

**EPPING FOREST ACTS 1878 AND 1880  
ELECTION OF VERDERERS 2020**

Presented by the Director of Corporate Services

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Authority is an owner or occupier of lands which lie within the ancient boundary of Epping Forest, as defined by Parliament in the seventeenth year of Charles I reign, who are entitled to a right of common in or over Epping Forest.

The Authority is registered in two of the Southern Forest Parishes, Leyton and Walthamstow, and in the Northern Forest Parish of Waltham Holy Cross. There are nominations and elections due in March 2020 and these are detailed in paragraph 7 of this report. The Authority must appoint a proxy to vote on behalf of the Authority. In previous elections the Chairman has been elected as a proxy on behalf of the Authority.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Members Note:
- (1) the process in relation to the nomination and election of four Verderers (two for the Northern Forest Parishes and two for the Southern Forest Parishes) set out at paragraphs 5-7 in the report; and
- Members Approve:
- (2) that the Chairman be elected to vote by proxy on behalf of the Authority; and
  - (3) the common seal of the Authority be applied to any necessary proxy authorisations.

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 The Authority currently owns approximately 1,700 acres (700 hectares) of land which are subject to rights in Epping Forest. The ownership of this land entitles the Authority as a commoner to:

- a) graze one beast in the Forest for every half acre of land owned; and
  - b) vote for two Verderers in respect of the Southern Forest Parishes and two further Verderers in the Northern Forest Parishes.
- 2 The Verderers represent local interests in governance of Epping Forest and serve on the Epping Forest and Commons Committee of the City of London Corporation. The Verderers must be resident in one of the ancient Forest Parishes and not be a Member of the City of London's Court of Common Council. The role of Verderer is a voluntary unpaid position.
  - 3 The main duties of Verderers are to oversee the management of the forest and to ensure that the provisions of the Act are followed. The main provisions are to preserve the natural aspect, to keep it an enclosed open space for the recreation and enjoyment of everyone and to protect the deer. Verderers also try to establish links with local community groups to facilitate the better management of the Forest.
  - 4 The Verderers are elected for a period of seven years. Following the election in March 2020, the next election will be held by 20 March 2027.
  - 5 The rules in connection with the election of Verderers requires that a corporate body must appoint a representative to vote on its behalf in any elections. This person must receive a proxy in writing, sealed with the Common Seal of the Authority.
  - 6 The Member appointed as proxy is able to attend a nomination meeting and then, in the event of a poll, to vote.
  - 7 The nomination meetings will be held on 24 February 2020 and if a poll is necessary there will be polling stations in the North and South of the Forest and polling will take place on 26 February in the North and 27 February in the South. An update will be provided at the Executive Committee meeting.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8 There are no environmental implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9 There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10 There are no human resource implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11 The process and procedures are governed by the Epping Forest Acts 1878 and 1880.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 12 There are no risk management implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

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## **PREVIOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee	E/268/13	Epping Forest Acts 1878 & 1880 Election of Verderers	28 February 2013
Authority	3850	Epping Forest Acts 1878 & 1880 Election of Verderers	23 February 2006
Authority	3264	Epping Forest Acts 1878 & 1880 Election of Verderers	21 January 1999

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