

Epping Forest Deer Management Oversight Group (DMOG)

Draft Terms of Reference

Purpose

- DMOG will provide oversight of the implementation of the Epping Forest Deer Management Strategy approved by the Epping Forest and Commons Committee (“the Committee”)
- DMOG oversight will include:
 - Making recommendations to the Committee to ensure the discharge of its duties under Epping Forest Acts 1878 & 1880 section 4 duty to ensure deer are *‘preserved as objects of ornament in the Forest’*.
 - To review annually the Epping Forest Deer Management Strategy to ensure relevance and appropriateness and make recommendations to the Committee.
 - To monitor the implementation of the Deer Management Strategy throughout the year and to bring to the attention of the Committee any issues that may affect the appropriate implementation of the strategy or give rise to other concerns that should be brought to the attention of the Committee.
 - To make recommendations to the Committee on the most effective and cost-efficient method to implement the Deer Management Strategy.
- DMOG will consider the scientific and best practice basis for deer management activity based upon evidence provided by officers
- DMOG will scrutinise officer population projections of wild and parkland deer herds based on evidence obtained by officers regarding the species, sex, and age of the deer together with cull data from adjoining estates where this is made available
- DMOG will review and provide an assessment of officer’s annual recommendations to the Committee, based on stocking rates furnished by the Independent Review on a proposed cull figure range for both the Birch Hall Park Deer Sanctuary and the Buffer Land
- DMOG will satisfy itself that the Epping Forest risk assessments, safe systems of work, food hygiene arrangements, carcass handling and waste disposal records are suitably legally and financially compliant for the management of deer management operations

- DMOG will appraise regular assessments of the welfare of the Birch Hall Park deer regarding weight and condition of the deer herd and ancillary activity designed.

Other Business

- Officers, will regularly update DMOG on broader plans for the management of Birch Hall Park the buffer land including statutory works, grant applications, government consultations and liaison with neighbouring landowners.

Membership

- DMOG will have 4 members, drawn from the elected members of the Committee.
- The members will be appointed with the approval of the Committee and will be members of DMOG in a personal capacity.
- One member of DMOG will be appointed by the DMOG members as the Group's Chair.
- DMOG will be provided with the services of an independent and suitably qualified deer manager.

Governance

- Membership of DMOG will be based on a one-year term renewed through the annual Committee appointment process conducted in January each year.

Meetings

- DMOG meetings will be held bi-monthly during the fallow deer season and by arrangement outside the season.
- Officers will provide papers to support DMOG's oversight together with a summary record of the meetings proceedings.
- All papers will remain confidential and be subject to the City of London Corporations Members Code of Conduct
- The groups status will be as an informal meeting outside CoL Committee arrangements