

To: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Chris Kennedy
Derrick Ashley (Vice Chairman) Heather Johnson
David Andrews Valerie Metcalfe
John Bevan Alan Searing

A meeting of the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (Quorum – 4) will be held at Myddelton House on:

THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 11:00

at which the following business will be transacted:

AGENDA

Part I

1 To receive apologies for absence

2 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members are asked to consider whether or not they have disclosable pecuniary, other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any item on this Agenda. Other pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests are a matter of judgement for each Member. (Declarations may also be made during the meeting if necessary.)

3 **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2016 (copy herewith)

4 **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

To receive any representations from members of the public or representative of an organisation on an issue which is on the agenda of the meeting. Subject to the Chairman's discretion a total of 20 minutes will be allowed for public speaking and the presentation of petitions at each meeting.

5 **PARK DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

Paper E/461/16

Presented by Stephen Wilkinson, Head of Planning
& Strategic Partnerships

- 6 Such other business as in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting is of sufficient urgency by reason of special circumstances to warrant consideration.
- 7 Consider passing a resolution based on the principles of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, excluding the public and press from the meeting for the items of business listed on Part II of the Agenda, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those sections of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act specified beneath each item.

AGENDA
Part II
(Exempt Items)

- 8 **PROPOSED LEASE FOR CONTRACTORS COMPOUND AT EAST INDIA DOCK BASIN** Paper E/460/16

Presented by Beryl Foster, Director of Corporate Services

[Not for publication following the principles of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Section 3]

- 9 **PROPOSED WAYLEAVE MARSH HILL, HOLYFIELD FARM, NEAR JUNCTION OF CROOKED MILE AND ST LEONARDS ROAD** Paper E/459/16

Presented by Beryl Foster, Director of Corporate Services

[Not for publication following the principles of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Section 3]

- 10 Such other business as in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting is of sufficient urgency by reason of special circumstances to warrant consideration.

14 September 2016

Shaun Dawson
Chief Executive

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
21 JULY 2016**

Members Present: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Heather Johnson
Derrick Ashley (Vice Chairman) Chris Kennedy
David Andrews Valerie Metcalfe
John Bevan Alan Searing

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
Beryl Foster - Director of Corporate Services
Simon Sheldon - Director of Finance & Resources
Stephen Wilkinson - Head of Planning & Strategic Partnerships
Jon Carney - Head of Parklands
Brian Daley - Director of Venues (Lee Valley Leisure Trust Ltd)
Nigel Foxall - Director of Business Support (Lee Valley Leisure Trust)
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager

Part I

745 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item No.	Nature of Interest	
John Bevan	7	Trustee of Lee Valley Leisure Trust Ltd	<i>Non-pecuniary</i>

746 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2016 be approved and signed.

747 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

748 Q1 REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 PERFORMANCE MONITORING Paper E/456/16

The report was introduced by Simon Sheldon, Director of Finance & Resources.

The Chairman advised that some progress was being made on sponsorship income. He commented that the additional un-costed benefits provided by Holyfield Hall Farm were being reviewed to inform any future consideration of the site as current trading performance was unsustainable in the longer term.

Some Members challenged this view, commenting that farming prices were cyclical and that in the longer term trading performance was likely to improve and that the educational benefits of a working farm should not be under-estimated.

In response to a Member's concern about maintenance of Myddelton House and car park it was advised that these were being considered and proposals would be forthcoming.

(1) the report was noted.

749 CAPITAL PROGRAMME BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17 Paper E/455/16

The report was introduced by Simon Sheldon, Director of Finance & Resources.

(1) the report was noted.

750 LEISURE SERVICES CONTRACT MONITORING REPORT - Paper E/457/16
Q1 2016/17

The report was introduced by Simon Sheldon, Director of Finance & Resources.

The Chairman commended the excellent work and commitment of both Authority and Trust staff in the delivery of major sporting events.

Members highlighted the following:

- the advantages of utilising in-house expertise from the experienced technical ice centre officer team for the Ice Centre project;
- the slight decrease in customer satisfaction at Lee Valley White Water Centre related to operation of the Cafe.

In response it was advised that actions were being put in place to address both issues.

(1) the report was noted.

751 PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION TO THE LONDON STANSTED Paper E/458/16
CAMBRIDGE CONSORTIUM

The report was introduced by Stephen Wilkinson, Head of Planning & Strategic Partnerships.

(1) the total contribution of £12,000 divided equally between the Authority and the Trust to the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium for 2016/17 was approved.

752 LEVY STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

TABLED draft Terms of Reference

Some Members considered that the levy strategy was being driven by a small number of conservative south London boroughs and were concerned that a significant reduction in the levy would adversely affect the current high quality of community focused service provision. It was also highlighted that including income generating stretch targets for open spaces could be problematical to introduce. Given that it was nearly 50 years since the establishment of the Park Authority a strategic long term review of funding structures would be supported but a short term significant levy reduction in response to the concerns of a minority of councils was not considered proportionate.

Other Members highlighted that the Trust considered the management fee could be significantly reduced given capital investment in venues and considered that the Authority's responsibility was to utilise public money to secure the best use of resources and that by increasing income to become more self-sufficient would enable services to grow. The aim was to increase usage whilst decreasing the levy. The medium term financial plan already included a 2% reduction in the levy in anticipation of a possible reduction. This downward

trend was welcomed by the majority of boroughs and county councils in light of the continuing financial pressure they faced.

The Chairman reiterated that all Members were welcome to attend Working Group meetings.

The following Terms of Reference were approved:

To develop a 4 year levy strategy (2017/18-2020/21) and financial plan that delivers the statutory objectives of LVRPA, whilst reducing the burden on the tax payer. In response to the current political climate around the levy and the uncertain economic climate it is proposed that the Authority looks at options for a significant reduction of the levy during the period 2017/18 to 2020/21.

