



City of Westminster

Children, Sports and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 18 June 2014

Briefing of: Doug Precey

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Open Spaces

Briefing Author and Contact Details: Mette Ranfelt x 5729
mranfelt@westminster.gov.uk

1. Sports and Leisure

Overall Performance

- 1.1. The Council's sports and leisure facilities have been set a target to exceed 3.5 million visits this year which is extremely positive and will be the highest figure ever recorded.
- 1.2. This year both ActiveWestminster and concession memberships will surpass 2,700 and 4,500 card holders respectively. There are currently in excess of 16,000 prepaid members across all facilities which is also the highest level of pre-paid members ever recorded.
- 1.3. Sports Development programmes have an ambitious target to attract over 70,000 participants throughout the year across a range of programmes for children, young people and adults.

Improvements to Facilities

Improvements to facilities at the Porchester Centre

- 1.4. 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.
- 1.5. Works to the new Health and Fitness facilities are now complete and works to the new meeting/activity room are progressing.
- 1.6. Planning applications have been granted for new exterior signage for the Centre, Spa and Hall to improve the prominence of the facilities from the street and to provide signage which is more in keeping with the historic Grade 2 Listed building. Proposals to improve the existing ground floor

area of Bridgefield House (the building adjacent to the Porchester Centre) have commenced and this will help to create a flexible community space for meetings, training events and activities. The Council is also working closely with the centre operators (GLL) and has agreed and commenced works to a number of additional investments for the Porchester Spa during 2014 which will include new lockers, new internal glass doors to all sauna and steam rooms, improved vanity areas and enhanced lighting throughout.

Caving Facility at Sayers Croft

- 1.7. A brand new prefabricated caving complex has been opened ahead of a busy summer season at Sayers Croft Outdoor Centre. The new facility will further diversify the offer of activities at the centre for school groups and adults, early feedback from user groups have been very positive.

New reception facilities at Queen Mother Sports Centre

- 1.8. 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 to provide 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. Design proposals are being discussed and are yet to be finalised. Once agreed, works are due to start in the autumn.

Active Queen's Park Project

- 1.9. 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 subject to the completion of this part of the programme the building works will begin at Moberly later this autumn. Jubilee will remain open whilst Moberly is redeveloped. Officers are working with GLL to ensure a smooth transition and continued service provision.
- 1.10. A communications plan is being finalised and local people will be kept up to date with site works and logistics. It is expected that the new £17.5m facility at Moberly will open by the end of 2016, at which point works at Jubilee begin. The Council's development partner Willmott Dixon will build the new sports facilities and 155 new homes across both sites (including 12 replacement affordable homes at Jubilee). The sale of the private homes will fund the £20m investment in sports facilities, an increase of 40% on existing provision.

Initiatives and Events

The Westminster Mile

- 1.11. On Saturday 24th May, the Westminster Mile officially marked the 60th anniversary of Roger Bannister's legendary first sub-four minute mile. With

close to 6,000 participants taking part in 30 races throughout the day, the event becomes the largest road race mile in the world for 2014.

- 1.12. The programme included one mile races for children, families and adults and featured the British Athletics One Mile Road Championships for age groups, seniors and wheelchair athletes. Mo Farah was on hand to support the juniors even taking part in the under 11 and 13 races.
- 1.13. Sir Roger Bannister is the patron of the event and the winner of the Senior Men's Championships was awarded the newly commissioned Sir Roger Bannister trophy. Diane Charles (nee Leather), the first woman to run a sub-five minute mile, has given her name to the new trophy for the winner of the Senior Women's Championships. David Weir, six time Paralympic champion, competed in the Senior Wheelchair Championships and achieved a world best time just over 3 minutes for the mile distance and still hopes to break the 3 minute barrier in the future.

National accreditation for the Council's Sports Development team

- 1.14. Following a 2 day formal assessment, the Council's Sports Development team have achieved an 'Excellent' rating and have been awarded the Sport England 'QUEST' accreditation. The 'excellent' rating means that Westminster's team have achieved the highest level of any other London borough. The award is a significant reflection of the work delivered by the Sports Unit team which includes sports development and PE and school sport.

Little Venice Sports Centre - finalist in the Flame Awards 2014

- 1.15. Little Venice Sports Centre has been shortlisted as a finalist in this year's UKactive and Matrix Flame Awards, the most highly coveted accolade of the health and fitness sector. The Facility Awards recognise leisure centres, health clubs and group operators that have demonstrated exceptional standards across their operation. UKactive CEO David Stalker said "We would like to congratulate each and every finalist who has reached this shortlist stage. The assessment process is known for being the toughest in the business and the level of competition just gets better every year. We look forward to celebrating with all the finalists at this year's Ball of Fire on 2nd July".

Paddington Recreation Ground – Tennis Tournament

- 1.16. On Thursday 5th June 5pm – 7.30pm, Paddington Recreation Ground is hosting a tennis tournament for junior players from Paddington Recreation Ground and three other tennis clubs across London. On the day, Heather Watson GB's Number 2 ranked female will be in attendance to lead a warm up clinic and make award presentations.

