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| Report of: | Cllr Iain Bott |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Councillor Iain Bott, Cabinet Member for Sports, Culture & Community |
| Wards Involved: | All |
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1 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, LEISURE AND SPORT (PALS)

ActiveWestminster Strategy (AWS)

- 1.1 The AWS recognises that everyone's needs and attitudes are different and that people look for different things from physical activity, leisure and sport. Therefore, through our AWS, we will encourage people to be physically active, where, when and how they choose, and to ensure the whole of Westminster can benefit from an attractive, supportive and healthier environment.
- 1.2 Reaching that goal will require persistence, patience and resolution, therefore it is not just about doing the same thing more efficiently - at times a more innovative, radical and bold change will be required and we want to ensure that there is an openness to explore new options.
- 1.3 We want to work collaboratively to encourage innovation and share best practice, particularly through applying the principles and practical learning of behaviour change. We will continue to actively promote the fundamental contribution that physical activity, leisure and sport makes to individual physical and mental wellbeing, as well as the positive impacts it has upon our economy, our community and the development of our City.
- 1.4 Through our new approach we are aiming to strengthen a culture of physical activity, leisure and sport – including play across our city, our lives and in our neighbourhoods.

Summer Holiday Programmes

- 1.5 During the summer the PALS team, working with a range of partners including Everyone Active, have delivered excellent programmes for children and young people often running at capacity. The below table outlines participation at Edutain¹ this summer, which includes the fully inclusive Edutain¹ programme where children with a disability can participate alongside the main session.

Figure 1.

| Total Participants Registered | Average Daily Participation | No. of Volunteers Engaged | Reparations |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Academy Sport 119 | 43 | 7 | 2 |
| St Andrews Youth Club 38 | 19 | 6 | N/A |
| Churchill Gardens 32 | 14 | 2 | N/A |
| Edutain+ Academy Sport 9 | 5 | 1 | N/A |
| 198 | 81 | 16 | 2 |

Longmoor British Army Training Camp

- 1.6 In July at the beginning of the Summer Holiday, Active Westminster, the Met Police and the British Army planned and delivered a training camp at the Longmoor British Army base in Peter's field.
- 1.7 15 young people male and female completed the 5 day military training programme.
- 1.8 The young people were referred from the following Westminster departments and a couple of secondary schools; Looked after children, Integrated Gangs Unit, Youth Offending Team children in Care Services.
- 1.9 The course provides young people with the opportunity to work effectively within a team by communicating as an individual and as part of a team, to be motivated and be able to plan process and react to challenges with a positive attitude.

¹ Edutain is our early intervention holiday programme for young people aged 8-13 in the post deprived areas of Westminster. It operated during the school holidays, costing only £1pp per day. The programme runs in the Easter, Summer and October holiday periods in the North and South of Westminster, in the locations shown in Figure 1.

- 1.10 This great opportunity has opened up the minds of the young people who have not had this kind of training before and has also offered to chance to learn new life skills that they are now able to take back to their community of peers and explain how it has helped them to be more disciplined, loyal, and have self-commitment and have respect for others.

Website & Digital

- 1.11 A fundamental part of AWS is a project to refresh and enhance the ActiveWestminster website, app and digital programmes. The ActiveWestminster site was launched in March 2018 and uses OpenActive, a joint venture with Open Data Institute and Sport England, a national initiative to standardise freely available 'open data' (non-personal data) relating to physical activity, leisure and sport activities, and facilities.
- 1.12 Improvements to content, 'look and feel' to improve the customer experience are essential; enabling functionality, to allow 'guest' users to find, book and, where required, pay for activities and/or facilities and these can be achieved as short-term tactical solutions. A further enhancement has been identified as part of this review, which is to procure a digital solution to replace the plastic ActiveWestminster card.
- 1.13 Long-term improvements include, Single Sign-on (SSO) through MS Dynamics 365 integration, enabling 'registered' users to find, book and where required pay for activities and/or facilities, and integration with WCC's corporate website. Consumers will eventually be able to use ActiveWestminster as a single-gateway for procuring a variety of physical activity, leisure and sport activities and facilities within the borough.
- 1.14 The team are presented progress in this area at the next Customer Digital Standards Board on 24th September.

