

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 The Active Queens Park project is continuing to progress well 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 A 'topping out' ceremony took place on Wednesday 2nd November 2016 to mark a positive milestone with the new residential accommodation.
- 1.3 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 Leisure Centre

- 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, which is now part of the brief. This new facility will provide a permanent solution for a dedicated library service for Marylebone residents.
- 1.5 Officers are working with local stakeholders and services to explore initial design options which, if a suitable proposal is identified, will progress for wider public consultation in due course.

Queen Mother Sports Centre

- 1.6 A consultation is underway on the use of a Development Opportunity Framework (DOF) via Planning Policy. This is to make sure that WCC can keep a degree of control on the type of development that will happen in the Queen Mother area over the coming years - since this project is still a few years off.

- 1.7 The first round of consultation was extended till the 18th November, to allow plenty of time for residents and centre users to provide feedback on the initial framework. Feedback is being assessed and it is anticipated that a second round of consultation on the DOF will take place in early 2017.
- 1.8 As the DOF consultation document makes clear, the Queen Mother is central for the community and if the QM centre at any time forms part of any redevelopment, a new or substantially rebuilt QM sports and leisure centre will continue to form a major part of the sites, this use is strongly protected by planning policy. Any redeveloped or rebuilt QM will be of at least the same proportions as the current centre, which will continue to be operated by the Council, with £1,6 m of investment going in it shortly. The current QM is showing its age and at some point a major project will be needed to sustain the quality of the facilities residents and visitors expect.

Outdoor Learning- the Sayers Croft Centre

- 1.9 Improvements to the outdoor adventure facilities are also progressing, to further improve the attractiveness and diversity of facilities for visitors. The new facility will help to address the growing need for more accessible facilities and will provide more flexibility and a wider range of outdoor activities and capacity for site visitors. Works will complete in November 2016.
- 1.10 The new 'Forest Schools' programme at Paddington Rec is proving to be extremely popular with over 2,600 children participating in the programme this year. Forest Schools takes place in the environmental area at the Rec and provides the opportunity for local children to explore their local environment and learn about a wide range of environmental and biodiversity issues.

New Sports and Leisure Centre Contract

- 1.11 The new leisure centre contract commenced on 1st July 2016 and overall, the transition to the new operator has progressed well. Whilst there have been some teething problems which could be expected with a contract of this size and complexity, complaint levels remain consistent with previous years. A number of new improvements are now being realised including:
- A £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
 - A new financial support for local talented athletes
 - Improved marketing and communications activities
 - Improved opportunities to promote local employment including new apprenticeships
- 1.12 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. Works at the Queen Mother are progressing well 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. This programme of works will be progressed over the coming months and will complete in December 2016.

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. Officers are also progressing proposals to convert one of the three dog exercising areas into an area of tranquil green space which would connect with the adjacent blue bell glade and be accessible for all users. Public consultation with park users is currently being progressed.

The Porchester Centre- planned investment works

- 1.14 Planned improvement works at Porchester include:
- Refurbishment of the existing fitness facilities including new equipment
 - Conversion of the existing first floor exercise studio to a new 'hot yoga' facility
 - Alterations and refurbishment to the Porchester Spa. Planned improvements to the Spa would promote more use of the facility through the creation of a new entrance created via the basement of Porchester Hall, which would enable the popular Spa treatments to take place for both male and female customers throughout the day. At present, treatments are restricted to customers during male or female only sessions, that limits accessibility (i.e. female customers cannot access treatments during male only sessions and vice-versa). The new entrance would also provide accessibility for those with limiting disabilities and mobility issues via the existing lift within the adjoining library.
 - Improvements to Porchester Hall including decoration and new equipment
- 1.15 Officers are also planning on making improvements to the small swimming pool which would increase its accessibility for and 'lift' the overall quality of the facility.
- 1.16 A planning application has been submitted to enable the works to progress and engagement with Ward Members, users and local stakeholders is progressing.

