

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**AUTHORITY MEETING
25 APRIL 2024**

Members Present: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Steven Heather
David Andrews Calvin Horner
James Asser Ross Houston
Ken Ayling Heather Johnson
Susan Barker Gordon Nicholson
Richard Bassett Clive Souter
John Bevan Marshall Vance
Janet Burgess Steven Watson
Rezina Chowdhury Terry Wheeler
Mike Garnett John Wyllie
David Gardner Richard Thake (Deputy Member for Graham
Lesley Greensmyth McAndrew)

Apologies Received From: Nicholas Bennett, Rick Jewell, Chris Kennedy, Barry Lewis,
Graham McAndrew

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

Also present: Kevin Bartle - S151 Officer, LB Enfield

Part I

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2024 be approved and signed.

32 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

33 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS WAIVERS 2023/24

Paper A/4349/24

The report was introduced by the Head of Finance.

In response to Members it was advised:

- for future reporting the value of each waiver would be included; and

- the number of waivers in 2023/24 was higher than in the past. This reflected the low financial thresholds within Financial Regulations and the specialist and ageing portfolio of Authority properties. The appropriateness of financial thresholds would be considered as part of the forthcoming review of Financial Regulations.

(1) the report was noted.

34 WRITE-OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE ARREARS 2023/24 Paper A/4350/24

The report was introduced by the Head of Finance.

A Member commended the low level of debt write-off.

(1) the debts written-off under delegated authority in 2023/24 were noted.

35 PROPOSAL FOR ADDITIONAL VISITOR ACCOMMODATION Paper A/4351/24
ENHANCING THE OFFER AT SEWARDSTONE CAMPSITE

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director.

(1) the three phases of development outlined within Paper A/4351/24;

(2) the use of the revenue returns to fund the project; and

(3) a financial waiver for the purchase of the hotel pods at a cost of £123,000 as outlined in paragraph 6 of Paper A/4351/24 were approved.

36 WORKING FOR BIODIVERSITY ACROSS THE REGIONAL PARK

The Conservation Manager gave a presentation, including:

- the Authority's land holdings provided an amazing resource for biodiversity;
- the sporting venues made an important contribution to improving biodiversity;
- designated ecological sites across the Regional Park;
- Biodiversity Team overview;
- working across the Authority;
- Biodiversity Action Plan and recent projects;
- raising awareness;
- working across the region – Floating Pennywort Removal;
- Biodiversity Net Gain;
- Biodiversity Net Gain – Developer;
- Biodiversity Net Gain – Landowner;
- Biodiversity Net Gain – Work to date;
- Biodiversity Net Gain – Nest steps.

Members commended the biodiversity work undertaken.

Member comments included:

- concern regarding staffing resource to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain work;
- Biodiversity Net Gain could provide a good investment stream for habitat enhancement across the Regional Park;

- it would be beneficial to have available a number of off the shelf schemes;
- the potential for assistance/expertise that the Authority could consider providing to local authorities should be explored;
- there was a huge appetite amongst community groups and local residents for involvement in biodiversity activities;
- suggestion for collaboration with local authorities and visiting schools in regard to biodiversity;
- there were many opportunities across the Park, especially in the south, for delivery of biodiversity net gain;
- suggestion that habitat enhancements could also be funded through Section 106, Community Infrastructure Levy and Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy;
- suggestion of partnership working through Epping Forest; and
- the recent Member Tour had been beneficial in seeing completed and in progress habitat enhancement works.

In response to Members it was advised:

- the Biodiversity Action Plan was supported by a number of SMART targets and reporting of work completed could be included in a refresh of the Biodiversity Action Plan;
- engagement with community groups and volunteers was undertaken and delivery of some habitat projects relied heavily on community involvement; and
- the Learning & Engagement team provided a variety of learning outside the classroom opportunities.

The Chairman commented that resourcing would be considered as part of the budget process.

37 NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

It was noted that the next meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, 4 July 2024 at 2.00pm at Lee Valley White Water Centre.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.05pm and ended at 2.56pm