



City of Westminster

# Children's, Environment and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Report of:** Cllr David Harvey

**Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Environment, Sports and Community

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## 1 Sports and Leisure

### **The Active Queens Park Project re 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 major milestone was passed on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 with the successful water tank testing of the 2 new swimming pools and a site visit by representatives of Westminster's swimming clubs.
- 1.3 The new facilities will include a 25 metre, 6 lane swimming pool and dedicated learner pool with movable floor, Spa-Sauna, an 8 court sports hall with spectator seating, boxing hall and boxing gym, gymnastics and multi-use hall, health and fitness suite and exercise and dance studios.
- 1.4 The works to deliver the new Moberly Centre are planned to be complete in March 2018. The existing Jubilee Centre will remain open until the new facility at Moberly is opened to the public.

### **Seymour Leisure Centre**

- 1.5 Approximately £2.5million is proposed to be invested by the Council's new leisure management contractor at the Seymour Centre to provide a variety of enhanced sports and leisure facilities including:

- an extensive gym refurbishment
- relocated and improved exercise studios
- a new health suite
- a new hot yoga studio
- improvements to the changing rooms

1.6 Consultation will take place with users in March and it's anticipated that a planning application for the leisure works will be submitted in April 2017.

1.7 Officers are working with local stakeholders to develop design options for a new library facility at the Seymour site. This new facility will provide a permanent solution for a dedicated library service for Marylebone residents. Public consultation and engagement will take place in the coming months and it's anticipated that a planning application for the new library facility will be submitted in early 2018.

### **Queen Mother Sports Centre**

1.8 Officers are reviewing feedback from the first round of consultation on the use of a Development Opportunity Framework (DOF) which is being led by Planning Policy.

1.9 As noted previously, the DOF consultation document makes it clear that a new or refurbished sports and leisure centre will form a major part of any redevelopment of the site, as the sites use is strongly protected by planning policy.

1.10 It is anticipated that a second round of consultation on the DOF will take place later this year.

### **Chelsea Barracks**

1.11 The developers for the Chelsea Barracks have engaged with officers to agree the detailed specification and lease for the new community sports and leisure centre which forms part of their s106 obligations and will be delivered as part of phase 6 of the project.

1.12 This indicates their commitment to the scheme and details on the programme of works will be confirmed in the coming months. It is hoped that the facility will be completed in 2021.

1.13 The new facilities at the centre will include 2 swimming pools, exercise studios, a fitness suite, sports hall and café.

### **Outdoor Learning re the Forest Schools Programme**

1.14 The new 'Forest Schools' programme at Paddington Rec is continuing to prove extremely popular with over 4,200 children participating from April 2016 to January 2017.

1.15 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.

## **Improvements works at the Porchester Centre**

1.16 As part of the new contract, Everyone Active are investing approximately £9.2million in improvements across the facilities which includes a £1.4million investment at the Porchester Centre including:

- An extensive refurbishment of the fitness facilities including new equipment
- A new 'hot yoga' facility and spinning studio
- Improvements to Porchester Hall including decoration and new equipment
- Alterations and refurbishment to the Porchester Spa

1.17 The improvements to the fitness facilities, the hot yoga studio and the Hall have been completed and have been extremely well received by customers.

1.18 A £750,000 investment for the Spa is proposed which seeks to address the current problems with the dated mechanical and electrical equipment, improve accessibility and provide a number of service improvements including new treatment rooms, a new sauna cabin, new furniture and an overall upgrade of the facilities.

1.19 Public consultation regarding these proposals took place throughout February which has generated significant interest. We know many Spa users feel passionately about the future of the Spa and the Council understands the importance of its heritage. As such the Council and the appointed contractor are reviewing feedback carefully. No decisions about the proposed works or the operational running of the Porchester Spa have been taken.

1.20 Officers and the appointed contractor will be reviewing proposals to ensure they revised plans positively respond to feedback and further meetings with key users will take place to discuss key areas of feedback and to shape the revised proposals for Porchester Spa.

## **Westminster Mile**

1.21 The 2017 Westminster Mile will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

1.22 The Vitality Westminster Mile is held on the most iconic mile in the world, starting on The Mall and finishing in front of Buckingham Palace. The event is organised by London Marathon, in partnership with the Council and the Royal parks.

