

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**AUTHORITY MEETING
20 JANUARY 2022**

Members	Paul Osborn (Chairman)	Heather Johnson
in remote presence:	David Andrews	Denise Jones
	Ken Ayling	Christopher Kennedy
	Susan Barker	Gordon Nicholson
	John Bevan	Dilip Patel
	Janet Burgess MBE	Suzanne Rutland-Barsby
	Nesil Caliskan	Mary Sartin
	Rokhsana Fiaz OBE	Marshall Vance
	Mike Garnett	Terry Wheeler
	David Gardner	Holly Whitbread
	Lesley Greensmyth	John Wyllie
	Steven Heather	Richard Thake (Deputy for Graham McAndrew)
	Calvin Horner	Ben Radbone (Environment Agency)
	Ross Houston	Mark Pearson (Canal & River Trust)

Apologies Received From: Graham McAndrew

Officers	Shaun Dawson	- Chief Executive
in remote presence:	Beryl Foster	- Deputy Chief Executive
	Dan Buck	- Corporate Director
	Jon Carney	- Corporate Director
	Keith Kellard	- Head of Finance
	Stephen Bromberg	- Head of Communications
	Michael Sterry	- Senior Accountant
	Sandra Bertschin	- Committee & Members' Services Manager
	Lindsey Johnson	- Committee Services Officer

Also in remote presence: Matt Bowmer – S151 Officer (London Borough of Enfield)
Ian Kemp – Deputy Member (East Herts District Council)
Laurie Elks – Member of the public

Part I

21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

22 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

23 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

The report was introduced by the Chief Executive, key points included:

- The Wave – An extension to the Exclusivity Agreement had been approved at Executive Committee earlier today. The project was currently in the pre-planning stage, with good dialogue with the London Borough of Enfield. The provisional timeline has an opening of summer 2024. It was noted that there were significant challenges to the planning application as the site was on Metropolitan Open Land. However, the Authority had experience of this with the redevelopment of the Ice Centre and The Wave at Bristol had been built on Green Belt land.
- Waltham Abbey Gardens – A partnership with Waltham Abbey Town Council had been successful in an expression of interest to the Heritage Lottery Fund for restoration work on the ancient monument, improved interpretation and improved biodiversity.
- Leisure Services Contract – This was coming together well. Greenwich Leisure Limited will give a presentation to Members next month.
- London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) Transition Plan - LLDC was in consultation with the GLA, 4 local boroughs and other key stakeholders, such as the Authority, to determine the governance and estate management arrangements for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park following repatriation of planning powers to the 4 local boroughs in 2024.
- UCI Track Cycling Champions League – This took place in December with two events which were a great success.
- Work Programme – Appendix B highlighted projects which will invest in open space over the coming two years which equated to £2.4million, many of these projects would be funded through S106 money. A Member pointed out that one of the projects on Page 13 did not have a budget. The Chief Executive responded stating that it was an omission and was likely to cost in the region of £1-2000.

A Member expressed approval that Spitalbrook and Middlesex Filter Beds were included in the Work Programme. The Chief Executive added that the Middlesex Filter Beds project will be delivered in the coming year. He would be meeting with senior officers at Broxbourne Borough Council next week to discuss Spitalbrook and how to take this project forward jointly.

A Member asked when the masterplan for Eton Manor with University College London would come forward. The Chief Executive responded stating that a report would be coming to Members shortly looking at options.

A Member noted that The Wave in Bristol was using solar panels and asked if anything similar was being considered for Picketts Lock. The Chief Executive responded stating that they were looking at sustainable energy solutions.

(1) the report was noted.

The report was introduced by the Head of Communications, informing Members that subject to budget allocation, £44,000 was proposed for this project.

A Member commented that there was no mention of the four day Jubilee Bank Holiday and that this would be an ideal time to have events as people would be off work and looking for things to do. The Head of Communications responded stating that this was something he would look into.

A Member stated that he was pleased to see the Community Access Fund included. The Chairman added that this fund was to help people from further away or with limited resources to access the Park. He suggested that if Members knew of any organisations which might benefit from this fund, they should provide details on how to bid for it.

A Member stated that it would also be the 10 year anniversary of the Paralympic Games and asked if we were doing anything for it. The Head of Communications responded stating that there would be two exhibitions at Lee Valley VeloPark.

A Member commented that he was pleased that there would be a temporary exhibition and asked if it would be possible to have a permanent exhibition. The Chairman responded stating that the Authority was keen to do this, but it depended on the makers of the temporary exhibition being willing to lend it to us. The Head of Communications added that the LLDC was looking into this.

(1) the plan outlined in paper A/4311/22, subject to the budget allocation of £44,000 being approved as part of the overall 2022/23 Authority budget in the Budget and Levy paper elsewhere on this agenda, was approved.

Ben Radbone and Chris Kennedy left during the next item.

