

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING

3 July 2025

Members Present:

Ross Houston (Chairman)	Gordon Nicholson
Heather Johnson (Vice Chairman)	Paul Osborn
Susan Barker	Anthony Owen
Nicholas Bennett	Miraj Patel
John Bevan	Clive Souter
Ken Crofton	Miriam Swainston
David Gardner	Marshall Vance
Mike Garnett	Steven Watson
Steven Heather	George Williams
Connie Hersch	Shamsed Chowdhury (Deputy for Krupa Sheth)
Calvin Horner	Jo Blackman (Deputy for Troy Gallagher)
Rick Jewell	David Taylor (Deputy for Ken Ayling)
Christopher Kennedy	Terry Wheeler (Deputy for Rosalind Dore)

Apologies Received From: Shafi Ahmed, Ken Ayling, Richard Bassett, Rosalind Dore, Troy Gallagher, Krupa Sheth

Officers Present:

Shaun Dawson	- Chief Executive
Beryl Foster	- Deputy Chief Executive
Jon Carney	- Corporate Director
Keith Kellard	- Head of Finance
Julie Smith	- Head of Legal
Stephen Bromberg	- Head of Communications
Sandra Bertschin	- Committee & Members' Services Manager
Lindsey Johnson	- Committee Services Officer

Also attending: Kevin Bartle - S151 Officer (London Borough of Enfield)
Members of the public – Tracey Kent, David Andrews, Graham McAndrew,
Essex Work Experience Pupil – Becca Evans

Part I

38 To note membership of the Authority:

Constituent Council

Essex County Council

Hertfordshire County Council

Member

Susan Barker
Mike Garnett
Clive Souter
Marshall Vance
Calvin Horner
Anthony Owen
Miriam Swainston
Ken Crofton

Broxbourne Borough Council	Ken Ayling
East Hertfordshire District Council	Gordon Nicholson
	Steven Watson
	George Williams
Epping Forest District Council	Richard Bassett
	Steven Heather
London Borough of Barnet	Ross Houston
London Borough of Brent	Krupa Sheth
London Borough of Bromley	Nicholas Bennett
London Borough of Camden	Heather Johnson
London Borough of Ealing	Connie Hersch
London Borough of Enfield	Rick Jewell
Royal Borough of Greenwich	David Gardner
London Borough of Hackney	Chris Kennedy
London Borough of Haringey	John Bevan
London Borough of Harrow	Paul Osborn
London Borough of Islington	Troy Gallagher
London Borough of Newham	Miraj Patel
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	Shafi Ahmed
London Borough of Waltham Forest	Rosalind Doré
Co-opted Members:	
Environment Agency	Elodie Blanchfield
Canal & River Trust	Poorna Balaji

39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1 (a) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY

The Chairman passed chairing of the meeting to Susan Barker who called for nominations for Chairman of the Authority.

Gordon Nicholson, seconded by Clive Souter, nominated Paul Osborn.
Heather Johnson, seconded by David Gardner, nominated Ross Houston.

Members voted:
Paul Osborn 11
Ross Houston 15

(1) **Ross Houston was appointed Chairman of the Authority.**

The Chairman thanked Members for their confidence in electing him Chairman of the Authority and thanked Paul Osborn for his leadership over the past 10 years.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY

The Chairman called for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Authority.

Chris Kennedy, seconded by John Bevan, nominated Heather Johnson.

(1) Heather Johnson was appointed Vice Chairman of the Authority.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2025 be approved and signed.

The Chairman proposed that the order of the agenda be amended.

3 PROPOSED COMMITTEES AND GROUPS FOR 2025/26 - Paper A/4365/25
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRMEN

TABLED updated copy of the Membership of Committees 2025/26, including Liberal Democrat substitutes, following Group meetings

The Chairman, seconded by David Gardner, proposed that membership of the Executive Committee be increased to 10 to reflect a more representative membership.

The Chairman proposed that membership of the Land & Property Working Group be increased to 8 and the Levy Strategy Working Group to 9.