Suggested areas to cover could include:

- i) Review levying for capital by 2020 (i.e., at the end of the existing capital programme) all capital funding to be generated from Land/Capital sales (with short term borrowing to bridge any cash-flow gaps, e.g., ice centre project).
- ii) Reducing Leisure Services Contract management fee by - half by 2020 - potential saving £1.6m – consideration of future contract to deliver other half of £1.6m say by 2020-2025 (the Trust say this requires further capital investment).
- iii) Review Grounds Maintenance specification.
- iv) Review investment opportunities e.g., Picketts Lock development.
- v) Consideration of transfer of further services to 3rd party organisations.
- vi) Shared Services with neighbouring Authorities/institutions.
- vii) Recommend income generating stretch target for open spaces.
- viii) Savings targets for service review areas, e.g., IT infrastructure.
- ix) Review level of general reserves £4m – transfer of risk to third parties e.g., Leisure Services Contract and other contracts.
- x) Specify time-scales for reduction e.g., 3, 5, 10 years?
- xi) Assess each income generation/cost saving area in terms of level of confidence and timeline.
- xii) Recommend a levy reduction target for 2017/18.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.00pm and ended at 2.55pm.

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LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

22 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 11:00

Agenda Item No:

5

Report No:

E/461/16

PARK DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Presented by the Head of Planning and Strategic Partnerships

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks the Committee's endorsement of the proposed spend from the capital budget for the Park Development Framework. The principal items include the commissioning of strategic policies supported by an evidence base designed to replace the strategic policies included in the adopted Park Plan (1998). Other proposals include investment in the Bittern Information Point, Fishers Green, in new cameras and cabling. In addition, following last year's Member tour, implementation of a landscape scheme on the northern section of Carthage.

RECOMMENDATION

Members Approve: (1) the proposed areas of spend.

BACKGROUND

- 1 Preparation of the Park Development Framework (PDF) commenced in 2007 and comprises a suite of documents which have been adopted since 2008. The Authority adopted a Vision document in 2010 and Thematic Proposals in 2011. These set out the Authority's aspiration for the future development and management on a Park wide thematic basis. Since 2011 the Authority has adopted detailed area proposals for those parts of the Regional Park south of the M25 and work on those areas extending north to Ware is in draft, following consultation in 2015, after which work was paused for a number of reasons including the Authority's challenge in the Court of Appeal against the decision of Epping Forest District Council to grant planning permission for an extension to existing glasshouse premises in Paynes Lane, Nazeing.

PROPOSED AREAS OF SPEND

- 2 Informal advice received from Counsel advises that the Authority's adopted strategic policies in the Park Plan (1998) are out of date and require revision. The policies were informed by a series of topic studies developed during the mid 1990s. Since this time the social, economic and physical context of the Regional Park has changed considerably. In a broader context these changes include the adverse impact of climate change and unacceptable levels of air pollution.

Locally other changes include the designation of housing zones throughout the Valley with major development sites at Meridian Water, Blackhorse Road, the build out of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and London City Island. Outside London these development pressures are being experienced together with a resurgent glasshouse industry. Further, the Authority through its Land & Property Member Working Group is seeking to identify the best way to accommodate some of these pressures consistent with the Authority's statutory purpose. It is important that the Authority's strategic policies respond to these challenges to create a framework for new detailed proposals going forward.

- 3 £75,000 has been allocated for the development of a new set of topic based papers as an evidence base which will be used to inform development of the strategic policies to guide the Regional Park during the period 2016 – 2035. This work will be informed through consultation with the riparian boroughs and other stakeholders with interests in the Regional Park. The policies will be assessed against a Strategic Environmental Assessment required by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. This work is currently out to tender.

BITTERN INFORMATION POINT

- 4 The Authority has developed the Fishers Green Area as the primary gateway within River Lee Country Park for visitors to access nature. The Bittern Information Point (BIP) is an important feature and the cameras located around Holyfield Lake enable visitors to observe wildlife from within the BIP via a series of video screens. This is a popular feature of this site receiving many visitor compliments.
- 5 £10,000 is required to replace the hardware integral to this system and to support the construction of a new 'cable run' to Holyfield Hall Farm. The monies would be required to purchase new cameras both to record wildlife on the lake and to provide additional surveillance from surrounding areas linked to the Authority's CCTV for the area. These works are in line with the Authority's adopted Park Plan proposals and those emerging in the draft Park Development Framework.

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION OF CARTHAGENA

- 6 Land within the Regional Park at Carthagena lies between the Navigation and Nazeing lagoons, which on the inception of the Authority comprised mainly holiday chalet plots. During the last 30 years this area has been the subject of encroachment by the Gypsy and Traveller community. To address this issue the Authority has adopted proposals in its Park Plan (2000) to purchase sites when they come to market and today the Authority owns all but 6 of the sites. The most recent acquisitions, completed in the last 3 years, include sites at Aquaside and Roselea.
- 7 However large parts of the area need to be integrated into the wider landscape of the Regional Park and it is proposed to spend up to £15,000 on these works. This would be in line with adopted policy and those emerging in the Park Development Framework.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9 These proposals would be taken from the capital budget for the delivery of the Park Development Framework 2016-17. Given the late commissioning of these works there may be underspend by the year end.

HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11 Section 14 of the Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966 (the Park Act) requires the Authority to prepare proposals for the future development and management of the Regional Park.
- 12 The Park Act enables the Authority to make representations to the local planning authority which they shall take into account when determining the planning application.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

The Park Act	Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966
PDF	Park Development Framework
BIP	Bittern Information Point

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