



Sports, Leisure and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee

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Report of: Cllr David Harvey

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Sports and Leisure

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1 Sports and Leisure

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

- 1.1 Positive progress continues to be made with the Active Queens Park project and works are on schedule for both the Moberly site and Jubilee phase 1 which includes the re-provision of 12 affordable homes.
- 1.2 The works to deliver the new Moberly Centre are planned to complete in February/ March 2018. The existing Jubilee Centre will remain open until the new facility at Moberly is opened to the public.

Seymour and Queen Mother Re-Developments

- 1.3 'Outline Business Cases' are being developed by Officers in Growth, Planning and Housing as part of the development of initial feasibility studies for these sites.
- 1.4 A key objective for any re-development project will be to deliver an enhanced sports and leisure offer for the local community and the inclusion of a new library facility at the Seymour site is now part of the brief. This new facility will provide a permanent solution for a dedicated library service for Marylebone residents.
- 1.5 A full public consultation programme will be implemented to ensure stakeholders are engaged as part of the development of any proposals for these sites.
- 1.6 A consultation is underway on the use of a Development Opportunity Framework via corporate property to make sure that WCC can keep a degree of control on the type of development that will happen in the area of the Queen Mother over the coming years since this project is a few years off.

Outdoor Learning- the Sayers Croft Centre

- 1.7 Works to improve one of the residential blocks have now completed. The works have provided new en-suite accommodation within the block (which was the only accommodation block not to provide these facilities) and represents a positive response to customer feedback.
- 1.8 Improvements to the outdoor adventure facilities are also progressing to further improve the attractiveness and diversity of facilities for visitors.

New Sports and Leisure Centre Contract

- 1.9 The new leisure centre contract commenced on 1st July and overall, the transition to the new operator has progressed well. A number of new improvements are being realised which includes:
- £9m capital investment in a number of improvements to facilities and new equipment across the centres (an update is provided below)
 - 130 hours of 'free to access' sport and physical activities per week through the ActiveCommunities and Neighbourhood Sports Club programme
 - Exercise referral as part of the base specification for the service
 - New financial support for local talented athletes
 - Improved marketing and communications activities
 - Improved opportunities to promote local employment including new apprenticeships
- 1.10 Positive progress is being made with the delivery of the capital improvements which form part of the contract. Improvement works in the fitness facilities at Little Venice and Jubilee Sports Centres have now completed and both facilities have benefited from new equipment and redecoration.
- 1.11 Works at the Queen Mother site are being progressed and include a new spa facility, enhancements to the changing rooms, new equipment and a redecoration of the fitness suite, improvements to the exercise studios, a new external canopy to improve the entrance to the centre and the installation of new secure cycle storage. The programme of works will be progressed over the coming months and will complete in December 2016.
- 1.12 Inevitably, in a contract of this nature, there are a few teething problems and complaints and officers and Everyone Active are working with users to iron these out; the statistics show that the limited number of issues raised by the public are at very similar levels to this time last year.

Paddington Rec- fitness suite extension and conversion of a 'dog exercise area'

- 1.13 One of the key capital improvements which form part of the new leisure contract is an extension to the gym and exercise studio at Paddington Recreation Ground. The extension will be developed in the space to the rear of the existing gym.
- 1.14 Officers are also progressing proposals to convert one of the three dog exercising areas into an area of tranquil green space which would be accessible for all users. The new area would connect with the adjacent blue bell glade.
- 1.15 The proposals will be subject to consultation with park users which will be progressed in the coming months.

Legacy Day 29th September at Paddington Recreation Ground

- 1.16 The Legacy Day hosted by Westminster City Council and Everyone Active and delivered by Fit for Sport is a way to get local schools engaged and involved in sports and physical activity.
- 1.17 Over 500 children are expected, who will take part in a mass warm up alongside famous faces before moving on to the Olympic themed circuit. The final event of the day will be everyone's favourite relay race.
- 1.18 I attended the event along with the Lord Mayor. We were joined by a number of famous faces including Olympic Gold Medallists Max Whitlock & Constantine Louloudis, Team GB and England Triple Jumper Nathan Fox and Olympic Medallist Swimmer Steve Parry. The day was an opportunity for young people to have fun and be inspired by the Olympics for years to come.

ActiveWestminster Awards

- 1.19 The 2016 ActiveWestminster Awards will take place on Friday 2nd December at Lords Cricket Ground, with around 150 guests expected. The awards are sponsored by a number of ActiveWestminster partners and contractors.
- 1.20 Award nominations are now open across the following 10 categories:
- Active Volunteer of the year
 - Active School of the year
 - Active club of the year
 - Health & Wellbeing project of the year
 - Champion of the Future
 - London Youth Games
 - Active Place of the year
 - Inclusive and Active Award
 - Coach of the year
 - Outstanding Contribution Award
- 1.21 David Weir will be our special guest for the night, who is a multiple Paralympic and World medal winner and following his sub 3 minute world record in May's Westminster Mile.

