

Sports, Leisure and Open Spaces Policy and Scrutiny Committee Briefing

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Briefing of: Doug Precey

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Open Spaces

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1. Sports and Leisure

Improvements to Facilities

The Porchester Centre

- 1.1. The Council is making a number of improvements at the Porchester Centre including new health and fitness facilities, a new meeting/activity room, new exterior signage and improvements at Porchester Spa.
- 1.2. Improvement works have been completed in the Spa and fitness facility which has included new lockers, new fitness equipment, redecoration and new flooring and improvements to the filtration systems. Works to improve the existing ground floor area of Bridgefield House (the building adjacent to the Porchester Centre) have also commenced and this will help to create a flexible community space for meetings, training events and activities.
- 1.3. The next phase of planned works at the Porchester Centre includes refurbishment of the changing rooms, improvements to the reception area, a new 'spinning' studio and improvements to Porchester Hall.

Queen Mother Sports Centre

- 1.4. Proposals to redevelop the reception and cafe facilities at Queen Mother Sports Centre are being progressed. The work will relocate the reception facilities to the ground floor of the building to provide more prominence of the centre from street level and an enhanced experience for customers. The cafe facilities will be moved to a more central location within the main centre which will provide a more convenient environment for residents and other users. Procurement for the works is taking place and works are due to start in the Autumn.

Sayers Croft

- 1.5. Works to extend and improve one of the accommodation blocks at the site is currently taking place. The works will provide new toilets and shower accommodation as part which will be integral to the block which will positively respond to feedback from customers (who currently have to use shower facilities in a separate accommodation block). Works are due to complete in October.

Improvement works to the Games Area at Queens Park Gardens

- 1.6. The planned improvement works to the 'free to access' Games Area (new fencing, floodlighting and improvements to the surface) and the provision of new outdoor gym equipment at Queens Park Gardens is scheduled to commence on Monday 6th October. The works will take between 6-8 weeks depending on the weather and will provide improved facilities which will enable longer and greater levels of use.

Major redevelopments

Active Queen's Park Project

The redevelopment of Moberly & Jubilee Sports Centres

- 1.7. Planning permissions were granted in April for proposals for Moberly Sports Centre by the London Borough of Brent and for Jubilee Sports Centre and Queen's Park Gardens by the City of Westminster. Design and contractual work is being progressed and 'phase 1' of the works programme will begin at Moberly in February/ March 2015. Jubilee will remain open whilst Moberly is redeveloped.

Seymour Re-Development

- 1.8. Officers are assessing the possibility of a redevelopment of the Seymour Leisure Centre site to provide a major improvement to the sports and leisure facilities and a high quality and contemporary mix of facilities. An initial high level feasibility has been undertaken which is being considered by the Council's 'Commercial Opportunities Board'. An extensive programme of consultation will be undertaken as part of the next phase of the programme should the initiative proceed.

Initiatives and Events

Little Venice Sports Centre - finalist in the Flame Awards 2014

- 1.9. Little Venice Sports Centre has been awarded the prestigious 'UKactive Flame Award', for 'sports centre of the year'. The Flame Awards recognise leisure centres, health clubs and group operators that have demonstrated exceptional standards across their operation.

Sayers Croft- Learning Outside the Classroom Award

- 1.10. The Sayers Croft Centre has been awarded the national 'Learning Outside the Classroom Award'. The assessor was very complimentary about the management of the site and the overall offer commenting:

"Very successful visit. Pleased to say that Sayers Croft met all the criteria and in a number of areas are going well beyond the requirement. Wonderful day and a delight to be assessing such tremendous provision."

Schools return to a new PE and School Sport offer

- 1.11. A refreshed PE and School Sport Offer has been launched across all Westminster schools, building on last year's successful take-up. The offer is designed to help schools maximise the use of the Government's Primary PE Premium funding. The offer has been simplified to a core menu and aims to provide even better value for money at just £490 for the whole year. The package includes the annual calendar of competitions and events and training for teachers. The head teacher's executive has responded positively to the new offer which is being well received across schools.

MCC Lords Schools Offer

1.12. A new cricket programme is being promoted to Westminster schools in partnership with the MCC and Lords. The new provision will be free to schools and is being launched in October.