2. Volunteering, the Voluntary Sector and Localism

Information & Advice Services

- 2.1. The second monitoring report for this contract indicates that Westminster Advice Services Partnership (WASP) are achieving most of their outcomes with the exception of those that relate to the children centre drop-ins and their disability advice work. The Royal Association for the Deaf who led on the disability work have now left the partnership as they agreed they would not be able to reach their targets due to a lack of demand. WASP have now brought this service in house and increased capacity. It is thought that WASP should be able to make up the numbers in this area over the next quarter.
- 2.2. The key performance indicators relating to children centre drop-ins will be changed to reflect the 8 days of the year when the centres are closed for public holidays. Children Centre managers are reviewing their capacity to see if they can accommodate the drop in session fortnightly which can no longer take place at Westbourne Children Centre as Midwifery are now based there at this time.

Service	Annual Target	QTR Target	QTC Actual	% QTR Actual
Overall Client Contacts	16000	4000	5053	126%
Disability Advice & Casework (Client Contacts)	880	220	166	75%
Disability Advice & Casework (Appts)	1000	250	140	60%
Mental Health Advice & Casework (Client Contacts)	880	220	507	230%
Mental Health Advice & Casework (Appts)	1000	250	404	162%
Families with Child Under 5 Advice & Casework (Children Centre Drop-Ins)	200	50	49	98%
Families with Child Under 5 Advice & Casework (Community Centre Drop-Ins)	150	37	39	104%
Families with Child Under 5 Advice & Casework (Appts)	260	100	95	95%
Older People's Advice & Casework (Client Contacts)	1000	250	415	166%
Older People's Advice & Casework (Appts & Home Visits)	1000	250	281	148%

General Volunteering Brokerage

- 2.3. Officers have begun to review the Council's volunteering brokerage service to inform the re-commissioning of the programme in the next financial year. The

latest monitoring report highlights that the service has over-performed in most areas for Quarter 4.

	Annual Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4 Achieved	Q4 Target	% of Annual Project Target
Total Volunteering Registrations	2450	772	769	875	874	612	134%
Volunteer Placements	850	257	204	203	204	212	102%
New volunteering opportunities created	500	140	108	108	106	125	92%
Total number of volunteering vacancies	5000	6483	2815	1804	1751	1250	257%
Training courses for organisations	8	2	1	4	4	2	137.5%
No of organisations attending training	80	21	23	39	26	20	136%

Team Westminster Volunteering Strategy Implementation

2.4. Work is ongoing to implement the commitments contained within the volunteering strategy. In particular the commissioning and procurement of the Flagship Volunteering Programme (including events, sports and social action volunteering) is well advanced with invitations to tender and market warming expected to commence shortly. The development of the South Westminster Time Credits scheme is slightly behind the Flagship Volunteering Programme as there is wider interest across Tri-borough to commission similar services and as such Westminster is instead looking to lead on the development of a framework for Time Credits delivery against which locally or thematically specific services could be called off. The committee is provided with a separate update on the detailed progress of delivery against the volunteering strategy.

3. Libraries and Culture

Marylebone Library – Luxborough Street Development

3.1. The Planning Committee approved plans for the new Marylebone Library as part of the Luxborough Street development on 21 January 2014. The scheme has been tendered and a preferred bidder has been identified to act as developer partner to the City Council. The new library is planned to open in October 2015. CityWest Homes (CWH) is working with WCC & the preferred bidder to finalise the contract and to start on site in Summer of this year.

Church Street Library

- 3.2. The Library has been subject to a number of water ingress related issues. External works started in April to rectify these issues, and internal works will begin in July. The library will remain open but some areas will need to be closed off for periods of time. The internal works will impact on both the basement and sub basement levels, with the most disruptive to be completed in the first two weeks of July. The scheme will be completed in October.

Pimlico Library

- 3.3. There have been continuing problems with the customer lift at Pimlico Library. A feasibility study has been completed on installing a more robust lift. Officers are currently formulating a proposal to take this forward and will be seeking Cabinet Member authorisation.

Queen's Park Library

- 3.4. Plans to redecorate Queen's Park Library along with necessary external maintenance works are being progressed by officers. The works are currently out to tender and are due back by the end of May. The works will require the library to close for a period of time, which will be in consultation with the Cabinet Member, once a contractor has been appointed.

Library Management System (LMS)

- 3.5. Implementation of a single integrated library management system for Tri-borough is making good progress. Westminster City Council will save £60,000 pa through the new arrangement compared to present arrangements. The single system will go live in all three boroughs on 10 June 2014.

Registration service

- 3.6. Mayfair library continues to be popular with couples. Since opening in September 2013, the registrars have conducted 565 ceremonies at the venue and have a total of 445 bookings so far made through to the end of 2014. An opening evening is held on the first Thursday every month with approximately 50 prospective couples attending.
- 3.7. Limitations on the capacity of Mayfair library have reduced the number and scale of ceremonies Westminster can host. To offset this, a partnership venue is being sought through a procurement process which could cater for larger wedding parties and hold more frequent ceremonies. The appointed partner would need capacity for seven ceremonies per day and an agreed fee would be set that would benefit both the venue and the service. An online survey to gauge interest is currently live (closing on 6 June) and has already attracted interest from more than 10 possible sites.

- 3.8. Progress is being made with the customer programme team and the registration service diary provider to develop the on-line facilities for the public to be able to book birth and death registration appointments and notice of marriage appointments via the new website. This will go live at the end of June following extensive back office testing and it includes facilities for card payments by customers at time of booking.