewardship, the grant funding for seven years of the ten was matched solely with in-house staff resources. The calculations for CSS and the changing circumstances expected under the Fundamental Review will be presented to Committee in July 2019.

25. *Key risks: Financial.*

- a. The grant operates on a menu of options which have set funding rates for 10 years. It is envisaged some of the work will be delivered by contractors. There is a risk that inflation and other financial factors will cause contractors' rates to increase during this period relative to local risk budgets. To mitigate this risk:
 - i. An exercise has been conducted to ascertain indicative prices from contractors. This was done on a consultancy basis and not as a competitive tender exercise and contractors were asked to anticipate cost inflation. This work has provided a basis for assessing the long-term affordability of the operations.
 - ii. One option is to slightly front-load the work contracted out to the first few years, so that proportionately less work is carried out in the last few years of the grant when prices may be relatively higher.
 - iii. A combination of CSS options will be chosen to maximise the income and cross-subsidise between areas of work where grant rates vary.
- b. There is a possibility that towards the end of 10-year grant agreement the funding rates may be insufficient to cover the work required, despite

undertaking the forecasting exercise outlined above. In this case an application to borrow from the City might have to be made for further funds to fulfil our grant obligations. The data on cost forecasting will be presented in the July 2019 Committee report to demonstrate a low level of this risk.

- c. **Brexit.** Funding for the CSS grant currently comes from the EU. If the UK leaves the EU Defra may decide to reduce the funding available for CSS. This may affect the funding available for the 2020 application but 2019 is unaffected by this scenario. Therefore, a form of mitigation is to apply for as much funding as we are able to realistically achieve in 2019.

26. **Key risk: Reputational.** there has been minor reaction from the public to a small proportion of the work carried out through HLS across its ten-year span, and indeed across 30 years of wood-pasture habitat work and 17 years of the re-establishment of grazing. Under CSS there would be some significantly visible changes resulting from some of the work (e.g. pollarding and tree thinning). The mitigation to this is the preparation of a proactive communication strategy.

27. **Key risk: Grant body administration:** the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has taken over from Natural England in the administration of this scheme. There are still issues being resolved from this change in administration. Epping presents a set of circumstances that are not posed by other applicants. As a result of the more limited discretion of the grant-giving agency, there are more uncertainties in interpretations of rules than previously. For example, the splitting of the application process across two years (2019 and 2020) is still “subject to approval”, although both local advisers (NE and RPA) are fully supportive. Approval will not be confirmed until August 2019 by which time it will be too late to make significant changes to the first application. The mitigation for this has been to prepare a 2019 application which encompasses a large proportion of essential works and a significant level of grant comparable to previous ES grant levels.

28. **Legal implications:** The work proposed will be the subject of a Habitats Regulations Assessment to satisfy the requirement that the work will not have a detrimental impact on the SAC. Furthermore, the work will require SSSI consent to be issued by Natural England. Both of these considerations have been part of the work that is being undertaken with Natural England in the development of this grant application. It is expected that both of these assessments would support the proposals based on the current range of operations being considered.

29. **HR Implications:** Some existing staff have been, and for the 2020 application would be, involved in work additional to their usual duties to assist in the preparation of this grant.

Conclusions

30. An application for funding to undertake habitat works to protect the Forest’s internationally important habitats is being prepared. Subject to approval, the

application would be submitted at the end of August 2019, with minor changes possible in September 2019. The work and the grant payments would start in January 2020 and would need to be delivered by December 2029.

31. Committee is to be engaged in reviewing the proposals through the Management Plan Steering Group and reports are to be prepared for Committee in July and September 2019. A second application for additional funding for the Forest would be submitted in 2020, alongside a separate application for funding for the Buffer Lands.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Areas of the Forest's SSSI that are assessed by Natural England as being in 'Unfavourable' condition.
- Appendix 2 – Map of the SSSI units of Epping Forest.

Background Papers

- SEF 03-18 EF & C Committee Report (January 2018): Countryside Stewardship Grant Scheme Application
- SEF 22-18 EF & C Committee Report (May 2018): CSS Update

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2019 Countryside Stewardship Grant Application

Appendix 1

The following SSSI units of Epping Forest have been assessed by Natural England as being in “Unfavourable No Change” or “Unfavourable Declining” condition. There is a six-yearly cycle for assessing the condition of SSSI units, so whilst work might have taken place recently, they may not be reflected in the current condition assessment. A summary of the reasons for unfavourability for each unit, as assessed by Natural England, is given below. Due to the reporting mechanism, several of the units have the same factors contributing to Unfavourable condition.

The condition reports often refer to excessive growth of brambles, grasses, nettles and depauperate moss species. Whilst it is not possible to definitely determine the reason for this, it is highly likely that these changes are linked to the deposition of nitrogen pollution. The poor condition of veteran trees is also likely, in part, to be linked to air pollution.

Unit 112 Tippla Burn: Unfavourable No Change

The heathland area of Dulsmead is being invaded by bracken and birch seedlings. There remains a very significant issue relating to air quality and the related deposition of acidity and of nitrogen. Many veteran trees within the unit display clear symptoms of stress (e.g. thin canopy and die-back of leading shoots). Heathland areas show excessive growth of grass compared to broad-leaved species, and there are dense stands of nettles along roadsides and ride edges.

Unit 117 High Beach: Unfavourable No Change

This SSSI unit supports a mosaic of Beech and Oak, Hornbeam wood pasture/woodland with wetland features (ponds and stream). Wood pasture stands have a higher canopy cover (80-95%) than optimal and Sycamore is locally frequent and competing with Beech regeneration in some areas. Pollarding, crown reduction and selective thinning with Sycamore removal would change the unit's condition to Unfavourable Recovering. Whilst veteran trees, moss and fungi assemblages are in favourable condition, the wetland features, notably Speakman's Pond, are in unfavourable condition due to dominance of the invasive non-native species *Crassula helmsii* which is suppressing other aquatic and marginal vegetation. This is resulting in low cover of submerged and marginal vegetation. It is recommended to significantly reduce *Crassula* and promote submerged and marginal vegetation through silt excavation and tree works.

Unit 125 Pole Hill: Unfavourable No Change

There remains a very significant issue relating to air quality and the related deposition of acidity and of nitrogen. Many veteran trees within the unit display clear symptoms of stress (e.g. thin canopy and die-back of leading shoots). There is excessive growth of bramble, and grassland areas show excessive growth of grasses compared to broad-leaved species. In addition, the anticipated recovery in the condition of the grassland/ heathland areas will not take place unless an extensive grazing regime is re-introduced as planned.

Unit 130 Hatch Forest and Blue House Grove: Unfavourable No Change

The primary reason for unfavourability of this unit is believed to be air pollution and the related deposition of acidity and of nitrogen. Many veteran trees within the unit display clear symptoms of stress (e.g. thin canopy and die-back of leading shoots). Mosses are sparse and only a few species are present, and there is excessive growth of bramble. A second reason for unfavourability is considered to be the level of recreational pressure to which this unit is exposed. However, in the absence of the air pollution, the habitats would probably be in a better condition to be able to cope with this pressure. In addition, although not directly affecting the favourability of the unit, the River Ching appeared to be polluted, possibly as a result of leakage or overflow from the sewer which passes through the unit.

Unit 230 Hatch Plain & Reed's Forest: Unfavourable No Change

The primary reason for unfavourability of this unit is believed to be air pollution and, in particular, the effects of excessive levels of oxides of nitrogen and other pollutants, and the related deposition of acidity and of nitrogen. Many veteran trees within the unit display clear symptoms of stress (e.g. thin canopy and die-back of leading shoots). Mosses are sparse and only a few species are present. There is excessive growth of bramble. Grassland areas show excessive growth of grasses compared to broad-leaved species, and there are dense stands of nettles along some of the roadsides.

Unit 133 Highams Park and The Sale: Unfavourable Declining

The primary reason for unfavourability of this unit is believed to be air pollution and, in particular, the effects of excessive levels of oxides of nitrogen and other pollutants, and the related deposition of acidity and of nitrogen. Many veteran trees within the unit display clear symptoms of stress (e.g. thin canopy and die-back of leading shoots). Mosses are sparse and only a few species are present. There is excessive growth of bramble. Grassland areas show excessive growth of grasses compared to broad-leaved species, and there are dense stands of nettles along roadsides and ride edges. Some of the water bodies within the unit are also in a sub-optimal

condition, which may affect the unit's long-term ability to provide supporting habitat for the assemblages of dragonflies and damselflies and of amphibians.

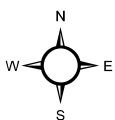
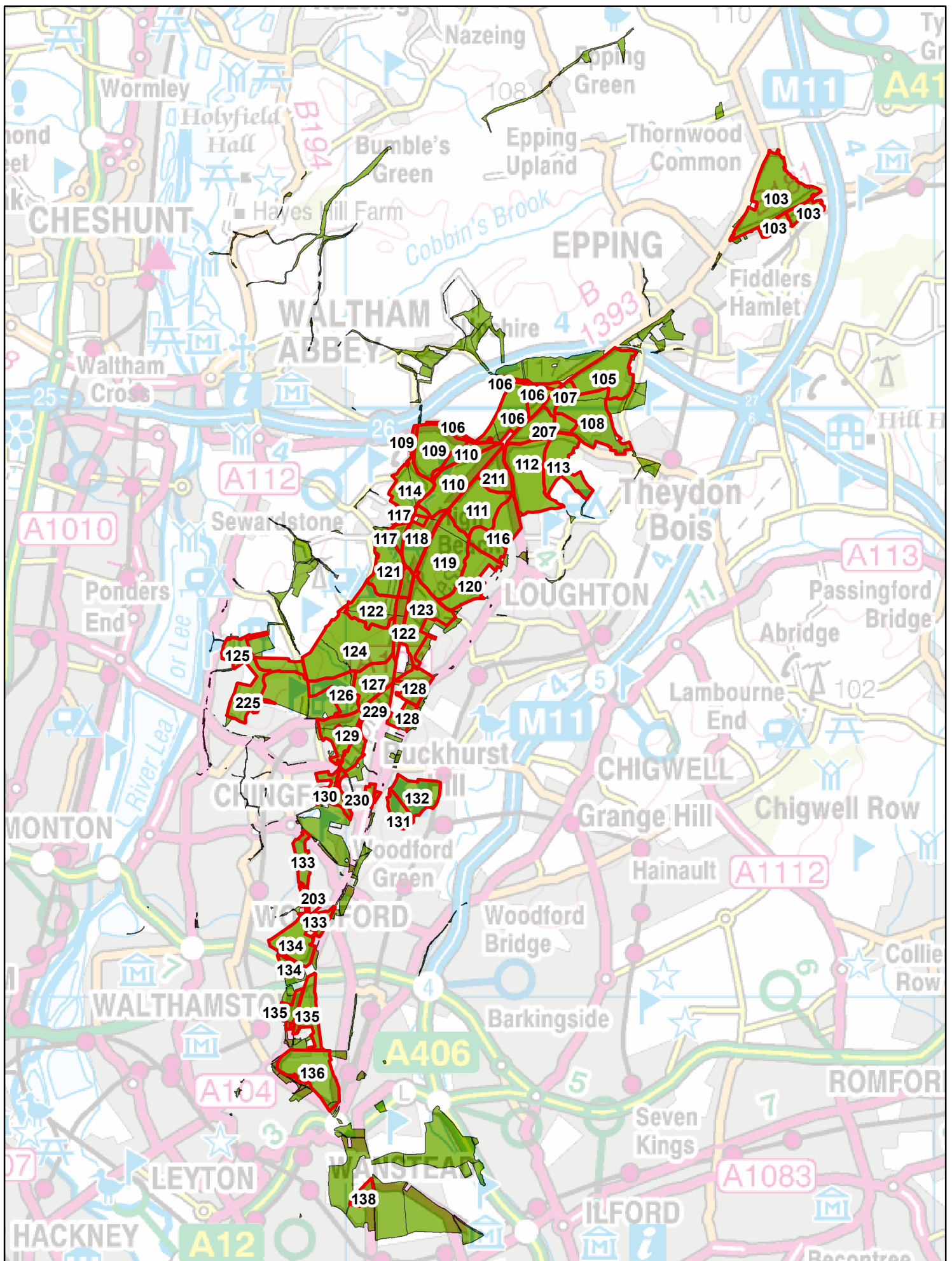
Unit 134 Walthamstow Forest (please note same condition assessment as Unit 133): **Unfavourable No Change**

The primary reason for unfavourability of this unit is believed to be air pollution and, in particular, the effects of excessive levels of oxides of nitrogen and other pollutants, and the related deposition of acidity and of nitrogen. Many veteran trees within the unit display clear symptoms of stress (e.g. thin canopy and die-back of leading shoots). Mosses are sparse and only a few species are present. There is excessive growth of bramble. Grassland areas show excessive growth of grasses compared to broad-leaved species, and there are dense stands of nettles along roadsides and ride edges. Some of the water bodies within the unit are also in a sub-optimal condition, which may affect the unit's long-term ability to provide supporting habitat for the assemblages of dragonflies and damselflies and of amphibians.