Summer sport and activity programme 2016

- 1.22 The summer programme attracted a high number of 8 - 12 year olds, attending the programme over 3 sites. St Andrews and Churchill Youth Clubs had a full number of participants registered along with over 100 participants at Academy Sports, which includes the Edutain + programme for people with Learning and physical disabilities.
- 1.23 Attendance shown as throughput of participants

Academy Sports		St Andrews Youth Club		Churchill Gardens Youth Club	
Week 1	442	Week 1	107	Week 1	93
Week 2	458	Week 2	135	Week 2	115
Week 3	340	Week 3	247	Week 3	131
Week 4	259	Week 4	103	Week 4	65
Week 5	241	Week 5	104	Week 5	51

- 1.24 Each of the sites plan and organise their own programme of trips such as swimming, visits to the other sites, Bishops Park Adventure, unity in the community football competition, ice skating, bowling and Battersea Park fun fair.
- 1.25 On The 4th August, Street Games (one of our Door step sports partners) organised a multi-sports London festival, which was held at the Copper Box Arena in the Olympic Park. From the 3 Edutain sites 61 young people attended and took part in a number of sporting activities, ranging from new sports such as Wall ball, Zorbing, Tri-Volleyball and many more fun activities on the day.
- 1.26 The Edutian programme has been a great success with the support from local residents has resulted in an increase in participation and the numbers of volunteers. Many of whom once attended the programme themselves and are now gaining experience in working on the programme, which is great to see.

London Youth Games performance 2016

- 1.27 Westminster finished in **22nd** place this year out of 33 London boroughs with a total of **871** points. This year’s results and final positioning are our best for over 10 years, resulting in Westminster winning the ‘Most Improved Borough Champions’ trophy.
- 1.28 A year on year comparison is shown below:

Year	Points	Place
2016	871	22 nd
2015	771	27 th
2014	621	30 th

- 1.29 Westminster entered 33 scoring events this year compared to 37 last year and in summary Westminster improved scores and places in 21 of those 33 events/sports. Westminster stayed in the same position in 2 events/sports and dropped placing’s/points in 8 events/sports.

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. The new application was determined in January and the s.106 has now been amended so that the community space will be delivered to the City Council at a peppercorn rent. The s.106 agreement provides 1400sqm of library space over four floors, however, Land Securities have informed that the delivery date of the building depends on the date that the land is handed back from London Underground (August 2016) and the subsequent works to the Palace Theatre which can only be completed before Nova 2 begins. The earliest that Nova 2 would start construction therefore is 2018 and officers have reiterated to Land Securities the need to see the library delivered in a timely way after that date.

Westminster City Archives

- 2.2 The City archives have achieved accreditation from the National Archives, making us one of only two London councils to achieve this to date. The accreditation scheme is national recognition for the quality of care, education and marketing of the service and I attended the

presentation of the award in the presence of the Lord Mayor. Accreditation potentially unlocks additional sources of external funding for the service.

Westminster Reference library

- 2.3 External refurbishment work commenced on 25 July and is progressing on schedule, with completion date of 9 December 2016. Internal refurbishment will take the completion date of the full project to March 2017.

Marylebone library

- 2.4 The library will move from its present temporary decant site at Mackintosh House in February 2017 to a new temporary library on New Cavendish Street. The new temporary site will be challenging because it is much smaller than the existing temporary site which is required back by Howard de Walden for development. Officers are working with a space planner to maximise use of the New Cavendish St site, and options for redirecting some usage to other sites and locations are being worked up. We will provide more information for customers over the next month. In the meantime, officers are also working on the long term provision for Marylebone and I will advise the Committee of progress with this at its next meeting.

Staff Consultation

- 2.5 We are looking for new ways to modernise our library service in a way that delivers reduced costs, value for money and a sustainable service. As part of this, libraries staff are being consulted on options for changes to the operating model and staff structure. The service will continue to build on extending self-service and our successful programme of involving volunteers alongside these other changes. Library closures and reduction in opening hours are not part of these plans. We know that libraries provide an essential service and bring communities together. If Members of the Committee would like to see the consultation document, please ask Mike Clarke, Director of Tri-Borough Libraries.

