

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING 21 JANUARY 2021

Members in remote presence	Paul Osborn (Chairman)	Denise Jones
	David Andrews	Christopher Kennedy
	Derrick Ashley	Graham McAndrew
	Ken Ayling	Valerie Metcalfe
	John Bevan	Gordon Nicholson
	Frances Button	Nigel Quinton
	Rowena Champion	Mary Sartin
	Ricki Gadsby	George Savva MBE
	Mike Garnett	Simon Walsh
	David Gardner	Terry Wheeler
	Ross Houston	John Wyllie
	Heather Johnson	

Apologies Received From: Steven Heather, Rokhsana Fiaz, Dilip Patel

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
	Victoria Yates	- Head of Human Resources
	Stephen Bromberg	- Head of Communications
	Sandra Bertschin	- Committee & Members' Services Manager
Lindsey Johnson	- Committee Services Officer	

Also in remote presence: Ian Kemp (Deputy Member, East Herts District Council)
Matt Bowmer (London Borough of Enfield)
Will Dahlgreen (Journalist)
Laurie Elks (member of the public)

Part I

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item No.	Nature of Interest	
Ken Ayling	6	Member of Broxbourne Borough Council	<i>Non-pecuniary</i>

23 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2020 be approved and signed.

24 PUBLIC SPEAKING

No requests from the public to speak or present petitions had been received for this meeting.

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25 2021/22 REVENUE BUDGET AND LEVY

Paper A/4292/21

The Chief Executive gave a presentation, including:

- Background;
- Forecast Outturn 2020/21;
- Budget 2021/22 Objectives;
- Budget Pressures and Challenges;
- Budget 2021/22 Options;
- Growth and Savings;
- COVID Recovery Plan;
- Reserves;
- Medium Term Financial Plan;
- Conclusions and Recommendations.

The Section 151 Officer advised that he considered the proposals put forward to be robust and developed though a medium term financial policy in which the level of reserves had been considered rather than set in isolation.

In response to Member questions it was advised:

- borrowing was the likely source of funding for the Ice Centre project should it go ahead and therefore would limit the Authority's ability to borrow further, but other borrowing could be considered should a robust business case be put forward;
- the new draft Leisure Services Contract included clauses which enabled the Authority to share in any profits over specific threshold levels;
- the proposed Management Fee for year 1 of the new Leisure Services Contract was at a similar level to the final year Management Fee to be paid to the previous Leisure Services Contract operator. The cost of operating the venues for 2020/21 reflected the impact of the venues being closed due to the pandemic and consequent loss of income;
- the Authority's cash flow has been impacted by the closure of venues but this had been partially off-set by furlough scheme payments and limited activities at the venues when permitted.

George Savva joined the meeting during the above Member questions and answers.

Members considered that a 2% levy increase was prudent and well below expected increases in Council Tax rates.

The Head of Finance advised of an error in the level for revenue financing for the capital programme as proposed in the report recommendations, this should be £0.8m, not £1.2m, as detailed within the report.

On behalf of the Conservative group the Chairman proposed a 2% increase in the levy.

On behalf of the Labour group the Lead Labour Member endorsed a 2% increase in the levy.

The Liberal Democrat Member endorsed a 2% increase in the levy.

No Members opposed the proposal put forward by their group.

(1) the proposed Levy for 2021/22 as recommended by Executive Committee;

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- (2) **additional expenditure, income and efficiencies as set out in Appendix B to Paper E/708/21 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4292/21;**
- (3) **revenue financing for the capital programme of £0.8m, as set out in paragraph 26 of Paper E/708/21 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4292/21;**
- (4) **a net revenue budget of £9.44m, as set out in paragraph 35 of Paper E/708/21 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4292/21; and**
- (5) **a medium term general reserves policy of £3m-£4m was approved.**

26 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Paper A/4294/21

The report was presented by the Chief Executive, including:

- the Authority's work programme included a fair amount of ambition;
- increasingly creative mechanisms were being utilised to continue to support staff; and
- the Authority was not eligible for additional funding available from Sport England but was joining with the London Legacy Development Corporation to make joint representation to Government for assistance for national sporting venues.

- (1) **the report was noted.**

27 UPDATE ON ICE CENTRE PROJECT

The Corporate Director gave a presentation, key points included:

- Planning;
- Procurement;
- Site Clearance Works;
- Funding;
- Funding – Next Steps;
- Communications - Key Activity;
- Landscape Masterplan;
- Artist impressions;
- Level 00 Plan;
- Level 01 Plan;
- Interior Design;
- Programme.

Members expressed the need for a modal shift to travel by public transport, cycling and walking for access to the new Ice Centre. A Member commented that reinstatement of the rail link from Waltham Forest to the Royal Docks would improve poor connectivity within the London Borough of Waltham Forest. It was also highlighted that Clapton Station provided another public transport hub for access to the new Ice Centre.

In response it was advised that:

- similar travel challenges had been experienced with venues at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park;
- the planning application had included data on modes of travel;
- reinstatement of the removed bus route is to be raised with Transport for London;
- the London Borough of Waltham Forest's mini-Holland scheme had been successful;

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- advertising similar to that at Cheshunt Station would be undertaken at Lea Bridge Station;
- the Authority was fully committed to achieving a long term reduction in car park size by encouraging and promoting non-car travel.

In response to other Member questions, it was advised:

- the Authority was committed to secure by design for the new Ice Centre and the area would be significantly safer than currently with improved lighting which did not negatively impact on the local wildlife;
- the Authority had been advised it was currently a good time to go out to the construction market and this would be tested next week by responses to the Invitation to Tender. The contract with the developer will include penalty clauses should targets not be achieved;
- building the new Ice Centre in one phase would take approximately 18 months;
- changes in working practices, such as remote working, and the impact on office accommodation requirements would be an area for future review.

A Member highlighted the need for potential expansion of the café area to meet high demand following experience at Lee Valley White Water Centre.

The Chairman invited Members to attend meetings of the Ice Centre Working Group.

28 **ANTI-FRAUD, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION AND WHISTLE BLOWING POLICIES** Paper A/4291/21

The report was presented by the Head of Finance.

The Audit Committee was commended in bringing these amended policies forward.

- (1) the revised Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy as set out in Appendix A to Paper A/4291/21;**
- (2) the Whistle Blowing Policy as set out in Appendix B to Paper A/4291/21; and**
- (3) the Fraud Response Plan as set out in Appendix C to Paper A/4291/21 was approved.**

29 **REDUNDANCY POLICY** Paper A/4290/21

The report was presented by the Head of Human Resources.

A Member highlighted that consideration should be given to contractors and casual staff acquiring rights via continuity of service.

- (1) the revised Redundancy Policy as set out in Appendix A to Paper E/701/20 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4290/21 was approved.**

30 **NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, 29 April 2021 at 2.00pm at Myddelton House, Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 9HG.

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31 **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	Subject	Exempt Information Section Number
13	Voluntary Redundancy	3
32	VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY	Paper A/4293/21

The report was introduced by the Head of Human Resources.

- (1) inviting voluntary redundancy applications across the Authority as set out in paragraphs 9 to 17 of Paper A/4293/21 was approved.**

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.02pm and ended at 3.40pm