1.23 The event is extremely accessible and there are categories for all ages and abilities, so everyone can take part. There are races for:

- Families
- Adult & Vets
- Juniors
- Elite Athletes
- Wheelchair Users

## **2 Libraries**

### **Marylebone Library**

- 2.1 The library will move from its present temporary decant site at Mackintosh House in June 2017 to a new temporary library on New Cavendish Street following the surrender of the Mackintosh House lease. The Council will be granted the New Cavendish Street lease from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017, rent free for a period of 3 months.
- 2.2 The long term provision for the new Marylebone library will be at the refurbished Seymour Centre, following on from works to improve the leisure offer. The library provision at Seymour will offer high quality space and services with a good stock of books and other resources, modern IT provision, and facilities for study and events. A children's library will be a key feature of the new facility. It is expected that this new permanent library for the Marylebone community could be delivered by late 2020. An engagement plan for the leisure and library provision is being developed by officers as discussed earlier in the report.

### **Registration Services**

- 2.3 The Registration Service has completed the last phase of its digital programme. From 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 customers have been able to book their wedding ceremony, a National Checking Service (NCS) or Joint Citizenship and Passport Service (JCAP) appointment or order a historic certificate online. In the first 20 days, 72 weddings, 134 NCS/JCAP and 208 historic certificates were booked online.

## **3 Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries**

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

- 3.1 At the time of writing the award of the new contract is pending to allow for the 10 day 'standstill' period. The recommendation is that the incumbent supplier, Continental Landscapes Ltd, be awarded a 6 year contract starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

### **Park Events**

- 3.2 All the annual winter events have finished and all repairs and replacement turf have been completed successfully ahead of schedule at both Leicester Square and the Victoria Embankment Gardens.

## **4 Volunteering And Voluntary Sector**

### **Team Westminster Flagship Volunteering (provided by Groundwork)**

- 4.1 At the Year 2 Quarter 2 marker, the programme continues to develop in all three areas (Westminster Ambassadors, Westminster Active and Social Action).
- 4.2 Westminster Ambassadors volunteered at 8 events, 6 of which were large scale events e.g. Oxford Street Christmas Light switch on, the London New Year's Parade and the Chinese New Year. The target number of hours volunteered by Ambassadors was exceeded (122%).
- 4.3 The sports volunteering service, Westminster Active, placed 50 (83%) new volunteers in sports opportunities.
- 4.4 Feedback from Groundwork's meetings with communities have shown that organisations prefer small, manageable groups of volunteers who can carry out a meaningful activity within the timescale and do not overcrowd the local venues. This has resulted in Groundwork significantly exceeding its target number for social action days by 180%. Officers support this as it meets the needs of the communities and does not negatively impact the targeted number of volunteers.

### **Westminster Advice Service Partnership (WASP)**

- 4.5 The Westminster Advice Service Partnership submitted their quarterly return (September 2016 to December 2016) in February. The partnership exceeded all but one Key Performance Indicator (KPI), in some cases significantly.
- 4.6 The KPI which has not met its quarterly KPI target relates to the average number of clients seen at Children Centre drop in sessions. This is reported to be due to the relevant worker being off sick from early November and cover arrangements were unable to meet the contract KPI. A meeting has been organised with Children Centres to understand the demand and requirements following changes in children services in autumn 2016, on top of this, performance will also be discussed.
- 4.7 During the quarter, the advice line (telephone service) has been extended to 10am to 4pm every week day as a result of five Citizen Advice Bureau's sharing resources. A new number is in operation, 0300 330 1191, which is charged at a local call rate. Early indications show a 76% increase in users. Language support from the Migrant Resource Centre continues on the previous number.

### **Time Credits (provided by Spice)**

- 4.8 This contract continues to meet all their targets. Some statistics from the third quarter October 2016 to December 2016 monitoring show:

- 126% target for individuals engaging with time credits
- 110% of target for hours given (total time credits earned) for the year
- 90% of target for local corporate spend partners

### **The Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) Support Service (provided by One Westminster)**

4.9 The current contract with One Westminster expires on 31 March 2017. A 6 month contract has been agreed from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at a cost of £38,701. The short term contract allows time to undertake a full procurement process to establish a new longer term contract.

### **Volunteer and Outreach Development**

4.10 One Westminster delivered a total of 64 ad hoc or regular outreach sessions during this quarter. This included established regular outreach at two job centres and at organisations working with hard to reach groups such as Passage and Connections at St Martin in the Fields and new outreach services at Marylebone Project and Peabody.

4.11 There have been further increases in supporting more unemployed people into volunteering placements, which resulted in over achieving the target by 45%. Successful volunteer placements for unemployed people included North Paddington Food Bank, Prisons, and Crisis at Christmas. 6 volunteers have gone on to gain employment during this quarter.

4.12 There has been an increase in number of volunteer placements for the fourth consecutive quarter. This has been achieved through established partnerships set up with voluntary organisations working with people at risk of homelessness.