Unit 136 Leyton Flats: Unfavourable No Change

The primary reason for unfavourability of this unit is believed to be air pollution and, in particular, the effects of excessive levels of oxides of nitrogen and other pollutants, and the related deposition of acidity and of nitrogen. Many veteran trees within the unit display clear symptoms of stress (e.g. thin canopy and die-back of leading shoots). Mosses are sparse and only a few species are present. There is excessive growth of bramble. Grassland areas show excessive growth of grasses compared to broad-leaved species, and there are dense stands of nettles along roadsides and ride edges. A second reason for unfavourability is considered to be the level of recreational pressure to which this unit is exposed. However, in the absence of the air pollution, the habitats would probably be in a better condition to be able to cope with this pressure.

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**SSSI -
EPPING FOREST**

Sites of Special Scientific
Interest Condition Units (SSSI)
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Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest and Commons	20 05 2019
Subject: Proposed Honey Lane (A121) Pedestrian Crossing Point – Adjacent Woodgreen Road/Forest Side junction (SEF 16/19)	Public
Report of: Colin Buttery. Director of Open Spaces	For Decision
Report author: Paul Thomson - Superintendent of Epping Forest	

Summary

Your Committee of November 2008 adopted the Epping Forest Transport Strategy in partnership with Essex County Council. One of the Policy's five guiding principles was support for the installation of safe crossing points on major roads, both in and surrounding the Forest, to facilitate improved pedestrian, cycle and equestrian access through an otherwise truncated Forest. This report is necessary to consider a request by residents, and their Ward County Councillor, through the Epping Forest Local Highways Panel, for a safe crossing point across Honey Lane (A121). The proposal involves the construction of a crossing island and the dedication of 50.9m² (0.12 acres) of Forest Land to facilitate the road widening splays required to accommodate the island.

Essex County Council have indicated that a crossing island is the most appropriate and cost-effective traffic intervention in the Honey Lane 40mph zone which currently has a low road accident record. The Highway Authority has further indicated that it would not offer compensatory land under the City Corporation's Epping Forest Land Retention Policy. During initial negotiations, your Officers have stated a preference for a signalised 'Pegasus' Crossing, which would require an associated speed restriction to 30mph, and avoid the need to dedicate Forest Land. The proposal has also been overshadowed by outline proposals in the Epping Forest District Council Local Plan, that is currently before an Inspector, which proposes the use of Forest Land to create an HGV 'crawler lane' on Honey Lane/Woodricken Hill, which any crossing island road widening scheme may be seen to facilitate.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to approve:

- i. A clear position that the City Corporation will not consider any further dedication until the land exchange, outstanding since September 2011, for the traffic safety scheme at High Beach is completed.

- ii. A negotiating position requesting the reduction in speed restrictions on Honey Lane from 40mph to 30mph and the installation, with Essex County Council Cabinet Member special approval, of a signalised 'Pegasus' Crossing with the dedication of 10m² of Forest Land to facilitate the installation of appropriate tactile paving.
- iii. Should the Highway Authority continue to propose crossing islands and is unable to offer compensatory land already in their ownership contiguous with Forest boundaries, Officers should indicate that Committee would offer the purchase, subject to valuation by the District Valuer, and dedication of Buffer Land as Forest Land as a suitable exchange.

Main Report

Background

1. Honey Lane was first noted as a public highway in 1408 serving as an important east/west route between Cheshunt and Woodford . Following classification as the A121 in 1922/23, the route linked the A10 at Waltham Cross with the A11 in Epping Forest. The A121 achieved greater prominence as a feeder to Junction 26 following the construction of the M25 in 1986. The A121 Cheshunt Link Road, which was opened in 1996, acts as a southern bypass for Waltham Abbey. Currently, the A121 carries 26,000 vehicle movements/day at Honey Lane.
2. Your Committee approved the Forest Transport Strategy (FTS) as policy in May 2009 (SEF 13/09) to manage the impact of public highways on the Forest, in partnership with Essex County Council (ECC). The FTS proposals fall into 5 guiding principles which include:
 - Site Accessibility and Road Safety – Crossing Islands – proposed at key locations, including the A104, to assist walkers, cyclists and horse-riders crossing the roads; to reunite sections of the Forest dissected by roads; and to slow traffic speeds at this point.
3. Crossing Point schemes inevitably require the dedication of roadside verge to support widening, new infrastructure and footway treatments.
4. The growing volume of road traffic on Forest roads and the increasing complexity of road safety schemes both encourage Highway Authorities to seek additional Forest Land to better manage the road network across and adjoining Epping Forest.
5. While the Epping Forest Act provides powers for the dedication of highways, a key statutory purpose is to keep Epping Forest '*uninclosed and unbuilt on*', resisting and abating all '*all attempts to inclose, encroach, or build on any part thereof*'.
6. To address the progressive loss of Forest Land to Highway Improvement and Safety Schemes your Committee of November 2017 adopted a Land Retention Policy to secure compensatory land to replace land lost to Highway Improvement

Schemes. Such was the concern of Members at the gradual erosion of Forest boundaries that the policy was initially given a gearing ratio of 1:10 for lost Forest Land and to address the historic loss of Forest Land. This position was altered to consideration by Committee on a case-by-case basis in January 2019.

Current Position

7. ECC's Epping Forest Local Highways Panel (LHP) has sought the City Corporation's support for a safe crossing point on Honey Lane between The Woodbine Public House and the Woodbine Close Residential Park to the north of the A121 and Epping Forest, and the bus service to Loughton, to the south. The crossing would also benefit walkers, cyclists and horse riders entering the Forest from Woodgreen Road.
8. The crossing proposals included a substantial widening of the A121 estimated at 50.9m² of Forest Land to enable the construction of a pedestrian refuge on the busy road. Your Officers would prefer to see a 'Pegasus' Crossing – a signalised pedestrian crossing with special consideration for horse riders - at this point. This would preclude the need for road widening, however, under current Highway Authority guidance, the 40mph Speed Restriction and current accident record do not currently justify a Pegasus Crossing.
9. Officers for ECC have indicated that the funding for the crossing point project is dependent on the previous standard dedication of Forest Land without compensation of 50.9m² (0.12 acres). A recent public meeting between ECC Officers and residents of the Woodbine Close Residential Park indicated considerable frustration with the delay in the provision of this crossing point.
10. ECC has indicated that it is unable to offer suitable compensatory land from its existing land ownership portfolio. To help address this shortfall the City Corporation could, subject to Committee approval, consider the sale to ECC of a suitable quantity of Buffer Land which could then be dedicated to compensate for the loss of Forest Land through dedication as Forest Land.
11. The matter is also complicated by the Epping Forest District Council's Local Plan, where the accompanying Infrastructure Plan indicates the need to make improvements to a number of road junctions to improve the increased flow of traffic associated with new developments. The IP proposals include a 'crawler lane' on Woodredon Hill which is contiguous with Honey Lane. Realistically, it is not possible to consider any road widening scheme while there is a threat to the Forest through a much more extensive road widening scheme.

Options

12. Your Committee can consider three options:

- i. **Scheme refusal:** The active consideration of a safe crossing point at Honey Lane by the Highway Authority is welcomed for both residents and forest visitors and fulfils an important Forest Transport Strategy objective. Refusing any scheme at Honey Lane would be counter to the agreed Policy and could

damage the City Corporation's reputation as a good neighbour and project partner. **This option is not recommended.**

- ii. **Request for Essex County Council approval for a signalised 'Pegasus' crossing associated with a corresponding speed restriction from 40mph to 30 mph.** The statutory obligation for vehicles to stop; the 'on-demand' element of the crossing and the shorter road traverse all represent positive benefits for Forest users seeking to access and egress the Forest on Honey Lane, in addition to Woodbine Park and Woodbine Inn customers seeking to access the Forest Car park and Loughton bus stop. Such a scheme is considered preferential to a crossing island without conceding road widening ahead of a proposed crawler lane along a larger section of Honey Lane/Woodridden Hill. A reduced speed restriction would require ECC to make a direction or order following public notice and consultation, the outcome of which cannot be pre-determined **This option is recommended.**
- iii. **Highway Dedication of 50.0m2 of Forest Land to facilitate road widening splays to accommodate a crossing island.** Officers always seek to avoid the dedication of Forest Land where there are viable alternatives. Although signalised crossing installations are expensive, the costs of compensating Forest Land and the so far uncoded realignment of buried services should increase the costs of the crossing island proposal which is currently seen to be more cost-effective. There are concerns that a traditional crossing point island at 1.5-2 metres wide would not offer sufficient shelter for equestrians, where the average length of a horse is 2.4 metres. Officers would continue to promote the Trustee's view that Epping Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest Land is important and needs to be replaced at a higher ratio than 1:1 to reflect both its scarcity and historic loss to Essex County Council Road Schemes. **This option is not recommended.**

Proposals

- 13. It is proposed to seek Essex County Council Cabinet Member approval for a signalised 'Pegasus' crossing associated with a corresponding speed restriction from 40mph to 30 mph, which is felt to offer the best solution for users at Honey Lane, while avoiding unnecessary land dedication and substantial roadworks to realign buried and underground services.

Corporate Strategy Implications

- 14. **City of London Corporate Plan 2018 - 2023:** the protection of Epping Forest directly underscores the *third pillar* of the Corporate Plan, which is to "**shape outstanding environments**". The policy approach outlined in this report supports *Outcome 12* "Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained".
- 15. **Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2016-19:** The Strategic Vision of this Business plan is to 'Preserve and protect our world class green spaces for the benefit of our local communities and the environment.'
- 16. **Forest Transport Strategy:** The primary aim of the Epping Forest Transport Strategy is to investigate and identify options in order to improve safety and

accessibility for Epping Forest users. The proposal meets one of the key aims of the Forest Transport Strategy by providing improved accessibility to the Forest for all users especially those arriving by public transport on foot and for cyclists.

Implications

17. **Legal** – Section 7(1.) of the Epping Forest Act 1878 states that *‘the Conservators shall at all times keep Epping Forest unenclosed and unbuilt on, ...and they shall by all lawful means prevent, resist, and abate all future inclosures, encroachments and buildings, and all attempts to inclose, encroach, or build on any part thereof’*.
18. Section 38 of the Act which outlines the General powers of the Conservators includes at section (1)(iv.) a power *‘To maintain and make roads, footpaths, and ways and to dedicate roads to the public, subject to the law of highways, and to afford facilities and grant rights of way for access to inclosures’*. There is therefore power to dedicate Forest Land for public highway purposes.
19. The power to acquire additional Forest Land under section 33.(1.)(xxvi.) of the Epping Forest Act 1878 is specifically limited to lands adjoining the Forest or reputed to have been formerly part of the waste lands thereof.
20. **Financial** – The cost of the Highway Improvement Schemes will be fully met by the relevant Highway Authority and will not place requirements on City Corporation capital or Local Risk budgets.
21. A 1:1 replacement ratio within the Land Retention Policy is unlikely to impose increased management costs, in that compensatory land would be managed at a similar level of cost. It is acknowledged that the transferring authority will enjoy an overall saving where public open space is transferred to the City Corporation.

