

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
25 APRIL 2024**

Members Present: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Heather Johnson
Susan Barker Gordon Nicholson
Ross Houston Richard Thake (Deputy Member for
Graham McAndrew)

Apologies Received From: David Andrews, Chris Kennedy, Graham McAndrew

In Attendance: John Bevan, David Gardner

Officers Present: Beryl Foster - Deputy Chief Executive
Dan Buck - Corporate Director
Jon Carney - Corporate Director
Claire Martin - Head of Planning
Cath Patrick - Conservation Manager
Julie Smith - Head of Legal
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager
Lindsey Johnson - Committee & Members' Services Officer

Also present: Kevin Bartle - S151 Officer (London Borough of Enfield)

Part I

321 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

322 MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS

THAT the minutes of the meetings held on 21 and 25 March 2024 be approved and signed.

323 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

324 PREPARING FOR BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

Paper E/850/24

The report was introduced by the Head of Planning.

Ross Houston joined the meeting.

In response to Members it was advised:

- it was anticipated that local planning authorities were likely to prefer any Biodiversity Net Gain to be delivered within their respective planning authority area;

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES 25 APRIL 2024

- Biodiversity Net Gain would not apply to already granted planning permissions but most local authorities would have a policy requiring biodiversity uplift; and
- a lot of local authorities did not currently have appropriately trained staff to implement Biodiversity Net Gain and consequently considerable recruitment was in progress.

Member comments included:

- Biodiversity Net Gain provided huge opportunity for the Authority to deliver habitat enhancements across its land holdings as unlike developers securing such works over a 30 year period was not a concern;
- many local authorities faced capacity restraints in terms of implementing Biodiversity Net Gain and it was suggested that the Authority could explore the potential for providing assistance/expertise to local authorities;
- appropriate policies were required to ensure there were no conflicts of interest for the Authority with regard to developmental impacts on the perimeter of its land holdings;
- Biodiversity Net Gain requirements for ongoing development around East India Dock Basin could potentially help the Authority deliver its long term habitat enhancements for the site;
- it would be beneficial to have some schemes ready to go off the shelf;
- protection of habitat enhancements from visitors should also be considered; and
- offer of a discussion on the potential of working together should be included within the proposed communication with riparian planning authorities.

Heather Johnson joined the meeting during the above discussion.

- (1) the work that officers have undertaken, as set out in paragraphs 32 to 33 of Paper E/850/24, and the next steps proposed in order to be in a position to benefit from Biodiversity Net Gain and in particular its proposal, set out in paragraphs 34 to 37 of Paper E/850/24, to undertake a two-phase study to identify potential sites within its ownership that could be enhanced and managed as Biodiversity Net Gain sites;**
- (2) officers will present the findings of the study to Members in the autumn and that these findings will inform the development of a position statement in respect of Authority landholdings to guide responses to enquiries from developers and internal land management decisions were noted; and**
- (3) that a formal request will be made to all the riparian planning authorities to:**
 - a. involve the Authority in early discussions regarding Biodiversity Net Gain and the Biodiversity Net Gain Plan where these are likely to affect the biodiversity of the Regional Park and/or require offsetting;**
 - b. ensure that the Authority is formally consulted on any Biodiversity Net Gain Plan relating to land within or adjacent to the Regional Park boundary; and**
 - c. discuss with the Authority any assistance it may be able to consider providing in respect of the Biodiversity Net Gain process was approved.**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
25 APRIL 2024**

325 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, HIGHER TIER
- SILVERMEADE AND BROXBOURNE MEADOWS

Paper E/851/24

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director.

- (1) to enter into an extension to the current Environmental Stewardship Agreement with the Rural Payments Agency for the Authority's identified landholdings at Silvermeade and Broxbourne Meadows until 30 September 2028 was approved.**

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 10.40am and ended at 11.06am