

Children, Environment and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday 18th September 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, which is now completed and open for business
- New public toilet facilities, which are now open
- An extended external seating area has now been completed
- An improved café entrance, for which quotes are now being reviewed

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. The works are progressing well and are due to finish in September, with launch events being considered.

Active Westminster Strategy

1.3 Following the discussion on the strategy at the previous Committee meeting, the proposed timeline for a finalised strategy and publication for the new 'Active City for All' strategy is as follows:

- Cabinet Member report and decision – September 2017
- Website and Communications plan agreed – September/October 2017
- Strategy launch events – Dec 2017/Jan 2018

The Active Queen's Park Project: Redevelopment of Moberly & Jubilee Sports Centres

- 1.1 The Active Queen's 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 be completed later 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

- 1.2 An extensive programme of improvement works have now commenced at Seymour Leisure 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

The works commenced 7th August and are due for completion on 22nd Sept and at this early stage everything is progressing well and are on-track.

Improvements works at Porchester Spa

- 1.1 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. The group will meet again in September to review design and cost options and it is anticipated that the improvement works to the Spa will be delivered in January 2018.

London Youth Games

- 1.1 Westminster finished in 23rd place at London Youth Games this year out of 33 London boroughs with a total of 879 points. This year's points total firmly consolidates the finishing position of 2016, which was the best for over 10 years. If the teams had scored an extra 13 points the finishing position would have been 19th, demonstrating how close the points totals were amongst the London boroughs.

Year	Points	Place
2017	879	23 rd
2016	871	22 nd
2015	771	27 th
2014	621	30 th

Summer Holiday Programmes

- 1.2 A variety of summer sports, leisure and physical activity programmes have taken place across the City including the popular 'Edutain' programme at Academy Sport, Churchill Gardens and St. Andrew's Youth Club which has been running very close to capacity. Other sports camps include hockey, multi-sports, basketball and tennis. A summary evaluation report will be provided to the Committee at its next meeting.

New Football Facilities at Paddington Green and Willberforce Schools

- 1.3 Officers are working closely with Paddington Green and Willberforce Schools to create two new synthetic football facilities available for community use.
- 1.4 The new facilities will provide enhanced opportunities for PE and School Sport and will help to meet a need for new community facilities. The procurement process for the works is progressing and it is anticipated that planning applications will be submitted when the schools return from the Summer break.

National Fitness Day

- 1.5 The Council's appointed leisure management operator, Everyone Active, has partnered with UKActive to lead on the launch of National Fitness Day which will take place on Wednesday 27th September at Paddington Recreation Ground. The event will include a 'mass participation workout' on the main green which will be led by Darcy Bussell CBE. Local schools will also be invited to take part in a variety of activities throughout the day which will be led by a high profile sporting star/champion.

2 Libraries

Libraries Advisory Board

- 2.1 The board, chaired by Chris Cotton, former CEO of the Royal Albert Hall, had its initial plenary meeting on 27th July 2017. The board is considering a draft terms of reference and work programme. Its first business meeting will be on 26th September preceded by a tour of libraries in Westminster. The board is tasked with advising and supporting the Council in developing a long-term (10 year) strategy for its library service, taking account of external development and Westminster's needs and priorities aligned to City For All. Cllr McKie and I are observers.

Registration Services

- 2.2 The Registration Service will be returning to Old Marylebone Town Hall in late November 2017. Over 800 couples have registered their interest in having a ceremony at the Town Hall and the service anticipates opening the booking diary in September 2017 for bookings from January 2018 onwards.

3 Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries

Green Flag and London in Bloom awards

- 3.1 Parks, Gardens and Cemeteries have retained all 23 Green Flag awards presented at the awards ceremony in Reading on the 20th July. The London in Bloom awards will be announced in September.
- 3.2 Further significant improvements have been introduced by Continental Landscapes (CLL) for the grounds maintenance contract; these are live time maintenance reporting via the CLL web portal allowing officers to see where maintenance schedules are per location. All supervisors are now inputting data via handheld PDF equipment so will be eliminating all paper records.

