



City of Westminster

Children's, Environment and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday 19 March 2018

Report of: Cllr David Harvey

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Environment, Sports and Community

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1. Sports and Leisure

ActiveWestminster Strategy

- 1.1 The new ActiveWestminster strategy, 'Activate Your City, Lives & Neighbourhoods', has now completed the final design work, which has been released for Cabinet Member approval at the end of February. It was recently soft launched at the ActiveWestminster Awards in December, with a preview of the new ActiveWestminster branding and design work.
- 1.2 During Spring & Summer we will hold a number of smaller launch events to engage local communities and residents at locations and programmes that are already in existence featuring the new thematic areas. Our [new website](#), activity searcher and short animated films will be an integral part of these events, demonstrating how active opportunities will be accessed in the future.
- 1.3 Over the coming months the Sports & Leisure service will be re-organised into the Physical Activity, Leisure & Sport (PALS), to reflect our new approach and work areas under our new strategy.

#MyWestminster ActiveStreets Project

- 1.4 Officers across City Management and Communities are developing plans to build on existing work around 'ActiveStreets'. This is not a new concept as it has been promoted

through the Sport & Leisure Team for some time, but this is an excellent opportunity with it becoming a key MyWestminster project and also part of the new ActiveWestminster Strategy. This will also see the development of school based ActiveStreets and the team hope to implement one at St Mary Bryanston Square CE Primary School following the recommendation from the School Clean Air Audit.

Vitality Westminster Mile 2018

- 1.5 Discussions with London Marathon Events have progressed to begin the organisation of Westminster Mile 2018. This year Council officers are meeting with the other sponsors including Vitality and New Balance. The council's leisure operators Everyone Active will also be having more involvement by marketing the VwM2018 to all of their members nationwide. The target for this year's Vitality Westminster Mile is an optimistic 10,000 participants.

Paddington Recreation Ground – Improvement work projects

- 1.6 Works to the Forest Garden have been completed and it is currently in use by the general public. A formal launch will take place in the early spring when the new planting scheme begins to bloom.
- 1.7 Works have been carried out to upgrade the lighting system surrounding the village green which experienced a number of failures during the last two months. The works are being part funded through Ward member budgets. We would like to extend this upgrade to the rest of the facility, subject to funding, potentially via Ward budgets.
- 1.8 Works have commenced on upgrading both the Multi-Use Games Area, outdoor gym and the surface for the four lane Cricket Nets facility.

Marylebone Cricket Club and Future Community Programmes

- 1.9 I recently held a meeting with officers and Guy Lavender, the recently appointed Chief Executive of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) at Lord's Cricket Ground, to discuss future plans and opportunities as MCC are hoping to host a new T20 competition from 2020 onwards. Whilst permissions and approvals of such events are beyond the scope of this portfolio, it is of interest in terms of the local community engagement opportunities beyond sport to include health and wellbeing and social cohesion.
- 1.10 The meeting was positive with MCC now considering locally-based community events that tie into the #MyWestminster Day in early July, increased local employment opportunities, and a firm commitment to continue the various outreach programmes in schools.

1.11 The Leader also met with Mr Lavender and was supportive of the MCC's submission to ECB high profile match panel.

1.12 The Sports & Leisure team will be meeting with the MCC on the 26th February to discuss this in more detail.

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

1.13 The Active Queen's Park project is continuing to progress well and works remain on schedule.

1.14 Works to deliver the new Moberly Sports Centre is progressing well despite a short delay being identified. A gas connection delay has meant associated works cannot commence. A forecasted 3-week delay has been identified as an addition to the programme. This should not impact the opening, as we are hoping to absorb the delay into the fit out period already scheduled.

1.15 Mobilisation meetings have begun with the operator, Everyone Active, to discuss the fit out, clubs and community access as well as pre-sales memberships and opening event.

1.16 The existing Jubilee Sports Centre will remain open until Moberly is opened to the public. Following which Jubilee will then close.

Seymour Leisure Centre – Leisure Improvement Works

1.17 Phase 2 of the refurbishment programme has completed apart from a few small outstanding items. This includes a new spin studio, refurbished health suite, works to the main corridors and circulation areas, as well as works to both the wetside and dryside changing rooms. Feedback that we have received from users has been very positive.

Improvements works at Porchester Spa

1.18 Several meetings have now taken place with the Porchester Spa User Group, the local resident group, Everyone Active, and officers. Engineering consultants from boiler specialists have also attended to provide a presentation on the suggested new boiler system and answer various questions that the group had. Some further work is needed to clarify points of detail for the specification but progress is being made.

Ark Paddington Green Primary Academy

- 1.19 The public consultation has now completed for the proposed new all-weather pitch linking Ark Paddington Green Primary Academy and Little Venice Sports Centre. This will provide a state of the art 3G sand-dressed pitch that will be managed through an approved community use agreement, meaning that local young people, community clubs and groups can make use of the new pitch in the evenings and weekends.