No Ball Games & The City Plan

- 1.15 As part of this strategy, progress is being made with the 'No Ball Games' initiative to remove prohibitive signage across estates and parks. Removing restrictive signage and byelaws such as 'No Ball Games' will allow for more permissive and supportive environments for physical activity and leisure wherever possible and appropriate.
- 1.16 Officers are already engaged in several actions to take this policy forward including a review of the Byelaws, working alongside colleagues from other service areas such as Parks and Open Spaces, Housing, Public Health and Children's Services. This in addition to the cross-portfolio work with Cabinet Members.
- 1.17 Additionally, as noted in the draft [City Plan 2040 being taken forward by Cllr Beddoe](#), we are developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), Built Facilities

Strategy (BFS) and finalising the Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP), which will also highlight the work on the 'No Ball Games' policy

Strictly Westminster

- 1.18 'Strictly Westminster' is an opportunity to promote active lives among young adults with disabilities in North, Central and South Westminster (these are the ActiveWestminster network areas) and for Westminster to champion a creative, positive initiative that supports participation and inclusion in physical activity.
- 1.19 The proposal is designed to allow for an annual Strictly Westminster event, and provides an option for creating tools that will enable carers/teachers to support people to be active through dance and movement.
- 1.20 A series of workshops, heats and then finals will take place from December through to January 2020, ensuring the group classes are fun, interactive, inclusive and everyone is recognised for their effort. The group class is a good opportunity for people to have a 'Strictly' taster, develop confidence, creative expression and social interaction.
- 1.21 As part of the Strictly Westminster legacy, PALS will also be setting up new disability dance programmes at an Everyone Active centre in each of the three networks for all those participants who didn't get selected for the final. These will be supported by each of the three heats having an additional 1-hour workshop for teachers, carers and volunteers who could be instructors for the new sessions. The additional workshop will provide simple and effective tools designed to engage disabled people in dance and/or a toolkit of tips and session plans for leading inclusive group dance/1:1 dance movement.

Sport for Confidence (SfC)

- 1.22 SFC have been operating in Westminster and specifically at Moberly so far for the last six months. SfC supports people who face barriers to participation to get involved in a variety of sporting activities in mainstream settings. Placing Occupational Therapists and Sports Coaches alongside each other to engender truly inclusive sport and leisure opportunities.
- 1.23 Residents have been able to access a variety of weekly sessions across two days and will soon be expanding to a third day in a more central location in Westminster at Seymour Leisure Centre. After a total of 9 months in the borough, SfC will then implement further delivery in the south of the borough at Queen Mother Sports Centre.
- 1.24 SfC have also provided numerous tasters and regular engagements with some the following services: Mencap, QPG Community Hub, PIP College, One Westminster, Carer's Network and more. Working closely with the PALS team and EveryoneActive (EA), they have managed to integrate broadly and promote their inclusive approach to various networks and target groups.

- 1.25 As SfC establish themselves further, an approach towards providing coaching and mentoring for participants as well as training and development for EA staff will start to shape the long term sustainability of a workforce and merging of SfC delivery into EA's programme.
- 1.26 A range of evaluation and monitoring guidelines are in place. Most insightful are the case studies that have been recorded of regular participants which are available on request.

ActiveStreets

- 1.27 The #MyWestminster ActiveStreets Programme consists of 3 types of ActiveStreet:
- **Play Streets:** a permanent designated street which provides priority over traffic to children and families to play in streets at specified times. This is underpinned by Department for Transport legislation (Section 29, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984).
 - **Street Play:** facilitated by temporary road closures (Section 16a, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984) for children and families to play in streets at specified days, times and locations. Officers are developing a policy that makes the process of applying for 'Street Play' as simple and as affordable (ideally, free) as possible.
 - **School streets:** provided either via permanent or temporary road closures for school children to play in the streets outside the school at specified days and times.
- 1.28 A great deal of progress has been made on this #MyWestminster project, including:
- The first 'School Street' was launched on Enford Street, outside St Mary's Bryanston Square CE Primary School, on 23rd April.
 - The successful installation our first 'Play Street' on Luton/Fisherton Street on the 29th April. The activation programme commences in July, through to the end of Sept 2019
 - Both the 'School Street' and 'Play Street' involved working closely with the schools, colleagues, developers, and local residents to be able to make this a success changing many lives for the better, creating the City for All vision of 'Healthier and Greener City'.
- 1.29 On 23rd August, the council formally launched its overall ActiveStreets programme, at Westminster's first 'Play Street' on Luton/ Fisherton Street. Following the launch, the Council encouraged residents and local organisations to take part in World Car Free day on the 22nd September, an initiative backed

