

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

**Date:** Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016

**Report of:** Cllr David Harvey

**Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Sports and Leisure

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## 1. Sports and Leisure

### Sports and Leisure Performance

- 1.1 As reported to Members at the last Committee meeting, the attendance figures for 13/14 and 14/15 across the Council's sports facilities are provided in the table below.

<u>Sports and Leisure Centres - usage</u>	2013/14	2014/15	% of WCC Residents
Jubilee Sports Centre	229,364	237,743	60%
Marshall Street Leisure Centre	241,828	269,698	N/A
The Porchester Centre	502,399	610,306	60%
Queen Mother Sports Centre	471,285	519,198	39%
Seymour Leisure Centre	429,184	393,368	55%
Little Venice Sports Centre	98,410	109,678	N/A
Moberly Sports & Education Centre	112,650	66,174	N/A
Paddington Recreation Ground	1,319,456	1,261,560	88%
<b>Total Usage</b>	<b>3,404,576</b>	<b>3,467,725</b>	<b>48%</b>

- 1.2 In response to a query at the previous meeting, I can confirm that the 'N/A' was shown in the last column against Marshall Street Leisure Centre, Little Venice Sports Centre and Moberly Sports Centre as these facilities were not included as part of this commissioned analysis in 2008 (Marshall Street and Little Venice were also not open at that point).

- 1.3 In response to a query at the previous meeting, I can also confirm that a continued upward trend in usage across the sports facilities is predicted, primarily as a result of further capital developments, particularly the redevelopment of the Moberly and Jubilee Sports Centre sites and through new improvement works which will be delivered by the new leisure management contractor as part of the sports and leisure centre re-procurement process.

### **Participation in Sport and Physical Activity.**

- 1.4 Although the latest annual report carried out by Sport England (published in December 2015) shows that participation in sport and physical activity has declined in west London, I am pleased to report that participation in Westminster continues to rise and the City is one of the most active boroughs in the country with 44 per cent of adults participating in sport and physical activity for at least one hour per month.

### **The Active Queens Park Project - the redevelopment of Moberly & Jubilee Sports Centres**

- 1.5 Progress continues to be made with the Active Queens Park project. Contractual work is being finalised and 'phase 1' of the works programme is scheduled to begin at Moberly in February/ March 2016. Jubilee will remain open whilst Moberly is redeveloped. The new centre at the Moberly site is expected to be completed in February 2018.

### **Sayers Croft**

- 1.6 Works to extend and improve the 'Holbury' accommodation block at the site are progressing. The works are anticipated to commence in early 2016 and will provide integrated toilet and shower accommodation for the one remaining block which currently doesn't provide these facilities. The works will make a positive response to feedback from customers regarding the lack of facilities.
- 1.7 A new 'Forest School' outreach programme has been launched at Paddington Recreation Ground. The externally funded programme provides an opportunity for local school children to experience a range of activities and learning opportunities in biodiversity and outdoor education and is delivered by qualified staff based at the Sayers Croft Centre.

### **Paddington Rec – Tennis provision**

- 1.8 In response to a query at the previous meeting, I can confirm that the works to replace the worn synthetic tennis courts at Paddington Recreation Ground were completed in mid-December 2015. The works were delivered on time and to budget and to a high standard. The improved facilities will support the delivery of a wide range of nationally accredited tennis programmes which take place at the site.

### **Leisure Centre contract re-let**

- 1.9 Evaluations from the final stage tender submissions have been undertaken by Officers and a Cabinet Member decision to appoint the successful contractor will be made at the end of February. The new contract will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

## **ActiveWestminster Awards**

- 1.10 The flagship ActiveWestminster Awards event took place on 27<sup>th</sup> November. The event was extremely successful and attracted over 150 attendees to celebrate a variety of achievements in sport and physical activity across 10 award categories. England footballer, Sue Smith and David Garrido, the Sky Sports presenter, hosted the event which took place at Lord's Cricket Ground.

## **2 Libraries and Culture**

### **Victoria Library**

- 2.1 In 2009, Land Securities was granted planning permission for the Nova development, to include a new library expected by 2018. A fresh planning application was submitted to the Council for Permissions 2 and 3 of the Nova development. In these schemes Permission 2 is now known as Nova Place and Permission 3 as Nova East.
- 2.2 A key amendment to the Nova Place planning application is that the library space is now to be provided at a peppercorn rent. The size and location of the library, which faces onto Victoria Street, remain the same as approved in January 2012. The application was approved by committee on 8 December 2015. Planning permission is subject to the completion of a s106 legal agreement to secure the free library space and to the views of the Mayor. The Mayor has 14 days from receipt in which to decide whether to refuse the application, to call it in for determination or to allow the Council to determine the application itself. The application was referred to the Mayor on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

### **Mayfair Library**

- 2.3 Under the terms of the lease, the Council is responsible for repairs to the roof fabric. Property Services had planned to complete the works in two phases: initial roof repairs to the building as phase 1 and roof replacement as phase 2. However it was concluded that there are benefits to completing these works as a single project. Approval has subsequently been secured from Capital Review Group to fund all the works in 2016/2017 so that the roof works can be procured as one contract.

