

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES
26 MAY 2016**

To: Ross Houston (Chairman) Christine Hamilton
 Stephen Carr (Vice Chairman) Gordon Nicholson
 Gwyneth Deakins Mary Sartin

Apologies Received From: Alan Smith, Syd Stavrou, Lyn White

Officers Present: Simon Sheldon - Director of Finance & Resources
 Dan Buck - Head of Sports & Leisure
 Paul Coates - Sports Development Manager
 Jon Carney - Head of Parklands
 Lindsey Johnson - Committee Services Officer

Also Present: Michael Sterry - Performance & Information Manager – Lee Valley Leisure Trust
 Bill Moran - Head of Venues – Lee Valley Leisure Trust

Part I

119 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item No.	Nature of Interest	<i>Prejudicial</i>
<i>Gordon Nicholson</i>	<i>5 & 6</i>	<i>A Trustee of Herts Young Mariners Base and a Member of Broxbourne Borough Council where the ratings appeal at the Lee Valley White Water Centre was made.</i>	<i>Non-Prejudicial</i> ✓

120 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2016 be approved and signed.

121 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

122 SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

The Head of Sports & Leisure and the Sports Development Manager, gave a presentation on the Schools Festival programme, key points included:

- There have been 9 festivals since 2011, with 400 schools involved.
- The gender split for the festivals at the Lee Valley White Water Centre (LVWWC) and the Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre (LVH&TC) has been fairly equal; at the Lee Valley Velopark there has been a higher ratio of males to females.
- The LVWWC has seen a 7% attendance from children with a disability.

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- The schools selected to attend the festival are done by the individual boroughs, usually by a School Games Manager.
- Satisfaction surveys have given an average satisfaction score of 9.5 across all the festivals, with customer feedback very positive.
- The schools festivals have attracted national and regional media coverage, with on average 8 pieces of media coverage across the region.
- Stakeholder engagement has been good, with attendance from MPs and Leaders of councils.
- We have had 15% repeat visits from schools.
- For future festivals we would like to work on creating a 'festival' feel; look at ways to include more people with disabilities, increase the female take-up at the Velopark; encourage more schools to take up places at the festivals; work on the return offer; and identify potential partners to become involved.

A Member noted that the LVWWC had 7% attendance by disabled children and asked if disabled children were able to take part at the LVH&TC and Velopark. Officers replied that they were especially at Tennis Centre which will link in with the Wheel Chair Masters and that they were also creating bespoke festivals outside of the main festival especially for those with disabilities.

A Member asked what was being done to combat the gender imbalance at the Velopark. Officers replied that they were looking to make the infill activities more appealing for girls along with making the ride on the indoor track an option rather than being compulsory.

A Member asked if the schools festival was a tick box option on the 'how did you hear about us' surveys. Officers replied that it wasn't, but they could look to include it.

Members agreed that looking at ways of getting sponsorship to offset the cost of hosting the schools festivals was worth investigating.

Members agreed that it would be useful to be informed if their boroughs were not taking advantage of the schools festival as they may be able to help. A Member also expressed concern that Academy schools and private schools were missing out.

123 COMMUNITY ACCESS FUND UPDATE

The Head of Sports & Leisure and the Sports Development Manager, gave an update on the Community Access Fund (CAF), key points included:

- From the Sports Development fund over 90 different community groups have now accessed the CAF, including disability groups, youth services, mental health groups and women only groups.
- 15 out of the original 16 identified boroughs have engaged and we are now diversifying into other Boroughs further afield.
- From the Youth and Schools transport fund 18 boroughs have engaged with 21 schools involved.
- Approximately half the CAF budget has been spent and a full report will go to the next Scrutiny Committee meeting in September.

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A Member asked how the boroughs were selected. Officers replied that an area was selected with boroughs from that area selected at random, if the CAF is extended more boroughs will be selected. Groups were selected via a point of contact from each borough, with us trying to make sure we reached out to the most difficult groups.

Members were interested to know how successful the CAF scheme had been in attracting return visits to the Park. Officers responded stating that it was still early days to know and it would be hard to track as we don't obtain individual names from groups. Members suggested a tick box option on the 'how did you hear about us' surveys or offering a 10% discount for a return visit.

Members asked if we do the risk assessments for the schools at our venues. Officers replied that they do for the established programmes and as time goes on they will build on the documents they already have.

Stephen Carr left during the next item.

124 SCRUTINY SCORECARD 2015/16 Q4

Paper S/35/16

The Head of Sports & Leisure introduced the report.

A Member noted that the CO2 emissions were above the annual target. Officers responded that this was due to the canoe championships with the course running for 13 hours per day. A Member suggested that it might be a good idea to put an asterisk on the annual target column with a note to say 'except during major events'.

A Member asked if the staff satisfaction survey was taken every year. Officers replied that it was not and that the last one occurred in 2011. Both the Authority and the Trust would be doing one shortly. A Member suggested that there should be a note on the Scorecard if the information was not up to date.

The Director of Finance and Resources updated Members regarding our ratings valuation appeal at the LVWWC, stating that the new rateable value from 2010-2017 will be £850,000 potentially providing an estimated rebate of £250,000 to the Authority. There has been a lot of development since this valuation which will be factored into the 2017 valuation.

(1) the report was noted.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 1pm and ended at 2.30pm.