

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING 23 JANUARY 2020

Members Present: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Christopher Kennedy
David Andrews Graham McAndrew
Derrick Ashley Valerie Metcalfe
Ken Ayling Gordon Nicholson
John Bevan Nigel Quinton
Ricki Gadsby Mary Sartin
David Gardner John Wyllie
Christine Hamilton Terry Hone (Deputy for Frances Button)
Ross Houston Steven Heather (Deputy for Syd Stavrou)
Heather Johnson Chris Whitbread (Deputy for Simon Walsh)
Denise Jones

Apologies Received From: Frances Button, Mike Garnett, Syd Stavrou, Simon Walsh, Claudia Webbe

In Attendance: Ian Kemp (Deputy Member, East Herts District Council)

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
Beryl Foster - Director of Corporate Services
Simon Sheldon - Director of Finance & Resources
Dan Buck - Head of Sport & Leisure
Stephen Bromberg - Head of Communications
Victoria Yates - HR Strategic Business Manager
Brian Daley - Project Consultant
Alice Akillian - Solicitor
Melissa Sweetland - Committee & Members' Services Officer
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager

Part I

21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item No.	Nature of Interest
David Gardner	7 & 11	The Royal Borough of Greenwich nominate 2 Councillors to the GLL Board <i>Non-pecuniary</i>

22 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2019 be approved and signed.

23 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

24 2020/21 REVENUE BUDGET AND LEVY

Paper A/4276/20

The Director of Finance & Resources gave a presentation, including:

- Purpose;
- Background;

- Financial Position;
- Levy 2020/21;
- Impact on Reserves;
- Conclusions; and
- Recommendations.

A Member expressed concern that the proposed 0% increase in the levy for 2020/21 would not enable the Authority to remediate the large amounts of contaminated land across the Park.

Members remarked that the Authority should be able to benefit financially, through Section 106 monies and the Community Infrastructure Levy, as a related amenity value from large scale developments taking place across the region. In response it was advised that the new management structure included capacity to capitalise on these funding streams.

Members requested that the next Budget Workshop include analysis of the levy calculation basis between local authorities and changes in population.

Members highlighted the climate emergency and the need for the Authority's work programme to contribute towards a reduction in carbon dioxide.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Finance & Resources for his prudent work on budgeting which had contributed to the Authority's current financial position.

- (1) a 0% increase in the levy for 2020/21;**
- (2) additional expenditure, income and efficiencies as set out in Appendix B to Paper E/654/20;**
- (3) revenue financing for the capital programme of £1.2m as set out in paragraph 21 of Paper E/654/20;**
- (4) a net revenue budget of £9.3m as set out in paragraph 31 of Paper E/654/20; and**
- (5) a revised medium term general reserves policy of £3-4m as set out in paragraph 30 of Paper E/654/20 was approved.**

25 WORK PROGRAMME: PROGRESS UPDATE

The Chief Executive gave a presentation, including:

- Lee Valley Ice Centre;
- The Wave Bristol;
- Picketts Lock The Wave;
- Proposed Hotel Development at Eton Manor;
- Hotel Concept Design;
- East India Dock Basin;
- College World of Sport;
- Bittern Information Point Project;
- Commercial Partnerships; and
- 2020-25 Business Plan Priority Areas.

Members made suggestions for environmental improvements to the concept design for the proposed hotel development at Eton Manor and queried the connectivity of the area with public transport. In response it was advised that a marketing exercise for a leisure development for

the site had been undertaken and strong interest had been received for a hotel development. A hotel development would complement Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre both on a day to day basis and during major events organised by England Hockey.

Whilst welcoming The Wave project at Picketts Lock a Member highlighted the need for affordable pricing. The Chairman commented that it was anticipated a similar operation to that at Lee Valley White Water Centre, where cheaper activities were available alongside rafting, would be available.

Denise Jones left the meeting.

26 OPTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE SIX SPORTS VENUES

Paper A/4278/20

This report and the part 2 report were considered together and were introduced by the Chief Executive, including:

- the Authority needed to put arrangements in place for management of the 6 sports venues as of 1 April 2020 to trigger the TUPE process which required a minimum of 45 days;
- extending the existing contract and related commercial lease arrangements with Lee Valley Leisure Trust Ltd was not an option as the contract was for 14 venues and it had already been agreed that the 8 smaller venues would be brought back under Authority management and this process was already underway;
- the process of negotiating an interim contract with a third party operator would be extremely challenging given the timeframe and other pressures;
- bringing the 6 sports venues back under Authority management would bring clarity and be a positive message to staff following a period of uncertainty;
- it was imperative that the major events planned between May and June were not impacted by other issues;
- officers would be reviewing all options for addressing the 6 sports venues business rates liability in the short term.

Members highlighted the importance of resolving uncertainty for staff.

In response to a Member it was advised that simply transferring management of the 8 smaller venues to Lee Valley Leisure Trust Limited would have been contrary to procurement regulations and would have exposed the Authority to possible further legal action from other operators. Returning the venues to Authority management and carrying out a business model review for each venue would be of financial benefit in the longer term.

Members considered options for management of the 6 sports venues and concluded that returning the venues to Authority management for an interim period was the option that offered the most certainty to the Authority around business continuity, staff, management of costs and the ability to move the organisation forward. Interim contracts with either Lee Valley Leisure Trust Limited or GLL could potentially lead to a legal challenge from either organisation or other potential operator.

Members acknowledged receipt of a letter dated 22 January 2020 from the Lee Valley Leisure Trust Limited Board. The Chairman advised that the Authority was open to following the dispute resolution procedure set out in the Leisure Services Contract or another form of alternative dispute resolution.

- (1) bringing the six sports venues under Authority management for a short period from 1 April 2020 following expiry of the current Leisure Services Contract and**

pending the application to lift the block on signing the longer Leisure Services Contract with GLL for the reasons set out in the report was noted; and

- (2) the Executive Committee recommendation that the Authority commences the TUPE process in relation to the six sports venues was approved.

There were 2 abstentions: John Bevan and David Gardner.

27 NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

It was noted that the next meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, 23 April 2020 at 2.00pm at Myddelton House, Bulls Cross, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 9HG.

28 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
11	Options for management of the six sports venues	3

29 OPTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE SIX SPORTS VENUES Paper A/277/20

- (1) bringing the six sports venues under Authority management for a short period from 1 April 2020 following expiry of the current Leisure Services Contract and pending the application to lift the block on signing the longer Leisure Services Contract with GLL for the reasons set out in the report was noted; and
- (2) the Executive Committee recommendation that the Authority commences the TUPE process in relation to the six sports venues was approved.

There were 2 abstentions: John Bevan and David Gardner.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.00pm and ended at 3.35pm