

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
23 MARCH 2023**

Members Present: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Heather Johnson
David Andrews (Vice Chairman) Chris Kennedy
Susan Barker Graham McAndrew
Ross Houston Mary Sartin

In Attendance: John Bevan, David Gardner

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
Beryl Foster - Deputy Chief Executive
Dan Buck - Corporate Director
Jon Carney - Corporate Director
Keith Kellard - Head of Finance
Dave Hutley - Head of Parklands
Paul Roper - Head of Projects & Funding Delivery
Victoria Yates - Head of Human Resources
Jason Painter - Farm Manager
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager

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

Part I

233 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

234 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

235 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

236 ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Paper E/804/23

The report was introduced by the Head of Projects and Funding Delivery.

Member comments included:

- given the Authority's remit there may be an external expectation that the Authority would be an exemplar of environment excellence;
- wording of the draft Policy could be more ambitious;
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charging and solar should be included;

- the Park was an artery running through many local authorities and the ability to cycle the length of the Park would encourage the use of alternative modes of transport;
- the need for regular review of the policy;
- a target date in terms of net zero was required to cascade consequent targets to enable a structure to be developed to set out the direction of travel; and
- some environmental projects may not be financially beneficial but should be considered given other benefits.

In response to Member questions it was advised:

- a strategy and action plan was being developed which would detail delivery of Environment Policy aspirations;
- officers have been attending environmental seminars and conferences, will be undertaking training and access external expert support as required;
- a venue based approach had been adopted for identification of potential environmental projects and provided the framework and direction of travel in the widest sense of the policy;
- an officer group was reviewing EV charging across the Park;
- solar panels had been included in the Ice Centre redevelopment and Authority buildings would be assessed for solar panel installation. However, issues with grid connection could influence possible installations;
- the financial treatment of environmental projects would be considered on an individual basis and it was hoped to secure some external funding.

The Scrutiny Committee Chairman thanked officers for their work in developing a draft Environment Policy and identifying potential environmental projects by venue, and that the Scrutiny Committee would continue to review and guide development of the draft Environmental Strategy and Action Plan.

The Chairman commented that the Authority's environmental ambitions would be demonstrated by delivery of projects rather having a net zero target date.

- (1) the report was noted;**
- (2) the revised draft Environment Policy be recommended to Authority for adoption; and**
- (3) the Scrutiny Committee continue to review and guide the development of the Draft Environmental Strategy and Action Plan was approved.**

John Bevan left the meeting.

237 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Paper E/805/23

The report was introduced by the Head of Human Resources including that training and development had been taking place whilst the policy was being updated.

- (1) the Training and Development Policy attached at Appendix A to Paper E/805/23 be recommended to Authority for adoption was approved.**

The report was introduced by the Head of Parklands and Farm Manager.

In response to Member questions it was advised:

- fencing of some fields will be undertaken and there will be specific areas where the public can view the cattle from footpaths. Cows with calves would graze in fields close to the farm where there were no footpaths. The weaned calves would then be used to graze the Park as a whole;
- a suckler herd was a less intensive and more organic cattle management system than dairy but there was no current intention to move the farm to organic status;
- the dairy machinery, equipment and herd will be sold;
- the differing levels of the dairy shed will be rectified to one flat level;
- income from the photovoltaic system should increase as the farm will use less of its energy production as the cattle will be out in the field a lot more;
- there is the opportunity to have a small number of rare breeds in the right locations;
- there has not been any educational activity at the farm for the past few years;
- the farm already has a beef operation, so a suckler herd is not a new activity;
- the number of dairy herds in the south east of England has greatly reduced due to demographics, difficulties in feeding animals and keeping cattle on a grass fed diet; and
- conversion to a suckler herd will reduce the Authority's exposure to world markets pricing fluctuations

- (1) **conversion from Dairy to a Suckler herd;**
- (2) **amendments to the Authority's capital programme as set out in paragraphs 20 and 21 of Paper E/806/23; and**
- (3) **amendment of the Authority's revenue budget 2023/24 as set out in paragraph 19 of Paper E/806/23 was approved.**

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director.

The Audit Committee Chairman commented that the overall position had improved in terms of the number of risks identified as high risk.

- (1) **the Corporate Risk Register included at Appendix A to Paper AUD/131/23 attached as Annex A to Paper E/803/23 be noted.**

The report was introduced by the Deputy Chief Executive including that the proposed amendment needed to be recommended to Authority for approval.

- (1) **the amendment of Standing Order 94 as detailed in paragraph 6 of Paper E/807/23; and**

- (2) **delegation to the Deputy Chief Executive to make any minor changes to assist in interpretation or clarification or to correct any administrative errors or omissions that have been overlooked be recommended to Authority for approval.**

241 **EXEMPT ITEMS**

THAT based on the principles of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the items of business below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information again on the principles as defined in those sections of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Section Number
12	Lee Valley White Water Centre Ramp Funding Agreement	3

242 **LEE VALLEY WHITE WATER CENTRE RAMP FUNDING AGREEMENT** Paper E/808/23

The report was introduced by the Corporate Director.

- (1) **the key terms and conditions of the funding agreement for £150,000 external funding as set out in paragraphs 15-19 of Paper E/808/23;**
- (2) **delegation to the Head of Legal Services to make any non-material changes to the terms and conditions and to finalise the funding agreement with British Canoeing;**
- (3) **subject to entering into the funding agreement, entering into a JCT Design & Build Contract with Carmelcrest Limited on standard terms for construction of the ramp; and**
- (4) **the signing and sealing of all documentation as necessary was approved.**

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 11.37am and ended at 12.35pm