

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

12 February 2021

Notice of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Levy 2021/22

Dear Mr Rowney

Please find attached the formal notice of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Levy for 2021/22. 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 was mindful of the considerable financial pressures facing all our contributing authorities, the continuing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on communities across the region and its own finances, as well as its own statutory duties governed by the Lee Valley Regional Park Act 1966.

Following agreement by the Authority's Executive Committee and the full Authority on 21 January 2021, Members approved a 2% increase in the levy for 2021/22. The total amount to be raised by the levy for 2021/22 will be £9,767,600 - the same as it was 19 years ago. Individual annual contributions vary based on your Band D Council Tax submission to the Authority.

Over the last decade we have been able to generate a greater proportion of our running costs ourselves, lessening demands on the local taxpayer. Through this careful management of our finances, the levy will be 81p per head of population, having decreased by over 56% (or £6.9m) in real terms since 2010/11, in cash terms by 20% (or £2.5m) and will be just 37% of what we the Act allows us to charge.

This is the first Levy rise in 11 years – and, even though it is modest, this is not a decision we have taken lightly. We have been able to freeze or reduce the Levy every year since 2010/11 while, at the same time, continuing the transformation of the Lee Valley, expanding sport and opportunities for communities across London, Essex and Hertfordshire, taking on the responsibility for three London 2012 legacy venues and attracting increasing numbers of visitors.

However, like everyone in the sport and leisure arena, our paid for activities have been decimated by Coronavirus. Income and visitors to these are both down by around 80%. When we were able to open during the summer, we operated sell out public sessions, testimony to the quality of what we offer, our Covid secure environment and the demand for what we do. Whilst the Authority has managed to benefit from the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the business rates holiday, it has still had to use a significant portion of its reserves to get through 2020/21. The Authority has sought to build a cautious budget for what will be a difficult and uncertain 2021/22 and this has involved having to find savings of approximately £1million (11%).

While visits to our sports venues are down, there has never been a greater focus on physical activity, mental well-being and the importance of exercise. The 26 mile long, 10,000 acre park – which stretches from the River Thames through Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to Essex and Hertfordshire – has never been busier. Our open spaces have never been so well used and their value has never been so clear. During the pandemic, millions more people have used the park as a place to recharge, to walk, run or cycle, to spend time outdoors or to get close to nature. We have seen 10m visits to the park during the pandemic – up from 7.3m the year before.

The 2% rise will help us to continue providing these vital award winning open spaces, some of the best sports venues in the world, a strong community use programme and a range of opportunities for communities across London, Essex and Hertfordshire.

If you have any queries about any aspect of the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, please don't hesitate to contact me. I should add that a copy of the Authority's Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2020 can be found on the Authority's website www.leevalleypark.org.uk.

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.

Yours sincerely



Keith Kellard
Head of Finance
cc: Members / Chief Executive / Chairman

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Bringing you



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Formal Notice Of The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Levy For 2021 – 2022

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 2021 the sum of **£212,129.28** 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 **£17,677.44** on or before:

23 April 2021
25 May 2021
25 June 2021
23 July 2021
25 August 2021
24 September 2021
25 October 2021
25 November 2021
24 December 2021
25 January 2022
25 February 2022
25 March 2022

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 2021-22 is 4,057,759.31

The amount raised by way of levy on Hertfordshire County Council, Essex County Council, the London Councils and the Unitary Authority of Thurrock for 2020-21 totals £9,767,600.

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 2% 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 2021/2022 (£'000)

	2021/22
	£m
Authority Operating Expenditure	20.9
Authority Operating Income	(12.7)
Net Service Operating Costs	8.2
Financing Costs - Debt servicing/repayments	0.5
- Capital investment	0.8
Total Net Expenditure	9.5
Total Levy	(9.8)

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