

Mr Jon Rowney
Executive Director of Corporate Resources & Customer Services
London Borough of Camden
Town Hall
Argyle Street
London
WC1H 8NG

14 February 2024

Notice of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Levy 2024/25

Dear Mr Rowney

Please find attached the formal notice of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Levy for 2024/25. Under legislation it is required that the Levy be apportioned on the Band D Council Tax Base between London Local Authorities, the County Councils of Hertfordshire and Essex and the Unitary Authority of Thurrock.

In deciding this year's levy the Authority had to consider an incredibly challenging economic context alongside our statutory duty to create and continually improve a high quality, sustainable, regional visitor destination for the communities of London, Essex and Hertfordshire whilst remaining solvent and viable.

Therefore, and following agreement by the Authority's Executive Committee and the full Authority on 18 January 2024, Members have approved a 3% increase in the levy for 2024/25 which takes it to an amount equivalent to 92p per person. The total amount to be raised by the levy for 2024/25 will be £10,966,100. Individual annual contributions vary based on your Band D Council Tax submission to the Authority.

We are acutely aware of the pressures which local authorities are facing. This is not a decision we have taken lightly and it is important to put it in the context of significant savings and efficiencies we have had to find since the beginning of the pandemic and continue to make now to further close the funding gap. Even with this rise, the levy will have reduced by over 54% in real terms since 2014/15. We have enclosed a more detailed briefing with this letter to explain more about the context and rationale around this decision.

The 26 mile long park is intrinsic to the region's sports and leisure tapestry and the health of communities across London, Essex and Hertfordshire. It provides opportunities for millions of people to take part in activities in inspirational sports venues and enjoy award winning open spaces. We had nine million visits last year from across the region of people exercising, playing sport, enjoying nature and improving their physical and mental wellbeing.

We are continuing to invest in opportunities for the vast range of communities the park serves. We have recently opened the stunning new Lee Valley Ice Centre in east London, which will attract over half a million visits a year from across the region. We recently approved our Business Plan for the period 2024-2027 which includes our commitment to improving our environmental performance, but reducing our carbon footprint, improving our sustainability, reducing energy consumption, and improving the Park's landscape and biodiversity. We are also developing investment plans across our sporting venues, marinas and accommodation offers. These investments will generate additional income streams and help to strengthen the Authority's long-term financial position.

Finally, I enclose the necessary financial information for the Council Tax and Business Rate Payers and I would be grateful if you would incorporate this within any material which you will be submitting with this year's Council Tax bill.

If you have any queries about any aspect of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kellard', with a large initial 'K'.

Keith Kellard
Head of Finance

Formal Notice Of The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Levy For 2024/25

London Borough of Camden

The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority hereby require you to levy in respect of the year beginning on the first day of April 2024 the sum of **£236,852.76** and to make payment on account of the total amount due hereunder, as ascertained under Section 48 (as amended by The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992) of the Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966, to:

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority,
National Westminster Bank Plc,
9 The Town,
Enfield, Middlesex
Account Number **42539242**
Sort Code **60-07-38**

by twelve equal instalments of **£19,737.73** on or before:

25 April 2024
24 May 2024
25 June 2024
25 July 2024
23 August 2024
25 September 2024
25 October 2024
25 November 2024
24 December 2024
24 January 2025
25 February 2025
25 March 2025

This levy relates to the whole of your Authority's area.

The total council tax base for the area of Greater London, the County of Hertfordshire, the County of Essex and the Unitary Authority of Thurrock for 2024/25 is **4,244,480.95**

The amount raised by way of levy on Hertfordshire County Council, Essex County Council, the London Councils and the Unitary Authority of Thurrock for 2024/25 totals **£10,966,100**.

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Lee Valley Regional Park is a unique leisure, sports and environmental destination for all residents of London, Essex and Hertfordshire. The 26 mile long, 10,000 acre Park, much of it formerly derelict land, is partly funded by a levy on the council tax. This year there has been a 3% increase in this levy. Find out more about hundreds of great days out, world class sports venues and award winning parklands at www.visitleevalley.org.uk

Budget/Levy 2024/25 (£'million)

	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Authority Operating Expenditure	15.5	15.3
Authority Operating Income	(7.3)	(7.8)
Net Service Operating Costs	8.2	7.5
Financing Costs - Debt servicing/repayments	2.0	2.2
- Capital investment	0.9	1.3
Total Net Expenditure	11.1	11.0
Net use of Reserves	(0.5)	(0.0)
Total Levy	(10.6)	(11.0)

Further details on how this budget is spent and the amount each council contributes can be found at www.leevalleypark.org.uk.