ActiveWestminster Awards

1.13. The annual ActiveWestminster Award event will take place at Lords Cricket Ground on the 28th November. There are 10 categories from Active Club to Inclusive and Active programme of the year award.

Paddington Recreation Ground – Tennis Tournament

1.14. Paddington Recreation Ground has recently been praised by the Minister for Sport, Helen Grant MP, and the Lawn Tennis Association. On a recent visit as part of the ‘Tennis Tuesday’s’ initiative, a campaign which aims to get more women playing tennis, the Sports Minister was impressed with the site as well as the packed courts full of sporty women.

After taking to the court herself and playing against local residents, the Sports Minister said:

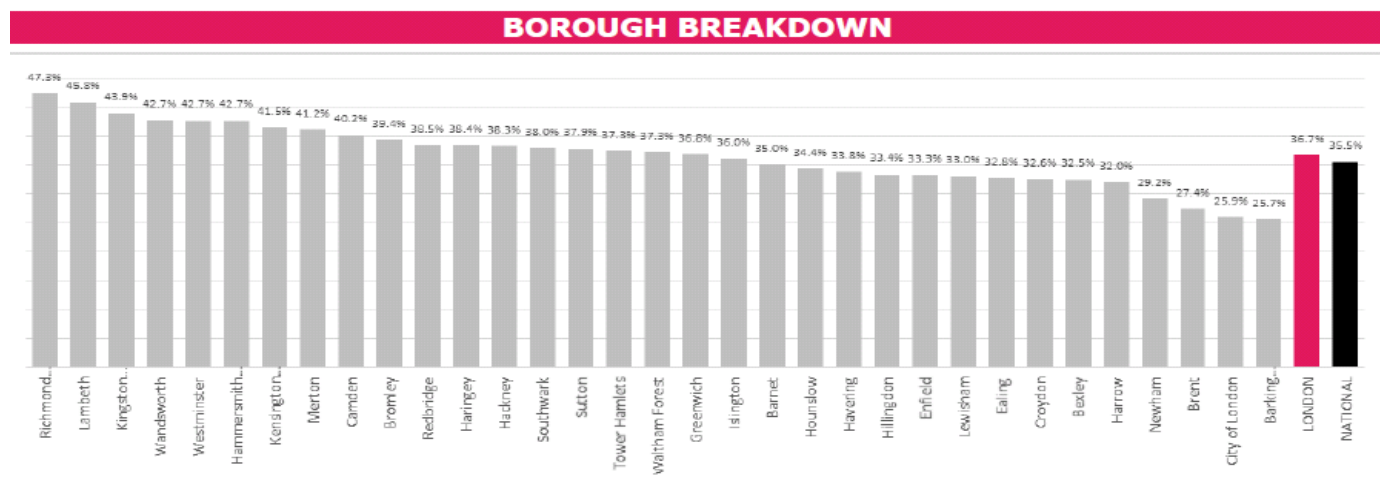
“This [Paddington Recreation Ground] is such a lovely place, and it is a lovely thing to do at the end of a hard day: get out, get some fresh air, and play tennis.”

Tennis Tuesdays is organised by British Tennis, who were also impressed with the Paddington sports facility.

Other issues

Active People Summary Results

1.15. Sport England published summary results from the Active People survey in June. Overall the results for Westminster are very positive and show high levels of participation in sport and physical activity- **Westminster is the 5th most active borough in London** with 42.7% of the adult population (16 years+) regularly participating* against a London average of 36% and national average of 35%.



16+ Participation

* *Figures released show participation in 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport per week (or at least four 30 minute+ sessions in the previous 28 days). The Active People Survey has recorded participation rates amongst people aged 16 and over since 2005.*

Leisure Centre contract re-let

- 1.16. Officers are progressing with the procurement strategy for the sports and leisure facilities contract which is due to commence from 1st July 2016. A 'market engagement event' is due to take place on 10th October to discuss key issues and opportunities with potential 'bidders'.