26 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET AND LEVY

Paper A/4312/22

The report was introduced and a presentation given by the Chief Executive, Head of Finance and the Section 151 Officer, key points included:

- there was a small surplus after carry forwards of the original budget; an operational revenue surplus of £0.6million; a capital programme of £3.5million; a venue improvement programme financed from a capital receipt; and cash reserves of £7.4million;
- there were a number of budget challenges including recovery from Covid; rebuilding cash reserves; creating resilience; implementing the Leisure Services Contract; enhancement of venues and open spaces; generating additional income through investment projects; high inflation; and utility costs;
- the draft budget will see a 0% change in the Levy; a Leisure Services Contract management fee of £2.171million; Leisure Services Contract contingency of £400,000 (Utilities, IT, Pension); increase in revenue from venue investments; inflation increases; utility costs fixed until October 2022; and a surplus from 2021/22 with reserves above the agreed level;
- risks to reserves include further Covid impacts; inflation; not delivering return on investments; and general economic climate.

The Chairman advised Members that the recommendation from the Executive Committee earlier today was to have no change to the Levy for 2022/23, maintain general reserves policy at £3-4million and approval of the growth and savings schedule.

The Section 151 Officer assured Members that the budget was cautious, prudent and realistic. Whilst there were some risks around inflation, the Leisure Services Contract and utilities, the general reserves policy at £3-4million was appropriate.

The Labour group expressed concerns over the budget and suggested a 2% Levy increase. Their reasons for this were concerns surrounding inflation, staffing costs, risk over the Leisure Services Contract, delivery of projects, uncertainty over Covid, pension funding increases, and utility prices. They also felt that staff should be rewarded for their work during an exceptional year and a 2% increase to the Levy would help to fund pay rises.

The Chairman responded stating that the budget accounted for pressures and included contingencies, we also have substantial growth coming up in future years. He went on further to state that any additional money from a Levy increase would only go into our general reserves. The Vice Chairman added that as an Authority we had a history of getting our budget right every year and that the general reserves was sufficient.

On a vote of 15 for and 10 against the following was agreed:

- (1) the proposed Levy of 0% increase for 2022/23;**
- (2) additional expenditure, income and efficiencies as set out in Appendix C to Paper E/751/22 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4312/22;**
- (3) a net revenue budget of £9.8m, as set out in paragraph 28 in Paper E/751/22 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4312/22; and**
- (4) a medium term general reserves policy of £3-4million was approved.**

27 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 (REVISED) TO 2026/27 Paper A/4313/22

The report was introduced by the Head of Finance who explained that the current capital programme was approved by the Executive Committee on 17 December 2021, this report brought together the revisions and latest information on estimated cost and timing of projects through to 2026/27.

A Member asked what was meant by 'hostile vehicle mitigation'. The Corporate Director responded stating that it referred to terrorist attacks and that the plaza area of Lee Valley VeloPark was a risk for this.

- (1) the revised capital programme for 2021/22 (revised) to 2026/27 as set out in Appendix A to Paper E/750/22 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4313/22; and**
- (2) the proposed capital funding to meet the planned capital programme as set out in Appendix B of Paper E/750/22 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4313/22 was approved.**

Rokhsana Fiaz left during the next item.

28 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2021/22 TO 2025/26

Paper A/4314/22

The report was introduced by the Head of Finance, who explained that this paper had been approved by Executive Committee earlier today.

- (1) the Capital Strategy as set out in Paper E/749/22 and Appendices B-D to that report attached as Annex A to Paper A/4314/22; and**
- (2) the Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 to 2025/26 as set out in Appendix A to Paper E/749/22 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4314/22 was approved.**

Dilip Patel left during the next item.

29 FOOD SAFETY POLICY

Paper A/4309/22

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director who explained to Members that this policy was approved by Executive Committee on 17 December 2021.

A Member asked if there was a complaints procedure within the policy. The Corporate Director responded stating that the Authority had a separate complaints procedure.

- (1) the draft Food Safety Policy and associated procedure for adoption was approved.**

John Wyllie, Holly Whitbread and Marshall Vance left during the next item.

30 ICE CENTRE PROJECT UPDATE

The Corporate Director gave a presentation, key points included:

- a timeline of the progress of construction of the new Ice Centre;
- preparation of site – impacts to wildlife have been minimised via careful timing of site works and supervision of vegetation clearance;
- at the start of the demolition an event was held with local political and community stakeholders. The event unveiled artwork on the hoarding created by East London artist, Alice Druitt who worked with local school children to produce it;
- piling works started on 25 October, coinciding with this, foundations were placed on top of the piles and in early November the foundations for the twin pads were excavated with reinforced cages constructed in preparation for this;
- from 15 November steel frames began to form the building structure. The target date for roof works to start was January 2022;
- 95% of the concrete debris and former building components have been recycled;
- to date, all works have remained within noise and dust limits. Community Liaison Meetings have been taking place since works commenced, with a local councillor stating that 'it has been the best run project from a community communication perspective';
- a timeline of construction for the next 6 months.

A Member commented that they were impressed by the artwork on the hoarding and asked if we were going to find a way to keep it. The Corporate Director responded stating that they were thinking of various ways that it could be kept. He added that it was far too good

to lose and it is a good way to make the community feel like the Ice Centre belongs to them and to instil pride.

A Member asked if we had suffered from any material or labour shortages. The Corporate Director responded that we had not as we had ordered materials for the construction of the building early on. There might be a problem when we come to fit out the interior, but it was too soon to tell at the moment. The Head of Communications added that we have taken on apprentices who live in the local area to learn about all aspects of building construction. This was one of our commitments in S106 funding.

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Director and all those who were helping to deliver the Ice Centre project.

31 NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

It was noted that the next meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, 28 April 2022 at 2.00pm.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2pm and ended at 3.50pm