by the Mayor of London and London Play. As part of this day, local residents had the opportunity to apply for a 'street play' event, with temporary road closures to celebrate World Car-Free day and host activities.

Champions of the Future Programme

- 1.30 Our Champions of The Future programme continues to support the City's talented young athletes as they progress onto their next step, through offering grant funding, mentoring and training.
- 1.31 We currently have 100 talented athletes from a range of sports accessing and benefitting from this scheme, including a Gifted and Talented programme in our local schools. Previous Champions have gone on to win medals at various international events or become ambassadors of the programme, which is undoubtedly a testament to the success of the programme.

2 MAJOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

- 2.1 Figure 2 demonstrates current membership and usage statistics for Westminster sports facilities and gyms.

Figure 2

Membership

| Contract Yr 3 | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Net Gain | % Gain |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| Little Venice | 886 | 867 | 867 | 956 | 1,008 | 986 | 1,033 | 1,065 | 1,019 | 1,070 | 1,125 | 1,158 | 272 | 31% |
| Marshall St | 2,921 | 3,011 | 2,808 | 2,799 | 2,999 | 3,036 | 3,037 | 3,042 | 3,273 | 3,023 | 3,298 | 3,296 | 375 | 13% |
| Moberly | 2,492 | 2,713 | 3,126 | 3,374 | 3,202 | 3,496 | 3,887 | 4,040 | 4,181 | 4,443 | 4,463 | 4,405 | 1,913 | 77% |
| Paddington Rec | 1,402 | 1,392 | 1,383 | 1,455 | 1,465 | 1,405 | 1,513 | 1,545 | 1,567 | 1,543 | 1,550 | 1,577 | 175 | 12% |
| Porchester | 3,240 | 3,233 | 3,198 | 3,198 | 3,196 | 3,058 | 3,223 | 3,293 | 3,193 | 3,291 | 3,257 | 3,216 | 24 | -1% |
| Queen Mother | 3,679 | 3,558 | 3,710 | 3,764 | 3,746 | 3,533 | 3,634 | 3,936 | 4,155 | 4,183 | 3,679 | 3,880 | 201 | 5% |
| Seymour | 2,499 | 2,543 | 2,616 | 2,695 | 2,720 | 2,683 | 2,809 | 2,860 | 2,793 | 2,950 | 2,902 | 2,855 | 356 | 14% |
| Total CY3 | 17,119 | 17,317 | 17,708 | 18,241 | 18,336 | 18,197 | 19,136 | 19,781 | 20,181 | 20,503 | 20,274 | 20,387 | 3,268 | 19% |
| Total CY2 | 14,689 | 14,519 | 14,958 | 15,067 | 15,591 | 15,115 | 16,300 | 16,770 | 16,478 | 15,791 | 16,085 | 16,011 | 1,322 | 9% |

Usage

| | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | March | April | May | June | Total | |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|--------|
| Contract Yr 1 | 183,418 | 175,081 | 190,726 | 192,164 | 183,802 | 143,308 | 209,404 | 219,443 | 224,040 | 219,976 | 220,429 | 221,558 | 2,383,349 | |
| Contract Yr 2 | 204,637 | 173,888 | 221,403 | 222,565 | 228,968 | 177,842 | 234,557 | 218,363 | 222,730 | 223,717 | 222,632 | 215,982 | 2,567,284 | 107.7% |
| Contract Yr 3 | 215,430 | 199,025 | 237,102 | 238,969 | 245,216 | 182,874 | 259,047 | 263,097 | 257,674 | 244,932 | 248,462 | 255,381 | 2,847,209 | 110.9% |

