

<b>Committees:</b> Epping Forest and Commons	<b>Dated:</b> 23/01/2025
<b>Subject:</b> Assistant Director Epping Forest Update Report Oct-Dec 2024 (SEF 01/25)	<b>Public</b>
<b>This proposal</b> a) <b>delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes</b> Diverse Engaged Communities Leading Sustainable Environment Vibrant Thriving Destination Flourishing Public Spaces b) <b>provides statutory duties</b> c) <b>provides business enabling functions</b>	
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Katie Stewart, Executive Director Environment	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jacqueline Eggleston, Assistant Director (Superintendent) of Epping Forest, Natural Environment	

### Summary

The purpose of this report is to present key information on business activity aligned to objectives for Epping Forest for the period October 2024 -December 2024.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### Current Position

This report provides information for the third quarter for 2024/25 and should be read in conjunction with separate reports on financial activity, risk management and high-level business planning to provide an overview of progress made against Corporate and Natural Environment objectives.

Progress against Natural Environment Strategies and Business Plan objectives for the period July-September 2024 is outlined in Appendix 1. Of particular note;

#### 1. Nature Conservation and Resilience

1.1 Major habitat restoration works continued under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme including veteran tree management in the north of the Forest and wood-pasture restoration at Leyton Flats.

1.2 The Great Gregories 'Future Proof Farm' project to improve sustainability at the cattle overwintering facility was completed.

1.3 A floating reedbed was installed in Heronry Pond at Wanstead Park to improve water quality and funded by environmental group Thames 21.

## **2. Community Engagement**

2.1 Numerous volunteer activities organised with 39 new volunteer litter pickers recruited.

2.2 Funding was awarded for CCTV in flytipping hotspots as part of a partnership approach with Essex Police and EFDC.

## **3. Access and Recreation**

3.1 Roadside sightlines and verges had their final cut of the season.

## **4. Culture, Heritage and Learning**

4.1 Planning permission was granted and funding approved to implement the Grotto restoration plan.

## **5. Enforcement**

5.1 Manor Road Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) - Following approval from EF&CC in November 2020 and further direction from EF&CC in March 2023, Epping Forest officers have worked with Essex County Council Highways Officers (ECC) in pursuance of a permanent TRO for the nighttime closure of Manor Road, High Beach (Pillow Mounds Car Park) with revised timings from the original ETRO. Epping Forest Officers have spent the past 18 months collecting evidence for submission to ECC in pursuance of obtaining a permanent TRO.

5.2 Epping Forest Officers have been working in conjunction with Essex Police and EFDC's Community Safety Partnership to collect a body of evidence to submit in a statement of reasons for a TRO. The nighttime anti-social behaviour at the site that was prevalent prior to, but then exacerbated during the Covid pandemic, initiated the ETRO. However, the evidence collected since March 2023 is irrespective of the issues faced during the Covid pandemic and demonstrates that this is a continuing problem. The EF enforcement officers have continued to work closely with partnership agencies to pursue the installation of CCTV and ANPR apparatus within the Manor Rd/Pauls Nursery Road area to assist in the identification of those involved in ASB and rural crime.

## **6. People Management**

6.1 Recruitment continues alongside induction of 21 new starters this year. An induction and staff conference was held in November with practical activities to

help officers learn from each other and understand how we meet our management objectives.

### **Conclusion**

Considerable progress against Epping Forest management plan and Natural Environment Strategy objectives have been delivered during the reporting period.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Progress against key objectives / actions.

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