Conclusion

The City Corporation and ECC are both committed through the Forest Transport Strategy to the provision of safe crossing points across road in and adjoining Forest Land. The City Corporation needs to balance the public benefit of the proposed safe crossing point with the loss of Forest Land which would be needed to facilitate a road widening scheme. A higher cost signalled Pegasus crossing is proposed as the preferred solution at this location which will prevent the loss of Forest Land, the need to expand the island capacity to support equestrians and the relocation of buried underground services

Background Papers

Epping Forest & Commons Committee Forest Transport Strategy
Epping Forest & Commons Committee Land Banking Report November 2017
Epping Forest & Commons Committee Land Retention Policy Report January 2019

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Committee(s):	Date(s):
Epping Forest & Commons	20 05 2019
Subject: Epping Forest District Council Local Plan – Examination in Public – Matters 1 & 16 Legal Compliance/Epping Forest protection (SEF 19/19)	Public
Report of: Colin Buttery, Director of Open Spaces	For Decision
Report Author: Jeremy Dagley – Head of Conservation, Epping Forest	

Summary

Epping Forest District Council (EFDC), whose boundary includes 64% of Epping Forest, submitted its Local Plan to the Secretary of State on 21st September 2018. Hearings at an Examination-in-Public (EiP) have been held since February in which your officers have been delegated to participate on various Matters raised by the Inspector. In May there are several Hearings, one of which covers the protection of Epping Forest under the Local Plan policies and, in particular, the issue of the Plan's legal compliance with the Habitat Regulations, which protect the Forest's Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

The issue if legal compliance is addressed by a new version of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), which we had sought from EFDC because of the inadequacies of the first HRA. However, it is the City Corporation's view that the new version of the HRA still does not meet the legal requirements of the Habitat Regulations. In addition, although the Local Plan policies towards the protection of the Forest have been amended since the EiP began, they do not yet provide the security for the Forest as a whole. This report seeks your Committee's approval for the representations on these issues made on behalf of the Conservators.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked:

- Approve the representations, as summarised in this report, and set out in full in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report;
- Maintain the delegation to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to continue to work with the District Council and other local authorities to create a full and effective Mitigation Strategy, including consideration of off-site measures on the Buffer Lands and other sites;
- Require that your Committee receives a report on the outcome of the Examination-in-Public and the Inspector's findings and main modifications;

- Require that your Committee receives a report on the proposed full Mitigation Strategy for your approval.

Background

1. Epping Forest District Council (EFDC), whose boundary includes 64% of Epping Forest, published its Local Plan, under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012), in mid-December 2017. It sought representations from the public and other bodies, under Regulation 20, over a 6-week period that concluded on 29 January 2018.
2. The Local Plan addresses the next phase of the District's development for the 15 years to 2033, including the allocation of 11,400 new homes, of which nearly 4,378 units are currently allocated within 3km of the Forest's boundaries and the majority, over 6,000, are within 5km.
3. In the development of this submission version Local Plan the Council, along with three other local authorities, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2016 with The Conservators and Natural England to ensure the protection of Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) from any adverse impacts resulting from the Local Plan proposals (see *Background Papers* below).
4. In line with the MoU, the Regulation 20 response on behalf of The Conservators was made by the Town Clerk under delegated authority, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, on 29 January 2018. This was reported to your Committee in March 2018 (see *Background Papers* below). The Conservators' response letter concluded that the Local Plan, as published under Regulation 19, was 'unsound' because it is not consistent with national legislation, including The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (The Habitats Regulations 2017) and was not considered 'justified' or 'sustainable'.
5. The protection of the SAC is determined by the Habitats Regulations 2017. The Local Plan needs to comply with these regulations and to do so the Local Plan must ensure that it has an accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). If the HRA concludes that there may be *likely significant effects* on the SAC as a result of the Plan, then a more detailed Appropriate Assessment (AA) must be carried out as part of the HRA.
6. The first iteration of the HRA in 2017 accompanying the Regulation 19 submission version of the Local Plan, to which you responded in January 2018, did not include an AA. This was one of the reasons that your Regulation 20 response (as above – Jan 2018) concluded that the Plan could be considered 'unsound'.
7. Following the appointment of a Local Plans Inspector by the Government's Planning Inspectorate, the Local Plan Submission Version has been subject to scrutiny by the Inspector and she has raised a series of Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs). She has invited EFDC to respond to these MIQs and has also sought representations from all other parties who submitted so-called Regulation 20 responses to the Local Plan in January 2018.

8. A key issue raised by the Inspector has been on the *legal compliance* of the EFDC Plan. She raised this under Matter 1, Issue 5 of her MIQs in which she set out a series of questions concerning compliance with the Habitats Regulations. In addition, under her Matter 16, Issue 1 she raised a series of questions about the protection of Epping Forest SAC and also the wider Forest including the non-SAC areas. She has specifically asked whether Local Plan policies should address the protection of the Forest more holistically.

Current Position

9. Your officers have attended the Local Plan Hearings during February and March this year and made representations on a range of Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) that the Inspector has raised.
10. In relation to Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Matter 1 on Legal Compliance, which was due to be heard in February, the Inspector deferred the Hearing until 21st May in order to give participants time to respond to two new documents tabled late (on 29th January) by EFDC. The new documents were an updated Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), incorporating an entirely new section of Appropriate Assessment (AA) as required by the Habitat Regulations, and an additional Traffic Assessment Report by Essex County Council Highways.
11. Your officers, with the assistance of specialist consultants and legal Counsel, have prepared detailed representations to respond to these new reports and to modifications to Local Plan policies proposed in the interim period by EFDC.
12. This report, therefore, provides details of the proposed representations, on behalf of The Conservators, to the Local Plan Inspector on Matters 1 and 16 (Issues 5 and 1 respectively) (see Appendices 1 and 2). In the representations the Inspector's questions under each of these Matters and Issues are answered in turn, with detailed appendices provided in support. The appendices include detailed statements from the specialist consultants, whose advice has been taken in preparation of the representations.
13. The representations are entirely consistent with all previous representations and responses to EFDC, including our detailed response to the Local Plan Submission Version (Regulation 19) signed by the Chairman in January 2018.
14. On the matter of legal compliance (Matter 1, Issue 5) the summary position in the attached representations (Appendix 1) is that the EFDC Plan's HRA, including its new AA, still does not comply with the Habitats Regulations and therefore the Plan does not adequately protect Epping Forest SAC.
15. In relation to the protection of the Forest by Local Plan policies (namely Policy DM2), considered under the Inspector's Matter 16, Issue 1, the summary position of the representations (Appendix 2 of this report) is that Policy DM2 and its sub-policies still require substantial amendments to ensure that the Forest as

a whole is better protected. It is further suggested that a supplementary planning document is produced and agreed across other local authorities, including London Boroughs, to ensure the coordinated implementation of protective actions for the Forest.

Options

16. There are two options available to your Committee:

- a. **Option A** - to continue to make the representations as set out above and in Appendices 1 and 2 (attached) and to attend the Hearing on May 21st on Legal Compliance and the Epping Forest protection policy. **This option is recommended** and is consistent with the previous option approved by Committee in January 2019 (see *Background Reports* below, SEF 03/19) and all previous approved report on the EFD Local Plan.
- b. **Option B** - to withdraw the representations. **This option is not recommended** given the previous representations and the need to agree a **full** Mitigation Strategy with EFDC and other local authorities.

Proposals

17. It is proposed that Option A above is pursued so that officers, assisted by legal Counsel, attend and make representations at the Examination in Public to clarify and reinforce our representations and ensure improved safeguards for the Forest under the Plan.
18. In addition, as approved previously by your Committee (see *Background Papers* below), it is proposed that further work is done by your officers to develop ideas and promote proposals for off-site mitigation measures (SANGs), including the Buffer Lands, and to respond to any mitigation proposals on traffic and air pollution that may be put forward by EFDC or Essex County Council Highways.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

19. **Legal** – an approved Counsel's advice has been sought in relation to the Matters of the EFDC Plan's Legal Compliance and policies on Forest protection. Counsel has assisted in formulating a legally appropriate response (Appendices 1 and 2 of this report) to the Inspector on these Matters. It is further proposed that Counsel attends the Hearing on May 21st to assist your officers in presenting the legal arguments contained in the attached representations.
20. **Financial** – the cost of legal and other consultants' advice currently standing at £54,866 is being met under Divisional local risk budgets, with a £7,000 contribution from the Directorate. Counsel's advice was procured by the City Solicitor under the approved procurement procedures.

21. **City of London Corporate Plan 2018 - 2023:** the protection of the internationally and nationally-important habitats of Epping Forest directly underscore the *third pillar* of the Corporate Plan, which is to “**shape outstanding environments**”. This *third pillar* of the Corporate Plan is measured by four outcomes. The protection and conservation of the outstanding environment of Epping Forest and its buffer lands contribute significantly to the achievement of two of these: firstly, *Outcome 11* “We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment” and secondly, *Outcome 12* “Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained”.
22. **Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2016-19:** The Strategic Vision of this Business plan is to ‘Preserve and protect our world class green spaces for the benefit of our local communities and the environment.’ and one of the Department Objectives is to ‘Protect and conserve the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of our sites.’ In ensuring that The Conservators’ responses are represented at the Local Plan EiP, this report’s recommendations fully support this objective.
23. **Epping Forest Management Plan, Strategy and Business Plan:** the representations being made on the EFDC Local Plan reflect the objectives of the previous and forthcoming Epping Forest Management Plans. These priorities will reflect the biodiversity and heritage importance of the Epping Forest SAC as well as the need to protect the Forest landscape as an integral whole.

Conclusions

24. In response to the Inspector’s Matters Issues and Questions (MIQs), the conclusion of the representations on the updated Habitats Regulations Assessment is that it is still not legally compliant and that the proposed mitigation in the Local Plan policies would not be sufficient to prevent adverse impacts on the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation. In addition, the Local Plan policy (Policy DM2), that specifically addresses the protection of the Forest, is still drawn too narrowly and does not protect the Forest as a whole landscape.
25. The representations provide detailed evidence to support the arguments about these deficiencies in the Local Plan and its HRA and they also contain proposed changes that could be made to ensure legal compliance and improved protection for the Forest.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1:** Representations of The Conservators of Epping Forest on the Inspector’s MIQs: Matter 1 Legal Compliance
- **Appendix 2:** Representations of The Conservators of Epping Forest on the Inspector’s MIQs: Matter 16 Local Plan Policies DM2 & DM22

Background Papers

- SEF 03/19 EF & C Committee Report: *Epping Forest District Council Local Plan – Examination in Public*. 14th January 2019
- SEF 23/18 EF&C Committee Report: *Proposals for the development of a Mitigation Strategy for the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation*. 14th May 2018
- SEF 19/18 EF&C Committee Report: *Epping Forest District Council Local Plan – Regulation 19 Consultation, Update*. 12th March 2018
- SEF 12/18 EF&C Committee Report: *Epping Forest District Council – Local Plan – Publication under Regulation 19 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 – Request for Delegated Authority*. 15th January 2018
- SEF 30/16 EF&C Committee Report: *Epping Forest District Local Plan – proposed Memorandum of Understanding*. 4th July 2016

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The Conservators of Epping Forest Representations on the Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) for Epping Forest District (EFDC) Local Plan 2011-2033

Further to the Conservators' Regulation 20 response (Document **19STAT0035**) to the Local Plan Submission Version (LPSV – **EB114**) and following the publication of the updated Habitats Regulations Assessment (**EB209** HRA January 2019) and the Transport Assessment Report (**EB503** TAR January 2019), we now make further representations in response to the Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) raised by the Inspector in relation to **Matter 16, Issue 1** Policies DM2 and DM22. In addition to the MIQ-specific representations below, we also attach an appendix for Matter 16 as our Appendix 2.

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Matter 16:

Issue 1: Are the Development Management Policies in the Plan justified, effective and consistent with national policy in respect of the specific matters set out below? Are there any other issues concerning their soundness?