Culture

- 2.6 Six awards have been made to date from the Create Church Street fund (part of the Futures Regeneration programme), totaling £48,000 with the remainder of £151,000 to be used by March 2018. They include projects where people in the community take part in dance, visual art, film making, spoken word and theatre.

3 Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries

London in Bloom Success

- 3.1 The London in Bloom results were recently announced and I am pleased to report that the City Council has had another very successful year. Victoria Embankment Gardens won the Park of the Year award and we also retained the award for best council wide Floral Displays (which covers highways planting schemes and hanging baskets etc. in addition to parks/open spaces). Full list of awards:

- Park of the Year – GOLD: Victoria Embankment Gardens **Category Winner**
- Small Parks - Silver Gilt: Ebury Square Gardens
- Park of the Year – GOLD: St Johns Wood Church Ground
- City/Borough Award – GOLD: Westminster
- Small Conservation of the Year – Silver Gilt: Churchill Gardens Wildflower Meadow (CityWest Homes)

- Small Conservation of the Year – Silver Gilt: Queens Park Wildflower Gardens
- Churchyard of the Year – Silver Award: Marylebone Garden of Rest
- Large Cemetery of the Year – GOLD: Mill Hill – **Category Winner**
- Floral Displays Award: **Category Winner**
- Small Park of the Year – GOLD: Porchester Square Gardens

Procurement of new Contract for Management and Maintenance of Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries

3.2 The current contract with Continental Landscapes Ltd. is due to expire on 31st March 2017 and bids are being sought for a new six year contract to commence from 1st April 2017. The key objectives for the new contract will be to:

- Provide high quality public parks and open spaces for recreation, play, sport, health, biodiversity, heritage and climate change mitigation and adaption that is appropriate to need and adaptable to future requirements;
- Ensure public parks and open spaces support well-being, encourage participation, and facilitate social inclusion;
- Provide burial services and related cemetery services (e.g. memorial safety checks and burial records searches).

3.3 The most recent City Survey reported a 90% satisfaction rating by residents and other parks visitors. The new contract will aim to maintain and improve the quality of our parks, open spaces and cemeteries and there are no current savings proposals for these much valued public spaces. Bidders for the new contract are also being asked to submit proposals that will:

- Identify opportunities to increase the positive role that parks and open spaces can contribute to climate change mitigation.
- Support apprenticeships and work experience opportunities.
- Encourage greater community involvement, volunteering and additional partnership working between agencies, groups and organisations.
- Explore commercial opportunities (where compatible with the other priorities) to provide revenue to support management and maintenance.

Park Events

3.4 The LAPADA event is currently taking place at Berkeley Square until 14th October. The London Film Festival event will be taking place at the Victoria Embankment Garden from the 6th to the 16th October. This event will entail erecting a marquee on the main lawns with a raked seating capacity of 780. The annual Planit event will also take place at the Victoria Embankment Gardens from 9th November to 17th December.

Hanging Baskets

3.5 The hanging basket contractor will commence changing from the summer baskets to the winter baskets in October; a total of 2,500 baskets are on the streets of the City, with funding contributions from various sources including local resident groups, business improvement districts and some ward funding.

Queens Park Gardens (Ilbert Street Boundary Wall)

- 3.6 The boundary wall on Ilbert Street which was in a very poor condition due to root growth and crumbling mortar in-between the brick layers has been re-built and the multi-play area fully re-opened to the local community.

4 Volunteering and Voluntary Sector

Team Westminster Do-It local website (Provided by Do - it Trust)

- 4.1 The Do-It Westminster site has now been now running successfully for 7 months. As at 22 September, there were 426 live opportunities in Westminster. In the week prior to that, 4 people registered their interest, 1 opportunity and 133 organisations were added. Overall, 1,111 hours have now been logged by volunteers for opportunities in Westminster.

Team Westminster Flagship Volunteering (Provided by Groundwork)

- 4.2 The Team Westminster Flagship Volunteer programme shows consistent progression toward meeting targets.

At the end of Year 1:

Westminster Ambassadors: The Ambassador programme has delivered the target number of new volunteers recruited and number of events supported by ambassadors increased from 80% in Quarter 3 to 94% in Quarter 4.

Westminster Active: The number of volunteers placed in sports opportunities has risen significantly by 34% from 40% in Quarter 3 to 74% in Quarter 4.

Social Action – Groundwork organised 9 of the targeted 10 action events for the year which is commendable considering the project only became fully operational since March 2016.

Team Westminster Volunteer Outreach and Development (Provided by One Westminster)

- 4.3 The most recent monitoring report (Year 1 quarter 3) shows an overall improvement from the previous quarter. One Westminster has delivered a total of 61 ad hoc or regular outreach sessions representing a 27% increase on the previous quarter.