Outdoor Learning Sayers Croft – New Apprentices

- 1.20 There are currently 7 apprentices based at Sayers Croft in Surrey and 1 at Paddington Recreation Ground in Maida Vale.

2 Volunteering and Voluntary Sector

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

- 2.1 Work is ongoing with One Westminster to develop the new elements of service under the VCS Support Service contract, recommissioned at the end of last year. Recent work has focused on connecting with the Heart of London initiative and those overseeing WCC's responsible procurement agenda, in order to understand how One Westminster's own CSR offer could cater to currently unmet need among SMEs and council suppliers. The aim is to ensure the new brokerage service is developed and shaped in such a way that it forms a complementary part of the wider CSR picture in Westminster, and delivers maximum added value.

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

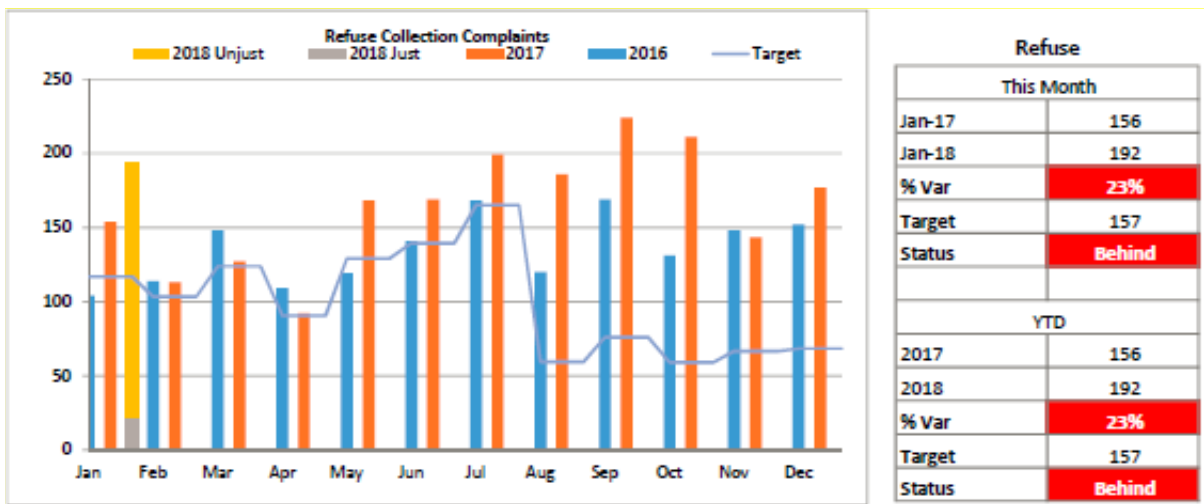
Westminster Advice Service Partnership (WASP)

- 2.2 Performance continues to be strong under the existing contract, as we look to recommission the service in time for September 2018. Following issue of a PIN notice last month, the formal procurement process has now been initiated and a report is due to go to Gate 1 panel in early March. The intention is to go through a full competitive tender, although this is dependent on the level of response to the PIN. It may be necessary to deal with the matter by way of a direct award. We have the opportunity to review and amend the contract specification in any case, proceeding

with new terms, contract deliverables and KPIs as desired. The proposal is to redevelop the specification with more of an outcomes focus, generating scope for greater flexibility and service innovation while also building in connected areas of service (e.g. licensing advice) formally, as part of the wider contract.

3 Waste and Parks

3.1 The Winter Plan commenced at the start of November. This winter has generally been colder than previous years, but also drier. The majority of our gritting this year has been precautionary in nature, except for the spell of bad weather that we encountered during the week of 26 February – 2 March 2018.



3.2 As shown in the above graph, complaints were up in January against the same month last year. About 36 additional complaints were made in month against January 2017. The reason for this increase in complaints is most likely due to an increased use of the Report It online tool, which makes reporting issues much easier for our customers.

3.3 Westminster carries out more than one million waste and recycling collections per week. The 154 complaints in January equates to 4.41 complaints per 100,000 collections made.

3.4 Veolia deployed more than 35 people and 6 additional vehicles for Chinese New Year, to ensure that the streets around Chinatown were returned to a pristine condition by 20:00 that evening.

3.5 Reinstatement works following the winter events in Leicester Square Gardens and Victoria Embankment Gardens have now been fully completed. All works were fully funded by the event organisers.

- 3.6 Improvement works are in progress at a number of parks and gardens including the play area in Paddington Street Gardens, the outdoor learning / nature conservation areas at St Johns Wood Church Ground and the refurbishment and repainting of the boundary railings at St Stephens Gardens, Edbrooke Road Gardens, Violet Hill Gardens and Millbank Gardens.

