

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**AUTHORITY MEETING
19 OCTOBER 2023**

Members Present: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Ross Houston
David Andrews (Vice Chairman) Rick Jewell
Susan Barker Christopher Kennedy
Richard Bassett Barry Lewis
Nicholas Bennett Graham McAndrew
John Bevan Gordon Nicholson
Janet Burgess Clive Souter
David Gardner Marshall Vance
Mike Garnett Steven Watson
Lesley Greensmyth Terry Wheeler
Steven Heather John Wyllie
Calvin Horner David Holliday (Deputy for Ken Ayling)

Apologies Received From: James Asser, Ken Ayling, Heather Johnson, Rezina Chowdhury

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
Beryl Foster - Deputy Chief Executive
Dan Buck - Corporate Director
Jon Carney - Corporate Director
Keith Kellard - Head of Finance
Paul Coates - Head of Active Communities
Jack Pringle - Sport & Active Recreation Manager
Karen Wheeler - Learning & Engagement Manager
Simon Clark - Head of IT
Michael Sterry - Senior Accountant
Stephen Bromberg - Head of Communications
Julie Smith - Head of Legal
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager
Lindsey Johnson - Committee Services Officer

Also present: Kevin Bartle – S151 Officer (London Borough of Enfield)

Part I

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item No.	Nature of Interest	<i>Prejudicial</i>
Paul Osborn	8	Authority Chairman	✓ <i>Pecuniary</i>
David Andrews	8	Authority Vice Chairman	<i>Pecuniary</i>

10 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023 be approved and signed subject to amendment of Min No 1(b) to David Andrews was appointed as Vice Chairman of the Authority, and correction of the spelling of Richard Thake's surname.

11 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

12 BUSINESS PLAN 2024-27

Paper A/4345/23

The report was introduced by the Chief Executive.

The Chairman commented that at the recent World Canoe Slalom Championships several governing bodies commended the Authority's investment post London 2012 Olympics in Lee Valley White Water Centre.

Member comments included:

- forthcoming legislation on Biodiversity Net Gain offered opportunities to attract developer funding of projects across the Park and if necessary external expertise should be sought to exploit these opportunities;
- Spitalbrook and East India Dock Basin were projects which could fit the criteria for Biodiversity Net Gain;
- the need for more emphasis on social value;
- the need for improved connectivity from the south of the Park;
- in recent years the focus had been on the 'sport' part of the Authority's vision and it was time to shift focus to the 'nature and discovery' parts;
- careful navigation of the various tensions within the business plan was required;
- south London boroughs were of the view that the Park provided minimal value to their residents and consideration needed to be given to providing mirror sites in the south of the Park to change perceptions;
- it was suggested that mechanisms be developed to showcase the Park, similar to Member Tours and camping, to boroughs with low usage;
- it was suggested that engagement should be undertaken with borough Heads of PE and promotion through borough magazines to improve take-up from areas with low usage;
- the need for an apprenticeship scheme to support workforce planning;
- investment was required at Springfield Marina;
- query as to how usage was measured;
- there was a need to work with transport operators to promote accessible transport links and improve transport planning to venues and open spaces;
- support for the Community Access Fund with suggestion that the local relevant Cabinet Member be advised of and invited to visits by organisations from their local area. A communications programme should be undertaken with secondary schools highlighting the Park's facilities and its distance from their respective boroughs.

In response it was advised:

- officers had already started to look at potential sites which lend themselves to being upgraded through credits and preparatory processes were being put in place ahead of Biodiversity Net Gain regulations;
- various mechanisms such as the London Councils Summit and meetings with borough Leaders and Chief Executives had been used in the past to engage with areas of low usage but that a targeted new medium, such as video, could be considered;
- a report on apprenticeships would be presented to Members shortly;
- a report on marina restructuring would be presented to Members in November;

- there were difficulties in obtaining customer data from large and porous areas such as the Park, but visitor surveys were undertaken in open spaces and attendee data was gathered from major events. Major events and unique venues naturally attracted people from a wide area but residents tended to access open spaces near to their homes;
- the Leisure Services Contract venues were required to secure postcodes for activity bookings and this was reported through the Scrutiny Scorecard; and
- acknowledgement of the need to work with relevant authorities to improve future transport planning.

