

# Children, Environment and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017

**Report of:** Cllr David Harvey

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

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## 1. Sports and Leisure

### **Paddington Recreation Ground- improvement works**

1.1 As part of the Council's leisure contract, Everyone Active is investing approximately £1.7m in a variety of works at Paddington Recreation Ground. Works include:

- Extended and improved fitness facilities with new equipment
- An improved café entrance
- New public toilet facilities
- An extended external seating area

The works are progressing well and are due to be completed at the end of the summer.

1.2 Officers have also commissioned a separate programme of works to create a new wildlife and environmental area. This will accommodate educational programmes for local children as well as an enhanced tranquil space for park users.

### **Active Westminster Strategy**

1.3 The proposed timeline for a finalised strategy and publication for Active Westminster is as follows:

- Cabinet Member report and decision – August 2017
- Website and Communications plan agreed – August 2017
- Strategy launch events – September 2017

## **The Active Queens Park Project: Redevelopment of Moberly & Jubilee Sports Centres**

- 1.4 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. '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 completed in spring 2018. The existing Jubilee Centre will remain open until Moberly is opened to the public in June 2018.

## **Seymour Leisure Centre**

- 1.5 Following a positive public consultation, a variety of improvements are proposed for 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

A planning application has been submitted and works are anticipated to commence in Summer 2017.

## **Improvements works at Porchester Spa**

- 1.6 As previously reported, a £750,000 investment is planned at Porchester Spa as part of the new leisure contract. Following a public consultation, these plans have been revised and a stakeholder group has been created to engage regular users in the design development. It is anticipated that the improvement works to the Spa will be delivered in January 2018.

## **Westminster Mile**

- 1.7 A record 5,980 participants completed the Westminster Mile on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017.
- 1.8 The event also saw a Guinness World Record broken and over 80 athletes took part in an Olympian Wave with gold medal winning rowing champion Constantine Louloudis winning the race with a time of 5.05m. Louloudis previously started his career at Westminster Boating Base and received funding through the Council's Champions of the Future scheme which provides training and financial support for promising young athletes.
- 1.9 Past and present Team GB Olympians taking part in the Mile included Lord Sebastian Coe, Jayne Torvill and Jo Pavey. 88 year old Eric Shirley, who ran in the 3000m steeplechase final at the 1956 Melbourne Games, was the oldest Olympian to complete the Mile in a time of 10.01m.

- 1.10 All 33 London boroughs were represented in the Mile and primary school children were encouraged to take part to prevent childhood obesity.

### **New Football Facilities at Paddington Green and Willberforce Schools**

- 1.11 Officers are working closely with Paddington Green and Willberforce Schools to create two new synthetic football facilities available for community use. These will provide enhanced opportunities for PE and School Sport and will help to meet a need for new community facilities. The design work has now been finalised and planning applications are being prepared.

## **2 Libraries**

### **Registration Services**

- 2.1 Since the Registration Service full range of services went online on 1 February 2017, 1,445 births, 323 notices, 338 ceremonies, 1,004 certificates and 655 Nationality Checking Services appointments have been booked online. 67% of registration customers are now booking and making payments using this system.

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

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

- 3.1 Since the new grounds maintenance contract was awarded to Continental Landscapes a new management structure has been put in place with one overall manager for parks and cemeteries to ensure the same standards across the whole of the contract.

### **Hanging baskets**

- 3.2 A total of 1,280 summer hanging baskets have been installed across the City with residents and businesses contributing to 500 of them.

### **Open Spaces and Biodiversity Strategy**

- 3.3 After the announcement of the snap election on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017, it was decided that the consultation launch of the Strategy would be deferred until July. The new timetable, approved by the Cabinet in May, will enable consultation on the draft document through the school summer holidays and a week or two into the Autumn term as this will provide an opportunity for those who work in academic settings to respond. The final publication of the document is still planned to take place this calendar year.
- 3.4 Work continues on developing and refining the draft document. Options for strengthening key partnerships, possibly with a view to organising a launch event for the Strategy at a suitable venue such as London Zoo, will also be explored.