| Contract Year 3 | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | March | April | May | June | Total |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Marshall Street | 19,450 | 19,189 | 22,732 | 22,824 | 22,975 | 11,674 | 23,610 | 22,366 | 22,274 | 21,673 | 21,912 | 22,227 | 252,906 |
| Pad Rec - Site Activity Visits | 26,435 | 18,225 | 26,540 | 26,528 | 26,626 | 23,384 | 22,254 | 22,099 | 22,310 | 22,460 | 22,651 | 27,240 | 286,752 |
| Pad Rec People Counters | 109,447 | 92,168 | 108,852 | 100,612 | 80,420 | 60,430 | 74,096 | 75,987 | 114,687 | 141,411 | 161,608 | 163,528 | 1,283,243 |
| St Augustines | 1,732 | 1,729 | 1,639 | 1,753 | 1,698 | 1,584 | 1,610 | 1,794 | 1,761 | 1,797 | 1,796 | 1,837 | 20,730 |
| Porchester | 37,686 | 37,494 | 46,722 | 43,204 | 45,605 | 38,194 | 46,592 | 48,523 | 50,418 | 44,642 | 45,171 | 45,754 | 530,005 |
| Queen Mother | 51,034 | 49,819 | 51,552 | 51,508 | 53,435 | 30,357 | 59,446 | 61,275 | 56,690 | 55,303 | 54,312 | 56,635 | 631,366 |
| Seymour | 33,679 | 26,692 | 34,570 | 35,245 | 35,349 | 26,404 | 34,313 | 37,652 | 40,119 | 37,033 | 39,249 | 37,551 | 417,856 |
| Little Venice | 12,536 | 10,304 | 12,096 | 12,918 | 13,334 | 9,068 | 13,010 | 13,172 | 13,568 | 12,271 | 12,424 | 12,477 | 147,178 |
| Moberly | 32,878 | 35,573 | 41,251 | 44,989 | 46,194 | 42,209 | 58,212 | 56,216 | 50,534 | 49,753 | 50,947 | 51,660 | 560,416 |
| Total Y3 | 324,877 | 291,193 | 345,954 | 339,581 | 325,636 | 243,304 | 333,143 | 339,084 | 372,361 | 386,343 | 410,070 | 418,909 | 4,130,451 |

Seymour Leisure Centre

- 2.2 Council Officers have reviewed several options to scope how best to refurbish this leisure centre alongside creating space for the new Marylebone library.

- 2.3 The proposals suggesting the raising of the current sports hall to first floor level to allow the original large swimming pool area to be brought back into use are currently being discussed and awaiting confirmation. This approach will bring back an original use and create a larger and better swimming provision than the existing swimming pool which is now past its design life and has a constrained size.
- 2.4 Sport England have reviewed and provided positive feedback on these plans. In doing, they are supportive of this co-location opportunity and have provided initial design and cost plan advice.
- 2.5 Proposals will look to protect important heritage aspects of this Grade II listed building as much as possible. This will be balanced with improving the overall longevity of the building whose current condition requires considerable investment and modernising.
- 2.6 The business case to support this refurbishment investment is being procured with the strategic outcomes being available in November. Alongside this, Sport England are currently identifying the wider leisure benefits of this proposed refurbishment through their own planning modelling process. These findings will be integrated into the business case strategic outcomes.

Jubilee Sports Centre

- 2.7 Phase 2 of the scheme will create a Community Sports Centre and 56 private residential homes. WHIL (Westminster Housing Investment Limited) have had an offer accepted to acquire 19 of these homes. The future use will be at the Council's discretion, but the intention is for these 19 homes be let on a range of rents based on Westminster's intermediate rent bands.
- 2.8 Progress to enable a start on site is being made in negotiations with the Council's development partner, EcoWorld. Heads of Terms to pursue Phase 2 is being recommended for a Cabinet Member decision, this Autumn. Enabling works continue and involve utility disconnections and an asbestos strip out to accelerate the proposed demolition and future construction works.