Issue 1.Q3: Will Policy DM1 and DM2 taken together provide adequate protection for the whole of Epping Forest, including the parts outside the SAC? In seeking to protect the Forest via two separate policies, is there a risk that the approach could become disjointed?

1. In the Conservators' view it is essential that Epping Forest is considered holistically. As well as the international importance of its biodiversity, recognised by its SAC status, the Forest as a complete entity is an ancient landscape of immense cultural and heritage value, managed for well over 1,000 years, with the largest population of ancient trees anywhere in the UK. The landscape around the physical Forest and the interconnectivity between the Forest and the wider countryside are not only important for sustaining its biological interest, (e.g. bat populations, other mammals, birds of prey, insect pollinators) but for protecting the context of this ancient site.
2. Our concern with the approach of the Plan towards the Forest is expressed in detail in our response (**Document 19STAT0035** Jan 2018; in particular, **paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2**) to the LPSV. Although DM2A refers to the enhancement of the Forest, this, in strict policy terms, only applies to the SAC interest. The ways in which enhancement for the Forest as a whole may be brought about through the Local Plan remain unclear given the emphasis on avoiding or mitigating the likely adverse impacts, which the both of the Habitats Regulation Assessments (Dec 2017 and Jan 2019) have acknowledged.
3. Without a holistic approach, deflection of pressure away from the SAC areas could also have adverse impacts on the non-SAC areas of the Forest, which are nationally or regionally important for biodiversity and also irreplaceable ancient habitats and sites (e.g. The Lower Forest, Epping Long Green).

4. In addition, the way in which the Plan seems to have taken a project-level approach to mitigation, as exemplified in Policy DM1, is another concern. Policy DM1 does not seem to us to provide clear direction as to how the Forest, as a whole, or biodiversity in general would be protected or enhanced. Individual developments' biodiversity net gains, each measured separately against site criteria within each development, are unlikely to make up for the potential fragmentation or urbanisation of the Forest and may not consider connectivity between habitats.
5. In order to ensure that proper consideration can be given to the Forest as a whole, Policy DM2 should be more clearly split into sections to allow for specific requirements relating to Epping Forest to be identified separately, for both the SAC and the wider Forest. Alternatively, this could be achieved by splitting Policy DM2 into two policies, one dealing with Epping Forest and one dealing with the Lee Valley. In this case, the policy dealing with the Epping Forest would have sub-sections dealing with the wider Forest and the SAC. This would provide the opportunity to make sure that the relationship between the SAC and the wider Forest, and development proposals affecting the wider forest, are considered together. We would favour two separate policies for better clarity (see **Appendix 2** for suggestions for wording).
6. We consider that the amendments we recommend in Appendix 2 (our appendix for Matter 16) would be necessary to make the plan sound, by ensuring that it is positively planned and effective. These amendments, based on the framework of the current LPSV Policy DM2, retain one policy for both Epping Forest and the Lee Valley, but if preferable, could be split into two policies as we suggest above. It should be noted that we also made extensive recommendations on the supporting text for Policy DM2 in our Regulation 20 letter (**Document 19STAT0035**). The supporting text should be revisited once the policy wording is updated, which should follow from completion of the SANGs aspect of the overall strategy for recreation, and assessment through the HRA.

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Issue 1.Q4:

Is it sufficiently clear, either in the Policy or supporting text, which/where developments are likely to have a significant effect?

Issue 1.Q4a (Policy DM2E): In Part E, is the 400m radius for requiring developments to mitigate the effects of urbanisation justified in terms of the specific likely effect upon this particular designated site?

7. In the Conservators' view, urbanisation involves a number of different pressures with the potential for significant ongoing costs and irreversible adverse impacts on the SAC, and on the Forest as a whole. In this respect, urbanisation effects are particularly pertinent to Issue 1, Question 3 (1.Q3 above) and we consider a holistic approach to the Forest is essential and should be recognised formally in DM2E. Although the HRA (**EB209**) refers to urbanisation effects, an analysis of the impacts on the SAC is not progressed in the Appropriate Assessment (chapter 5 of the HRA, paragraph 5.19).
8. The Conservators' are responsible for protecting the Forest's 'natural aspect' under the Epping Forest Act 1878. The Forest's 'natural aspect', however, is affected by its external environment, not only by the management actions of The Conservators. The Forest is part of a larger ancient landscape, that still survives in Epping Forest District, which provides the context for its 'natural aspect'. The protection of this landscape is one of the key reasons that the City of London Corporation has purchased the Forest's Buffer Lands (see also *Issue 1, Question 5, (1.Q5)* below).
9. Alongside the protection of the 'natural aspect' comes relative tranquillity, which in surveys is the attribute of the Forest most frequently referenced by visitors as important to them (including the Visitor Survey 2017 (**Document EB715**) and the Quality of Life Capital Study (March 2003)), both part-funded by the District Council in partnership with The Conservators and others). We look to the Local Plan to help us to continue to protect the 'natural aspect' of this hugely important place. Therefore, we consider that the Local Plan Policies need to be explicit in protecting this landscape with suitable buffer zones.

10. The effects of urbanisation are broad and include the increased likelihood of fly-tipping (as evidenced within Epping Forest itself), the increased likelihood of accidental or deliberate fire incidents (the Forest suffered London's largest fire in 2018 at Wanstead Flats – including the Site of Special Scientific Interest), increased intrusion of lighting, noise pollution, increased trampling/ compaction of soils (as the nature of repeat visits change), the introduction of invasive non-native species, predation and disturbance from pets, the dumping of garden materials and increased litter close to residential areas. Residential areas close to the Forest boundaries also increase the likelihood of conflicts related to tree safety or vegetation against property. These can result in the direct loss of large trees and they increase the costs of management of the SAC and wider Forest.
11. A 400m zone with an assumption against development is often included in Local Plans for European sites that are sensitive to urbanisation effects. This was a prominent aspect of work on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA for urbanisation impacts, including walking distances to the site and the impact of cat predation on ground-nesting birds. The HRA (**EB209**) does not assess the appropriateness of this 400m zone (see **Appendix 1C**, Footprint Ecology Statement, paragraphs 2.21 to 2.22). This latter is not directly relevant to the Epping Forest SAC interest, although heathland ground-nesting birds are present. Instead, the issue that is the most pertinent to the SAC, of those issues listed above, is the trampling and compaction of soils and loss of specialist vegetation (e.g. heather, heath rush) or its replacement by generalist taxa or even non-native species (e.g. *Juncus tenuis*).
12. Trampling and compaction also significantly affects ancient tree roots, with both the health of the trees, their associated mycorrhizal fungi and their stability significantly affected. On the soils with a clay component, London Clay, Boulder Clay or Claygate Beds, which cover the majority of Epping Forest, compaction is a key issue. For example, at Hatfield Forest National Nature Reserve (NNR), Essex, situated on boulder clay soils, the increase in recreation use has led to unsustainable trampling

of rides and the complete loss of vegetation along some of them. Visitor monitoring has shown high levels of use by very local residents, and therefore additional development in close proximity is a concern. As a result of increased use, rides have been closed and the managers of this rural NNR site have had to request that visitors stay away from the site during the winter months. Epping Forest's more peri-urban setting and complete open public access make such an option impossible to manage.

13. In the EFDC Open Space Strategy (**EB703**) the Fields in Trust (FIT) guidelines are used to generate accessibility catchments to assess open space provision for residents. In paragraph 10.11 of the Strategy and Fig 10.1 (**EB703, page 39**) the distance of **720m** is used as the FIT standard for a 10-minute walk to an open space from residential housing. The Conservators, therefore, suggest that to ensure that residential development does not lead to unsustainable increases in frequent visits that a minimum buffer/exclusion zone of 800m excluding new developments is used from all Forest SAC boundary points. In addition, the siting of SANGs should be planned to ensure that these would intercept potential visitors from new residential sites (see also Matter 1, Issue 5 representations on a SANGs Strategy above).

Issue 1.Q4b: Policy DM2C –

14. We consider that this Policy should make reference to a Zone of Influence (Zoi) that has been based on evidence and that would be open to regular review, as part of the Mitigation Strategy. In particular, the Local Plan should make reference, not only to the Visitor Survey 2017 (**Document EB715**), but to the forthcoming Visitor Survey 2019, which is contained as a commitment in the interim Mitigation Strategy (**Document EB134**).

Issue 1.Q5: Policy DM2D –

15. In paragraph 4.18 of the LPSV it states in relation to the Epping Forest Buffer Lands that *“these buffers can also act to relieve recreational pressure on the Forest”* (**Document EB114**, page 81). However, the original and current purpose of the Forest’s Buffer Lands was set out in a Memorandum from the City of London Corporation of June 1999 to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Environment, Transport & Regional Affairs:

“The purpose of the Buffer land is to safeguard the rural environment of the Forest and thereby its natural aspect or feel and to provide to the Forest wildlife support and complementary wildlife habitats, thus facilitating the protection of the Forest’s flora and fauna.”

16. As a consequence, although much work has been carried out over the years to manage and improve sustainable public access across some areas of the Buffer Lands, these areas do not in general, have an infrastructure that can accommodate the enhanced visitor numbers that are implied in Local Plan paragraph 4.18, or that would help to avoid adverse impacts on the Forest.

17. However, The Conservators have sought to engage with the Local Plan in assisting with the development of a District-wide SANGs Strategy. We have proposed the inclusion of areas of Buffer Land (and non-SAC Forest Land) that, if carefully designed with robust measures to protect the Forest (such as infrastructure improvements and targeted promotion of suitable areas), could potentially provide the kind of scale and quality of SANGs provision that we consider is necessary to avoid adverse impacts on the Forest and to enhance biodiversity more generally. We have raised these issues a number of times, most recently in our letters of 23rd July and 14th September 2018 to the Council (see The Conservators’ Representations on Matters 1 & 4, **Document 19STAT0035**, Appendix A), and have sought further dialogue during the period of this Examination.

18. This would ensure a strategic approach to SANGs, and to Biodiversity Net Gain also, which would include contributions from large and small developments alike, assisting the latter in making meaningful provision towards the Local Plan's Policy DM1 objectives. As we have stated in our responses to the Plan, including our recent representations on Matters 1 and 4 (**19STAT0035**), we consider that a full mitigation strategy, which should include a SANGs Strategy, should be enacted through a cross-boundary European site conservation supplementary planning document (a joint SPD).

19. A joint SPD would provide certainty and clarity as to the mitigation, the review procedures and its governance. A commitment to an SPD in the Local Plan, with an outline of its contents and objectives, is an established way of achieving such mitigation. It would also assist, in our view, with an holistic approach and would help in uniting the objectives of Policies DM1 and 2 towards Epping Forest.

Issue 1.Q44: Policy DM22

20. In our view consideration should be given to the enlargement of the AQMA to cover the roads around Epping Forest and to consider an innovative approach to managing the air quality within the SAC.

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The Conservators of Epping Forest Representations on the Inspector's Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) for Epping Forest District (EFDC) Local Plan 2011-2033

Further to the Conservators' Regulation 20 response (Document **19STAT0035**) to the Local Plan Submission Version (LPSV – **EB114**) and following the publication of the updated Habitats Regulations Assessment (**EB209** HRA January 2019) and the Transport Assessment Report (**EB503** TAR January 2019), we now make further representations in response to the Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) raised by the Inspector in relation to **Matter 1, Issue 5**. In addition to the summary and MIQ-specific representations below, we also attach an appendix for Matter 1 as Appendix 1 with parts 1A, 1B and 1C.

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Matter 1: Legal Compliance

Issue 5: Have the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 been met?