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

### **Park Events**

- 3.1 The annual Christmas events in our parks and open spaces have ended and a number of sites are being prepared for re-turfing and refurbishment works – the most notable being Leicester Square, Marble Arch and Victoria Embankment Gardens. The cost of all works is being fully met by the event organisers and, weather permitting, most grassed sections should be fully established and accessible to visitors again during February.

### **Christmas Tree Composting**

- 3.2 The Christmas trees in a number of our parks (including Berkeley Square, St Anne's Garden, Paddington Street and Norfolk Square) donated and sponsored by local organisations have now been removed and shredded for composting. The mulch will be used on our parks flower beds. A number of our parks have also acted as delivery points for residents to have their own tree put to good use.

## **4 Volunteering and Voluntary Sector**

### **Time Credits**

- 4.1 The time credits programme run by Spice is going well and we are continuing to work together to integrate the scheme across a broader range of Council services and programmes commissioned by the Council.

### **Team Westminster Flagship Volunteering programme**

- 4.2 The emphasis in Quarter 1 (August – September 2015) has been focussed on the transfer of the existing services for the Ambassadors and Active strands, working with our communications team to finalise the marketing and branding of the service and establishing activity around the established Ambassadors and Active strands.
- 4.3 Groundwork are looking to recruit a dedicated resource to lead on the new Social Action strand for the long term but in the meantime, they have support from their Community Programme Team to develop an approach and are planning their first community event for early 2016.

### **Do It Local website**

- 4.4 There has been a short delay in the soft launch deadline for the website but it is now in the final stages of development and expected to go live early in 2016. A separate contract is currently being put in place for maintenance of the app from February 2016.

### **Volunteer Outreach & Development service**

- 4.5 One Westminster started providing this service on 1 November 2015 and the contract is for 3 years with an option to extend for 2 years.
- 4.6 In addition to providing this volunteer recruitment service, One Westminster will be providing dedicated volunteering opportunity development support to local voluntary and community organisations to ensure there are quality opportunities available that meet community and Council's needs. One Westminster will utilise the Do It local website as the primary engagement tool for both people interested in volunteering and for organisations interested in developing volunteering opportunities.

### **Westminster Advice Service Partnership**

- 4.7 WASP submitted their P8 quarterly return (Jul – Sept 2015) to officers in mid-November. A strong performance showed all the council KPI'S being met for the Open Access/ Community Language gateway, and all advice and casework services.

### **VCS support service**

- 4.8 One Westminster started providing this service on 1 August 2015 on an 8 month contract which ends on 31 March 2016. Officers are working with other departments on redesigning the service before a longer term contract can be commissioned.
- 4.9 One Westminster submitted their report for the period August – December 2015. During this period they have worked on establishing themselves and transitioning services, resources and information from the previous provider. At this early stage of

the contract, they are performing well in their main role of networking and advocacy for the VCS sector and also in updating and improving the database of VCS organisations in Westminster.

## **5 Community Engagement**

- 5.1 In a response to our evaluation of Area Forums, we have established Open Forum. Open Forum is a new co-ordinated package of engagement opportunities that keeps the very best of our old face-to-face Area Forums, gathers information from other community face-to-face meetings and uses new digital technology. The overall aim of Open Forum is to provide a greater range of opportunities for the public to understand and scrutinise the work of the Council than the old Area Forums by re-launching the Leaders' Tour and establishing an online discussion forum.

### **Online Forum**

- 5.2 The online forum, which was launched at the end of October, provides a quicker, more efficient and more convenient way for residents to give feedback to the Council and discuss 'hot topics' with other residents, Councillors and officers alike. The forum can be found at the following link: <https://openforum.westminster.gov.uk/>

### **Leader's Tour**

- 5.3 The Leader's Tour will consist of three set meetings a year, hosted by the Leader of the Council. It will be open to all residents on a rota of locations around the city. The first meeting will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.
- 5.4 These meetings respond directly to feedback about the old Area Forums formats and will follow a clear relevant agenda.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact Lucy Hoyte x5729**  
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