- (1) to increase membership of the Executive Committee to 10, Land & Property Working Group to 8 and Levy Strategy Working Group to 9;**
- (2) membership of Committees and Groups for 2025/26 as agreed at the meeting and set out in Addendum A to these minutes was approved; and**
- (3) any appointments unfilled at this meeting will be agreed through Group Leaders and reported to the next Authority meeting or Executive Committee was noted.**

4 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY FOR 2025/26 Paper A/4366/25

The report was introduced by the Deputy Chief Executive.

- (1) the proposal for appointment to the outside body for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix A to Paper A/4366/25 was approved.**

5 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Tracey Kent, an indoor tennis player at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre, addressed the meeting regarding the proposed Padel development, including:

- she was a Hackney resident who used the indoor tennis courts 4 times a week and her son twice a week;
- tennis players had only been informed last week of the closure of the indoor tennis courts, which had come as a shock to many;
- due to opting in or out of communications, a lot of people had not received the email notification from Greenwich Leisure Limited;
- the Centre was a special place for many people which she looked forward to visiting and meeting the supportive community based there;
- she had not been able to leave the house for a year due to illness and the Centre was one of the first sporting venues which she accessed post Covid to help her wellbeing;

- she had progressed to Level 4 lessons after starting at Level 1;
- the Centre had the only publicly bookable courts, which do not require membership, in East London;
- the indoor tennis courts were always full and were used by wheelchair users, mental health groups and professional players;
- the proposed outdoor provision was not suitable as it was weather dependent and wheelchair users couldn't use the courts due to a slope;
- the outdoor tennis courts were already heavily used with 2 courts taken up with private coaching sessions;
- she didn't understand the lack of public consultation;
- request that the project be slowed down, a wider dialogue be opened and proposal that Padel be accommodated in a new building;
- the Lawn Tennis Association had provided some funding and would, along with the Centre's indoor tennis players, like to meet with the Executive Committee to discuss the matter.

The Chairman thanked Tracey Kent for attending the AGM and advised that the Executive Committee would be meeting in July to consider the issues raised and to find a balance between an emerging and existing sport.

A Member remarked that:

- he had expected that some Newham residents may attend today as he had been contacted by many people concerned about the Executive Committee decision;
- concerns raised centred around the lack of consultation and community value;
- he did not see why the provision of one sport had to be at the detriment of another and that they should be able to co-exist;
- another Member had received correspondence from the Lawn Tennis Association which had also expressed concerns;
- there were 22 tennis courts in Newham, but few of these were indoor, and he was willing to provide details of these tennis courts if requested;
- he sought assurance that the proposed closure date of 31 July would not go ahead and that the Executive Committee decision remained open.

The Chairman advised that the Chief Executive had given assurance that the project was paused.

6 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025/26

Paper A/4367/25

The report was introduced by the Deputy Chief Executive, advising that a revised July meeting date for Executive Committee would be agreed outside of the meeting.

- (1) subject to amendment of the Executive Committee meeting date in July 2025, the calendar of meetings for 2025/26 as shown in Appendix A to Paper A/4367/25 was approved.**

7 THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

The Chief Executive gave a presentation, key points included:

- Reflecting on the Past 4 Years 2021-2025
 - Financial Summary 2024-25;
 - Lee Valley Ice Centre Delivering Success;

- Wildlife Discovery Centre;
- Investment in Campsites and Marinas;
- Restoration of Waterways;
- Delivering Enhancements Through External Funding;
- Community Access Fund;
- Learning and Engagement;
- Major Events;
- Environment Policy;
- Awards.
- Challenges and Opportunities for the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority 2025-29:
 - Key Topics;
 - Major Sports Venues;
 - Increasing pressure on open spaces;
 - Campsites and Marinas – business potential;
 - Asset Management Plan;
 - Major Projects;
 - 10 Year Business Strategy.
 - Sport & Leisure Venues;
 - Major Venues;
 - Sports Venues;
 - Investment
 - Lee Valley Athletics Centre;
 - Lee Valley White Water Centre;
 - Lee Valley VeloPark;
 - Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre;
 - Campsites and Marinas;
 - Open Spaces;
 - Open Space Pressures;
 - Asset Management Plan;
 - Major Projects:
 - The Wave – Enfield;
 - Lea Bridge Road – Waltham Forest;
 - A fresh look at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park venues/open spaces;
 - Northwall Road;
 - Spitalbrook/Leisure Pool site – Broxbourne;
 - Property and Planning;
 - 10 Year Business Strategy.

