

**BRITISH CANOEING WATER USE AGREEMENT RENEWAL
AT LEE VALLEY WHITE WATER CENTRE**

Presented by the Corporate Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper provides Members with an update on negotiations with British Canoeing regarding the terms of their water usage agreement at the Lee Valley White Water Centre.

Members will be aware that British Canoeing's slalom performance programme is based out of the Lee Valley White Water Centre, and have a lease with the Authority for office space and a canoe storage compound. To support British Canoeing's performance programme, their ongoing development work and elite athlete training at the venue, the Authority has previously entered into a Water Use Agreement with British Canoeing, which secures dedicated water time at the venue, sets a pricing strategy and provides a process for use.

The previous Water Use Agreement has come to an end and both organisations are working off temporary arrangements. Therefore, Members are asked to consider the recommendation of this report to enter into a new Water Use Agreement with British Canoeing for a four year period. This Water Use Agreement would be novated to the contractor on commencement of a new Leisure Services Contract.

RECOMMENDATION

Members Approve: (1) the granting of a new four year Water Use Agreement to British Canoeing in accordance with paragraphs 8 to 11 of this report.

BACKGROUND

- 1 British Canoeing (BC) continue successfully to use the Lee Valley White Water Centre (LVWWC) as their base for elite canoe slalom training, performance teams and events. BC are the only permanent National Governing Body (NGB) to be hosted at a Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) venue.
- 2 BC first located to the LVWWC in January 2011, and since then it has been home to the Great Britain Canoe Slalom team.

- 3 The LVRPA's ongoing relationship with BC and continued regular access to water time has supported BC's canoe slalom program and helped enable Great Britain to become one of the top performing nations.
- 4 Working in partnership with LVRPA and UK Sport, BC have secured the rights to host the 2023 International Canoe Federation (ICF) Canoe Slalom World Championships at the LVWWC. This will be the second ICF World Championships with the previous event held in 2015 along with two ICF World Cups in 2014 and 2019. The venue was due to hold the ECA European Canoe Slalom Championships in May 2020 but this was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- 5 BC, like all NGB's work to Olympic cycles in terms of funding, currently they are working towards 2024 Paris Olympics and beyond, making the security of a four year Water Use Agreement pivotal to the development of their athletes.
- 6 BC's continued partnership working with LVRPA is vital for the ongoing development of the sport, its pathway and elite athletes. The combination of committed coaching staff, talented athletes and a world class facility has led to unprecedented success on an international stage, both for the team and the venue in terms of international status.
- 7 The Water Use Agreement provides BC with secured regular time slots on the white water and stipulates the fees and charges for the hire. These times have been carefully scheduled by the operational team to ensure that BC's use does not cause any conflict with the commercial aspects of the venue and its long term growth and sustainability. This in turn provides additional longer-term security for the NGB.

PROPOSED WATER USE AGREEMENT RENEWAL TERMS

- 8 Water Use Agreement term – 4 years from the commencement of the agreement, signed by both parties.
- 9 Agreement commencement date – 1 November 2021.
- 10 Fees and charges – Olympic channel - £235 per hour plus VAT. Legacy Channel - £110 per hour plus VAT. The fees currently cover the operational cost of delivery.
- 11 Usage has been negotiated with BC to allow commercial sessions to be optimised whilst meeting BC needs and is summarised below:
 - Olympic Channel (Summer period) = 23.25 hours per week;
 - Olympic Channel (Winter period) = 27 hours per week;
 - Legacy Channel (Summer period) = 18.5 hours per week;
 - Legacy Channel (Winter period) = 20.75 hours per week.
- 12 The continuation of the Water Use Agreement and arrangements proposed in this paper have been factored into documentation relating to the new Leisure Service Contract. The overall relationship with BC will remain with the Authority although this particular Agreement will novate to the new contractor.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14 The grant of a new four year Water Use Agreement will ensure a continued income stream for the venue and venue operator. This will also ensure LVWWC continues to be used by BC elite athletes and for hosting major canoe slalom events.

HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 16 The proposed length of the Water Use Agreement is 4 years which falls outside the length of agreements that are delegated to officers to approve and therefore requires Member approval.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 18 There are no equality implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

Author: Paul Coates, 01992 709 934, pcoates@leevalleypark.org.uk

BACKGROUND REPORTS

None

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive E/638/19 British Canoeing Leisure Renewal 19 September 2019
at Lee Valley White Water Centre

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| LWWC | Lee Valley White Water Centre |
| BC | British Canoeing |
| LVRPA | Lee Valley Regional Park Authority |
| NGB | National Governing Body |
| ICF | International Canoe Federation |

This page is blank