Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**AUTHORITY MEETING** 

28 APRIL 2016 AT 14:00

**Agenda Item No:** 

6

**Report No:** 

A/4226/16

# WRITE-OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE ARREARS 2015/16

Presented by the Director of Finance & Resources

### **SUMMARY**

This report advises Members of delegated action taken by the Director of Finance & Resources to write off any irrecoverable arrears below the value of £2,000.

Amounts over this value require individual Member approval. There are no individual sums of irrecoverable arrears over £2,000 for 2015/16.

During 2015/16, 16 debts have been written off under delegated Authority totalling £5,928.99. This is equivalent to 0.08% of the total value of invoices raised for the financial year.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Members Note:

(1) the delegated write offs for 2015/16 as detailed in paragraphs 3 to 7 of this report.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- Members agreed delegated authority to the Director of Finance & Resources to write-off irrecoverable debts with a value of up to £2,000 subject to an annual report on the exercise of that delegation (11 March 1999, Paper FP1594). This delegated authority is part of Financial Regulations (FR 402).
- This report advises Members of action taken by the Director of Finance & Resources during 2015/16 to write off debts considered irrecoverable or uneconomic to pursue.

## **USE MADE OF DELEGATED POWERS TO WRITE-OFF DEBTS**

- The Director of Finance & Resources has written-off 16 individual debts totalling £5,928.99 during 2015/16. A bad debt provision was set aside in respect of these items of £5,777.46 in the 2014/15 accounts, therefore these items will only have a direct impact on the 2015/16 accounts of £151.53.
- 4 A summary of the delegated sums writen off by service area is shown below

(detailed by venue compared with the annual value of invoices raised for that venue):

Facility	Total Delegated Write Offs 2015/16	Total Value of Invoices Raised 2015/16
	£	£
Stanstead Marina	2,400.13	179,313.87
Springfield Marina	0.00	526,520.32
Campsites	0.00	186,673.68
Riding Centre	966.48	273,691.16
Property	0.00	1,434,122.21
VeloPark	0.00	1,477,764.71
White Water Centre	2,470.22	1,107,367.77
Hockey & Tennis Centre	0.00	969,399.73
Ice Centre	0.00	163.202.66
Athletics Centre	0.00	360,406.85
Other	92.16	348,403.03
Total	5,928.99	7,026,865.99

- The Authority/Lee Valley Leisure Trust Limited (the Trust) raised 7,594 invoices during 2015/16, collecting gross income of approximately £7.0million. The sum written-off under delegated authority represents 0.08% of this figure.
- The write-offs under delegation relate to debts accrued before the transfer of facilities to the Trust at the begininning of April 2015 and are the liability of the Authority under the Leisure Services Contract. Any new liabilities arising from this date reside with the Trust.
- 7 Debts written off under delegated authority occur where costs of recovery are anticipated to significantly exceed the debt and that the likelihood of recovery is small. Debt write off is only considered when all normal recovery procedures have been followed and exhausted.

There were two main areas in 2015/16 where debt write-off has been applied – Stanstead Marina and Lee Valley White Water Centre:

- Stanstead Marina £2,400.13 there were four separate debts written off all below £800 where the debtors were either untraceable; had moved abroad or were insolvent.
- Lee Valley White Water Centre £2,470.22 there were six separate debts ranging from £59 to £927 and related to pre-Olympic (2012) practice time for separate national canoe federations. Only one of the federations appears to still be competing internationally. Normal procedures have been exhausted and in addition the former centre manager approached the International Canoe Federation (ICF) regarding the one remaining national body who competed at the World Championships held at the centre. The ICF would not sanction exclusion from their event due to the unpaid debt despite the representations of the manager.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

8 There are no environmental implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Authority has already made a provision for £5,777.16 against these debts to be written off. Therefore there will be a net impact on the 2015/16 revenue outturn of writing off the remaining sum of £151.53.

### **HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

10 There are no human resource implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

11 There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

12 There are no risk management implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

#### **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

13 There are no equality implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

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## **BACKGROUND REPORTS**

Financial Regulations

April 2015

### PREVIOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Authority	Paper A/4204/15	Write off of Irrecoverable Arrears 2014/15	30 April 2015
Authority	Paper A/4184/14	Write off of Irrecoverable Arrears 2013/14	24 April 2014
Authority	Paper A/4168/13	Write off of Irrecoverable Arrears 2012/13	25 April 2013
Authority Part II	Paper A/4156/12	Picketts Lock Indoor Bowls Club	25 October 2012
Authority	Paper A/4144/12	Write off of Irrecoverable Arrears 2011/12	19 April 2012
Authority	Paper A/4117/11	Write off of Irrecoverable Arrears 2010/11	21 April 2011
Executive Committee	Paper E/55/10	Write off of Irrecoverable Arrears 2009/10	20 May 2010

Finance & Performance Committee	Paper FP1720	Write off of Irrecoverable Arrears	6 June 2002
Finance & Performance Committee	Paper FP1594	Irrecoverable Arrears	11 March 1999