Paddington Recreation Ground (PRG)

- 2.9 Excellent progress has been made at PRG using a combination of capital budget and CIL funding worth circa £1.5million over the next 3 years. This includes delivering a new community suite, three new sports pitches, a callisthenics area, parkour equipment, sprint track, efficient LED lighting as well as a landscaping and environment area.
- 2.10 Officers are also working with Highways and the Road Safety Team on a cyclopark proposals. As part of this wider project, there is a review of the Paddington Recreation Ground Management Plan being undertaken.
- 2.11 The Community Suite at Paddington Recreation Ground has reached practical completion. The addition of this new community suite will allow to PRG offer a

range of group exercise classes, including group cycling, as well as soft play and community activities. There was a small launch on 23 September, followed by an open day on 28 September, where residents were invited to a free community day to try the new facility, with PRG offering free access to a range of classes and personal training sessions.

Lisson Green Football Pitch

- 2.12 The current pitch on the Lisson Green estate is reaching the end of its design life and needs an upgrade. The team are managing the project on behalf of Westminster Housing services to offer best practice and subject matter expertise. The new pitch investment is a partnership between the Council and the London Marathon Trust, with both parties sharing the cost. A local sports club have a long-term interest in this pitch and would like to be part of the future management of the facility via a Community Use Agreement (CUA).
- 2.13 Our consultants are preparing a planning application which will be ready for submission this Autumn, with resident consultation has signified strong support for the changes proposed.

Outdoor Adventurous Learning Centre- Sayers Croft

- 2.14 Earlier this year Sayers Croft received a second visit from the Duchess of Cambridge at their Paddington Recreation Ground site, where we continue to develop the Forest school programme with the support of PALS and Everyone Active. Planned development of the site is to provide another covered area to be inclusive of Years 5 and 6 children and adults, due to capacity restrictions in the indoor classroom. Plus, enhancement works to the environmental area which will benefit the children's outdoor experience.
- 2.15 The Surrey residential centre over the past year has had several new developments. There are improved facilities for camping groups, a new reception area to welcome visitors, and a new covered space outside our disabled access building, which will give the groups a space to gather out of the rain and has enabled us to expand the classroom which was inadequate.
- 2.16 There are further new developments planned for the coming year that will enhance activity programmes such as building a new climbing tower, which will have a zip wire from the top to ground level. The old zip wire was not suitable for primary aged children, this new one will be suitable for years 5 and 6 groups.
- 2.17 The team are currently piloting mindfulness courses at both the residential centre and Paddington recreation ground, offering something for young people and adults which has similar health benefits that Forest School offers.
- 2.18 Plans to increase accessibility are underway to build a new disabled access toilet, one which is central to site and not part of a dormitory or staff room, so easily accessed for all visitors. This will be included as part of the main hall refurbishment to update the facility so that it can be used both by adults and

children and adding some adult toilet facilities that we currently lack for visiting teachers and adults.

3 VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR (VCS)

Westminster Advice Service Partnership (WASP)

- 3.1 The latest monitoring report submitted for Year 1, Q3 (April - June 2019) shows that the contract continues to progress well, with most areas exceeding their set targets.
- 3.2 During this quarter the contract dealt with 3,956 enquiries – with the three main enquiry areas being Benefits 38%, Debt 19% and Housing 12%. As a result, the contractor supported residents to access £1.2m in eligible benefits either in claiming new benefits/adjusting the benefits due or supporting residents in appeals.

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Contracts

- 3.3 We have commenced a review of the existing voluntary and community sector support contracts which are due to expire in late 2020, looking at value for money and how to ensure the council is creating the greatest impact possible through its work with the not for profit sector. A full programme of work is currently being developed, which will result in a new approach to how the Council supports and works with the VCS. This will inform the shape of future central VCS support contracts as well as how the Council works with the sector more generally.

MyWestminster Community Awards 2019

- 3.4 The Community Awards are the Council's annual ceremony to recognise Volunteers in Westminster. They run in partnership with Groundwork and One Westminster and have been well received since inception.
- 3.5 This year, a refresh of the concept, audience, communications approach was agreed to widen the reach of engagement amongst residents. The ceremony has now been renamed from Community Awards to 'MyWestminster Community Awards' with additional categories to ensure that all aspects of community life and the work that contributes towards the council's City for All priorities are recognised.
- 3.6 This year's ceremony was successfully held on the 9th of July. It was sponsored by Veolia. Award categories included 'City for All' Volunteer of the Year, Voluntary Contribution to the Community and Outstanding Contribution to the Local Area.