SUMMARY of CONSERVATORS' RESPONSES to ISSUE 5

1. No. The Conservators consider that the HRA does not comply with the Habitats Regulations and that the adoption of the plan in its current form without further HRA work and avoidance/mitigation proposals would be unlawful.
2. The Conservators' position is supported by three expert reports which are appended to this hearing statement (**Appendix 1: 1A, 1B, 1C**). This statement addresses the Inspector's specific questions, but, first, our overall position on legal compliance is summarised below.
3. An Appropriate Assessment must not have lacunae and must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the plan on the designated site. Authorisation for a plan or project may be given only on the condition that the competent authority is certain that the plan or project will not have lasting adverse effects on the integrity of the site concerned – i.e. where no reasonable scientific doubt remains as to the absence of such effects (*Commission v Poland*, C-441/17 at [114] - [117]). In this respect, it is perverse to conclude that further additional (or prolonged) exceedances will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a site because that site has already been compromised by existing exceedances. This has been recently emphasised by Advocate General Kokott's Opinion in the Netherlands cases (C-293/17 and C-294/17). At paragraphs 62 – 63 of her opinion AG Kokott observed, in the context of nitrogen deposition, that:

“...it seems difficult, if not impossible, to accept values that are higher than the critical loads. These are intended to define scientifically-based load limits for vegetation types or other protected assets, compliance with which means that pollutant deposition is not expected to have significant harmful effects even in the long term...”

63 Furthermore, it would also appear to be necessary to consider to what extent the individual protected habitats have been exposed to an overload of nitrogen deposition for a considerable time...It might therefore be necessary, until the removal of existing nitrogen reserves, to permit even less additional nitrogen deposition than envisaged in the critical loads."

4. The 2019 HRA identified the potential for significant effects on the Epping Forest SAC from two impact pathways: (i) disturbance from recreational pressure and urbanisation; and (ii) atmospheric pollution from Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) and Ammonia (NH3). Accordingly, an Appropriate Assessment was carried out to assess the effects of these impact pathways on the site's conservation objectives and identify any avoidance and/or mitigation measures that would be required to neutralise these effects. Having carried out the Appropriate Assessment, the HRA concluded that the proposed urbanisation/recreational pressure and air quality mitigation packages will result in no adverse effects on the integrity of the Epping Forest SAC. These conclusions are not supported by the evidence and are perverse in light of the relevant legal principles which must be applied for the reasons summarised below and expanded upon in the appended reports.
5. First, even on its own terms, the HRA identifies that the plan will give rise to adverse air quality effects on the Epping Forest SAC that cannot be mitigated:¹
 - i. The HRA recognises that concentrations of ammonia in all scenarios will continue to exceed critical loads.² However, there has been no assessment of what effect this will have on the integrity of the SAC. Reliance is placed upon the fact that there is already an existing exceedance and the fact that any harm would be offset by a reduction in nitrogen deposition and the proposed loss of agricultural land, but this conclusion is not supported by any quantitative assessment.³

¹ See section 3 of the Baker Report.

² See para. 3.3.1.2 of the IDOM Report.

³ See para. 3.4.5 of the IDOM Report and para. 36 of the Baker Report.

- ii. The HRA also recognises that the plan will delay compliance with critical loads for nitrogen deposition by up to 8 years.⁴ No analysis has been given to whether the additional loading as a result of development proposed in the plan will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC.
- 6. Second, when concluding that the identified adverse effects can be adequately mitigated, the HRA relies upon air quality mitigation measures which are entirely based upon aspirational policies which seek to reduce traffic emissions.⁵ No assessment into the potential effectiveness of these measures in mitigating the air quality impacts on the SAC has been carried out.⁶ Instead, the HRA simply relies upon DEFRA's 2030 emission factors as a 'proxy' for the potential reduction in emissions.⁷ Given that there has been no assessment of the effect of the actual mitigation measures relied upon, it is unlawful to take these proxy benefits into account as 'mitigation' because there can be no certainty beyond all reasonable scientific doubt that the actual mitigation will make the anticipated contribution towards avoiding harm to the integrity of the SAC (per the CJEU's judgement in the *Netherlands Case* at [126] – [130]).
- 7. Third, the Appropriate Assessment for air quality effects contains the following material flaws which mean that it has not been carried out on a precautionary basis:
 - i. The HRA has applied deposition velocities for grassland and not woodland. The deposition velocities use in the HRA are three times lower than those recommended in the EA's AQTAG06 guidance for forests.⁸
 - ii. The modelling appears to have assumed a reduction in ammonia emissions from road traffic to 2023 despite there being no scientific evidence to

⁴ See p. 139 of EB209.

⁵ See paras. 18 – 19 of the Baker Report.

⁶ See p. 11 of Appendix C to the HRA, where Jacobs did not make any adjustments to account for sustainable transport improvements to ensure that the forecasts provided a robust worst-case analysis in accordance with the precautionary principle.

⁷ See paras. 3.4.6 – 3.4.8 of the IDOM Report.

⁸ See para. 3.1.4.4. of the IDOM Report.

support this, and contrary to the approach which is stated to have been taken in the Appropriate Assessment.⁹

- iii. The HRA relies upon autonomous improvements in air quality and does not provide any sensitivity test in the event that the anticipated improvements in vehicle emissions do not materialise.¹⁰ Historically, these predicted improvements have been shown to be overly-optimistic.

- 8. Fourth, in terms of recreation pressure, the appropriate assessment does not assess the relative roles of on-site access management measures (SAMMs) and SANGs in delivering an overall mitigation approach. The effectiveness of the interim mitigation strategy (delivering access management measures) to address recreational effects is not discussed, and the nature, extent and locations for SANGs has not been assessed through the Appropriate Assessment. The four development sites which have been selected for SANG delivery (see HRA (EB209), paragraph 5.22) have not been assessed to see whether they would be able to deliver SANGs (for example in terms of capacity within the allocated site) and SANGs delivery elsewhere has not been considered. Furthermore, the potential effects of the loss of existing green space have not been assessed, nor has any mitigation been proposed to address this.
- 9. Fifth, the output of the 2019 HRA has not fed into any further sustainability appraisal work. There has therefore been no consideration of whether reasonable alternatives to the spatial strategy or site selection process that were previously discarded should be reconsidered in order to avoid the adverse effects that have been identified in the HRA. In essence the HRA has been retrofitted onto an existing strategy, resulting in an over-reliance on the need for mitigation (which cannot be guaranteed), and has not informed the development of the plan in an iterative way.

[Issue 5 Summary of MIQ responses: 1,283 words]

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⁹ See para. 3.2.4.2 and 3.2.3.2 of the IDOM Report.

¹⁰ See paras. 3.1.5.1 and para. 3.2.5 of the IDOM Report; and para. 20 of the Baker Report.

RESPONSES to SPECIFIC MIQs for MATTER 1, ISSUE 5

Issue 5.Q1

Is the Council's HRA process consistent with the People Over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Judgement?

10. Assessments have now been carried out for the identified likely significant effects that were previously screened out due to reliance upon mitigation measures. However, for the reasons summarised above, the assessments are not adequate to qualify as "Appropriate Assessments" in law. They do not contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the plan on the SAC (cf. *Sweetman* at [38]). They are not legally compliant.

[Issue 5.Q1: 78 words]

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Issue 5.Q2

The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Regulation 19 Local Plan (EB206 & 206A) identified that, without mitigation, the Plan would result in likely significant effects upon the Epping Forest SAC, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, in respect of recreational pressure; urbanisation; and air quality.

Issue 5.Q2b

Both Natural England and the Conservators of Epping Forest have raised concerns about how the "Baseline", "Do Minimum" and "Do Something" scenarios have been compared in the HRA process to identify likely significant effects. What is the relevance of these terms and is the HRA methodology valid in this respect?

11. The changes to the HRA between 2017 (**EB206**) and 2019 (**EB209**) have attempted to address the concerns raised about these scenarios. However, problems remain in the data presented. From the scenarios modelled, the total increase in traffic associated with the Local Plan Submission Version (LPSV **EB114**) from the start of the plan period (from 2011 or 2014 to 2033) cannot be calculated as the modelled scenarios split the increase into those developments with planning permission and those without. Only the 'in combination' impacts have been presented in the HRA (see **Appendix 1B** of this Representation, IDOM Statement, paragraphs 3.1.1.2 to 3.1.1.7).

12. In addition, the “worst case” scenario, Do Something 2 (DS2) remains problematic. In assuming autonomous decreases in NOx emissions to 2023 it may be questioned whether DS2 can truly be considered ‘worst-case’. AECOM do not appear to have modelled a scenario which assumes no autonomous decreases in future NOx emissions as a sensitivity test, which Air Quality Consultants (AQC) did in the case of Ashdown Forest (Air Quality Consultants (2018) Ashdown Forest SAC Air Quality Monitoring and Modelling Volume 1 (Section 10.1).

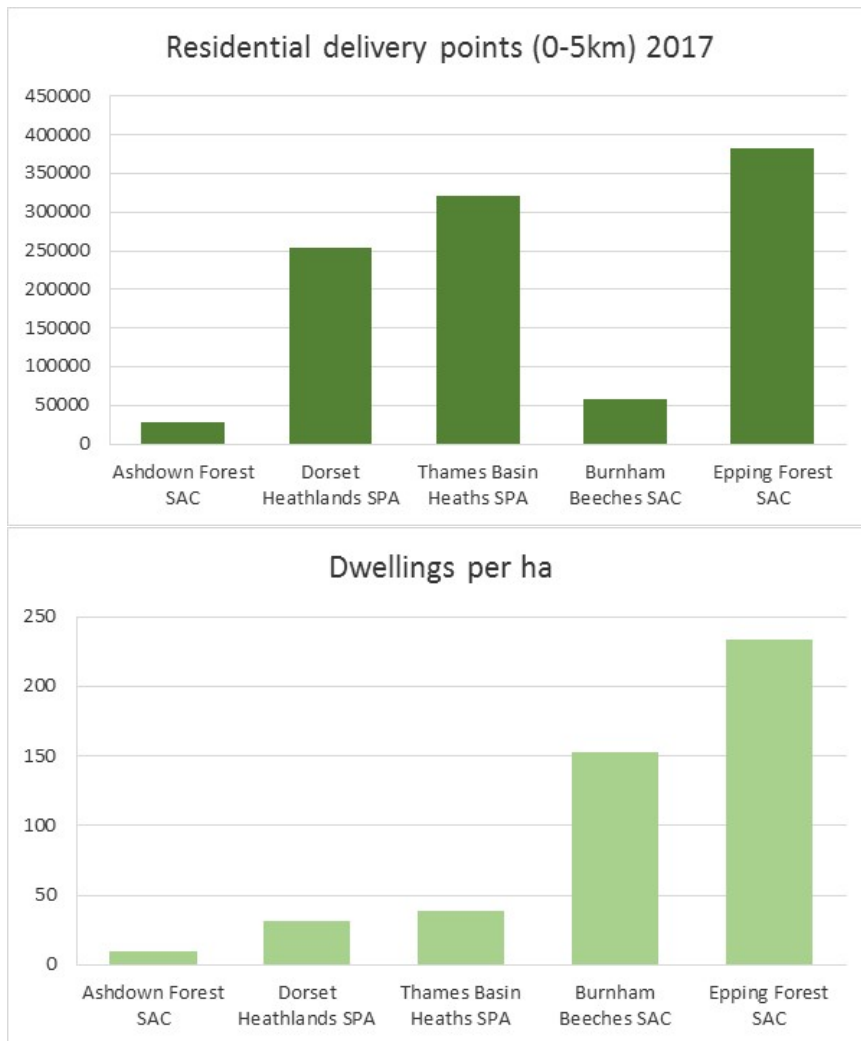
[Issue 5.Q2b: 184 words]

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Issue 5.Q2c

***Does the HRA process for screening Plan policies in or out of the assessment remain valid in light of up to date and emerging evidence on visitor behaviour and traffic impact? For example, recent visitor survey information seems to indicate that the Zone of Influence for recreational pressure on Epping Forest SAC is larger than was thought when the Plan was submitted. Has this resulted in any policies and/or site allocations being wrongly screened out of the assessment?
If so, what should be done?***

13. The HRA is inadequate for the reasons given in this statement. Moreover, given that the current level of development around the Forest, is already significantly higher than other internationally-important sites proportionate to its size, avoidance of adverse impacts on Epping Forest SAC (see below under Question 2e (5.Q2e)) should be a keystone of the LPSV (EB114) policy.



Figures above show comparison between Epping Forest and selected other European sites showing number of dwellings (in 2017) within 5km radius per ha of European site and the number of residential delivery points (in 2017) within 5km. (figure taken from Footprint Ecology report to the Conservators of Epping Forest).

