

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 18 NOVEMBER 2021

Members
in remote presence: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Heather Johnson
David Andrews (Vice Chairman) Chris Kennedy
Susan Barker Graham McAndrew
Ross Houston Mary Sartin

In remote Attendance: John Bevan

Officers
in remote presence: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
Beryl Foster - Deputy Chief Executive
Dan Buck - Corporate Director
Jon Carney - Corporate Director
Keith Kellard - Head of Finance
Stephen Bromberg - Head of Communications
Paul Roper - Head of Project & Funding Delivery
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager

Also in remote presence: Matt Bowmer – S151 Officer (Director of Finance & Commercial – LBE)
Abigail Woodman and Vicky Sholund – Save Lea Marshes

Part I

103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

104 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2021 be approved and signed.

105 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Abigail Woodman addressed the Committee in relation to agenda item 6, including:

- Save Lea Marshes welcomed the discussion at Scrutiny Committee on an Environmental Policy;
- this policy was critical if we are to escape the very worst of climate change and biodiversity collapse and the needs of the environment should be put first when making decisions;
- this should apply to individuals as well as organisations that manage green spaces on behalf of the public;
- Members were urged to consider the choices before them today within the context of the environment;
- routine venue maintenance would be funded from capital receipts yet open space projects, such as Middlesex Filter Beds, were subject to receipt of Section 106 monies;
- the Middlesex Filter Beds project had been promised for a long time;

- non-delivery of this project meant that the Authority was in breach of the Higher Level Stewardship scheme and was therefore losing funding;
- to demonstrate that the Authority was not green-washing, a commitment to fund the Middlesex Filter Beds project from capital expenditure would send a strong message that green spaces were as important to the Authority as its venues.

The Chairman commented that he was pushing for the Middlesex Filter Beds project to be delivered as quickly as possible.

106 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET – METHODOLOGY, ASSUMPTIONS AND TIMETABLE Paper E/742/21

The report was introduced by the Head of Finance.

Member comments included:

- there was considerable uncertainty around fuel and inflation cost increases and therefore the budget setting process would be more complex; and
- request for further information on the possible VAT reduction on sporting income.

(1) the budget timetable for the 2022/23 budget process as set out in Appendix A to Paper E/742/21; and

(2) the principles, assumptions and methodology for the 2022/23 revenue and capital budgets as set out in paragraphs 9 to 13 of Paper E/742/21 was approved.

107 VENUES CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS Paper E/743/21
CAPITAL BUDGET 2021/22

The report was introduced by the Head of Finance.

Member comments included:

- the importance of wi-fi across venues;
- the need for new coffee machines and other vending machines to accept contactless payment as well as other forms of payment;
- support for prioritisation of the Middlesex Filter Beds project;
- the need for income generating projects to support other projects across the Park; and
- that Section 106 monies from property developers adjacent to the Park, who use proximity to the Park as a selling advantage for new residential developments, should be maximised.

In response it was advised that:

- this year approx. £644K funding for open space projects, from Section 106 monies and other funding sources, had been identified including £30K from Froglife's TOAD project for pond installation at Waterworks Nature Reserve;
- the Authority was committed to delivering the Middlesex Filter Beds project and a paper would be presented to the next meeting; and
- some funding from the Higher Level Stewardship scheme had been lost but discussions with Natural England were ongoing about reclaiming such funding when the Middlesex Filter Beds project was delivered.

- (1) the projects as identified in paragraphs 6 to 13 of Paper E/743/21 be incorporated into the capital programme for 2021/22 to 2025/26;**
- (2) the proposals, as identified in paragraphs 25 to 26 of Paper E/743/21, regarding the financing of these projects was approved; and**
- (3) the draft list of projects as set out in Appendix A to Paper E/743/21 was noted.**

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 10.33am and ended at 11.01am