

Children, Environment and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday 20th November 2017

Report of: Cllr David Harvey

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Environment, Sports and Community

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1. Sports and Leisure

Paddington Recreation Ground - New Forest Garden

- 1.1 Positive progress is being made with the works to create a new 'forest garden' at Paddington Recreation Ground. The new facility has been created in a previously underutilised area of the park and will provide opportunities for education programmes for schools and groups along and a quiet tranquil space for casual users. Works will complete in the New Year and the facility will be opened to the public in the Spring once the new planting has established.

Active Westminster Strategy

- 1.2 The new strategy is currently undergoing design work, which will include a refreshed 'look and feel', greater emphasis on info-graphics and short animations that will help communicate the key aims to residents and stakeholders. As part of this, a slight change to the headline title is being considered from 'Active City for All' to 'Activate Your City, Lives & Neighbourhoods', which will align much better with the new design and layouts.
- 1.3 The related Cabinet Member Report is scheduled for approval in November and the Strategy will be formally launched at the ActiveWestminster Awards on 1st December 2017, with a series of follow up events planned from January 2018.

ActiveWestminster Awards 2017

- 1.4 Nominations for this year's awards have now closed and a record 266 nominations across the 10 award categories have been received. This demonstrates the continued interest and engagement in this flagship event which is now in its eighth year.

- 1.5 The judging panels are now meeting to take the difficult decisions of who will be shortlisted in each category, with the top three being invited to the main event at Lords Cricket Ground on 1st December 2017.
- 1.6 The City of Westminster College are also hard at work filming a variety of locations and activities that will be used on the evening to demonstrate what activates Westminster.

The Active Queen's Park Project: Redevelopment of Moberly & Jubilee Sports Centres

- 1.7 The Active Queen's Park project is continuing to progress well and works remain on schedule.
- 1.8 'Phase 1' of the new residential homes at the Jubilee site has now completed and 28 new homes are being occupied. Works to deliver the new Moberly Centre are progressing well and the new £28m facility remains scheduled to be completed in Spring 2018. The existing Jubilee Centre will remain open until Moberly is opened to the public in June 2018.

Seymour Leisure Centre – Leisure Improvement Works

- 1.9 Phase 1 of an extensive programme of improvement works have now been completed at Seymour leisure centre, including:
 - An extensive gym refurbishment including new equipment on the ground and first floors
 - Relocated and improved exercise studio
 - An improved reception area
- 1.10 Feedback from users has been very positive.

Improvements works at Porchester Spa

- 1.11 Following a public consultation, these plans have been revised and a stakeholder group has been created to engage regular users in the design development. The group is meeting regularly to review design and cost options and revised proposals will be presented for public consultation in November. It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted in the New Year.

October 2017 Holiday Programmes

- 1.12 A variety of school holiday sports, leisure and physical activity programmes have taken place across the City including the popular 'Edutain' programme at Academy Sport, Churchill Gardens and St. Andrew's Youth Club.

Outdoor Learning – New Apprentices

- 1.13 Eight new apprentices have been recently recruited to support the delivery of education programmes at the Council's Sayers Croft Centre. The 12 month apprenticeship will provide the opportunity for participants to engage in a range of outdoor learning activities and a career pathway into becoming an Outdoor Learning Instructor.

2 Libraries

Libraries Advisory Board

- 2.1 A separate report is provided.

Registration Services

- 2.2 Old Marylebone Town Hall will reopen for ceremonies in January 2018 and it is being promoted extensively, including a new microsite: www adaytoremember.london/old-marylebone-town-hall. Within a three week period from the bookings diary being opened on 30th September 2017, 116 couples made bookings, and over 500 potential customers registered to attend an open weekend on 13th and 14th January 2018. This is part of a series of launch events from January 2018 onwards to showcase the venue.