14. The visitor survey work (**EB715**) to inform a Zone of Influence (Zoi) is critical evidence in understanding likely significant effects (LSEs) from recreation on Epping Forest SAC. However, the LPSV and its Site Selection Methodology (SSM – **EB805 & EB805AK**) were drawn up without this evidence base in place. This evidence informs mitigation requirements and the relative roles of access management and SANGs provision in a full SAC mitigation strategy. Although an Interim Mitigation Strategy (**EB134**) covering recreational impacts, with significant detailed input from The Conservators, has been approved by Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) this only covers the on-site mitigation or Strategic Access Management & Monitoring Measures (SAMMs). Consideration of off-

site measures such as Sustainable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) has not progressed. In our view there needs to be a SANGs Strategy (see our response to Question 2f (5.Q2f) below). This Strategy is required to have certainty that green space of sufficient size, quality, accessibility and attractiveness can be delivered over the plan period to provide a realistic alternative to the Forest SAC areas.

15. EFDC responded at the Examination-in-Public (EiP) Hearing on 26th March that a Green Infrastructure Plan, incorporating a SANGs Strategy, is in preparation. The Conservators welcome this and look forward to working with the Council to incorporate this into the full SAC Mitigation Strategy. However, the current iteration of the HRA has not been able to assess this strategy and its likely effectiveness in avoiding adverse impacts. This is contrary to the *People over Wind* Judgement (see para 38 of C-323/17), as mitigation measures have not been subject to the required level of testing in the HRA (see 5.Q1 above also). Whilst it is recognised that there is a level of detail in relation to mitigation measures that is not necessarily appropriate for plan level HRA, the mitigation measures secured within the plan must be fit for purpose in terms of capacity, location, deliverability and compatibility with the plan policies and allocations.
16. Furthermore, the HRA is imprecise in applying the ZoI (**Appendix 1C** Footprint Ecology Statement, paragraphs 2.2 to 2.6) and in splitting the ZoI into 0-3km and a 3-6.2km areas (**Appendix 1C**, Footprint Ecology Report, paragraphs 2.7 to 2.10) without clear evidence to justify this. It is also unclear about the balance between, and relative contributions of, SAMMs and SANGs. Examples of this lack of clarity are provided in the Appendix to this Representation (see **Appendix 1C**, Footprint Ecology Statement, paragraphs 2.11 & 2.12).

[Issue 5.Q2c: 467 words]

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Issue 5.Q2d

For each likely significant effect identified for Epping Forest SAC, has an Appropriate Assessment been carried out to ascertain that its integrity will not be adversely affected?

17. An assessment for each likely significant effect has been undertaken. However, the assessment is not a legally compliant Appropriate Assessment. It lacks clarity and does not provide the necessary confidence to rule out adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC from either recreational pressure or air quality impacts. Accordingly, we believe that the AA is fundamentally flawed and does not meet the legal tests set out in the Habitats Regulations.

Air pollution/air quality

18. In terms of air pollution, the AA does not adequately assess the impacts of additional Nitrogen (N) loading on the SAC from the increases in development sites and road traffic. Firstly, short-term Critical Loads do not seem to have been considered, while Critical Levels not seem to have been properly assessed (**Appendix 1B**, IDOM Statement, paragraphs 3.1.2.1 to 3.1.2.2, page 3). Secondly, the HRA has underestimated the N deposition to the Forest by up to a factor of 3 (see **Appendix 1B**: IDOM, paragraph 3.1.4.4, page 5). Thirdly, the HRA assumes a year-on-year 2% decrease in background nitrogen (N) deposition, despite the fact that the evidence demonstrates that nitrogen deposition has been increasing across Epping Forest SAC (see **Appendix 1B**, IDOM Statement, paragraphs 3.2.5.3 to 3.2.5.4).

[Issue 5.Q2d: 201 words]

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Issue 5.Q2e

In preparing any appropriate assessment, has avoidance of harm been considered before mitigation or compensation? If not, should it have been?

19. We do not consider that avoidance of harm has been considered early enough, or sufficiently well, by the LPSV (**EB114**) in relation to transport and air pollution or SANGs. The fact that the current HRA has been produced long after the LPSV has meant that there has been an inevitable emphasis on retrofitting assessment and mitigation, which is constrained by the late stage of the plan, rather than an iterative development of the plan with

avoidance and mitigation measures more effectively integrated. In our response to this question recreation is considered first and then air pollution/traffic separately.

Recreation

20. We have worked positively with the Council, providing detail for on-site SAMMs. However, as only one part of the required approach, we now await the proposed Green Infrastructure Plan, with SANGs Strategy) (5.Q2c above). The HRA does not currently provide certainty that adequate SANGs can be secured. The capacity for SANGs is not assessed. The HRA contains contradictions, for example in paragraphs 5.22 & 5.23 and 5.26 & 5.27 (for further discussion of these see **Appendix 1C**, Footprint Ecology Statement, paragraphs 2.13 to 2.16). It fails to make clear how SANGs and SAMMs type measures fit together, and what might be a “meaningful proportion” (quoting from the LPSV) of SANG (**Appendix 1C**, paragraph 2.16)

Air quality/traffic

21. As with recreation, the HRA does not provide certainty, contradicts itself in relation to proposed mitigation (see **Appendix 1B**, IDOM Statement, paragraph 3.5.1) and contradicts the Transport Assessment Report (TAR - **EB503**) by discounting physical mitigation measures (e.g. the Wake Arms Roundabout). Furthermore, mitigation measures in Scenario DS5 (Section 6.20 of **EB209**) remain uncertain and aspirational only (see **Appendix 1B**, IDOM Statement, paragraphs 3.4.6 to 3.4.8).

22. The mitigation measures are not modelled by the HRA and the efficacy of the listed policies for Scenario DS5, including DM22, cannot be assessed (**Appendix 1A**, Baker Consultants Statement, paragraph 18). Policy DM22 also relies on contributions to monitoring which, as stated by us at the February EiP Hearing, cannot be considered a form of mitigation (see also **Appendix 1B**, IDOM Statement, paragraph 3.5.4).

23. The HRA does not provide a clear assessment of a hierarchical mitigation strategy.

[Issue 5.Q2e: 361 words]

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Issue 5.Q2f

For the purpose of any appropriate assessment, is it justified to defer consideration of the implications of allocated sites to the planning application stage, as suggested by Policy DM2? For example, how will any new green spaces required be found and secured if not through the plan-making process (e.g. in a SANG Strategy)?

24. As made clear in our Regulation 20 letter (Paragraphs 8.1.2.1 and 8.2.2.1 of **Document 19STAT0035**), we do not consider that deferment of critical risks to project-led HRA is justified in Policy DM2. We set out extensive changes (table on page 10 of our letter) that we consider would make Policy DM2 justified, effective and compliant with a strategic approach. The changes proposed to DM2B in EFDC's Matter 16 Statement (**HS16 EFDLP - Appendix 2, Policy DM2-B**) concerning developments "*requiring to demonstrate.... measures....*" set out in "*.... Mitigation Frameworks*" strengthen policy wording in relation to the issue of development sites adhering to a strategic approach to the protection of the SAC. Our further comments on this are provided in relation to Matter 16 (see below).

Recreation

25. The current iteration of the HRA has not been able to consider a SANGs Strategy, which is critical to having certainty in mitigation delivery. Other LPSV policies on which the HRA is reliant, such as DM5 (Green & Blue Infrastructure) and DM6 (Designated Open Space), do not mention the SAC, nor even refer to it in their supporting text (see **Appendix 1C**, Footprint Ecology Statement, paragraphs 2.17 to 2.19). This is contrary to CJEU Judgements including *People over Wind* (C-323/17).

Air quality

26. A second element of a strategic approach is to deal with the 'in combination' effects of increased traffic, and the concomitant air pollution, that could be generated through the Forest SAC. It is not sufficient to rely on individual transport or air quality assessments for each development (see **Appendices 1A and 1B**) and defer consideration of these matters to the planning application stage because this is likely to lead to sites being promoted that

could not comply with the emerging mitigation strategy and that, as a result, would not be deliverable.

[Issue 5.Q2f: 300 words]

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Issue 5.Q2g

For the purpose of any appropriate assessment, is it justified to rely upon the forthcoming Mitigation Strategy to conclude that the integrity of the relevant sites will not be adversely affected given that the effectiveness of the Strategy cannot yet be fully appreciated?

27. No. We do not consider that this approach is justified for the reasons summarised below and set out in the appended reports. There are three key elements to the forthcoming Mitigation Strategy, namely SANGs, SAMMs, and an air quality/traffic component. Also, a fourth should be added concerning avoidance of impacts from urbanisation through the use of an exclusion or buffer zone to development around the SAC. We shall deal with the expected effectiveness of these in turn. The issue of a buffer around the SAC will be dealt with separately under Matter 16.

SANGs

28. There is a need for a SANGs Strategy as discussed. We have key concerns about some chosen housing allocations, which, in the absence of assessment, call into question the effectiveness and deliverability of SANGs. For example, the allocation at Epping South seems to have no space or design concept for a SANG on site, and given the proximity to the M25, any such SANG is likely to be of insufficient quality. North Weald Bassett (**Policy P6** of LPSV (**EB114**) and site allocations **NWB. R1 – R5**) does not seem to accommodate quality green space despite its size. The loss of a significant part of Jessel Green at Loughton (LPSV **Policy P2** and site reference **LOU.R5**) adds to the pressure on Epping Forest, situated nearby. A coherent catchment area for accessible off-site SANGs for any residents of this proposed allocation, including alternative large development sites where greenspace might be offered close by, does not seem to be identified (see also **Appendix 1C**, Footprint Ecology Statement, paragraph 2.20).

29. As made clear in our Reg 20 response letter (**Document 19STAT0035, page 17, paragraphs 12.1.6 to 12.1.8**), and in our representations under Matter 15 (Places), the Epping Forest Buffer Lands area at Great Gregories is not suitable and does not have the capacity to act as a SANG. So, for this allocation, and the other allocations, there remains uncertainty whether a Strategic SANGs network would be effective. This uncertainty would need to be addressed by the SANGs Strategy.

SAMMs

30. Implementation of the SAMMs set out in the interim mitigation strategy (**EB134**), should enable the management of recreational pressures on site and we welcome the District Council's approval. However, more detailed cost assessments work for these SAMMs is required. The Conservators are putting further resources into this work at present.

31. We re-emphasise the need for SAMMs to be complemented by a full Plan-level SANGs Strategy. (see the Conservators' letters of 23rd July and 14th September 2018 in **Appendix to our earlier Matter 1 representations**). Where other European site mitigation strategies in other parts of the country, are reliant upon both SAMM and SANGs, such as the Thames Basin Heaths, the Dorset Heaths and in South-east Devon, the complementary delivery of both aspects is included in HRA, policy and delivery mechanisms such as the tariffs charged for each.

32. Also, the agreement of other competent local authorities to the Interim Mitigation Strategy is still required. Their participation is essential to the development of a full overall Strategy, supported both by LPSV Policies and secured by a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that is consistent across the relevant authorities.

Air Quality/traffic

33. The mitigation currently offered for the impacts of air pollution from cars and increasing levels of traffic congestion is contained in the Do Something Scenarios 3, 4 and 5 (**DS3, DS4, DS5**) in the HRA (**EB209, page 126, paragraph 6.7**). In Scenarios DS3 and DS4 the

proposed mitigation would lead to direct loss of habitat within the Epping Forest SAC. These have been discounted by the HRA, in contradiction to other parts of the LPSV's evidence base.

34. For example, this proposed physical loss of habitat around junctions remains an “essential” (Wake Arms Roundabout) or “desirable” (Robin Hood Roundabout on the A104 road) component in the traffic mitigation package in the Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP – **EB1101B**) and that this mitigation package is still “considered as a minimum” in the updated January 2019 (TAR) Transport Assessment Report (**EB503, page 104, paragraph 13.4.7**, and see also **Appendix F** of the same report).