Hanging baskets

- 3.3 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

- 3.4 A consultation draft of the strategy has been produced and was recently reviewed by myself and the Deputy Cabinet Member. Both the content and proposed procedural arrangements for consultation were discussed in detail. It was agreed that the strategy will be subject to full public consultation through September and into October, with an emphasis on inviting open dialogue and allowing respondents to shape the focus points of their own submissions, rather than any attempt to provide strong steer by way of highly consultation questions. In line with the aim of enabling a wide audience to engage with the document in a relatively informal way, it is intended that the consultation will be made available through Open Forum, as well as on the council website, with an email invitation to respond going to all key stakeholders.
- 3.5 Next steps will be to finalise the final 'look and feel' of the document with the Design team. This will involve commissioning some additional photography. Although this will take a little extra time, it is important that the document is visually engaging and represents the ethos of the strategy itself. This means projecting inclusivity and strongly promoting the quality, variety and myriad benefits of Westminster's open space and wildlife assets.
- 3.6 Alongside launching the strategy for consultation, contact is being made with key partners to initiate a focused discussion on biodiversity. After some loss of emphasis in this area in recent years, the council is now suggesting bringing together a multi-stakeholder 'biodiversity task group' which could work together to identify key priorities and a realistic and impactful plan of actions for the next two years. This would tide us over until the issue is due for review at on a London-wide level (at the expiry of the GLA's current plan, 'Biodiversity 2020').

4 Volunteering And Voluntary Sector

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

- 4.1 The Procurement exercise for a new longer-term contract is in progress. A Bidder Engagement day took place on 8th August, with an open invitation to all potential bidders through Capital Resourcing. The deadline for submission of tenders closed on the 16th August and at present, officers are on target for the new contract to commence on 1st October 2017.
- 4.2 Only one tender for the contract was received, from the current provider One Westminster. Obviously we would ideally have chosen to see more competition than this, but the scenario is not all that surprising given the highly specific nature of the contract and the niche market to which it gives access. The tender is now being evaluated and scored – this process will of course be every bit as detailed and rigorous as it would have been regardless of the number of competing tenders achieved. Detailed analysis of the contents of the bid at this stage will also be instrumental in helping us to develop, with the provider if and when appointed, their plans for delivering the service against the much enhanced and expanded specification.
- 4.3 Moderation of scores took place on 23rd August, and at the time of writing a reward proposal was due for presentation to the Gate 2 panel at their 5th September meeting.

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

- 4.4 The Do-It Westminster site continues to run successfully. As at 17th August, there were 454 live opportunities in Westminster. In the week prior to that, 28 people registered their interest, 22 opportunities and 111 organisations were added. Overall, 1,578 hours have now been logged by volunteers for opportunities in Westminster.

Westminster Advice Service Partnership (WASP)

- 4.5 Citizens Advice Westminster has reported that performance for the period April to June 2017 shows that the contract continues to perform well.

This quarter saw 1,426 people access gateway advice, a 27% increase compared to the same period last year. During this quarter all contract targets were exceeded.

As a result of the continuing strong performance, officers have completed the extension of the contract to its full term - ending in mid-September 2018.

5 Community Engagement

- 5.1 The next public Open Forum will take place on 18th October. Further details will be published on the website in due course.

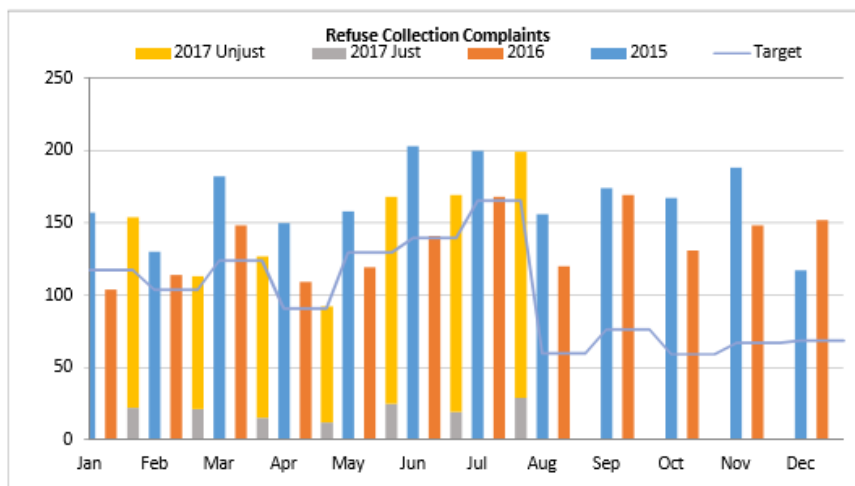
6 Waste

Street Cleansing

6.1 At the time of writing, preparations are well advanced for the Notting Hill Carnival clean-up plan. An estimated 200 tonnes of waste will be collected during the Carnival weekend, following an operation which will involve 170 workers and 60 vehicles. Although well practiced in clearing up after this event, it remains a real challenge, working through the night to return this area to its pristine condition.

The waste collected will be converted into energy that will go back into the National Grid. The 200 tonnes will generate enough energy to power 80,000 hot showers or travel 84km on the Tube – four times the length of the Victoria line.

