

Sports, Leisure and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 14th March 2016

Report of: Cllr David Harvey

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Sports and Leisure

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1. Sports and Leisure

Actions from the last Committee

- 1.1 As requested at the last committee, the Sports team have circulated a 5 year breakdown of activity in the borough separately.

The Active Queens Park Project - the redevelopment of Moberly & Jubilee Sports Centres

- 1.2 Progress continues to be made with the Active Queens Park project. The Moberly centre has now closed to the public to enable the 'decommissioning' of the facility and for 'phase 1' of the works programme to proceed. Jubilee will remain open whilst Moberly is redeveloped.
- 1.3 Following the closure of the Moberly Centre, the refurbished Games Area at Queens Park Gardens, which included new fencing, surfacing and floodlights, is now open for public use during evenings.
- 1.4 The new centre at the Moberly site is expected to be completed in February/ March 2018.

Sayers Croft

- 1.5 Works to extend and improve the 'Holbury' accommodation block at the site are progressing. The works are anticipated to commence in March 2016 and 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.

Leisure Centre contract re-let

- 1.6 A Cabinet Member decision to appoint the successful contractor will be made at the end of February.

- 1.7 The new contract will support the achievement of the Council's agreed Medium Term Financial Plan (MTP) savings and agreed budget for the service and will ensure that investment in wider sports development and PE and School Sport programmes and initiatives can be maintained.
- 1.8 The new contract will also enable a number of areas of added value to be realised including new contractor funded capital investment to improve facilities and provide new equipment across the centres, new 'free to access' sport and physical activity programmes, improved marketing and communications activities, financial support and mentoring for local talented athletes and improved opportunities to promote local employment including new apprenticeships.
- 1.9 The new contract will commence on 1st July 2016.

QUEST for Sports Development

- 1.10 The Council's Sports Unit team successfully undertook the Sport England QUEST assessment and have maintained 'Excellent Sport Development Service' rating.

Daily Mile – Westminster Pilot

- 1.11 Officers are working with Elaine Wyllie, the Head Teacher from Stirling in Scotland who started the 'Daily Mile' initiative which encourages children and young people to walk, jog or run at least 1 mile per day. Two Westminster Schools (Hallfield and Ark Atwood) are part of a pilot in London.
- 1.12 The aim is to engage children and young people in school to take part in daily physical activity of around 15 minutes, not only to increase activity levels but also as an engagement initiative ahead of this year's Westminster Mile on 29th May 2016.

2 Libraries and Culture

Victoria Library

- 2.1 In 2009, Land Securities was granted planning permission for the Nova development, to include a new library expected by 2018. A fresh planning application was submitted to the Council for Permissions 2 and 3 of the Nova development (RN 15/08005/FULL and 15/08006/FULL). In these schemes Permission 2 is now known as Nova Place and Permission 3 as Nova East.
- 2.2 A key amendment to the Nova Place planning application is that the library space is now to be provided at a peppercorn rent. The size and location of the library, which faces onto Victoria Street, remain the same as approved in January 2012. The application was approved by committee on 8 December 2015. Subsequently the Mayor has agreed that the Council can determine the application itself and planning permission will be issued once the S106 legal agreement has been signed.

Archives

- 2.3 Westminster Archives Centre has been selected as the council's first showcase building for a major energy efficiency project. The works to the building's plant, insulation and electrics will cost £173,000, is being funded by the council's Carbon Offset Fund. It is predicted to save up to £24,000pa in energy consumption costs and

delivering a reduction of 120 tonnes CO₂. Works are planned to start in June 2016 and will be in two phases.

Marylebone Library

- 2.4 As agreed at the last Committee, I can confirm that I am regularly in touch with Ward Members to brief them about the Marylebone Library development.

3 Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries

Park Events

- 3.1 Re-turfing and refurbishment works have been completed at Leicester Square and Marble Arch; Victoria Embankment Gardens will be completed by the 12th February. The cost of all works is being fully met by the event organisers and weather permitting, most grassed sections should be fully established and accessible to visitors again during March.

Winter works

- 3.2 The Westbourne Green (Harrow Road) refurbishment works are 60% completed with all old shrub material removed and shredded on site, roots removed and the site levelled for grass seeding. Volunteer groups have been contacted to help plant native hedge saplings along the roadside next month.
- 3.3 Several gardens have experienced problems with the York stone becoming very slippery due to the wet weather-paths have been sprayed to kill off moss and light dressings of sand/grit have been applied to help improve the paving grip.

Awards

- 3.4 David Creese-the Parks Manager for the South of the City was presented with the "Friends of the Earth" award for continued improvements to horticulture and sustainability over a 40 year career at the annual Mayfair Awards mainly for Mount Street Gardens.

4 Volunteering and Voluntary Sector

Team Westminster Flagship Volunteering programme

- 4.1 Groundwork have finalised their branding and design and are working closely with WCC's comms team to market their activities.
- 4.2 In quarter three, the Team Westminster Ambassadors supported 12 events, such as Trooping the Colour and Chinese New Year. This is on target for the quarter.
- 4.3 In the Team Westminster Active stream, only 3 people regularly volunteered at a sports club during this quarter against a target of 30. However, lots of new volunteers, opportunities and organisations registered this quarter and there is always a delay in this translating into regular weekly volunteering. Moreover, 14 volunteers have been put through officiating, coaching, mentoring, administration and business qualifications courses against a target of 6. Lastly, we are continuing to work with Westminster Sports Department to increase the opportunities for active volunteering, including collaborating on the development of the training programme and the ActiveWestminster standard for volunteer management.