3 Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries

Green Flag and London in Bloom awards

- 3.1 The high quality of the Council's parks and open spaces has been recognised again in the London in Bloom awards, with Westminster being awarded "Borough of the Year" for the first time since 2013. A number of individual sites also received Gold and Silver Gilt awards including Ebury Square, Porchester Square, St Johns Wood Church Ground and Victoria Embankment Gardens.

Parks and Open Spaces Investment

- 3.2 A total of 1,280 winter hanging baskets have been installed across the City with residents and businesses contributing towards the cost of 500 baskets.
- 3.3 Further investment in parks and gardens has been made possible by additional funding from the Open Space Strategy investment programme; namely a complete refurbishment of Paddington Street Gardens play area, creation of an outdoor learning facility in St Johns Wood Church Grounds nature reserve, and additional areas of wild flower meadows in several parks increasing the biodiversity value.
- 3.4 Other capital investment has allowed repairs to several at risk boundary walls, refurbishment of park railings in Kildare Gardens, new path surfacing in Randolph and

Shrewsbury Gardens, and the replacement of the damaged slide in Broadley Street Garden with a new slide being installed during the next few weeks.

Open Spaces and Biodiversity Strategy

- 3.5 A draft of the strategy has been produced which, following proposals at the time of the last update to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee, incorporates new photographic images specifically chosen to project inclusivity and strongly promote the variety and myriad uses of Westminster's 'green assets'. The document is now in the final stages of preparation for public consultation. Emphasis will be on inviting open dialogue and allowing respondents to shape the focus points of their own submissions. So that a wide audience can engage with the document in a relatively informal way, the consultation will be made available through Open Forum as well as on the council website. The consultation will run throughout November and December and, following detailed review of responses and refinements to the document, the aim is to publish a final draft as early as possible in the New Year.
- 3.6 Alongside launching the strategy for consultation, work is being done to establish a joint working group with Royal Parks, to focus on biodiversity. The group came together for an initial meeting on 2nd November, and it is hoped that regular sessions can be arranged and potentially additional attendees / partners identified and engaged. The aim of the group is to develop a targeted and evidence based plan of local, borough-level actions which will help us address biodiversity priorities in Westminster. A two-year plan will be sufficient until Defra is due to refresh its nationwide plan, entitled 'Biodiversity 2020'.

4 Volunteering And Voluntary Sector

The Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) Support Service (provided by One Westminster)

- 4.1 One Westminster was awarded the VCS contract for the period beginning 2nd October ending on 30th September 2020 with scope to extend for a further two years on a one plus one basis. Officers are working with One Westminster on a delivery action plan which is to be mutually agreed by both parties in a future joint workshop session.

Team Westminster Do-It local website (Provided by Vivo Rewards Ltd.)

- 4.2 Do-it Trust has merged with Vivo Technology and is now called Vivo Rewards Ltd. Apart from the organisational name change, contractually, there are no changes.

The Do-It Westminster site continues to run successfully. As at 30th October, there were 392 live opportunities in Westminster. In the week prior to that, 43 people registered their interest, with 7 opportunities and 97 organisations added. Overall, 1,671 hours have now been logged by volunteers for opportunities in Westminster.

The total amount of user signups across Team Westminster is 836.

Westminster Advice Service Partnership (WASP)

- 4.3 The next quarterly performance is due to be reported at the end of November.
- 4.4 Officers invited members of the Westminster Advice Forum to a workshop in late October to discuss their views on how the current contract has performed and their views and suggestions for future provision. These discussions will inform the commissioning approach for advice provision from mid-September 2018, when the current contract expires.

Team Westminster Flagship Volunteering (provided by Groundwork)

- 4.5 The monitoring report for Year 2 Quarter 4 (May – July 2017) shows that overall the contract is performing well at the end of Year 2. Evidence of this is shown by some statistics below across the three strands:
- **Westminster Active:** The number of new volunteers placed in regular one-off opportunities (inclusive of any opportunity with sport or active element) is at 116 against the annual target of 120 volunteers (97%)
 - **Ambassador:** Team Westminster ambassadors spent 4194 hours volunteering at several high profile events. This exceeded the yearly target number of 3000 hours.
 - **Social Action:** The number of individuals involved in community actions events was exceeded at 103%.

