

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES
22 JUNE 2023**

Members Present: John Bevan (Chairman) Mike Garnett
 Gordon Nicholson (Vice Chairman) Steven Heather
 Ken Ayling Terry Wheeler
 Janet Burgess John Wyllie

Apologies Received From: Calvin Horner

In Attendance: David Andrews, David Gardner

Officers Present: Beryl Foster - Deputy Chief Executive
 Jon Carney - Corporate Director (remote presence)
 Dan Buck - Corporate Director
 Paul Roper - Head of Projects & Funding Delivery
 Vince Donaldson - Senior Contracts & Quality Manager
 Lorraine Roper - Research Officer
 Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager

Part I

203 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

204 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2023 be approved and signed.

205 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

206 SCRUTINY SCOPING REVIEW – ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY, Paper S/64/23
 ACTION PLAN AND BASELINE INFORMATION

The report was introduced by the Head of Projects & Funding Delivery, highlighting the monitoring and review section and proposed Key Performance Indicators, requesting comments and feedback.

In response to Member questions it was advised:

- a process for establishing Biodiversity Net Gain was being considered and it was hoped to introduce this from September;
- the strategy was predicated on consideration of new technologies;

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- the introduction of EV charging across the Authority's car parks was being reviewed as part of the spend to save projects. This was subject to further consideration including the large capital outlay which could be required;
- consultants had been commissioned to review the introduction of solar panels on Authority buildings and wind/solar farms across parklands and this complex issue was still under consideration;
- the process for collection of data on sustainable travel by staff, contractors and visitors would be considered.

Member comments included:

- the type of lighting listed under spend to save projects at Edmonton Campsite should be reviewed;
- the format of the Action Plan document to be amended to include an extra column to indicate whether the project was completed or not;
- the need for granularity to be added to the target date for the establishment of wind/solar farms;
- the need for modal split data to generate an increase in sustainable travel;
- destination EV charging was a developing and challenging area and should not be prioritised as there were many other projects which could be progressed meanwhile until a simpler and more uniform UK wide system for EV charging was established. This same issue should be taken into account if any further EV actions are proposed for LVRPA regarding electric vehicles;
- sustainable travel could be supported by promoting local public transport facilities at venues/sites and development of destinations close to public transport facilities.

The Chairman proposed that an update on the Action Plan be provided at future Scrutiny Committees.

(1) the report was noted; and

(2) the proposed next steps for the draft Strategy and Action Plan and that updates on the Action Plan be provided at future meetings were approved.

207 SCRUTINY SCORECARD 2022/23 Q4

Paper S/63/23

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director.

In response to Member questions it was advised:

- the reduction in overall staff numbers, due to venue staff transferring to GLL, and improved monitoring had led to representative only skewed year on year performance comparisons for staff sickness. Performance remained strong compared to most local authorities and was not a matter for concern. A more accurate analysis of year on year performance could be undertaken next year when datasets would be comparable;
- the basis for generation of the stakeholder perception key performance indicator was being reviewed, including use of the London Councils Summit, and an update would be provided at the next meeting;

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- there were a number of issues contributing to the downward direction of travel performance indicators across some open spaces, some of which related to factors which were difficult for the Authority to control, but work with contractors continued to try to improve the situation.

The Chairman noted that the Customer Perspective performance indicator direction of travel was downwards for many of the open spaces.

A Member commented that there was a need for further work with stakeholders, including riparian boroughs, to raise the profile of the Authority, its venues and open spaces.

(1) the report was noted.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 1.00pm and ended at 1.37pm