Lansdowne Club

- 1.17. Following the approval of a recent planning application for the Lansdowne Club, the applicant has agreed to community use of the fencing facilities at the club which will include:
- Use of the fencing 'salle' for Westminster young people with instruction provided by the Club.
 - Use of the fencing salle by Qualified Fencers
 - Use of the fencing salle and fencing equipment for the London Youth Games Fencing Squad
 - The payment of £15,000 per annum for a five year period to assist with the development of a community fencing offer across Westminster.

2. Libraries and Culture

2.1. Church Street library

The library has been subject to a number of water ingress related issues. Works started in April 2014 to rectify these issues, with the library remaining open but some internal areas cordoned off for periods of time. The biggest impact has been on the sub basement, which houses a community meeting space, youth zone and a learning zone, which has been closed since July. The project is on schedule for completion in mid-October as originally planned.

2.2. Queen's Park library

The library will be closed from 4 October to 2 November 2014 to facilitate refurbishment, which includes redecoration throughout, new flooring and lighting and repairs to the roof.

2.3. Charing Cross library roof

Essential repairs to the roof began on 8 September 2014 for 14 weeks. The works will not require closure of the library or impact on service delivery. There will be a significant amount of scaffolding erected, including at the front of the building. Signage for customers to ensure they know the library remains open will be provided when required.

2.4. Library management system (LMS)

An integrated LMS went live on 10 June 2014. This will save the Council £60,000 per annum (and £100,000 across Tri-borough), compared to the previous system. Library customers will be able to view and order books and other materials from any Tri-borough library via a single web-based catalogue.

2.5. Archives

The archives centre supported 'Lights Out' in Piccadilly Circus, which took place between 10pm and 11 pm on 4 August 2014 as part of a national commemoration for World War I. It involved the display of images from the archives on the large advertising screens as well as a scrolling roll of honour of Westminster residents killed on active service, compiled by

student volunteers working at the archives centre. The event was attended by 5000 people and covered in the regional and national media.

The archives centre contributed local stories to the 'Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace' exhibition in St James's Park, which will run until the end of November.

The music library project 'Behind the Lines' had a very successful finale with a concert at St John's Smith Square. The project brought a great deal of new activity to the library with 24 workshops for schools, older people and families.

2.6. Registration service

In its first year of operation there have been over 900 ceremonies at Mayfair library ceremony suite, with 218 bookings so far to the end of 2014.

Limitations on the capacity of the suite, compared with Old Marylebone Town Hall, have reduced the number and scale of ceremonies Westminster can host. To offset this, a partnership venue able to cater for larger wedding parties to host ceremonies at weekends has been procured. The appointed partner venue is Asia House in New Cavendish Street.

The online function for customers to make appointments to register births and deaths is now live. Of the 1029 birth registration appointments made between 23 July and 17 September, 583 were booked online by customers – this without any advertising of the new facility. The next stage of the online project is the integration of payment to enable customers to both book and pay in one transaction. It is aimed to offer an online wedding calendar so that couples can check availability of dates and book online.

Work is underway with the communications and digital team to develop a weddings micro site to sit under the Council website. This will provide a marketing tool for the service and customer research is being conducted to make it as effective as possible. A virtual tour of the Mayfair ceremony suite is now live for customers to view: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/get-married-mayfair>

2.7. Arts and culture

The Showroom Gallery and artist Christian Nyampeta will run a project with six local community groups to re-design the 'living wall' in the newly re-furbished Church Street Library. The final work is due to be installed by the end of November.

Councillor Angela Harvey and officers met representatives from Tate Britain and Transport for London's Art on the Underground to discuss a project due to take place at Pimlico underground station. It was agreed that the murals in the subway (which were painted over then re-instated some months ago) would not be included in the project which will be part of Art on the Underground's Victoria Line series.

Paddington Arts, the youth arts centre for 6 to 26 year olds, is working to submit an application to Arts Council England (ACE) for Grants for the arts funding for project work which is likely to involve the spoken word, dance and photography for 13-19 year olds from the Tri-borough Alternative Provision service (TBAP). They are also developing ideas for generating income from renting out spaces in the building, which they own. These initiatives are intended to replace some of the revenue lost when they were removed from ACE's portfolio of nationally funded organisations.