Mitigation Package DS5

35. The HRA, therefore, in contrast to the TAR (**EB503**), proposes the Do Something Scenario DS5 (**EB209, page 154, paragraph 6.18**) as the favoured mitigation package. DS5 proposes non-physical measures drawn from a mini-constellation of LPSV policies connected to transport and air quality. As stated above, the effectiveness of DS5 as mitigation, including LPSV **Policy T1**, has not been assessed in any way and to consider it as mitigation could be deemed misleading (see **Appendix 1A**, Baker Consultants Statement, paragraphs 18 and 19 and **Appendix 1B**, IDOM Statement, paragraph 3.4.7).

Autonomous “mitigation”

36. In addition to Mitigation Package DS5, the HRA in its Appendix D also takes account of autonomous reductions in nitrogen emissions from the overall vehicle fleet, as a kind of quasi-mitigation. However, reliance on such reductions by the HRA (and LPSV) lacks the certainty of “beyond all reasonable scientific doubt” that is required by the Habitats Directive for the reasons explained in the appended reports (see **Appendix 1A**, Baker Consultants Statement, paragraphs 20 & 21 and **Appendix 1B**, IDOM Statement, paragraph 3.2.1 to 3.2.4.4).

[Issue 5.Q2g: 862 words]

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Issue 5.Q2h

What is the scope of the forthcoming Mitigation Strategy and what type of mitigation is envisaged for each type of likely significant effect? How is this/could this be secured in the Plan? What progress has been made with the Mitigation Strategy and when will it be completed?

Issue 5.Q2h How is this/could this be secured in the Plan?

37. In our suggested changes to Policy DM2 of the Local Plan (see **paragraph 8.2.3.7.** of Conservators' Regulation 20 response, **Document 19STAT0035**) we are clear that there should be a European site SPD and we would welcome the opportunity to work with all the competent authorities to produce this. We consider that this must be a joint SPD, which would be able to deal with the cross-border/trans-authority issues of the Forest and would ensure clarity for developers and all other stakeholders. This is vital for the SANGs aspect of the overall Strategy to provide a coherent network of sites and could also help to coordinate biodiversity net gain measures and any biodiversity offsetting required by developments, especially those in the London Boroughs where open land is scarce.

38. Currently, the avoidance and mitigation measures are not embedded in the Policies of the LPSV and the Memorandum of Understanding for the protection of the SAC (MoU - **Document EB1200**) is not legally binding. Also, the London Boroughs are not signatories to the MoU. A Joint SPD approach is required to ensure an integrated approach across the Local Plans.

Issue 5.Q2h – progress with the Mitigation Strategy (MS)

39. Please see our representation for **Issue 5.2g** above.

Issue 5.Q2h- when will MS be completed?

40. Mitigation, to be strategic and effective, needs to be in place and working prior to occupation of new sites and there needs to be confidence of this at the planning permission stage.

[Issue 5.Q2h: 226 words]

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Issue 5.Q2i

Might certain proposals within the Mitigation Strategy itself, such as those for Wake Arms Roundabout, themselves have potentially significant effects upon designated sites which require appropriate assessment? If so, how and when will this be done?

41. Yes, as currently proposed the expansion of Wake Arms and the future proposed modification to Robin Hood Roundabout (see IDP **EB1101B** and Appendix F of **EB503**), as well as other road modifications within the Forest, would physically damage and adversely impact the SAC and the Forest as a whole. These road improvements cannot be considered as mitigation for the SAC under the Habitats Regulations, leaving only the general policy mitigation under scenario DS5. Accordingly, there are no specific air quality mitigation measures provided. Given that the effectiveness or the mitigation promoted under scenario DS5 remains uncertain, additional specific measures will be required. This could include securing financial contributions to fund specific air quality improvement measures and the designation of an air quality improvement zone within the vicinity of the SAC.

[Issue 5.Q2i: 130 words]

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Issue 5.Q2j. In the absence of a final Mitigation Strategy at this stage:

i. Is it necessary to modify the Plan to require development proposals to comply with its recommendations?

42. Yes, see comments in 5.2jiii below.

Issue 5.Q2j In the absence of a final Mitigation Strategy at this stage:

ii. Would this course of action be justified and effective, or is it essential for the Strategy to be completed before the Plan is adopted? Is it clear that the necessary mitigation could be implemented without threatening the delivery of the Plan's strategy?

43. Without the full Mitigation Strategy there would be uncertainty about the impacts on the Forest, the deliverability of the proposed mitigation and, therefore, about the soundness the Local Plan.

44. The mitigation for air pollution and highways impacts is essential. In addition, the avoidance measures for recreational pressure require a plan-led approach for Sustainable Natural Greenspace (SANGs) provision.

Issue 5.Q2j In the absence of a final Mitigation Strategy at this stage:

iii. If it would be necessary, justified and effective to address the absence of the Mitigation Strategy through modifications to the Plan, what changes are needed? (In responding, the Council should have full regard to the representations of Natural England [19STAT0027] and the Conservators of Epping Forest [19STAT0035]).

45. The first change, as proposed above in response to Issue 5.Q2h, we would request is that a Joint SPD on SAC Mitigation is written to ensure that an overall Strategy is completed and agreed across multiple authorities. The Policies within one local plan are not sufficient in isolation and there needs to be shared policies with a clear mechanism for connecting and coordinating them. In our view, this would give the confidence in the avoidance measures (e.g SANGs, modal shifts) being secured, clearly communicated and the mechanisms for delivery clearly set out.

[Issue 5.Q2j: 156 words]

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Committee(s):	Date(s):
Epping Forest and Commons	20 05 2019
Subject: London Borough of Culture Update (SEF 15/19)	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Information
Report Author: Jacqueline Eggleston - Head of Visitor Services Epping Forest	

Summary

The first ever London Borough of Culture has been awarded to London Borough of Waltham Forest for 2019. The City of London Corporation is a major partner for the initiative, committing support and resources in kind.

A number of the events are taking place on City of London land at Epping Forest and are being supported by staff from the Epping Forest Division

This report updates your committee on the in-kind support to the London Borough of Culture being offered to date and plans for events in Epping Forest across the year.

Recommendation

Committee Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Background

1. The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has invited applications from London Boroughs to become the first-ever London Borough of Culture. The successful bid was made by Waltham Forest who are presenting a year of cultural activity in 2019.
2. The London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF) bid celebrated the wealth of artistic and cultural activity in the borough and highlighted the influence of the green spaces within the borough on creativity.
3. Deputy Catherine McGuinness, Policy Chair, wrote to Sadiq Khan to offer a partnership with the City of London Corporation to the Year of Culture confirming an in-principle commitment to put assets and services to best use in support of the programme and that officers would work to deliver the best and most beneficial outcome to achieve the London Borough of Culture's objectives.
4. City of London Epping Forest are supporting the London Borough of Culture, working with the creative director on appropriate locations for cultural activity

within the Forest and contributing to the programming as a member of the London Borough of Culture, Culture Board.

Current Position

Welcome to the Forest

5. The inaugural event for the London Borough of Culture was held in Walthamstow on 11-13 January 2019 entitled Welcome to the Forest. Lamppost banners across the borough have been hung with the branding 'welcome to the Forest' all clearly carrying the City of London Crest.

Africa Express

6. The second of the major events was held in Epping Forest at Bushwood north on 29 March. 'Africa Express' was a music concert held inside a big top marquee, hosting a wide range of world music from local and international groups and headlined by Blur to a capacity audience of 3000.
7. The event ran smoothly and without complaint. The site was vacated within 7 days and all earth bunding reinstated to the required standard. The event was licenced by the LBWF and went through the full Safety Advisory Group scrutiny process. A detailed emergency plan and all relevant certificates were supplied to Epping Forest in advance of the event.
8. Residents were approaching Epping Forest for details of the event and raising concerns after the first public announcement detailing the location. LBWF were quite prompt in supplying FAQs to assist officers in answering queries but a learning point is to have this supplied as early as possible for future events.

May Day Fayre

9. The next large event is the May Day Fayre which will be held on Chingford Plain on 4 May. Planning is well advanced for this event and it has already been through one Safety Advisory group meeting as part of the event licencing process – which again will be through LBWF as the licencing authority in this location.
10. The event is planned for up to 10,000 attendees although 4-6,000 are the anticipated numbers. Chingford Plain will be the assembly point for a number of 'processions' arriving from differing start points in LBWF. Participants will be invited to picnic en masse, and the evening will close with the lighting of a fire sculpture.
11. The producers have been given specific detail on requirements for managing crowds and infrastructure in order to protect the ecology and habitats of the area.
12. The May Day Fayre was presented to the Epping Forest Consultative Committee at their meeting of approved in an urgency report and reported to your committee on 19 November 2018.

Giant

13. Giant will take place at Barn Hoppitt 18-20 October and is another of the flagship events. An extraordinary theatrical experience created by Arts and Gardens it will showcase a children's choir singing from the trees along with professional opera performance with creative lighting and costumes telling the story of the giants through new music and poetry.
14. The show is carefully located to avoid disturbance to wildlife and full tree surveys have been undertaken.

The People's Forest

15. The People's Forest is a year-long programme of smaller artistic works on the theme of exploring human relationships with the Forest and the myriad of meanings placed on woodland.
16. Commencing with a book launch of producer Luke Turner's *Out of the Woods* on 24 Jan, the Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge and Visitor Centre continues to be the venue for a series of events under the People's Forest programme:
 - An INSET training event for teachers was hosted in Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge on 21 March to promote the City of London Corporation education programme and provide materials to teach the history of the Forest in the lead up to the May Day Fayre
 - Women in the Woods takes place on 23 May and is a women-only walk in the Forest led by artist and poet Clare Archibald followed by a panel discussion exploring the history and ecology of the Forest and relationships with walking alone
 - On 20/21 June *The Dark Outside* is a live 24-hour radio broadcast from deep within the Forest.
 - In July *Living Symphonies* is a musical composition that grows in the same way as a forest ecosystem. Each species of resident wildlife is represented by different musical elements, which are combined in real-time by a computer model of the ecosystem. Taking place over 5 days within the Forest near to Chingford Plain, visitors will hear the composition emerging from the undergrowth as they move between speakers.
 - *Monstrous Assemblies* is an exhibition by Artist Esther Nelsen taking place in the Visitor Centre courtyard in Chingford in October. At least ten life size sculptures will be exhibited and are created throughout the year working with schools.
 - Working as an artist in residence in Epping Forest Ellie Wilson, is a composer/violinist, and member of 'Britain's most exciting new folk band' (Uncut Magazine) and 4-time BBC Radio 2 Folk Award nominees, Stick In The Wheel. Throughout the year she will create a set of new compositions inspired by human impact on the forest through the centuries which will be available to listen to from the Autumn on headphones available at the Visitor Centre.
 - Artist Una Hamilton-Helles creates a soundscape of the forests, reflecting on sentient plants, trees, ecology from root to the canopy, voices from the forest, with an immersive soundscape launching on Halloween night until Sunday 3rd November within the Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge.

Ways of Seeing

17. The Government Art Collection is working with London Borough of culture to turn the whole borough in to a gallery space. The 'front room' inside the View

Visitor Centre will exclusively display Sir Jacob Epstein's Epping Forest (1933) and Clare Woods' Grim's Ditch (2007). The artwork will be on display from 24 April to 29 August and will be accompanied by related talks and activities

Strategic Implications

18. **Resource Implications:** The City of London Corporation is supporting the programme of events on Forest land through in-kind support. Support so far totals; 81 days in officer time, including visitor services staff, keepers, arborists, conservation staff and administrators valued as £20,485, use of built venues for meetings and events hire fee waiver and licence fee waiver for use of Forest land £35,310
Total £55,795 to date
19. **Legal:** Under section 7 of the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018, the Conservators may temporarily use or permit others to use Forest land for the purposes of an event; provide, or arrange for another person to provide, equipment, facilities or services for the event; so far as necessary restrict, or authorise others to restrict, access to an area of Forest land temporarily in connection with the event; and charge for such permission or provision, or charge or authorise others to charge for admission to the event.
20. The above powers must be exercised having regard to the approved Events Policy. The general duties of the Conservators to preserve Epping Forest as an unenclosed public open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public, and as far as possible to preserve its natural aspect also still apply, subject to the above provisions.
21. If events are to be permitted on the Forest, they should be governed by suitable licence terms to ensure that the City of London Corporation is suitably indemnified and that consent to use represents best value according to the charitable operating requirements.