4.4 In the Team Westminster Social Action stream, some initial social action projects are planned for February-April 2016. The first social action project will be an intergenerational initiative called 'Tea + Texting', held on 24th February 2016. It will bring young and older people together for lessons on social media and digital communication skills over afternoon tea. Longer term projects include working with City West Homes to work on open space projects to improve estates working with residents of CWH.

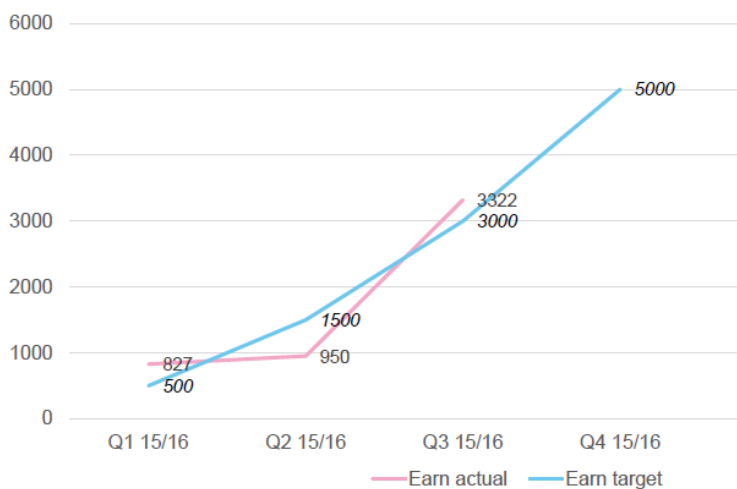
Time credits

4.5 As requested by the last committee, I am pleased to provide some more detail on the performance of the Time Credits programme. The provider, Spice, report on both time credits "earned" (with 1 time credit earned for every hour spent volunteering) and time credits "spent" at participating events & venues.

4.6 The Earn programme is performing extremely well as evidenced by the following statistics:

- Regular membership stands at 22 local groups who are participating in volunteering representing 96% of target;
- 592 individuals are engaging, against a target of 233;
- Volunteers have earned 3,322 time credits (earning 1 time credit for every hour spent) since the start of the contract which is above target (as demonstrated in the below graph).

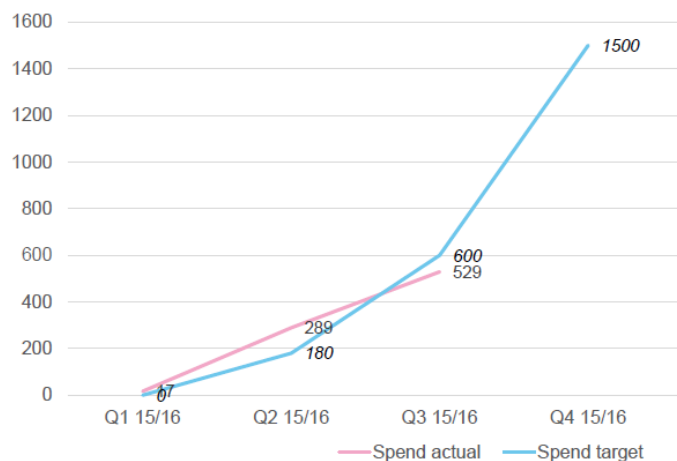
Graph showing how many time credits have been earned as against target:



4.7 The Spend programme is slightly behind target as Spice, the provider, aims to both change people's behaviours and establish a network of venues and corporate partners where volunteers can spend their time credits so "spend" tends to lag behind "earn":

- 2 local corporate spend partners have been signed up as against a target of 6 but Spice expect the figures to improve owing to the numbers of potential spend partners in the pipeline.
- 4 Westminster City Council libraries joined the spend network offering language courses, DVD/computer game rental, room hire and exhibition space.
- 529 time credits were spent on activities such as visiting the Tower of London as against a target of 600 (as demonstrated in the below graph).

Graph showing how many time credits have been spent as against target:



5 Community Engagement

Online Forum

- 5.1 Following its launch in October, 2,255 people have so far visited the Open Forum Website to-date and 88 people have registered. We are working with the Comms team to see how we can improve the conversion rate of visit to registration.
- 5.2 The website provides a good space to promote our consultations. For instance, so far we have received 438 responses to the cycling quietways consultations and 58 responses to City Save survey. The forum can be found at the following link: <https://openforum.westminster.gov.uk/>

Leader's Tour

- 5.3 Unfortunately, due to circumstances outside of our control, the Leader's Tour meeting on 23rd February had to be cancelled. All people who registered for the meeting, in addition to 2000 contacts on our Area Forum and Paddington Festival databases, were informed of the cancellation via written confirmation. People were also made aware of the cancellation via Twitter, Facebook and E-newsletter. Lastly, a member of the Open Forum team attended Porchester Hall on the evening to advise anyone who had missed the message of the cancellation.
- 5.4 The meeting will be rescheduled in due course and, as part of this, we are aiming to launch a much wider range of social programs across the city in the coming year.

If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact Lucy Hoyte x5729 lhoyte@westminster.gov.uk