5 Community Engagement

- 5.1 A recent Open Forum took place on 18th October and was attended by approximately 80 people. The next event will take place in January and more details will be published on the website in due course.

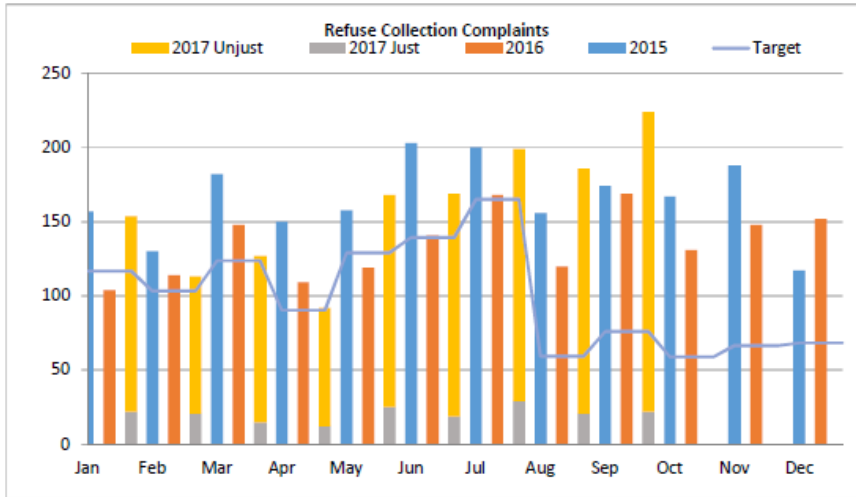
6 Waste

Street Cleansing

- 6.1 Veolia are preparing to move from their strategic depot at New Baltic Wharf into the Council-owned depot at Mandela Way over the weekend of the 4th/5th November. Veolia have been operating from their depot at New Baltic Wharf for more than 10 years.
- 6.2 Weather forecasts indicate that the vast majority of leaves will fall on-street during November. Based on previous years, we expect to collect in the region of 200,000 bags of leaves over and above the usual litter levels that we manage on a daily basis. From Monday 30th October we began deploying additional staff and collection vehicles to assist in the worst affected areas. Operations will be managed

dynamically in response to prevailing weather conditions so that the best use can be made of these resources to keep the streets safe.

Waste and Recycling



| Refuse | |
|------------|--------|
| This Month | |
| Sep-16 | 169 |
| Sep-17 | 224 |
| % Var | 33% |
| Target | 177 |
| Status | Behind |
| YTD | |
| 2016 | 1192 |
| 2017 | 1437 |
| % Var | 21% |
| Target | 1183 |
| Status | Behind |

6.3 As shown in the above table, complaints were up in September against the same month in 2016. There have been about 250 additional complaints made between January and the end of September in 2017 against the same period last year. The reason for this increase in complaints is not clear, as there has been no change to service levels. It is most likely to be due to an increased use of the Report It online tool, which makes reporting issues much easier for our customers.

6.5 Westminster carries out more than one million waste and recycling collections per week. The 224 complaints in September equates to 5.60 complaints per 100,000 collections made successfully. However, the team will continue to investigate possible reasons.

7 Environment

Greener City Action Plan (GCAP)

7.1 The second year update will come to the Committee for discussion in February 2018.

7.2 One public consultation on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan has been completed and, subject to Cabinet Member approval, will be published shortly. The second strategic flood risk assessment, which will contribute to the revision of the city plan (currently underway), is due to go out to public consultation in November. A short delay in publicising this was due to revised modelling data being made available from the Environment Agency meant we could better predict the rapid inundation zone maps which influences our policies on basements, for example.

