

Children, Environment and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday 15th May 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 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.
- 1.3 'Phase 1' of the new residential homes at the Jubilee site will complete this Summer and the works to deliver the new Moberly Centre are scheduled to be complete in Spring 2018. The existing Jubilee Centre will remain open until the new facility at Moberly is opened to the public in June 2018.

Seymour Leisure Centre

- 1.4 Following a positive public consultation process, a variety of improvements are planned at the centre which will be delivered by the Council's new leisure management contractor including:
 - an extensive gym refurbishment
 - relocated and improved exercise studios
 - a new health suite
 - a new hot yoga studio
 - improvements to the changing rooms

Works are anticipated to commence Summer 2017.

- 1.5 In addition to the planned leisure improvements, officers are working with local stakeholders to develop and progress 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 later this year and it's anticipated that a planning application for the new library facility will be submitted in early 2018.

Outdoor Learning – new Quality Awards

- 1.6 The Council's Outdoor Learning Unit has secured two quality awards which demonstrates a positive commitment and approach to health and safety, outdoor adventure and environmental education. The 'Learning Outside the Classroom', 'Adventure Mark' and BSi Health and Safety Accreditations were all achieved in April.

Improvements works at the Porchester Centre

- 1.7 As part of the new contract a £1.4million investment is being implemented at the Porchester Centre.
- 1.8 As part of the programme of works a variety of improvements have already been delivered at the Centre. This includes an extensive refurbishment of the fitness facilities, completed earlier this year, with new equipment, a new 'hot yoga' facility and spinning studio. Improvements to Porchester Hall have also been concluded in March which included decoration and new equipment.
- 1.9 A £750,000 investment for the Porchester Spa which sought 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 was publically consulted on throughout February.
- 1.10 Following public consultation, these plans have been revised and a stakeholder group has been created to engage regular users in the design development. Feedback from regular users regarding the revised plans has been positively received. It's anticipated that the improvement works to the Spa will be delivered in January 2018.

Westminster Mile

- 1.11 The 2017 Westminster Mile will take place on Sunday 28th May 2017. So far over 7,000 participants have already confirmed, with Lord Sebastian Coe confirmed as this year's special guest.
- 1.12 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. There is even an 'activation zone' in

Green Park to keep participants and spectators entertained. The event is organised by London Marathon, in partnership with the Council and the Royal Parks.

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

- Families
- Olympians Wave
- Adult & Veterans
- Juniors
- Elite Athletes
- Wheelchair User

New Football Facilities at Paddington Green and Willberforce Schools

1.14 Officers are working closely with Paddington Green and Willberforce Schools to create two new synthetic football facilities which will be available for community use. The new facilities will provide enhanced opportunities for PE and School Sport and will help to meet a recognised need for new community facilities.

Edutain Easter Holiday Programme - inclusive opportunities for Young People

1.15 The Easter school holiday programme once again attracted a large number of young people to 'Edutain', at Academy Sport in the North of the City and Churchill Gardens/St Andrew's Youth Club in the South of Westminster. Over 200 Young People registered for the 2 week programme, taking part in a range of sport and fun activities aimed at inspiring an active lifestyle. Activities included; Table Tennis, Pool, Football, Computer skills, Arts and craft, trip to the cinema, Ice skating and swimming.

1.16 'Edutain Plus' offers inclusive opportunities for children and young people with disabilities and enables an integrated approach into the main programme of activities with additional support provided where necessary. This inclusive approach will be extended to other suitable disability sports programmes.

2 Libraries

Marylebone Library

2.1 The library will move from its present temporary decant site at Mackintosh House to a new temporary library on New Cavendish Street following the surrender of the Mackintosh House lease. The Council has agreed a lease on the New Cavendish Street site and includes a rent free period of three months, due to open 3 July 2017.

Registration Services

- 2.2 The Registration Service has been online since 1 February 2017, as part of the digital programme. To date the service has been well used with 703 births, 184 notices, 188 ceremonies, 562 certificates and 464 Nationality Checking Services appointments booked online.

Culture

- 2.3 The Create Church Street fund (part of the Futures Regeneration programme) has been temporarily suspended to improve the application system and will re-open in June 2017 with the remainder of £100,000 to be used by March 2018. Full information will be available on the council website.

