

Sports, Leisure and Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee Briefing

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Briefing of: Councillor Steve Summers

Portfolio: Sports, Leisure and Customer Services

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1. Sports and Leisure

Sports and Leisure Performance- 2014/15

- 1.1 Further to the request at the last Committee, a breakdown of attendance figures for the sports facilities, including swimming lessons and membership, is provided in the table below.

Sports and Leisure Centres- usage	2014/15
Jubilee Sports Centre	237,743
Marshall Street Leisure Centre	269,698
The Porchester Centre	610,306
Queen Mother Sports Centre	519,198
Seymour Leisure Centre	393,368
Little Venice Sports Centre	109,678
Moberly Sports & Education Centre	66,174
Paddington Recreation Ground	1,261,560
Total Usage	3,467,725
Swimming Lessons	2014/15
Jubilee Sports Centre	32,470
Marshall Street Leisure Centre	1,110
The Porchester Centre	40,630
Queen Mother Sports Centre	46,480
Seymour Leisure Centre	22,970
Total Swimming Lessons	143,660
Membership- number of 'pre-paid' members	2014/15

Jubilee Sports Centre	1,302
Marshall Street Leisure Centre	2,998
Paddington Recreation Ground	1,026
Porchester Leisure Centre	3,444
Queen Mother Sports Centre	3,899
Seymour Leisure Centre	3,470
Little Venice Sports Centre	914
Moberly Sports & Education Centre	307
Total 'pre-paid' members	17,360

The Porchester Centre

- 1.2 Improvement works continue to progress at the Porchester Centre. Works to transform an unused basement space, under the new offices in Bridgefield House, into a new exercise studio and activity space will take place in October. This area will become a flexible space to increase the fitness provision of the centre. It will provide some much needed space for courses, meetings and training.
- 1.3 Planned works to refurbish the wetside changing rooms have progressed well and are expected to complete in mid- October.

Jubilee Sports Centre - Female Wetside Changing Rooms

- 1.4 Refurbishment works to improve the female wetside changing rooms have now completed.

Sayers Croft

- 1.5 Works to extend and improve the 'Holbury' accommodation blocks at the site are progressing. The works will provide integrated toilet and shower accommodation for the one remaining block which currently doesn't provide these facilities. The works will make a positive response to feedback from customers regarding the lack of facilities.

Paddington Rec - Replacement Synthetic Tennis Courts

- 1.6 Works to replace the worn synthetic tennis courts are planned to take place during late Autumn. Procurement has progressed and works are anticipated to commence in October.

Leisure Centre contract re-let

- 1.7 Officers are progressing with the procurement for the new sports and leisure facilities contract which is due to commence from 1st July 2016.
- 1.8 Three bidders have been selected to submit 'detailed solutions' which have been evaluated ahead of planned competitive dialogue discussions in the Autumn. As requested by the Committee, a summary timeline relating to the procurement is available below.

Action	Date
Issue Advert/Invite Expressions of Interest	17 th February 2015
Deadline for PQQ Clarifications	16 th March 2015
Deadline for Expression of Interest	30 th March 2015

Action	Date
PQQ Evaluation and Short listing Completed	April 2015
Bidders notified of outcome of PQQ Evaluation	May 2015
Invitation to Tenders Issued	June 2015
Pre submission Clarification Meetings	July/August 2015
Deadline for Receipt of Tenders	11 September 2015
Evaluation and Short-Listing of Tenders	September/October 2015
Tenderers Notified of Outcome of Evaluation Process	October 2015
Extended Clarification Meetings with shortlisted Tenderers	October 2015 (approximately 2 weeks)
Final Tenders Submitted from Shortlisted Tenderers	November 2015
Tender Evaluation	December/January 2015
Notification of Award	February 2016
Mobilisation of Contract	April 2016
Contract Start Date	1 st July 2016

Christ Church Bentinck and Greenhouse Sports

- 1.9 A supporter of a community sports charity (Greenhouse Sports) has generously donated the Grade 2* listed Church on the corner of Cosway and Bell St (Church St Ward) to the Charity to use. The club are aiming to utilise facility for table tennis, sitting volleyball and other community activities. Officers are working closely with the club to provide operational, programming, funding advice and support.

New Funding for Community Sport

- 1.10 The Council's Sports Unit team received formal notification from Sport England of a successful funding application to the 'Sport Activation Fund'. The funding will provide over £240,000 new investment in community sport within Westminster. It will target 14-25 year olds, who are either physically inactive or generally lead sedentary lifestyles. The new programme is closely aligned to the Council's Active Communities programme which seeks to engage with people of all ages including family activity.