- 7.3 A series of three thought leadership events have been held to help inform the strategic direction of our new Air Quality Strategy which will be published in 2018. In addition, the high profile Task and Finish Group's report on Air Quality (June 2017) will also feed into that process. The events were very successful and helped inform an air quality ambitions document which was presented at the Party Conference. Officers will be working up new policy proposals in due course.
- 7.4 The Mayor (Greater London Authority) has recently published his "Integrated Environment Strategy" and we will be compiling our response by the end of November 2017. If any member of the committee would like to feedback on any specific area I would welcome this; otherwise we will ensure that this is linked to the GCAP moving forward.
- 7.5 Two schools have been selected for intensive air quality audits, funded by the Mayor but organised via the boroughs. All boroughs could apply for the funding for their worst exposure to pollution. Our selected schools are St. Clement Danes and St Mary's Bryanston.

Engine Idling

- 7.6 We have continued the #DontBeldle campaign and have begun rolling out a string of fortnightly road shows in addition to the existing anti-idling action days. These road shows, where our air marshals approach members of the public and share campaign material in areas of high footfall and pollution, have resulted in a spike in campaign pledges with up to 100 people signing in each of the six hour sessions.
- 7.7 Our campaign messages have resonated with residents and attracted several more high profile advocates, including Olympians Colin Jackson and Alex Danson, as well as widespread media coverage including on BBC Radio 5 live and ITV London.
- 7.8 Pledge numbers continue to rise, in large part due to the pledge being incorporated into parking permit renewal and parking suspension applications. There are now between 3,500 and 4,000 pledges in total with an average weekly increase of over 400 pledges.
- 7.9 The Council is in the process of recruiting a new inbound marketing firm to review campaign content and improve engagement with the business community.
- 7.10 Resident and amenity society groups will be provided with campaign packs to enable people to take ownership of the campaign with a view to creating a ground swell in neighbourhoods across the borough.

Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN)

- 7.11 Following the LEN Stakeholder meeting in September 2017 there is continued good progress on all aspects of the LEN's project delivery. Communications is going well, with the Twitter account doubling in followers since July; banners have been placed on lamp columns in Marylebone High Street (with a temporary break allowing for Christmas lights), George Street and Paddington Street, and the website has been updated.

- 7.12 The initial results from the diesel visitor surcharge project are very promising, with an overall decline of 12% in older diesel vehicles parking in the area and no evidence of displacement to neighbouring parking zones. We will continue to monitor both parking data and overall satisfaction. There has been no negative press and very few complaints about the scheme, potentially suggesting that people's awareness of air quality and the need to tackle pollution is high.
- 7.13 The initial public realm feasibility studies are complete for the three urban realm schemes on Marylebone High Street, George Street and Paddington Street. A revised brief is being sent out to landscape architects to try and identify new innovative air quality proposals.
- 7.14 Engagement with businesses on deliveries and servicing by Cross River Partnership has commenced. This is led by Baker Street Quarter Partnership, with New West End Company and Marble Arch BID all promoting through communication channels.
- 7.15 A Community Green Street, for all residents, visitors, workers, businesses and schools, took place in Luxborough Street on 22nd September. The street closure was 3-6pm and activities and organisations including Don't Be Idle; Click. Collect. Clean Air.; temporary greening; LEN seed planting; Active Westminster; LEN partner organisations took over the street.
- 7.16 Since the last report, the following events happened or are being prepared; to raise awareness about the LEN:
- Anti-Idling Action Day, 22nd September – Strand
 - LEN Stakeholder Group, 22nd September
 - Anti-Idling Action Day, 31st October– Marylebone Station
 - Anti-Idling Action Day, 11th December – Oxford Street and surrounding roads
 - Anti-Idling Action Day, 28th February 2018 – Baker Street/ Harley Street
 - Anti-Idling Action Day, 25th April 2018 – Lisson Grove
 - Anti-Idling Action Day, 25th June 2018 – Marylebone High Street