

Committee(s) Epping Forest and Commons Epping Forest Consultative Group	Dated 12/09/2022 19/10/2022
Subject: Epping Forest Annual Review 2021-22 (SEF 28/22)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	4,11,12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director, Environment	For Information
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Summary

This report presents a review of the year 2021-22 for Epping Forest and records progress against its business plan objectives.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the annual review for the year April 2021 to March 2022.

Main Report

Background

1. Epping Forest is held and managed by the City of London Corporation acting as the Conservators of Epping Forest under the Epping Forest Act 1878 which requires that it be maintained as an open space for recreation and enjoyment by the public. It is managed by the Epping Forest department together with adjoining Buffer Land. It is funded by the City of London.
2. Epping Forest is also a charitable trust (charity number 232990). The purpose of the charity is the preservation of Epping Forest in perpetuity as an open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.
3. The City of London budgets around £4.2million from City's Cash, to support the management of Epping Forest.

Current Position

4. Whilst the Epping Forest charity both submits its Annual Report and makes an Annual return to the Charity Commission a fuller review of progress in respect of both Epping Forest and the Buffer lands against the objectives of the business plan may be helpful to your committee in assessing performance of the department and agreeing future objectives. This report presents that wider review.
5. In 2020 a ten-year management strategy for Epping Forest was finalised and published. Appended to the management strategy was a three-year business plan for the period 2020-23.
6. The annual review contained in Appendix A reports on progress made in the second year of this business plan; 2021-22.

Proposals

7. A review of the Epping Forest department's achievements is presented to your committee annually in September. The review presents progress made in the previous full financial year, against the relevant objectives in the three-year business plan.

Strategic Implications

8. This annual review includes narrative on a wide range of strategic objectives, many of which align with the City's Corporate Plan including:

Contribute to a flourishing society

- People are safe and feel safe.
- People enjoy good health and wellbeing.

Shape outstanding environments

- We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment.
- Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained

Financial Implications

9. Actions recorded in the annual review have either been met through the local risk budget or from external grants.

Resource Implications

10. Actions recorded in the annual review have been met using existing staffing resources.

Legal Implications

11. In addition to the requirement to complete and file an annual report to the Charity Commission, charity trustees are required to prepare a trustees annual report and make it available on request. This has been carried out, and the Annual review which is the subject of this report is a wider document than that filed as the charity's annual report to the Charity Commission.

Equalities Implications

12. Actions taken recorded in the annual review have been individually screened as to the equality impact of the action. It is considered that there are no negative impacts on the protected equality groups.

Charity Implications

13. Epping Forest is a registered charity (number 232990). Charity Law obliges Members, when acting as trustees of the charity, to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to the Charity must be taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Climate Implications

14. Actions taken to improve impacts on the climate are contained within the attached report

Conclusion

15. This annual review presents a summary of the key achievements of the Epping Forest department and progress made against the business plan objectives during the year 2021-22.

Appendices

Appendix A - Epping Forest Annual Review 2021-22

Background Papers

- Epping Forest Management Strategy 2020-2030

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