4.13 Close partnership work with educational establishments has resulted in a high level of volunteer placements. This has included one to one support on outreach and at our drop in, combined with on-going support throughout the young person's volunteering journey.

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

4.14 The Do-It Westminster site continues to run successfully. As of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, there were 415 live opportunities in Westminster. In the week prior to that, 24 people registered their interest, 15 opportunities and 95 organisations were added. Overall, 1,378 hours have now been logged by volunteers for opportunities in Westminster.

### **Launching a new Social Value Approach**

4.15 As part of City for All 2017/18, the council will launch a new approach that will seek to "identify and make the most of public and other spending so that people, their community, and society feel the maximum benefit of that investment" (This is the PWC definition of social value). This will be done through a number of strands:

- Recognise and reward the positive contribution businesses already make to the city through the launch of the Lion Awards. This was announced at Full Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017
- Encourage organisations who are already involved to align their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agendas with the needs we have identified in Westminster and allow companies to focus their efforts locally
- Support all businesses (especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)) to participate in CSR through the creation of a responsible small business network
- Support the voluntary and community sector to ensure they are involved in directing resources to relevant projects and initiatives that deliver on our priority areas
- Direct businesses to organisations that support the Council's strategic partners in delivering better outcomes around specific challenges such as Young Westminster Foundation, Sir Simon Milton Foundation and Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood
- The Council will also lead by example with a target to ensure 60% of all contracts procured by the council include the delivery of social value at no extra cost and incorporate social value priorities as part of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and s106 delivery (detail of which are to be agreed)

4.16 In addition to the awards, officers are working on a charter approach to recognise all those businesses based here or working in Westminster that support the Westminster community.

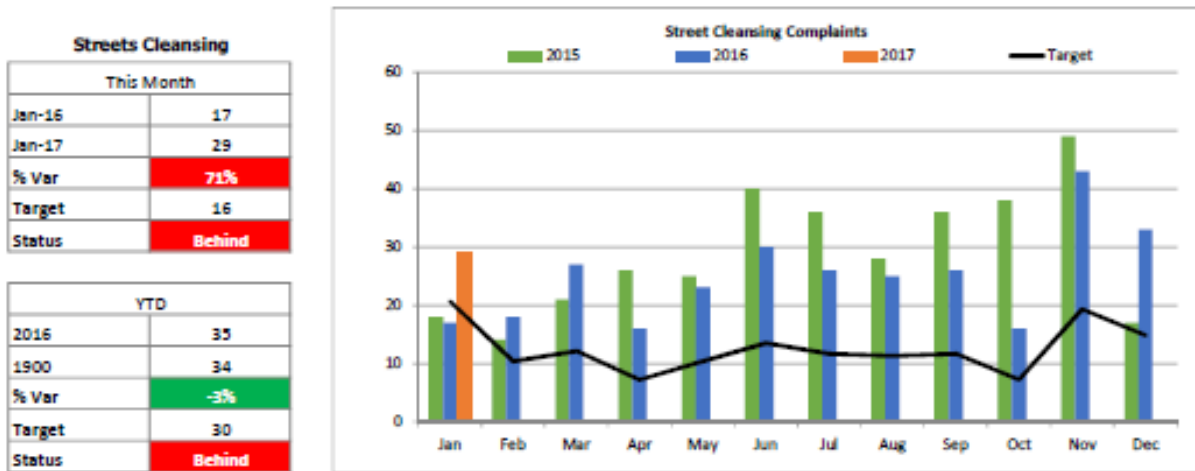
#### 4 **Community Engagement**

##### **Open Forum**

- 5.1 A public Open Forum event was held in Porchester Hall on 23rd January 2017. Over 80 residents attended the meeting and all had an opportunity to ask questions to Cllr Nickie Aiken, Cllr Robert Davies and myself. Cllr Aiken confirmed that her priority this year would be housing and ensuring Westminster remains a mixed community that we are all proud of. The meeting lasted 2 hours and residents raised a number of questions from short term letting to the current condition of Queensway. The event was well received and so the format will be continued for the next event.
- 5.2 The next Open Forum event will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and take place at Lord's Cricket Ground. More information regarding the event and registration can be found at <https://openforum.westminster.gov.uk/public-meetings>. As part of the event a summary of the last event highlighting the key issues raised and the Council's feedback will be provided. Information has been circulated through the Westminster Information Bulletin (WIB).
- 5.3 As part of the Open Forum programme, the Council will be looking to add a series of smaller and more focussed events in the future.