4 CULTURE

- 4.1 An exhibition of art works by local Westminster students aged 11-24 was held in 19th floor pop-up gallery at WCH as part of Creative Industries Week delivery. A staff competition took place to award prizes to three winners and 100 students, family members and teachers attended the launch or visited during the week. The West End Theatre exhibition launched as the first Community Gallery display on the UG floor at WCH. It drew on material in the council archives and documentation of West End Live. Four lunchtime archives tours and paper conservation workshops were also run in parallel.
- 4.2 The student art and community gallery exhibitions at WCH have generated significant interest from council staff working with community partners. While some of these proposals can be incorporated into future WCH exhibitions, the Cultural Policy and Projects Officer (CPPO) has worked with libraries and archives staff to generate displays across libraries in Westminster. Potential opportunities being explored include a WAES exhibition at Pimlico library, a Westminster Enterprise Week exhibition at Charing Cross Library and a disability arts community (Community Access Westminster) exhibition at Maida Vale, led by Social Value staff in Growth, Planning and Housing. A webpage and increased comms activity will promote the WCH #MyWestminster Life Community Gallery UG mezzanine exhibitions.
- 4.3 Arts Award network event (10 July) was held in Lord Mayor's Parlour in partnership with A New Direction and both Islington and Camden Councils to provide bespoke advice on this arts education accreditation scheme for local schools and arts organisations to support the next generation arts leaders and practitioners. Westminster arts organisations who attended Arts Award events included local arts organisations Wigmore Hall, English National Opera, Carnival Village Trust and the local Tri-borough Music Hub. Outcomes include interest from contemporary music organisation, Sound and Music (based at Somerset House), in developing a City Lions/Arts Award partnership.
- 4.4 The CPPO has facilitated meetings with Adult Social Care, Public Health and Cultural Partnerships team to develop ways to work together on developing the next phase of Out and About (for over 65s) to extend the offer to attend free cultural events to more residents experiencing social isolation and health challenges through People First, Westminster Plus magazine (for over 65s), City West Homes, community champions and the Church Street Health and Wellbeing Hub. Plans are being discussed to create future programmes for socially isolated 16-24 year olds, another group identifying as experiencing loneliness and associated mental health challenges.
- 4.5 Council staff are facilitating opportunities for arts organisation, Art Thou, who programme high-quality pop-up exhibitions of work by emerging artists, to occupy meanwhile space in the Ebury Edge regeneration site. The Business & Enterprise team are liaising with Art Thou about wider Westminster pop-up or empty spaces that could benefit from vibrant artist-led inventions.

- 4.6 A new culture category was created as part of the My Westminster awards. Two awards were made to Mousetrap Theatre Projects and Philip Andokou/Deborah Lauder for their 2018 Black History events.
- 4.7 Research and meetings with the VFX (visual special effects) sector in Soho have uncovered models of shared working that provide an exemplar for other arts and creative sub-sectors. The CPPO is now planning an event with WCC Business Unit and UK Screen Alliance to promote best practice and generate more local creative apprenticeships during National Apprenticeships Week in February 2020.
- 4.8 We have been working closely with the British Film Institute (BFI) to develop a partnership to benefit residents ahead of this year's London Film Festival. This partnership will extend beyond the festival as we work with the BFI to increase access to film.

Banksy

- 4.9 Following preservation work commissioned by the council on the new Banksy intervention next to Marble Arch, Chris Bull of Fine Art Restoration Company, has submitted a pro-bono conservation report on options regarding the Council's Fitzrovia Banksy.
- 4.10 The presumed Banksy at Marble Arch has now been restored, and a protective cabinet has been put in place.

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

- 5.1 Open Forum took place on 22nd May where 62 people attended. The next Open Forum will be taking place on 28th October at Westminster Academy. Social media posts and Invitations have already been sent out, with over 50 responses so far.

