

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES 23 JUNE 2022

Members Present: John Bevan (Chairman) Steven Heather
 Gordon Nicholson (Vice Chairman) Calvin Horner
 Ken Ayling Terry Wheeler
 David Gardner John Wyllie

Apologies Received From: Mike Garnett

Officers Present: Beryl Foster - Deputy Chief Executive
 Jon Carney - Corporate Director
 Dan Buck - Corporate Director
 Paul Roper - Head of Project & Funding Delivery
 Vince Donaldson - Senior Contracts & Quality Manager
 Michael Sterry - Senior Accountant
 Lorraine Roper - Research Officer
 Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager

Also in remote presence: Abigail Woodman (Save Lea Marshes)

Part I

193 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

194 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2021 be approved and signed.

195 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Abigail Woodman (Save Lea Marshes) addressed the meeting in regard to agenda item 5, Scrutiny Scoping Review – Environment Policy, including:

- as previously stated, Save Lea Marshes welcomes the Authority revising its Environment Policy;
- Save Lea Marshes had enquired whether the Authority would be open to receiving comments during development of a draft policy and was advised that the Authority would be open to receiving comments which would be reviewed and passed on if required;
- on further enquiry she understood that work on developing a policy had been paused until the new financial year;
- as far as she was aware no progress had been made on developing a policy and therefore was surprised to note that the Committee was being asked to recommend a draft policy to Executive Committee;

- another well-meant attempt by Save Lea Marshes to engage with the Authority has been pushed aside; and
- request that the Committee defer for a month consideration of the draft policy to enable Save Lea Marshes to submit comments.

Officers advised that the Authority was not required to enter into formal consultation on its policies but instead sought views. The policy was an over-arching directional document and it was considered that wider public interest would focus on the action plan for delivery.

The Chairman proposed that the Committee proceed with its consideration of the draft policy and potential recommendation to Executive Committee which would then provide sufficient time for Save Lea Marshes to submit its comments to Executive Committee.

Abigail Woodman commented that Save Lea Marshes was passionate about the environment with huge experience and expressed concern that it was rare for any amendments to be made to a policy by the time it had reached the stage of consideration by the Executive Committee, but undertook to submit comments from Save Lea Marshes by the end of July 2022.

The report was introduced by the Head of Projects and Funding Delivery, including:

- the draft policy was an over-arching document with the clear detail in the draft strategy and action plan which would continue to be the focus of Scrutiny review over the next 2 years;
- the proposed draft policy had been developed following internal consultation and a Member Workshop;
- some of the actions in the action plan were already in progress and processes were in place to provide a baseline to measure against; and
- further comments on the draft policy were welcomed prior to its consideration by Executive Committee.

Members commented that the draft policy needed to make the Authority's aspirations, plans and timescales explicit and that some of the language used could be strengthened to ensure commitment to making actions count. Comments from other interested parties and Save Lea Marshes would be welcome prior to the draft policy being considered by Executive Committee.

In response officers commented that:

- it would be extremely challenging to achieve carbon neutral status at the Authority's large venues;
- the new Lee Valley Ice Centre would be close to carbon neutral;
- Members were requested to advise of any specific comments; and
- all comments received would be considered and if appropriate amendments made to the draft policy to be submitted to Executive Committee.

(1) the report was noted;

- (2) any further comments on the draft policy be considered and if appropriate amendments be made to the draft policy to be submitted to Executive Committee;
- (3) the draft Environment Policy is reviewed by the Executive Committee for consideration and recommendation for adoption by the full Authority; and
- (4) the Scrutiny Committee continue to review the Environment Strategy and Action Plan development as per the scope set out in paragraph 9 of Paper S/61/22 was approved.

Abigail Woodman left the meeting.

197 SCRUTINY SCORECARD 2021/22 Q4

Paper S/60/22

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director.

Members sought clarity on the direction of travel indicator and the use of traffic light colours and directional arrows to show performance against target. It was also suggested that although considerable information was provided within the Scorecard it might be more useful to drill down on one or two specific areas.

The Chairman commented that drilling down into specific areas would change the format of the meeting as the scorecard had been used for some years as a means of monitoring performance. However if Members wanted to drill down on a specific area they should advise him.

- (1) the report was noted.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.01pm and ended at 2.36pm