The Chairman commented that:

- with the exception of the London Stadium the Authority was very much the sporting legacy of the London 2012 Olympics, hosting many major events at its venues; and
- request that Members facilitate links with schools to promote the Community Access Fund.

(1) the Authority's 2024-27 Business Plan attached as Appendix A to Paper A/4345/23 was approved.

13 ACTIVE COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Head of Active Communities, Sport & Active Recreation Manager and Learning & Engagement Manager gave a presentation, key points included:

- Community Access Fund overview;
- 2022/23 Headline Data;
- Regionality – How Do We Reach All Corners of the Region;
- What Impact Are We Making?
 - Westminster House, Southwark;
 - The Change Foundation, Sutton;
 - Warriors of Wellbeing, Broxbourne Mental Health Team;
- Working with Disabilities, Sense, Barnet;
- Disability Provision;
- Looking Ahead.

On behalf of Members the Chairman thanked the Active Communities team for their work.

14 COUNTER FRAUD, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION AND WHISTLEBLOWING POLICIES Paper A/4342/23

The report was introduced by the Head of Finance.

The Audit Committee Chairman confirmed the updated policies had been approved by the Audit Committee for recommendation to Authority.

- (1) the revised Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy as set out in Appendix A to report AUD/137/23 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4342/23;**
- (2) the revised Whistleblowing Policy as set out in Appendix B to report AUD/137/23 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4342/23; and**
- (3) the Fraud Response Plan as set out in Appendix C to report AUD/137/23 attached as Annex A to Paper A/4342/23 was approved.**

The Chairman proposed that the next agenda item be chaired by Graham McAndrew.
The Chairman and Vice Chairman left the meeting.
The next agenda item was chaired by Graham McAndrew.

- 15 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - REVIEW OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN ALLOWANCES Paper A/4343/23

The report was introduced by the Deputy Chief Executive.

Members commended the establishment of an Independent Remuneration Panel and its subsequent report.

- (1) the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel attached as Appendix A to Paper A/4343/23 was noted; and**
- (2) the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel detailed in paragraph 15 of Paper A/4343/23 was approved.**

The Chairman and Vice Chairman returned to the meeting and the Chairman resumed chairing the remainder of the meeting.

- 16 REVIEW OF MEETING VENUES FOR THE AUTHORITY Paper A/4344/23

The report was introduced by the Deputy Chief Executive.

Member comments included:

- support for use of the meeting room at Lee Valley White Water Centre;
- the need to consider meeting venue accessibility by sustainable transport and Member's carbon footprint. Whilst the meeting room at Lee Valley White Water Centre was a good meeting space, the venue was not easily accessible by public transport for Members travelling from south London;
- suggestion that Stratford was a good meeting location with excellent public transport links;
- suggestion to alternate meeting venues inside and outside of London which would also enhance Member familiarity with various Authority venues;
- the need for a move to paperless meetings with Members wanting to continue receiving hard copy papers to opt-in;
- in the longer term review of meeting venues and public transport links to be undertaken;
- the proposal for future development at Spitalbrook which included a new Authority Head Quarters should be factored into considerations;
- Nicholas Bennett advised he would be happy to take the need for Authority venues to be accessible by sustainable transport links to London Councils via membership of the Transport & Environment Committee.

The Chairman proposed that Lee Valley White Water Centre be the venue for full Authority meetings for the next 12 months.

Vote: 14 for, 4 against, 5 abstentions.

- (1) **alternating the venue of Authority meetings was considered; and**
- (2) **to review the impact on attendance at these meetings after 12 months was approved.**

17 **NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, 18 January 2024 at 2.00pm.

18 **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	Leisure Services Contract Management Fee Adjustment	3
19	LEISURE SERVICES CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FEE ADJUSTMENT	Paper A/4341/23

The report was introduced by the Head of Finance.

- (1) **total one-off payment to Greenwich Leisure Limited as detailed in paragraph 30 of Paper A/4341/23;**
- (2) **cumulative change to the Leisure Operators Base Trading Account and annual Management Fee as detailed in paragraph 30 of Paper A/4341/23 was approved; and**
- (3) **the current estimate for Year 1 Utilities Risk Share payment as detailed in paragraph 32 of Paper A/4341/23 was noted.**

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.00pm and ended at 3.40pm