6 CITY LIONS

- 6.1 City Lions is a two-year pilot programme which commenced in summer 2018. It targets disadvantaged young people aged 13-16. It aims to enrich young people's lives by encouraging participation in cultural and creative opportunities. City Lions is helping young people discover and celebrate their own culture and creativity and make the best of what Westminster has to offer.
- 6.2 As well as broadening young people's horizons by offering workshops, one-off events and exclusive offers, City Lions aims to use Westminster City Council's influence to provide unique opportunities for those most in need in the City.
- 6.3 City Lions also endeavours to raise awareness of the career opportunities that lie within these industries, by exposing young people to the wider cultural and creative sectors via work placements, shadowing opportunities and talks with industry professionals.

6.4 The programme objectives are:

- engage 345 young people per year;
- provide 30 unique work experience opportunities per year;
- provide 10 creativity workshops in association with Westminster schools, youth clubs, children's services and youth organisations;

6.5 In its first year, City Lions has engaged 815 young people. 181 Westminster Students have taken part in creativity workshops. Of participants identified as Westminster residents, 52% young people originated from the top 30% most deprived wards in the borough. With further development, this programme will be pivotal to promoting Westminster as a City of Opportunity

6.6 City Lions has successfully brokered 29 work experience placements, which have been put out to various schools and Looked After Children team for allocation.

7 LIBRARIES

Marylebone library and Seymour Leisure Centre

7.1 Proposals for the integration of Marylebone library with a refurbished Seymour Centre are detailed in section 2 of this report. The library service is working closely with colleagues in the PALS team and with the leisure contractor to develop a holistic "wellness" offer promoting mental health and well-being and resources to support this both through information and activity.

7.2 A key benefit of the co-located service will be to work across teams to improve outcomes for residents. This builds on the long-standing partnership with public health to provide information and support for healthier living through libraries with over 400 events to promote health annually in library settings in Westminster. A full programme of library activities supporting the vision for libraries as places at the heart of communities where people can read, learn and connect, will be developed. This will include provision for under-5s, children and young people and elderly and disabled residents including rhyme times, homework clubs, music and tech-based events, digital and computer training, and basic skills help.

Independent library advisory board

7.3 Since Connecting Libraries (the independent advisory board's report) was published in April 2019, officers have been developing a communications plan and starting the engagement process. This will look objectively at what the board recommends, in partnership with residents, library users and stakeholders, and develop a comprehensive response that is about adopting the recommendations wherever feasible, practical or appropriate. Engagement with Members and library staff through workshop sessions on the report's recommendations has already taken place.

- 7.4 The next steps will be a series of workshops and discussions at management teams. The key focus is the “libraries deliver” element of the report which highlights what libraries can contribute to City for All and corporate priorities. Libraries can help cut costs, connect with residents and help combat social isolation.
- 7.5 There will be further sessions with Members, library staff and other colleagues as well as a stakeholder engagement workshop and these will inform wider resident and library user engagement sessions later in the autumn. This in turn is going to feed into a long term library strategy which will be published in early 2020.

Westminster Reference Library

- 7.6 The three-month workspace pilot at Westminster Reference library offering an affordable workspace for creative businesses such as art, fashion, design film and media start-ups at a cost of £200 per month has been successful, with three of the six desks taken up by businesses. The pilot has now been extended for another 12 months to enable further market testing of the concept in the library and popularity of the space. A feasibility exercise will also be undertaken to identify additional workspace options in other library sites.

EU Settlement Scheme

- 7.7 The EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) was launched in March 2019, following a pilot limited to healthcare and education employees. It allows EU citizens who have been in the UK for five years or more by 31 December 2020 (or the date the UK leaves the EU in the event of no deal) to apply to continue living and working in the UK.
- 7.8 In order to provide support to Westminster residents who are EU nationals, to engage with the EUSS application process, libraries and the registration service are working together offering an ID verification service which enables applicants to scan their documents at Victoria, Charing Cross and Paddington libraries. The pilot started at Victoria library in June 2019 and 844 appointments have been booked up to the end of September 2019. The service is free of charge to Westminster residents with non-residents paying a fee of £21.

Open House

- 7.9 The popular London-wide annual architecture event took place on the weekend of 21/22 September and libraries were distribution points for the brochure, which included details of numerous normally private spaces in Westminster that were open to the public for the weekend. As part of this, the archive centre in St Ann’s Street was one of the listed participants with visitors invited to a behind-the-scenes tour including the centre’s conservation workshop and some of its special collections about Westminster’s rich history.