3 Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries

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

- 3.1 The new grounds maintenance contract has been awarded to Continental Landscapes for a 6 year period; no challenges were received during the 10 day standstill period. Contract mobilisation has commenced with considerable items of new machinery being delivered.

Park Improvements

- 3.2 Several parks have been refurbished during the last few months namely Victoria Embankment gardens where the old shrub areas have been reduced and re-planted with new lawn areas created for the park users.
- 3.3 St John Wood Church Grounds has had several items of outdoor gym equipment installed which are proving very popular with the park users.
- 3.4 St Marys Church Yard has had some of the hard landscaping reduced to create more green space including areas of wild flowers that will increase the biodiversity of this open space.

Open Spaces and Biodiversity Strategy

- 3.5 Work is underway to produce a new Open Spaces and Biodiversity Strategy for the Council. The new strategy will focus on highlighting the wide range of benefits the boroughs green infrastructure delivers for Westminster's individuals, communities, the environment and the economy, as well as outlining in clear and accessible terms how we can achieve these benefits by working with our partners. A draft document for consultation is now being prepared, with the aim of consulting publicly in late May and June.

4 Volunteering And Voluntary Sector

Team Westminster Flagship Volunteering (provided by Groundwork)

- 4.1 Since the last meeting of this Committee the programme continues to develop in all three areas (Westminster Ambassadors, Westminster Active and Social Action) with Year 2 Quarter 3 (February-April 2017) monitoring due in June 2017.

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

- 4.2 The previous contract with One Westminster expired on 31 March 2017. A short term contract is in place with the incumbent, at a cost of £38,701, which will end in September 2017.
- 4.3 Officers are currently undertaking a full procurement exercise for a new longer term contract, planned to commence on 1 October 2017.

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

- 4.4 The Do-It Westminster site continues to run successfully. As of 21 April, there were 414 live opportunities in Westminster. In the week prior to that, 16 people registered their interest, 12 opportunities and 91 organisations were added. Overall, 1,406 hours have now been logged by volunteers for opportunities in Westminster.

Westminster Advice Service Partnership (WASP)

- 4.5 The most recent performance information was reported to the last meeting of this Committee. The next quarterly performance update from the provider is due at the end of May, covering the period January to March 2017.
- 4.6 The current agreement expires at the end of September 2017, within this contract there is the opportunity to extend the agreement for a further 50 weeks until 15 September 2018. A decision on whether to use this extension (and any related variations) will be made shortly.

Westminster Community Awards 2017

- 4.7 This year's Community Awards ceremony will be held at Porchester Hall on the 4th of July. The shortlist has been announced and all shortlisted people and organisations are invited to the ceremony.

Volunteers Week

- 4.8 This year's Volunteers Week will be running between 1-7 June. Our commissioned services, which focus on enhancing and increasing volunteering opportunities, are organising events to mark the week to encourage more people in Westminster to find out more about volunteering opportunities and to volunteer.

4.9 As part of the City for All priorities, I am committed to increasing volunteering throughout the City and will be promoting these events, as well as continue to encourage more staff to take up their yearly allocation of up to 16 hours of volunteering.

Time Credits (provided by Spice)

4.10 This contract continues to meet all its targets. Statistics from the fourth quarter (January – March 2017) are due in May 2017.

