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From the Chief Executive

01 August 2016

Roger Eastoe

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Dear Mr Eastoe

Thank you for your letter of 28 July 2016 addressed to our Chair, Sir Peter Luff. We have now received and reviewed the report from Verita and accept the conclusion. We are pleased that the ICR found no evidence of maladministration, confirmed that the Fund's assessment and decision-making processes were of an acceptable standard; that our procedures had been applied correctly; that the interactions between the Council and HLF were entirely appropriate and that the report recognised the Council's decision to close the golf course was theirs, in accordance with local democracy and decision making.

We accept the constructive recommendations raised by the ICR. We will look again at our approach to case paper drafting, as part of quality assurance. In addition, we have already looked again at our process for handling complaints and concerns from the public, and staff will soon be trained on this.

In light of the findings, we will not revisit the first round decision made by our Board in June 2014. However, we will, as a matter of course when assessing the second-round application – and in line with our published application material – review the final proposals, and the subsequent consultations carried out by the Council, including that undertaken in Spring 2016, and will take account of other local views.

It is HLF's usual practice to publish the final ICR's report and my response to you on our website. However we will only do this with your permission. Please email Clare Henderson clareh@hlf.org.uk to confirm whether or not you are happy for us to publish it. We will assume that you are content if we have not heard back from you by 15 August 2016.

We recognise that in situations like this it is not always possible to reach consensus or satisfy all parties, especially when our funding could lead to substantive change for local communities. However, I want to assure you that, going forward, we will undertake our customary robust assessment of Second Round proposals when our Board makes a final decision on HLF funding for Beckenham Place Park.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ros Kerslake".

Ros Kerslake
Chief Executive