Waste and Recycling



Refuse	
This Month	
Jul-16	168
Jul-17	199
% Var	18%
Target	165
Status	Behind
YTD	
2016	903
2017	1027
% Var	14%
Target	869
Status	Behind

6.2 As shown in the above table, complaints were up in July against the same month in 2016. here have been a little over 100 additional complaints made between January and the end of July in 2017 against the same period last year. The reason for this increase in complaints is not clear, as there has been no change to service levels. 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.

6.3 Westminster carries out more than one million waste and recycling collection per week. The 199 complaints in July equates to 4.38 complaints per 100,000 collections made successfully. However, the team will continue to investigate possible reasons.

6 Environment

Greener City Action Plan (GCAP)

6.1 The second year update will come to the Committee in October 2017.

- 6.2 Two public consultations are about to begin on our long-term flooding strategy and our strategic flood risk assessment which will contribute to the revision of the city plan (currently underway).
- 6.3 At the time of writing, we were about to run a high-profile thought leadership event at the House of Lords on 5th September to further explore the issue of what more can be done to promote better air quality in Westminster (building on this committee's Air Quality Task Group report published in June). I will feed back in due course.
- 6.4 The Mayor (Greater London Authority) has recently published his "Integrated Environment Strategy" and we will be compiling our response by November 2017. If any member of the committee would like to feedback on any specific area I would welcome this; otherwise we will ensure that this is linked to the GCAP moving forward.

Engine Idling

- 6.5 On 26th June the Council launched the #DontBeldle air quality campaign, centring on a school assembly at St Edward's Catholic Primary School, chosen due to its location in Marylebone within our Low Emission Neighbourhood. Along with 200 Key Stage 2 (7-11 year olds) pupils, the event was attended by the Leader, Marylebone LEN stakeholders, TfL and GLA representatives, the actor Nigel Havers who publicly supported the campaign, and myself.

The launch attracted nationwide attention and featured on BBC Radio 4's PM programme, ITV's Good Morning Britain, and a number of national newspapers.

An ongoing social media campaign encourages those most likely to idle and those most likely to suffer as a result of idling to pledge their support and to sign the #DontBeldle pledge. To date, a number of high-profile backers have shown public support for the campaign, including F1 driver Valtteri Bottas and the Defra Minister Jesse Norman.

- 6.6 With the support of the parking team, the Council is running a calendar of anti-idling action days where volunteers engage with drivers and passers by spreading the campaign messages. The list of forthcoming anti-idling action days are outlined on the following page.
- 6.7 From September the Council will run a series of outreach events with schools where school children will be encouraged to create their own pollution free route to school based on the latest data from Kings College.

Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN)

- 6.8 Following the LEN Stakeholder meeting in July 2017 there is continued progress on all aspects of the LEN's project delivery. Communications is going well, with the Twitter account doubling in followers since July; banners commissioned to go up in Marylebone High Street; George Street and Paddington Street and planned updates to the website.

- 6.9 A successful anti-idling action day for the LEN took place on 31st July. The next LEN anti-idling action day will take place on 22nd September.
- 6.10 The second Play Street with St Vincent's Primary School took place on 10th July. Over 200 children attended, with 30-50 pupils receiving cycle training for the first time and/or learning to ride a bike. 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.
- 6.11 Feasibility studies are complete for the three urban realm schemes on Marylebone High Street; George Street and Paddington Street. A de-scoping meeting is being set up shortly
- 6.12 Engagement with businesses on deliveries and servicing by Cross River Partnership has commenced; led by Baker Street Quarter Partnership, with New West End Company, and Marble Arch BID all promoting through communication channels.
- 6.13 World Car Free Day is on 22nd September. A Community Green Street, for all residents, visitors, workers, businesses and schools will take place in Luxborough Street. The street closure is proposed to be from 3-6pm, when activities and organisations including Don't be Idle; Click. Collect. Clean Air.; temporary greening; LEN seed planting; Active Westminster; LEN partner organisations will take over the street. Engagement has begun with LEN stakeholders, neighbouring residents, and the university.
- 6.14 At of time of writing, the following events were being prepared; or aligned with; to raise awareness about the LEN:
- Cycle to Work Day 13th September
 - World Car Free Day 22nd September (as part of European Mobility Week)
 - Community Green Street 22nd September
 - Anti-Idling Action Day Day 22nd September
 - LEN Stakeholder Group 22nd September
 - Anti-Idling Action Day 31st October – Marylebone Station
 - Anti-Idling Action Day 11th December – Oxford Street and surrounding roads
 - Anti-Idling Action Day 28th February 2018 – Baker Street/ Harley Street
 - Anti-Idling Action Day 25th April 2018 – Lisson Grove
 - Anti-Idling Action Day 25th June 2018 – Marylebone High Street