## 5 Waste

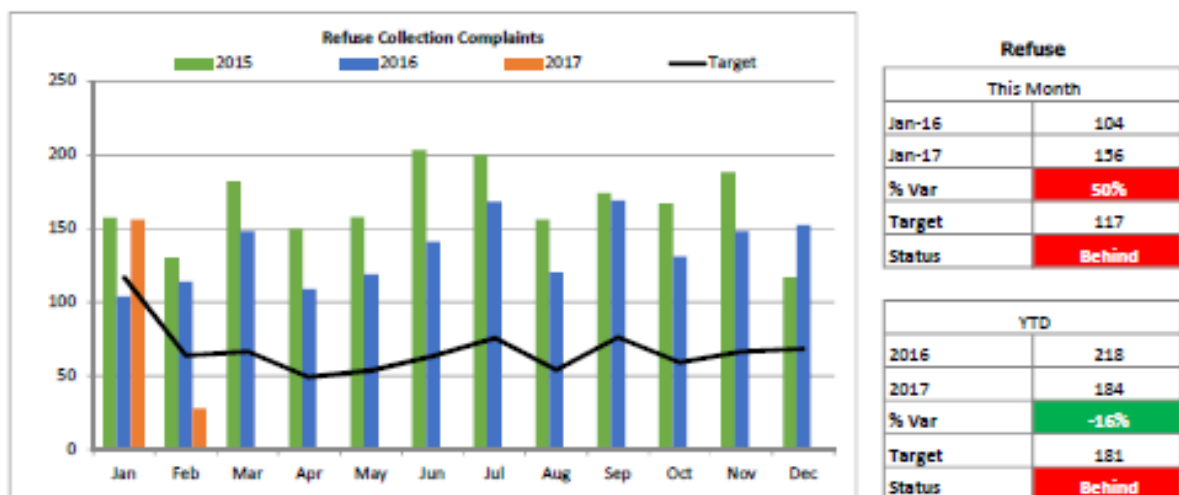
### Street Cleansing



5.1 As shown in the above table, complaints are up 71% against January 2016. A total of 29 complaints were made during the month of January, against 17 during January 2016.

5.2 There is no obvious reason for the rise in street cleansing complaints, although officers continue to investigate any possible cause. One avenue being explored is an increase in use of the online reporting tool, report-it, which is being promoted as part of the digital programme.

### Waste and Recycling



5.3 Complaints are up 50% against the same period in 2015. A total of 156 complaints were made during the month of January, against 104 during January 2016.



- 5.4 Westminster carries out more than one million waste and recycling collection per week. The 156 complaints in January equates to 3.64 complaints per 100,000 collections. However the team will continue to investigate possible reasons to make sure performance remains on track in the future.

### **Cancer Research Winter Run**

- 5.5 On 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 16,000 runners set off from Trafalgar Square to run a charity 10k race through to the City of London, returning to Westminster to finish on Whitehall. Westminster deployed 30 Veolia Staff to ensure that the event route was returned to an acceptable standard before the roads were reopened to traffic. This was completed ahead of schedule.

## **6 Environment**

### **Greener City Action Plan (GCAP)**

- 6.1 It has been a year and a half since the GCAP was launched on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015. The document can be viewed here at <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/greener-city-action-plan-0>. The Committee will be reviewing progress on the plan on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and so I would welcome your comments at the next Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Engine Idling**

- 6.2 As part of City for All Year 2017/18, The Leader and I announced a renewed campaign to target engine idling and raise awareness of the risks to health and the environment of unnecessarily running your engine when stationary or parked.
- 6.3 On 4<sup>th</sup> February our parking Marshals were able to issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) for those drivers caught persistently engine idling. Previously only a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) could be issued which was harder to enforce. For the first two weeks only a period warning notice could be issued but as of 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017, a PCN can now be used.
- 6.4 As of the end of February, over 9,200 drivers have been spoken to since April 2015 by our marshals, who advised drivers to switch off their engines.
- 6.5 On 23<sup>rd</sup> February I took part in my first ever Anti-Idling Campaign Day. Volunteers from local businesses and residents took to the streets of Paddington to talk to drivers and inform them of the risks of engine idling.

### **Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN)**

- 6.6 I have met with the LEN project manager and also chaired my first LEN Stakeholder Steering Group on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Now the scoping aspect of the project is largely finalised, the group now moves on to delivering those commitments in the proposal. As such, I plan on creating a delivery group to tie down our priorities for the remainder of the first year and the second year. The group will meet regularly to make sure these priorities are delivered on time.

- 6.7 Transport for London (TfL) is content with the progress of the project for the first year. The behaviour change and public realm schemes are developing well and are on track for delivery.
- 6.8 After feedback received from various stakeholders regarding the introduction of a diesel surcharge, officers are reviewing the potential to exempt newer diesel vehicles based on the date of vehicle manufacture.