Conclusion

22. A central element of the LBWF London Borough of Culture Bid was the influence of Open Spaces on the culture of the Borough. Epping Forest forms some 31% of LBWF's Open Space. Consequently the LBoC programme features a series of events which celebrate the role of Epping Forest in the life of the Borough.

Appendix – Summary of events and support in kind

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APPENDIX1


LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2019 WALTHAM FOREST EVENTS

IN EPPING FOREST AND SUPPORT IN KIND FROM CITY OF LONDON EPPING FOREST


DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SUPPORT
Year-long	<p>The People's Forest - a major arts programme exploring Waltham Forest's relationship to Epping Forest.</p>  <p><i>The People's Forest</i> season, a year-long programme of public gigs, workshops, artworks and performances</p>	Chingford	


	<p>taking place as part of the Mayor's first London Borough of Culture in Waltham Forest. Curated by arts consultant and event producer Kirsteen McNish and writer Luke Turner, the season celebrates the borough's unique relationship to Epping Forest.</p> <p>Beginning later this month, the programme will explore the deep and complex bond we have with forests through eclectic, once-in-a-lifetime events that will take place in and around Epping Forest; opening up the urban woodland to new audiences and bringing the forest into unexpected spaces.</p> <p>On 17 May, women will be invited to reclaim the forest and join Lone Women In The Woods; a women only night walk led by artist Clare Archibald, exploring what happens when twilight changes into darkness and identifying how gender impacts our relationship with wooded landscapes.</p>		
17 May	<p>Marking the summer solstice on 20 June, a myriad of voices from across London will take over Chingford Plain for The Dark Outside, a 24-hour radio station broadcast from Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge. The general public is invited to submit recordings of any type – from conversations to laughter, grime to poetry – to create 24 hours of broadcast sound, the only rule being it must never have been heard before. There's no need to be a pro – anything caught on an iPhone, laptop or tape recorder can be submitted.</p>	Forest and Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge	Use of venue for plenary discussion
20 June	<p>From 31 October to 2 November, artist Una Hamilton-Helle will create an eerie immersive sound-based installation at Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge that will take audiences on an audio journey populated by the voices of previous forest dwellers and visitors. Epping Forest's Artist-in-Residence, composer/violinist Ellie Wilson will also create a new installation of musical works inspired by human impact on the forest through the centuries, which will be available to experience as a public installation at The View from 11 November.</p>	QEHL	Use of venue for 3 days for radio broadcast
31 oct-2 Nov		QEHL	Use of venue for installation
11 Nov-31 Dec	<p>Speaking about the season, curators Kirsteen McNish and Luke Turner, said: <i>"Epping Forest is a unique landscape, with an ecology entirely shaped by the presence of London. Its history and cultural influence is inextricably linked with the people who've worked and lived around it in the capital for hundreds of years, and we want to take that into the future through The People's Forest. We're living in fraught political and environmental times, and hopefully through this programme of events we can address some of these issues, as well as celebrate Epping Forest as one of the most stunning and little-known London landmarks"</i></p> <p>Sam Hunt, Creative Director of Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019, commented: <i>"One of</i></p>	The View	Use of venue for installation

	<p><i>the unique aspects of this borough is the forest that runs through it from Leytonstone in the south to Chingford in the north, and how it plays a central role in the daily lives of our many communities. This is London's urban woodland, a place that is inextricably linked to the ever-changing city and for centuries has been an escape from the throng of urban existence. When Queen Victoria gave the forest to Londoners it was declared as 'The People's' Forest'; this exciting and diverse programme of work will explore what that means in the 21st century."</i></p>		
October	<p>Monstrous Assembly</p>  <p>Children of all ages from across Waltham Forest will create life-sized monsters for a brand-new project.</p> <p>Working with local artist Esther Neslen, the children will build these monsters from scratch - designing, making and sculpting in clay in a series of workshops throughout March-October.</p> <p>Ten schools from the Borough have been confirmed to take part</p> <p>This is a project to drag our fears into the light, to explore them together and fashion something transcendent from them. There are historical, literary, cultural, psychological and social themes to explore</p>	The View - Courtyard	Use of the Courtyard to host exhibition for one week


	<p>along the way. Together the finished works will offer a journey through childhood, exploring the evolving nature of our imaginations and our realities.</p> <p>The finished works will be fired and displayed together at Halloween for a Monstrous Assembly, accompanied by a sound piece that incorporates the processes of making and the monster stories. After the exhibition, the monsters will return to the schools where they were made to live</p>		
<p>Saturday 4 May 2019</p> <p>Time: 4pm - dusk</p>	<p>Chingford May Day Fayre</p> <p><i>Free, just turn up</i></p>  <p>https://wfculture19.co.uk/MayDayFAQs</p> <p>Whether you plan to journey by bike, on foot or train, meet us on Chingford Plain for an afternoon and evening of celebration, food, family games and making.</p>	Chingford Plain	<p>Licence waiver for event on Chingford Plain inc build up and break down. Ecological assessment and site works</p>

	<p>As dusk falls, banish the shadows and alight our hopes and burn our fears through song, fire and pageantry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate together – through song, feasting, and dance – mark the turning of the seasons in a very special place. • Join in – help us build the biggest May Day bonfire, built with the hopes you wish to kindle for the new spring year, and burn the fears you wish to banish. • Unwind – take this moment to remove from the hurly burly, get away from the madding crowd and back to Natures Playground. <p>Grab your bike, your bus pass, get on the train, take in the Forest fresh air, enjoy the simple things in life; the company of those you know and those you're yet to meet, the sharing of food, tales, and ideas for a new year.</p> <p>Clear your heads of the everyday, for today we come together to renew; casting aside the old and beginning afresh, our destination is Chingford Plain.</p>		
24 April – 31 August	<p>Ways of Seeing...</p> <p>68 artworks, 33 artists, 28 locations</p> <p>In partnership with the Government Art Collection, Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019 presents <i>Ways of Seeing</i>. Transforming the whole borough of Waltham Forest into an art gallery, Ways of Seeing will display the work of 33 internationally-known artists from the Government Art Collection in 28 unusual and unexpected venues across Chingford, Leyton, Leytonstone and Walthamstow from 24 April – 31 August.</p> <p>The View is hosting Grim's Ditch by Clare Woods and Epping Forest by Sir Jacob Epstein</p>	The View	Host venue, host of launch event

				
<p>Friday 18 - Saturday 19 October 2019 concerts plus 3 public climbing days, and 4 days</p>	<p>GIANT</p>	<p>The View Barn Hoppitt</p>	<p>Use of the View for rehearsal and break out space and reception</p> <p>Use of Barn Hoppitt for climbing days</p>	

<p>rehearsal</p> <p>(from 14 September)</p>	 <p>Part of The People's Forest season</p> <p>Created by: Arts and Gardens</p> <p>Step into the forest... What story will you discover?</p> <p>In a magical event for the whole family, travel into Epping Forest for an extraordinary theatrical concert. See oak trees transformed and branches become the stage for a performance unlike any other.</p> <p>Witness a chorus of children singing to the grand giants of the forest as they present a premiere of new poetry and music alongside works by Epping Forest poet John Clare and Oscar Wilde's <i>The Selfish Giant</i>, the story of children banned from playing in a beautiful garden owned by a giant. Will the garden continue to bloom? Without their presence, what will happen?</p> <p>Sung from the canopies of mature trees, <i>GIANT</i> is the first in a series of 'climbing concerts' created by Arts</p>	<p>and concert</p> <p>Technical advice and ecological assessment</p> <p>Site works</p>
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	<p>and Gardens, working to connect children and adults with arboriculture.</p> <p>As part of the project, children aged 8+ and adults will be invited to experience what it's like to be the cast of <i>GIANT</i> and sing from the canopy at a series of climbing workshop days in September.</p> <p>#GIANTclimbingconcert</p>		
	<p>Wild about Highams Park</p> <p>A new sculpture trail that will invite visitors to explore and enjoy the area and natural surroundings in new ways.</p> <p>The Highams Park Arts Trail will create a new sculpture trail that will invite visitors to explore and enjoy the area and natural surroundings in new ways.</p> <p>Along the trail, you will find wooden sculptural carvings, street art, murals and more. Leading up to a huge Spring Festival celebration on Sunday 19 May in Highams Park that will include Maypole and other traditional dancing. Through arts and activity, everyone is invited to discover this unique part of our amazing borough.</p>		Supply of all trees for carving
29 March	Africa Express	Bushwood	<p>Licence waiver for event on inc build up and break down.</p> <p>Ecological assessment.</p> <p>Tree pruning and site works</p>

	 <p>Africa Express, a collective of African and Western artists, comes together again for a celebration of unity in the borough where founding member Damon Albarn grew up.</p> <p>Up to 100 artists from across Africa, Europe and Britain – including, of course, Waltham Forest – will join forces to collaborate on new music and reworking of old songs.</p>		
Jan- July	<p>LBWF Adult learning: Taster Sessions and Art workshop</p> <p>Ten arts taster workshops</p>	The View	Hire fee waiver for use of room and marketing

London Borough of Culture: London Borough of Waltham Forest - Epping Forest contribution in kind							
		Grade B hourly rate	30		Grade C	35	
		Grade D hourly rate	45		Grade E	50	
		Grade F hourly rate	65				
Date	Staff member	Officer time spent (hrs/days)	Officer time value £	Venue hire waived £	License fee waived £	Total	Explanation

26/10/2018	Museum Manager	3	135			£135.00	
12/11/2018	Museum Manager			£140.00		£140.00	LBWF Community Room use x7 hours
15/11/2018	Museum Manager			£140.00		£140.00	LBWF Community Room use x7 hours
01/01/2019	Museum Manager	3	135			£135.00	Discussion LBWF Adult learning 2019 events
Dec 2018 to April 2019	Museum Manager	3	135			£135.00	Discussion LBWF Ways of Seeing Exhibition & events (Epstein/Woods)
Jan to June 2019	Museum Manager			£280.00		£280.00	7x 2 hours @ discounted £20 ph Community Room use for LBWF taster sessions =£280
July 2019 x3 art classes	Museum Manager			£120.00		£120.00	3x 2 hr @£20 ph charged Community Room/charge LBWF £20ph
16 July taster	Museum Manager			£40.00		£40.00	
						£1,155.00	Total
	Head of Operations	14	65			£910.00	site visits
	Arborists	7	45			£315.00	site visits
	Ecologist	14	50			£700.00	site visits
	Head of Conservation	8	65			£520.00	site visits
	Administration Officers	8	35			£280.00	taking calls and processing licences

	Head of Visitor Services	224	65			£14,560.00	32 days office and site meetings av 6 months at 4 days per month plus additional 4 days prior and additional 5 days in Feb/March including attending events and partnership meetings
	Forest Keepers	2	45			£90.00	site visits and event attendance
	Health and Safety Officer	5	50			£250.00	SAG attendance
	Communications Officer	15	50			£750.00	site visits event attendance
	Public Relations	7	50			£350.00	
	Arborists	15	45			£675.00	site clearance and tree work 3 x 5hours
mar 29 plus	AFRICA EXPRESS	1 day			975+5%*3000*22	£4,275.00	Event Day
15 march on site - 3 april		18 days			4275/15%*18	£11,542.00	build up / break down days
24/01/2019	BOOK LAUNCH LUKE TURNER	1 DAY		£550.00		£550.00	Hire of QEHL
24/04/2019	Government Art Collection					£80.00	Launch of Installation

23 April -7 May	MAY DAY FAYRE	13 days			714 + 15%/3250*13	£15,613.00	build up/breakdown days
04/05/2019	May Day Fayre event day	1 day			714+450+975+975	£3,250.00	
					Total licence waiver value	£35,310.00	
		TOTAL 81 days	Valued at £20,485		TOTAL VALUE OF IN-KIND SUPPORT	£55,795	As at 11 May 2019

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