



Epping Forest and Commons Committee

Extension of the current Chairman's term

To be presented on Thursday, 23rd April, 2015

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

SUMMARY

1. In accordance with Standing Order 29(2) the Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee is subject to annual re-election and is limited to serving a maximum term of three years.
2. The current Chairman is now in his third and final year and is not currently eligible to seek election for a fourth year in this position.
3. The Deputy Chairman was elected to this position in April 2014 but due to a number of external factors is unable to take the chair this year. No other existing Member of the Committee has expressed an interest in standing for this position.

RECOMMENDATION

4. We consequently **recommend** that the Court of Common Council agree to waive Standing Order No. 29(2) in respect of the Chairmanship of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee for a period of one year, to allow the current Chairman to be eligible to seek a fourth and final year as Chairman.

Main Report

Current Position

1. Your Committee, at its March 2015 meeting, discussed the possibility of the Chairman seeking an additional year at the end of his current term. The Committee voted unanimously in favour of seeking approval from the Court of Common Council to seek an extension of the current Chairman's term for one year. This will allow a natural progression into the chair in April 2016, at which time the extension would expire.

2. The Chairman of the Committee has indicated that, subject to the Court's approval, he would be willing to stand for a fourth and final year and would support the Deputy Chairman until the extension expired in April 2016.
3. The Chairman of the Committee has also indicated that, should this proposal be agreed, he would not exercise his right to serve as Deputy Chairman in the year 2016/17.
4. The Committee believe that an extension would have significant advantages. One advantage would be the knowledge that the current Chairman would continue to bring to the Committee as it seeks to continue working towards long-term projects at Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches, Stoke Common and the City Commons. Another advantage would be the experience the current Chairman would be able to pass onto the Deputy Chairman throughout the ensuing year.

Proposal

5. The Court is being asked to agree to the waiver of Standing Order No. 29(2) to enable the current Chairman to stand for a fourth year. Whilst this arrangement would be outside of Standing Orders, it would enable the Deputy Chairman to gain further experience that would serve him and the Committee effectively if he was then elected to the Chairmanship in the following year.

Recommendation

6. This report asks the Court of Common Council to note that it is the unanimous view of the Committee that the current Chairman be eligible to serve for an additional year and seeks the Court's approval to suspend Standing Orders to accommodate this. The proposed extension would last for one year to allow the Deputy Chairman the opportunity to gain further experience in the role in anticipation of standing for the Chairmanship in 2016.

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

DATED this 9th day of March 2015.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Gordon Warwick Haines, Alderman
Chairman, Epping Forest and Commons Committee