4 Libraries and Registration Services

Libraries Advisory Board

- 4.1 The Libraries Advisory Board, chaired by Chris Cotton former CEO of the Royal Albert Hall and tasked with advising and supporting the Council in developing a long term strategy for its library service. Taking account of external development and Westminster's needs and priorities aligned to City for All continues to meet monthly. The Board is working on building the positive case for local authority library services in Westminster. It is planned to report back during the summer.

Westminster Reference library

- 4.2 The refurbishment work is on schedule and is due to be completed by late May 2018. The ground floor will re-open to the public on 5 March 2018. Customers are being signposted to alternative provision during the works.

Registration Services

- 4.3 Old Marylebone Town Hall has now fully reopened with 26 ceremonies taken place to date and over 60 couples attending open evenings each week. Over 680 bookings have been taken to the end of 2019, an average of 50 bookings per week. The service is on schedule to achieve its first year forecast of 1775 ceremonies.
- 4.4 With the introduction of online nationality applications a new service – Nationality Document Return Service (NDRS) will be introduced in March. This will enable applicants to have their documents copied and sent in support of their online application. This will be a temporary service as all nationality services are scheduled to be withdrawn from the registration service from October 2018, as part of the Home Office digitalisation agenda.

5 Environment

Greener City Action Plan (GCAP)

- 5.1 The year 2 update was well received by the committee in February. Further 'deep dive' work on plastics contamination and a visit to the recycling facility will be arranged.
- 5.2 Work is continuing on a new five-year Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan which is due for publication by December 2018. As part of this, officers have developed eight new policy ideas to form high level pledges to frame our work in this area in the coming months. These pledges range from building on existing work such as the #DontBeldle campaign to new initiatives to engage with residents and an aspiration to make the City an innovation hub for green technologies.

We are continuing to build strong partnerships with key institutions and networks to help further our work on air quality. The London School of Economics have been commissioned to work on a behaviour change project as part of the #DontBeldle campaign, and we are putting together a funding bid with King's College London to investigate the efficacy of new 'low cost' air quality monitors.

- 5.3 We have received some of the air quality audit reports for the four schools which received audits through a Mayor of London funding scheme. We have the initial findings for St Mary's Bryanston, St Peters and St Clement Danes schools. The finalised audit reports are due at the end of March and will help inform thinking on how to prioritise action around schools in particular. Specific interventions around these schools has already begun, with new 'keep clear' road markings in place at St Peter's to deter parking and idling, and preparations underway to implement timed road closures at the start and end of the school day around St Mary's Bryanston.

Engine Idling

- 5.4 We have continued the #DontBeldle campaign with a string of fortnightly road shows in areas of the highest pollution across the city. In total, there have been over 20 campaign events across Westminster with our team engaging with over 24,000 people through a combination of campaign events and regular patrols.
- 5.5 Our campaign messages continue to resonate with residents and have attracted several higher profile advocates including Olympians Constantine Louloudis and Ashley McKenzie. Information packs are being distributed with myth busting messages to amenity societies in order to encourage greater resident participation.

- 5.6 The campaign was shortlisted for the Best Local Authority Campaign award at the National Air Quality Awards and was identified as BBC Radio 4 PM presenter Eddie Mair's favourite story of the year in a roundup of 2017.
- 5.7 Pledge numbers continue to rise through a combination of parking renewals, social media and Air Quality Action Days. In total, nearly 6,000 people have now signed the pledge and we are on track to reach our target of 10,000 by June.
- 5.8 The Council has also recruited a new inbound marketing firm, OTM, who have been providing support to engagement with the business community. A series of letters will be distributed to businesses with the highest numbers of idling complaints in an attempt to change the behaviour of those most likely to idle.
- 5.9 From June onwards the campaign will be woven into the Council's wider aspirations around air quality, with efforts focused on encouraging other authorities to adopt #DontBeldle.

Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN)

- 5.10 Following the LEN Stakeholder meeting in December 2017 there is continued good progress on the majority of the LEN's project delivery, although some aspects are proving more challenging than others, including engaging with businesses in multi-tenanted buildings, which we are learning from and adapting the approach as needed.
- 5.11 The initial results from the diesel visitor surcharge project continue to be very promising, with an overall decline of 14% in older visitor diesel vehicles parking in the area and no evidence of displacement to neighbouring parking zones. There seems to be an overall downward trend across the City towards reductions in diesels parking, and registrations for new electric vehicles in 2017 are particularly high within Westminster, suggesting residents are choosing cleaner vehicles.
- 5.12 The public realm feasibility studies are complete, and procurement is underway with 5 selected shortlisted landscape architects to design new and innovative air quality proposals for public realm improvements.
- 5.13 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.
- 5.14 Since the last report, the following events happened or are being prepared; to raise awareness about the LEN:
- 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

If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect any of the background papers please contact Charlie Hawken: chawken@westminster.gov.uk / 020 7641 2621