ActiveWestminster Awards

- 1.17 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.
- 1.18 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
- 1.19 David Weir, a multiple Paralympic and World medal winner and holder of the sub 3 minute world record at May's Westminster Mile, will be our special guest for the night.

Edutain Half Term Programme

- 1.20 Edutain, meaning to educate and entertain, is a sports and arts activity programme for young people aged 8-13. The October half term programme took place at the following sites with very good levels of attendance:
- 60 young people registered
 - St Andrews Youth Club - 38 young people registered
 - Churchill Gardens Youth Club - 20 young people registered

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 informed the Council that the delivery date of the building depends on the date that the land is handed back from London Underground which took place as expected at the end of August 2016 and the subsequent works to the Palace Theatre which can only be completed before Nova 2 begins. The Council was required to confirm its requirement for a public library to be provided within one month of the hand back to Land Securities, which it has done and is now awaiting a response. 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.

Marylebone library

- 2.2 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 Street 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.

Culture

- 2.3 Ten awards have been made to date from the Create Church Street fund (part of the Futures Regeneration programme), totaling £66,000 with the remainder of £133,000 fund 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

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

- 3.3 The response from the grounds management industry has been very strong with 18 companies registering an interest in submitting a tender. The closing date for tenders is midday on the 1st December; it is hoped to award the new contract in early January 2017.

Park Events

- 3.4 The LAPADA event, at Berkeley Square, has finished and renovation works of the grass areas were completed on Wednesday 2nd November, well ahead of schedule.
- 3.5 The London Film Festival event took place at the Victoria Embankment Garden with very positive reviews from the public.
- 3.6 The annual Planit event build will take place at the Victoria Embankment Gardens between 9th November to 17th December.
- 3.7 The build for the “Christmas in Leicester Square” has commenced in the gardens; from the 9th November until the 8th January 2017.

4. Volunteering And Voluntary Sector

Abbey Community Centre

- 4.3 The SLA with the Abbey Community Association and South Westminster Community Hub related management services have been extended from October 2016 till March 2019. The SLA funds the Abbey Community Association's rent at the Abbey Centre and contributes to the delivery of a range of services from the Centre at a cost of £154,500.00 per annum.
- 4.4 I attended the Abbey Centre AGM in October to hear first-hand about the highlights of their past year's work and achievements and celebrate the success of their trainees and volunteers.

Time Credits

- 4.5 The second quarter (July-September 2016) monitoring report shows that the programme is performing exceedingly well against its targets – some key statistics and highlights below;
 - 110% target for individuals engaging with time credits
 - 97% target for hours given (total time credits earned) for the year
 - 75% target for local corporate spend partners
 - 29% of members new to volunteering, 10% increase from last quarter
 - 3813 Time Credits earned
 - Spend rate more than doubled. 1178 Time Credits spent in this quarter, 2935 to date
 - Time Credits now accepted across all 7 Everyone Active leisure centres for a wide variety of opportunities
 - The Courtauld Gallery – a major cultural attraction in Westminster recently signed up to Time Credits
- 4.6 On 7th November I attended the first anniversary of Westminster Time Credits run by Spice and supported by Westminster City Council. The event was a great opportunity to hear about their achievements in the first year, as well as share plans for the future.

Team Westminster Do-It local website

- 4.7 The Do-It Westminster site continues to run successfully. As of 1st November, there were 407 live opportunities in Westminster. In the week prior to that, 16 people registered their

interest, 24 opportunities and 122 organisations were added. Overall, 1,260 hours have now been logged by volunteers for opportunities in Westminster.

- 4.8 Officers carried out a 6-month review of the website and have worked primarily with Do-It to ensure that the site is maximised and is easy to navigate. One suggested example to improve the site was to ensure that Team Westminster Flagship opportunities are showcased better. Do-It are progressing this by updating the 'Getting Started with Team Westminster' link to include an overview of the three Team Westminster programmes – Ambassadors, Active and Social. Each overview and logo will link off to the relevant "organisation" page, where all opportunities in that programme can be viewed.

**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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