8 NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

It was noted that the next meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, 23 October 2025 at 2.00pm at Lee Valley White Water Centre.

The Chairman advised of an additional agenda item, Update on The Wave, by reason of urgency.

9 EXEMPT ITEMS

THAT based on the principles of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the items of business below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information again on the principles as defined in those sections of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:

Agenda Item No

12

Subject

Update on The Wave

Exempt Information Section Number

3

10 UPDATE ON THE WAVE

The Chief Executive gave an update on The Wave.

The Chairman remarked that he looked forward to working together cross-party and congratulated new Members on their appointment to the Authority.

Paul Osborn thanked Members, the Chief Executive, senior management team and heads of service for their support and assistance during his tenure as Chairman of the Authority.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.04pm and ended at 3.12pm

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS 2025/26

COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 10 Members (at least 50% to be London Members), 1 Member nominated jointly by the non-majority groups preferably from one of the London Olympic Boroughs. MEETINGS: 12 per year or as required					
Labour (4)	Conservative (4)	Lib Dem (1)	Green (1)	Reform (0)	Aspire (0)
Ross Houston	Susan Barker	Calvin Horner	Steven Watson		
Heather Johnson	Paul Osborn				
Chris Kennedy	Gordon Nicholson				
John Bevan	Nicholas Bennett				
Chairman: Ross Houston			Vice Chairman: Heather Johnson		

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7 Members MEETINGS: 3 per year					
Labour (3)	Conservative (3)	Lib Dem (0)	Green (1)	Reform (0)	Aspire (0)
Rosalind Doré	Mike Garnett		George Williams		
David Gardner	Clive Souter				
Miraj Patel	Ken Ayling				
Chairman: David Gardner			Vice Chairman: Clive Souter		

REGENERATION & PLANNING COMMITTEE – 11 Members					
MEETINGS: 6 weekly or as required					
Labour (4)	Conservative (4)	Lib Dem (1)	Green (1)	Reform (1)	Aspire (0)
John Bevan	Ken Ayling	Miriam Swainston	Steven Watson	Anthony Owen	
David Gardner	Gordon Nicholson				
Heather Johnson	Paul Osborn				
Chris Kennedy	Susan Barker				
Chairman: Paul Osborn		Vice Chairman: Chris Kennedy			
Lib Dem Substitute: Calvin Horner					

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 Members					
MEETINGS: 3 per year					
Labour (3)	Conservative (3)	Lib Dem (1)	Green (1)	Reform (0)	Aspire (1)
Rosalind Doré	Ken Ayling	Connie Hersch	George Willaims		Vacancy
Miraj Patel	Mike Garnett				
Rick Jewell	Steven Heather				
	Marshall Vance				
Chairman: Ken Ayling		Vice Chairman: Marshall Vance			
Lib Dem Substitute: Miriam Swainston					

TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

LAND & PROPERTY REVIEW WORKING GROUP – 8 Members MEETINGS: As required					
Labour (3)	Conservative (4)	Lib Dem (1)	Green (0)	Reform (0)	Aspire (0)
Ross Houston	Susan Barker	Calvin Horner			
Heather Johnson	Paul Osborn				
Chris Kennedy	Nicholas Bennett				
	Gordon Nicholson				
Chairman: Paul Osborn					

LEVY STRATEGY WORKING GROUP – 9 Members					
MEETINGS: 3 per year					
Labour (4)	Conservative (4)	Lib Dem (1)	Green (0)	Reform (0)	Aspire (0)
John Bevan	Ken Ayling	Connie Hersch			
Heather Johnson	Susan Barker				
Chris Kennedy	Paul Osborn				
Ross Houston	Nicholas Bennett				
Chairman: Heather Johnson					

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Waltham Abbey Town Partnership	Steven Heather
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