

## City of London Corporation Committee Report

<b>Committees:</b> Epping Forest and Commons Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 26/01/2026
<b>Subject:</b> Assistant Director Epping Forest Update Report October – December 2025 (SEF 01/26)	<b>Public</b> For Information
<b>This proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes</b></li><li>• <b>provides statutory duties</b></li><li>• <b>provides business enabling functions</b></li></ul>	Diverse Engaged Communities  Leading Sustainable Environment  Vibrant Thriving Destination  Flourishing Public Spaces
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b>	Katie Stewart, Environment Executive Director
<b>Report author:</b>	Jacqueline Eggleston, Assistant Director, Epping Forest

### Summary

This report presents updates on business activity delivered in Epping Forest for the period July to September 2025. The activities are delivered against the objectives outlined in the Epping Forest Management Strategy (charitable objectives), Epping Forest Business Plan and the Natural Environment Strategies.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### Main Report

## **Current Position**

1. Appendix A provides updates on service delivery in Epping Forest and its buffer lands in the period October to December 2025. Information for this period 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 Charity, Corporate and Natural Environment objectives.

Of particular note;

2. A new SSSI condition assessment was completed by Natural England for the lowland dry acid grassland. The condition was assessed as Unfavourable – Recovering with additional measures recommended to help improve conditions. This is a new methodology so there is no direct comparison with previous assessments.
3. Over 90 grassland condition surveys undertaken which will help track improvements made for biodiversity.
4. 38 Longhorn calves (21 female / 17 male) were born between 29th October - 10th December. This is the first time a 100% calving success rate has been achieved by the Grazing Team.
5. Five new members of staff were recruited.

## **Proposals**

6. In the next quarter workshops will commence on the Forest Transport Strategy.
7. Carbon removals programme will aim to have completed 150 leaky dams and planted 1.3km of hedge whips by March.
8. The Epping Forest Annual Visitor Guide is due to be published.

## **Key Data**

9. October-December 2025 (figures in brackets for equivalent period October-December 2024 for comparison.)
  - Total fly tips: 90 (111)
  - Total fires/barbeques: 10/0 (10/1)
  - Grazing days: 1736 Forest / 3456 Buffer (1962 / 1861)
  - 8 filming licences: Total of £4,332 (15 / £77,737.50)
  - 13 fitness licences: Total of £383 (12 / £1,906.90)
  - 9 utilities licences: Total of £16,421 (6 / £61)

- External volunteer hours: 3,827 (3,794)
- Internal volunteer hours: 800 (335). Significant increase due to additional projects using volunteers - including leaky dams, tree planting, and heritage volunteers.
- The Epping Forest Facebook page received 810,564 views with the highest reach on National Tree Week posts, Brambly Hedge launch and Christmas and New Year posts. Throughout October to December 2025 Instagram received 283,695 views. The highest engagements were seen on posts about grazing and the Brambly Hedge launch.
- 11,686 visitors to Epping Forest Visitor Centre at Chingford, with 2,995 visitors received at Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge. The Temple was not open during this period due to renovation works which overran.
- Safety 365 score 65%.
- Field Studies Council engaged with 57 different schools and welcomed over 4000 school attendees at the Epping Forest Field Centre (535 primary school and early years students, 3,260 secondary school students and 255 A-Level students).

## Conclusion

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

## Appendices

Appendix A – Progress against key objectives / actions (categorised by Natural Environment Strategy). Further detail of how the activities align to these objectives is shown in the Epping Forest Business Plan.

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