LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES 23 FEBRUARY 2023

Members Present: David Gardner (Chairman) Lesley Greensmyth

Suzanne Rutland-Barsby (Vice Chairman) Terry Wheeler

John Bevan Mike Garnett

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive

Beryl Foster - Deputy Chief Executive
Dan Buck - Corporate Director
Keith Kellard - Head of Finance

Vince Donaldson - Senior Contracts & Quality Manager

Lindsey Johnson - Committee Services Officer

Also Present Remotely: Debbie Hansen - External Auditor (Ernst & Young)

Oliver Randall - External Auditor (Ernst & Young)

Part I

244 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

245 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022 be approved and signed.

246 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

247 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

Debbie Hansen and Oliver Randall from Ernst & Young updated Members on the External Audit, key points included:

- We had hoped to have completed the External Audit by the end of October but this has
 not been possible despite the best efforts of both parties. This is due to the complexity
 of property, plant and equipment, the checking of historic records and competing
 priorities.
- The deadline for the checking of historic records has been extended to the end of next week. There is an Ernst & Young resource to assist with this for next week.
- There is now greater focus on property, plant and equipment which has resulted in significantly more work than 10 years ago.
- We are hoping that that we will be in a position to sign-off the accounts towards the end of March.

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Members agreed that they were happy to have an additional Audit Committee meeting in March or April to approve the final accounts for 2020/21.

Terry Wheeler arrived during the next item.

Lesley Greensmyth left during the next item.

248 ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ACCOUNTS CLOSEDOWN TIMETABLE 2022/23

Paper AUD/130/23

The paper was introduced by the Head of Finance who informed Members that normally we would do a closedown timetable, but due to the 2020/21 accounts not being signed off, it is not practical to do so. Paragraph 11 of the report should also have stated that the Regulator has extended the deadline to 30 September until 2027/28. The unaudited accounts will reported at the Audit Committee in June.

The Chairman asked if delays in the audited accounts cost the Authority money. The Head of Finance responded that there will be no direct costs.

The Chairman asked if amendments to IFRS16 would have any significance for the Authority. The Head of Finance responded stating that they would be insignificant in terms of materiality as we have very few pieces of leased equipment.

The Chairman asked what the term 'carrying value' meant. The Head of Finance responded stating that it was just terminology and meant the same as 'asset'.

The Chairman asked if the valuation of the Ice Centre would be reflected in this year's accounts. The Head of Finance responded stating that the build cost will be included along with reference to whether it is still under construction or operational.

Debbie Hansen and Oliver Randall left the meeting.

- (1) the Accounting Policies set out in Appendix A to Paper AUD/130/23 was approved; and
- (2) the key judgements and assumptions set out in paragraphs 8 to 10 of Paper AUD/130/23 was noted.

249 RISK REGISTER 2022/23

Paper AUD/131/23

The paper was introduced by the Corporate Director who informed Members that paragraph 11 of the report overviews the changes that have been made to the Risk Register and items that have been removed relate to Covid.

The Chairman commented that the one outstanding 'red' risk SR2.4 was that of the stability of the contractor. The Corporate Director responded stating that this was an external influence and we have done everything we can to mitigate the risk.

A Member asked about the energy crisis and how at risk we are from further increase. The Corporate Director responded stating that we are protected until October 2023, post October it

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is unknown what the impact will be. We are implementing an LED lighting project and looking at solar energy in order to make ourselves more resilient. There is also contingency in the budget to mitigate and our Procurement Officers are in regular contact with our energy provider, Laser.

The Chairman asked about the negotiated management fee with the contractor if patronage fell below 90%. The Corporate Director responded stating that GLL have produced their Quarter 3 Report which states they are in a good position, so the risk is currently low. They are only able to renegotiate in year 2.

The Chairman asked about recent media reports surrounding swimming pools not being covered by the energy support scheme and asked if sporting venues were similarly affected. The Corporate Director responded stating that there is a national effort to put pressure on the government by way of a letter, which we did comment on. The Chief Executive added that there has not been much traction with the government, it does affect us, but due to being part of a bulk buying energy scheme we are in a better position than others in our sector.

The Chairman noted that there has been an improvement in the workforce situation. The Corporate Director responded stating that many of the positions such as Rangers, Riding Instructors and Leisure Centre Assistants are hard to fill at present, but we are moving in the right direction. The Chairman suggested that this might be something for Members to look into.

The Chairman thanked officers for a detailed report.

(1)	the Corporate approved.	Risk Register	included a	t Appendix	A to Paper	AUD/131/23	was
				_	Chairman		
					Date		

The meeting started at 1pm and ended at 1.33pm