ActiveWestminster Awards

- 1.11 Officers are working with partners to plan the 2015 ActiveWestminster Awards which will take place on 27th November 2015. Nominations for the 10 award categories are being promoted. David Garrido, the Sky Sports presenter, will host the event which will take place at Lord's Cricket Ground.

2. Libraries and Culture

Pimlico Library

- 2.1 A new passenger lift has been installed and went into service on 8 September 2015. The new lift can accommodate standard size buggies and is sufficiently robust to handle the high volume of journeys required on a daily basis. The platform lift is being retained as an additional lift for the use of customers in wheelchairs and parents with double buggies.

The new lift is considerably quicker than the existing lift, and is a significant improvement for ease of access to the library.

Westminster Music Library

- 2.2 Joint Forces Singers, a choir which brings together members of the armed forces and their families with local residents, was launched by the music library in July 2015 with an event attended by the Deputy Lord Mayor. The project is funded by the Community Covenant.

Registration Service

- 2.3 The service has had a busy summer of weddings with 326 venue weddings at Mayfair Library and 485 at Asia House, an overall total of 845. This is a slight increase on the same period in 2014.

Cultural Partnerships

- 2.4 SW Connects, the project funded by the Community Covenant ends in October 2015. Over 900 south Westminster residents, army personnel and their family members have participated in the project to date via adult learning, sports, creative events, activities and courses. These activities took place at venues mainly outside of the barracks including libraries, schools and community venues to support further interaction with the local community and services. Pop up family photo studios were created in local festivals and at Wellington barracks which showed a local resident in the barracks and personnel in the local community. This will continue with an exhibition, showing a cross section of council staff, local residents and army personnel, opening at Victoria Library on 22nd September 2015. Portraits taken from the pop up studios will also be exhibited in Pimlico Library and Churchill Gardens Children's Centre until 23rd October 2015.

3. Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries

Park Events

- 3.1 The summer period has seen several very popular events in the parks and gardens. Noticeably, the Paddington Bid "covers" events in Norfolk Square, the Marble Arch Observation wheel and the very well attended night time outdoor cinema at Embankment Gardens.

Partnership working

- 3.3 A series of outdoor workshops have taken place at the St Johns Wood Church Grounds involving local school children working with the gardeners to produce "bug hotels" which when completed were placed around the garden by the children.
- 3.4 SW Community staged a free afternoon's entertainment event at the Milbank Gardens in July-Alice in Wonderland.
- 3.5 16 free lunchtime concerts by the American Ambassadors organisation took place over the summer with schools and collages from American states performing.

Tamplin Mews and Westbourne Green

- 3.6 The substantial works by Thames Water to alleviate flooding have now been completed with full reinstatement to the landscape with the added value of a new play area at Tamplin Mews and additional benches, litter bins and tree planting at Westbourne Green.

4. Volunteering and the Voluntary Sector

Team Westminster Volunteer Outreach and Development

- 4.1 The tender process for the Council's refreshed volunteer outreach and development service has now been completed and the contract will be awarded shortly with delivery expected to commence in late autumn. The service supports people from particular target groups to volunteer who may otherwise find it difficult to do so or would benefit significantly from doing. The service will also generate new volunteering opportunities in key areas such as addressing social isolation or working with people who are recovering from substance misuse.

Team Westminster Do-it Local Web App

- 4.2 The launch of the new outreach and development service will align with the launch of the Westminster "Do-It Local" Web-App, which will serve as the single point of information for volunteering in the city. Building on the national Do-It system, the Westminster site will be the first in the country to provide a local adaptation to promote genuinely local opportunities.

Time Credits

- 4.3 The Westminster Time Credits have now been printed and are available to local groups and individuals to earn and spend. The first cohort of local groups have been signed up and will now be working locally to build a profile scheme and implement it within their services. Examples of first adopters include the Cardinal Hume Centre and Open Age at the Churchill Hub. The first community newsletter has been distributed to interested local stakeholders. This will become a monthly newsletter delivered by Spice and is the main vehicle to keep the community up to date on what is happening, new spend opportunities and how they can get involved.

Flagship Volunteering Programme

- 4.4 The last Committee requested information regarding young people's involvement in projects that Groundwork has run in the past. Groundwork has previously operated two specific volunteering projects in Westminster neither of which was directly commissioned by the City Council. 139 young people were involved in the phase of Groundwork's Youth Timebank programme between 2012- 2013. The next stage of the project will commence in September 2015. 1298 young people and 319 residents have been involved in Groundwork's Westminster Gardening scheme since 2012.