Time Credits (Provided by Spice)

- 4.4 Spice's Impact report for 2016 shows that in the first year, more than 650 people have given almost 5000 hours of their time in volunteering. With 66% saying that Time Credits have had a positive impact on their quality of life and 73% feeling they can contribute more to their community. This is good evidence that the Westminster Time Credits programme is encouraging people to view volunteering as a rewarding experience.
- 4.5 The figures for the first quarter are indicative that Spice is on track to exceed its annual targets for Year 2;
- 94% target for individuals engaging with time credits

- 63% of target for hours given (total time credits earned) for the year
- 70% of target for local corporate spend partners

The VCS Support Service (Provided by One Westminster)

- 4.6 Figures from the latest monitoring report show that overall the contract in the third quarter is performing in line with expectations.
- 4.7 Statistics below support this:
- WCN Events: Percentage of attendees rating the quality of events as good or excellent - **85.4%**
 - Networking: Percentage of attendees stating they are more aware of other VCS organisations and more able to start partnerships and undertake new ways of working with other VCS organisations - **80%**
 - Influencing: use of social media to distribute key messages of importance to the local VCS and to funders - **220%**
- 4.8 One Westminster has introduced a fortnightly digital e-bulletin that replaced an earlier monthly digital newsletter at the end of May. This e-bulletin is entirely devoted to spreading information of interest to the VCS. This includes the Westminster Community Network, funding, training, jobs, events and resources. The e-bulletin is proving to be much more successful than the previous monthly digital newsletter.

Westminster Advice Service Partnership (WASP)

- 4.9 There has been a significant rise in the level of financial outcomes secured for residents – such as an increase in benefits entitlements and debt being written off – between April and June with over £2m secured, over 50% higher than the previous quarter.
- 4.10 In response to a previous drop in performance at Children Centres, officers and Citizens Advice Westminster continue to work hard to ensure the advice service meets the needs of this group and engagement at Children Centres and Community Centres has improved.
- 4.11 From October 2016, Citizens Advice Westminster will be joining up with five other bureaux to provide an improved telephone advice line, available for longer hours and at local rate for calls from mobiles and landlines. The new number is 0300 330 1191 and will be advertised across Council outlets soon.

Time and Talents (provided by One Westminster)

- 4.12 Volunteering is a key pledge in 'City for All' and as part of our volunteering strategy to 'lead by example', council staff are encouraged to volunteer for up to 16 hours per year per volunteer. From April 2016 to date, the number of staff who have expressed an interest to volunteer is 218, of which 77 have been placed, amounting to 210 hours of volunteering.
- 4.13 During the lead up to the Policy, Performance and Communications Away Day on the 13th October, staff have been invited to take part in volunteering opportunities. To date 52 staff members have volunteered for a variety of projects.
- 4.14 We continue to look at innovative ways to encouraging more staff to get involved in further volunteering. Time and Talents are currently exploring opportunities for staff in the run up to Christmas.

Marylebone Cricket Club

- 4.15 I had a useful meeting with Derek Brewer, the Chief Executive of Marylebone Cricket Club, in September to discuss how the Council can further support MCC's social value initiatives and share learning about how we can encourage people to volunteer. Much of the Council's work in this area aligns with that of the MCC so we are looking at ways we can promote this and further support each other.

5 Community Engagement

Open Forum Website

- 5.1 Response to the new Open Forum website continues to be positive. There have been over 7,800 visits to the Open Forum website and over 1000 people have taken part in a consultation or left a comment.
- 5.2 The website has been used to help gather views on the Baker Street Two-way proposals, cycling, mental health, City Save scheme, Children Centres, community cohesion, health and wellbeing and street gambling.
- 5.3 Further activities planned include gathering feedback on the Rough Sleeping Strategy, Oxford Street Consultation and the Building Height Strategy.

Open Forum Meetings

- 5.4 We have finalised our plans for the first Open Forum Public meeting which was rescheduled for the 6th October and are making final preparation for the event. We are also working to pin down the themes of the further two Open Forum meetings scheduled for next year. We are working up themes for these meetings and, once confirmed, officers will schedule the dates for these meetings with the relevant councillors and start communication activity.
- 5.5 The officer team has also been running a City for All tour across Westminster with pop-up stands in community places such as leisure centres, libraries and at other existing events such as Queen's Park festival. The stands are run by officers and are designed to collect feedback about Council priorities passers-by and to encourage people to sign up to Open Forum where they can share their views on City for All and living in Westminster more generally.

**If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect any of the background papers please contact Lucy Hoyte x5729
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