5 Community Engagement

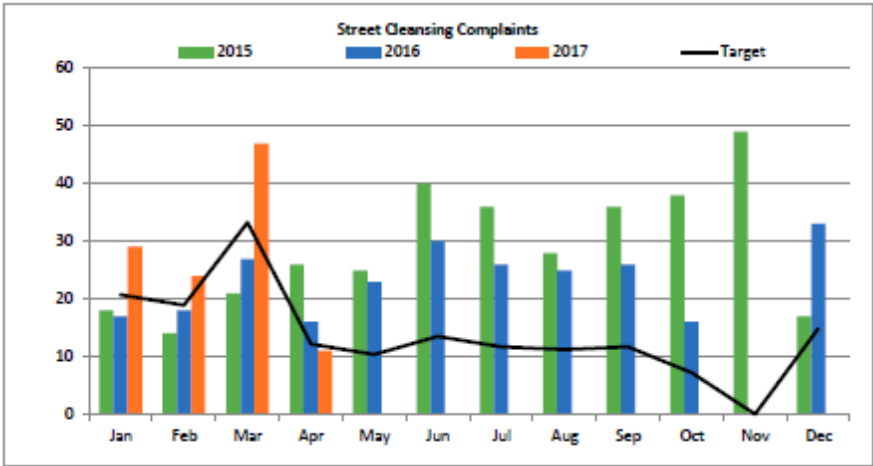
Open Forum

5.1 A public Open Forum event was held at Lords Cricket Ground on 20th March 2017. Over 150 residents attended the meeting and all had an opportunity to ask questions to the Leader of the Council Councillor Nickie Aiken, Councillor Daniel Astaire and myself. Residents raised a number of questions on a range of topics including air quality, housing and planning policy. Future events are currently being planned.

6 Waste

Street Cleansing

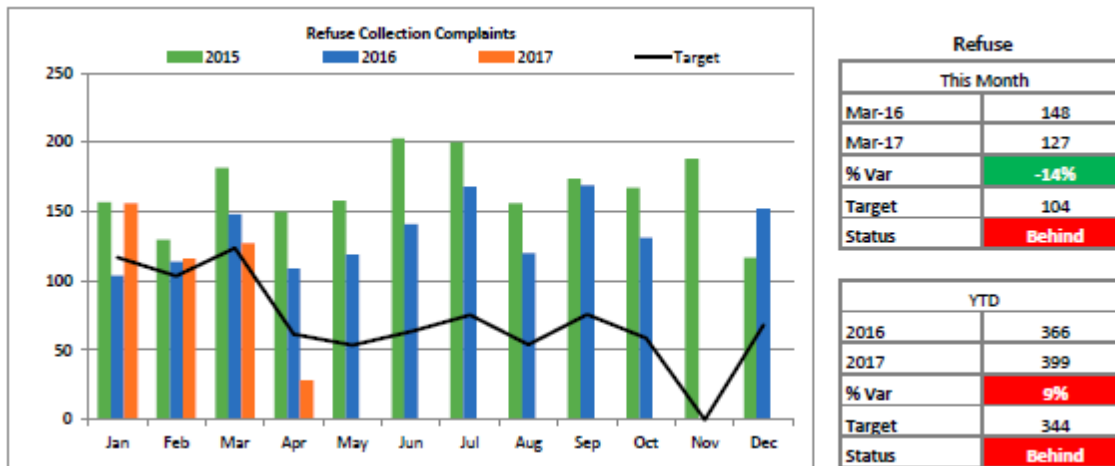
Streets Cleansing	
This Month	
Mar-16	27
Mar-17	47
% Var	74%
Target	14
Status	Behind
YTD	
2016	62
2017	100
% Var	61%
Target	52
Status	Behind



6.1 As shown in the above table, complaints were up 74% this month against March 2016. A total of 47 complaints were made during the month of March, against 27 in 2016.

6.2 There is no obvious reason for the rise in street cleansing complaints, although officers continue to investigate possible causes. One avenue being explored is an increase in the use of the online reporting tool, report-it, which is being promoted as part of the digital programme. Officers anticipate this will level out over time.

Waste and Recycling



6.3 As shown in the above table, complaints were down 14% this month against March 2016. A total of 127 complaints were made during the month of March, against 148 in 2016.

6.4 Westminster carries out more than one million waste and recycling collection per week. The 127 complaints in March equates to 3.05 complaints per 100,000 collections. However the team will continue to investigate possible reasons for the complaints to make sure performance remains on track in the future.

7 Environment

Greener City Action Plan (GCAP)

7.1 The Committee will be reviewing progress on the GCAP on 15 May 2017. The year one update is available on this webpage, which also includes the 10 year strategy and action plan.

Engine Idling

7.2 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 engines when stationary or parked.

7.3 In recognition of the work we have been doing on this issue we won a 'highly' commended award at the London Transport Awards on 2 March 2017.

Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN)

7.4 Following the LEN Stakeholder meeting in February 2017 there is continued progress on all aspects of the LENs project delivery, with a supporting communications programme to follow.

7.5 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. We have received formal confirmation of funding for Year 2 of the programme.