## **4 Volunteering And Voluntary Sector**

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

- 4.1 The latest monitoring report for Year 2 Quarter 3 (February-April 2017) shows that the contract continues to progress well.
- 4.2 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were met or exceeded as shown in the figures below:
- **Westminster Active:** The number of volunteers who attended officiating, coaching, mentoring, administration and business qualification courses exceeded the yearly target
  - **Ambassador:** The number of individual volunteers who attended two or more events exceeded the yearly target
  - **Social Action:** The number of community actions events organised also exceeded the yearly target

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

- 4.3 The previous contract with One Westminster expired on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. A short-term contract is in place with the incumbent, at a cost of £38,701, which will end in September 2017.
- 4.4 Officers are currently undertaking a full procurement exercise for a new longer term contract, planned to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Based on feedback and information from internal stakeholders, including colleagues in Public Health, the specification and Invitation to Tender documents (including tender evaluation / scoring strategy) have been finalised and a Gate 1 report is being prepared in advance of the Gate meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

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

- 4.5 The Do-It Westminster site continues to run successfully. As of 5<sup>th</sup> June, there were 413 live opportunities in Westminster. In the week prior to that, 24 people registered their interest, 12 opportunities and 108 organisations were added. Overall, 1,437 hours have now been logged by volunteers for opportunities in Westminster.

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

- 5.1 Citizens Advice Westminster has reported that performance for the period January to March 2017 shows that the contract continues to perform well.
- 5.2 The new shared telephone service has seen a particularly strong performance, with five Citizens Advice Bureaux allowing longer hours.

- 5.3 This quarter saw 1,822 people access gateway advice, a 425% increase compared to the same period last year.
- 5.4 This quarter also saw the majority of targets exceeded with the exception of one KPI relating to the number of appointments booked as part of the advice provision provided in the Housing Options Service. This target was narrowly missed although the year-to-date position remains above target.
- 5.5 As a result of the continuing strong performance, I have requested that officers discuss the option of extending the contract to the full term ending in September 2018.

### **Volunteer and Outreach Development**

- 5.6 All KPIs were met in Year 2 Quarter 2 (February to April 2017) apart from the number of signups to the Team Westminster site. However, the numbers are steadily increasing, with officers and One Westminster continuing to work to ensure that targets are met.
- 5.7 One Westminster delivered a total of 62 ad hoc or regular outreach sessions during this quarter. These included new monthly outreach sessions in organisations specialising in homelessness and continued outreach at The Marylebone Project, The Passage, SHP and The Connection at St. Martin's. Sessions were also resumed at Turning Point to assist people recovering from substance abuse into volunteering.
- 5.8 The target for volunteering placements for unemployed people exceeded the target by a record 81%; the increase in outreach at homelessness organisations has led to a substantial increase in the volunteering numbers within this target group, exceeding targets by 141%.

## **6 Community Engagement**

- 6.1 As at the time of writing, the inaugural MyWestminster Day will take place on Sunday 18th June with the event aiming to bring together people from different backgrounds to celebrate the diversity of Westminster. It also forms part of the Great Get Together, inspired by Jo Cox, when neighbours get together as part of a national celebration of what we have in common.

MyWestminster Day is supported by local community and voluntary organisations including One Westminster, who are managing the community exhibitor area; Maida Hill Place who are managing the food tent and CityWest Homes who have supported the event throughout. The venue is provided free of charge by Everyone Active who are also offering free sports activities on the day. There will be a number of further free activities taking place including live music on the bandstand, a children's activity area and various sports that people can get involved in. There will be exhibition stands from a number of Council departments, Council partners and community organisations.

## 7 Waste

### Street Cleansing

7.1 In addition to monitoring complaint levels, a snapshot of the physical cleanliness of Westminster's streets is also taken. Keep Britain Tidy deliver three independent surveys each year to verify how clean our streets are. The annual report for 2016-17 has now been received, highlighting our performance in keeping the streets clean. We achieved excellent results for the majority of indicators, with five of the eight main elements attaining NI195-style scores below 2.5%. Exceptional scores were attained for both Litter and Detritus, an improvement on the previous record scores achieved in 2015/16.

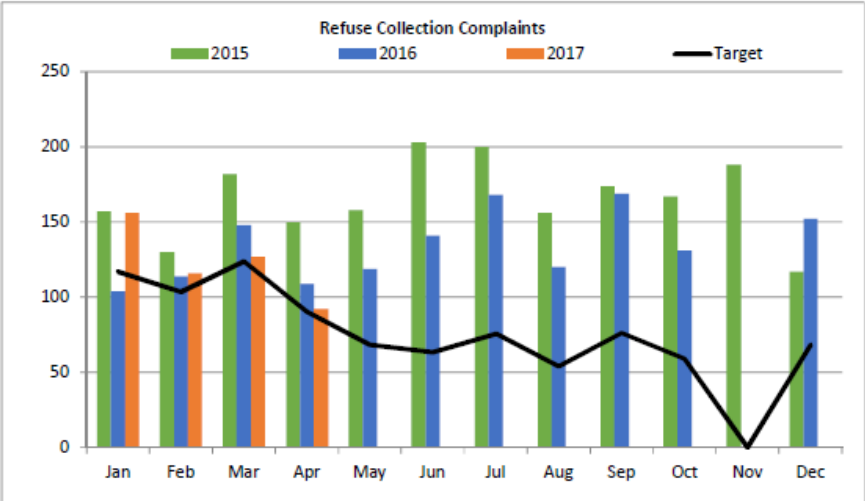


7.2 There has been a year-on-year improvement in the Litter score, showing that fewer sites have fallen below an acceptable standard each year.

