

## 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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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 Risk Register included at Appendix A to Paper AUD/131/23 was approved.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

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Date

The meeting started at 1pm and ended at 1.33pm