3. Volunteering and the Voluntary Sector

Information & Advice Services

3.1 The Information & Advice Services contract is bedding in well and has achieved the majority of its targets, many of which have been overachieved. The service focussed its effort on the two areas where there has been underperformance, the Families Service and the Disability Service which have seen significant improvement since last quarter.

Service	Annual Target	QTR Target	QTC Actual	% QTR Actual
Overall Client Contacts	16000	4000	4262	107%
Disability Advice & Casework (Client Contacts)	880	220	321	146%
Disability Advice & Casework (Appts)	1000	250	214	86%
Mental Health Advice & Casework (Client Contacts)	880	220	512	233%
Mental Health Advice & Casework (Appts)	1000	250	195	78%
Families with Child Under 5 Advice & Casework (Children Centre Drop-Ins)	208	52	47	90%
Families with Child Under 5 Advice & Casework (Community Centre Drop-Ins)	156	39	39	100%
Families with Child Under 5 Advice & Casework (Appts)	416	104	93	89%
Older People's Advice & Casework (Client Contacts)	1000	250	341	136%
Older People's Advice & Casework (Appts & Home Visits)	1000	250	293	117%

- 3.2 There was a lack of clarity on the definition of appointments as whether this meant available, booked or attended. Officers have agreed with the service to measure appointments booked going forward and in recognition of the type of cohort this service works with, to strive for 80% quarterly attendance (recognising winter months may be lower with particular services e.g. older people).
- 3.3 The service has also been asked to identify the number of people attending children centre and community centre drop ins with the notion to change KPI's from number of drop-ins delivered to the number of people attending.
- 3.4 The service will present their annual review, client satisfaction survey and external stakeholder survey results at the next meeting

City Guides

- 3.5 City Guides have had a successful and busy summer programme with 17 days' worth of events this quarter including; London Marathon, Trooping the Colour and West End Live. City Guides have been working to increase the number of registered volunteers; a recent advert placed in the Metro and Evening Standard led to a large increase in the number of registrations, 66 this quarter compared to 13 from Quarter 1 last year.
- 3.6 We are now working more closely with the Events team to ensure the smooth running of the City Guides programme at events in Westminster. City Guides are also working on improving the quality of their monitoring information to ensure we can really measure the programme's impact. This new approach will be used in the next monitoring report due at the end of September.

Volunteer Brokerage

- 3.7 The Volunteer Brokerage service continues to over perform in most areas in Quarter 1 of this year with impressive high levels of volunteer registration. It is expected that areas of underperformance e.g. new volunteering opportunities created are due to seasonal variation and will have picked up over the summer months.

	<i>Annual Target</i>	<i>Q1 Achieved</i>	<i>Q1 Target</i>	<i>% Vs Q1 Target</i>
Total Volunteer Registrations	2850	1046	712	146.9%
Volunteer Placements	1000	261	250	104.4%
New volunteering opportunities created	600	80	150	53.3%
Total number of new volunteering vacancies	6000	1,320	1500	88%
Training courses for organizations	8	1	2	50%
No of organisations attending training	80	12	20	60%

- 3.8 Next quarter, the service will be providing details of the impact of their outreach work in National Volunteer Week as well as their regular outreach in job centres, libraries and schools to ensure they are having maximum impact within the community.

Team Westminster Volunteering Strategy Implementation

- 3.9 Work is ongoing to implement the commitments contained within the volunteering strategy. The procurement of the Westminster Time Credits is also progressing as part of a pan London framework against which locally or thematically specific services can be called off. A service specification has been prepared and a notice inviting potential supplier to meet with officers at City Hall to talk about the new service has been posted on the council's website.
- 3.10 The commissioning and procurement of the Flagship Volunteering Programme (including events, sports and social action volunteering) is ongoing and a new service is expected to be in place before the end of the current contract, which expires in March 2015. If the new service commences before this date, the previous contract will be cancelled in line with its terms and conditions.
- 3.11 The specification for a new Volunteering Brokerage service which combines a general brokerage with a more targeted service where the Provider will broker a volunteering opportunity based on someone's personal skills and interests is currently being developed by officers. As such, the procurement of the new Brokerage Service will be combined with the procurement of the new Community Web Portal.