7.3 Detritus has reached its best ever score, following a slight decline in standards in 2014/15. Detritus grades were extremely good all round with only nine out of 918 sections of road surveyed falling below an acceptable standard. Five of those were recorded in *High Obstruction Housing* areas, where parked cars typically make effective channel-sweeping much more difficult.

- 7.4 Graffiti was one of the issues where standards declined slightly.
- 7.5 Overall, 3.7% of sites failed compared with 2.33% from the previous year. The nature of the survey results suggest that a few heavily affected hotspots are driving the general standard down.
- 7.6 Fly-posting showed minimal variations from the previous year, although the score did improve to below 1%.
- 7.7 In keeping with trends seen on a national scale, Fly-tipping showed an increase in the percentage of failing sites and reached over 2% for the first time. Although this is still a fairly low count the upward trend will need to be monitored.
- 7.8 Staining continued to be an issue. Both Grease Staining and Gum Staining increased to over 11% for the first time since 2013/14. Most of the failing sites were found in *Main Retail* areas with over 40% of the failing sites for Gum and Grease Staining being found in this Land Use. Large Bin Sites, such as recycling banks and communal bins, are attracting issues such as littering and fly-tipping which is of some concern.
- 7.9 In comparison with the regional Greater London benchmark for the four key indicators, Westminster performed far better than the average for Litter, Detritus and Fly-posting, but fared worse for Graffiti.

**Waste and Recycling**



Refuse	
This Month	
Apr-16	109
Apr-17	92
% Var	-16%
Target	90
Status	Behind
YTD	
2016	475
2017	491
% Var	3%
Target	435
Status	Behind

7.10 As shown in the above table, complaints were down 16% this month against April 2016. A total of 92 complaints were made during the month of March, against 109 in 2016. The year-to-date complaints are currently running at a slightly higher level than last year. The reason for this increase in complaints is unknown as there has been no change to service levels yet it is most likely to be due to an increased use of the Report It online tool, which makes reporting issues much easier for our customers.

7.11 Westminster carries out more than one million waste and recycling collection per week. The 92 complaints in April equate to 2.23 complaints per 100,000 collections. However, the team will continue to investigate possible reasons.

## **8 Environment**

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

8.1 The Committee reviewed progress on the GCAP on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and agreed the reprioritisation of targets and a renewed focus on actions to improve air quality. The Committee also agreed that a yearly update will be given. The second year update will come to the Committee in October 2017.

### **Engine Idling**

8.2 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. In recognition of this work taking place, the Council won a 'highly' commended award at the London Transport Awards on 2 March 2017.

8.3 Dedicated engine idling events now take place each month; one in the Low Emission Neighbourhood on the last working day of the month and one in another part of the City in the second week of the month. A combination of community volunteers and paid staff are to be recruited to take part in these action days as 'Air Quality Champions'. There has been positive feedback from air quality champions about the effect that this initiative is having. Over 7000 people have been asked to turn off their engines whilst in traffic in and only 9 people have refused to do so.

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

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

8.5 Transport for London 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. Formal confirmation of funding for Year 2 of the programme has also been received.

8.6 A successful anti-idling action day for the LEN took place on 31<sup>st</sup> May where I spoke to London Live to discuss the importance of not idling when stationary, as well as the air quality initiatives currently on-going within the LEN. The link to this report can be found at: <http://www.londonlive.co.uk/news/2017-05-31/a-warning-to-idling-drivers-in-westminster>

8.7 The next LEN anti-idling action day will take place at the end of July.



8.8 The first Play Street with St. Mary's Bryanston Square Primary School (Enford Street) took place as a pilot event, with over 200 students in attendance. Positive feedback was received from students, school staff, guardians and local residents. Marylebone LEN planters were featured at the event, with encouraging feedback on how they educate young children on the importance of planting and air quality.

8.9 The next LEN Play Street event is due to take place on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

8.10 At of time of writing, the following events were being prepared to include raising awareness about the LEN:

- National Clean Air Day – 15<sup>th</sup> June
- MyWestminster Day – 18<sup>th</sup> June
- Marylebone Summer Fayre – 18<sup>th</sup> June
- West End Air Summit 2017 – 28<sup>th</sup> June