

Communities & Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee

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Title:	Portfolio Update
Report of:	Cllr Iain Bott
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Councillor Iain Bott, Cabinet Member for Sports, Culture and Community
Wards Involved:	All
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1 COMMUNITY SERVICES

1.2 Within the Sport, Culture and Community portfolio, the Community Services department includes the following related areas:

- Physical Activity, Leisure & Sport (PALS)
- Major Projects and Programmes
- Outdoor Adventurous Learning Centre – Sayers Croft

2 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, LEISURE & SPORT (PALS)

2.1 The 2019 Westminster Mile once again became the largest mile participation event in the world, with registrations sold out at 11,500 and over 9,000 people completing the iconic mile course starting on the Mall and finishing outside Buckingham Palace. For the very first time the BBC filmed the entire event and was live streamed on BBC iPlayer, red button and Facebook channels, and is still available to view on catch up through the iPlayer. Participants and spectators were joined by numerous star names, with Mo Farah running in some of the waves before the annual Olympians wave that brings together past and present Olympic and Paralympic athletes from the British Olympic Association. The entire England and Wales Cricket World Cup squad also took part in a wave to launch the Ruth Strauss Foundation, the recently deceased wife of former England Cricket Captain, Andrew Strauss. The majority of participants took part in the

family waves, demonstrating what an inclusive event the Westminster Mile is, as well as providing the opportunity to watch the likes of Laura Muir and Chris O'Hare, where Chris ran the course in a record time of 4.00 mins exactly.

- 2.2 The Cricket World Cup trophy came to Westminster on Thursday 16th May. In the morning it visited Paddington Recreation Ground where an inter-schools cricket event took place involving some of Westminster's older people networks as an intergenerational approach. Once the event finished, the team packed down and transported for the afternoon 'Rainbow Stumps' event that took place on Frith Street in Soho. Working alongside Licensing and City Promotions, Events & Filming officers, the PALS team led the organisation of the event as it closely aligned to Westminster's ActiveStreets programme. The team closed the street for the afternoon to engage local businesses, residents and visitors in cricket activity. The Rainbow Stumps initiative was created to align with the work of Westminster's own LGBT network, and also worked closely with Stonewall and their own rainbow laces campaign – demonstrating the power of sport to bring all communities together for an afternoon of fun activity.
- 2.3 The 'ActiveStreets' team is formed of colleagues across CM&C working collaboratively together to create and implement a Healthier and Greener City for All. With air quality, physical activity and active travel being a key concern for our residents, it was time to take action and think outside the box to create a more permissive and supportive environment for children and families to start enjoying being outside and getting active. The team are proud to announce the successful installation of our first 'School Street' which was launched on Enford Street on 23rd April, followed by our first ever 'Play Street' on the 29th April. £14,000 external funding has also been secured via London Sport to support the development of 8 'ActiveStreet' satellite clubs (activation programmes). Both the 'School Street' and 'Play Street' involved working closely with local schools, colleagues, developers and local residents to be able to make this a success by changing many lives for the better, creating the City for All vision of 'Healthier and Greener City'.
- 2.4 Westminster Welcomes Award Winning Inclusive Sports Programme: Londoners who find it difficult to access mainstream physical activity and sporting sessions can now enjoy a variety of sports at the Moberly Sports Centre, thanks to the arrival of the award-winning 'Sport for Confidence' programme, supported and funded by Westminster City Council and the leisure management company Everyone Active. The pioneering Sport for Confidence programme places allied health professionals alongside sports coaches to deliver a wide range of sports and physical activities for those who face barriers to participation. The social enterprise is already running successful programmes at six leisure venues in Essex and one in Waltham Forest, collectively welcoming more than 1,500 participants per month. We are delighted to bring this to Moberly Sports Centre, whilst also looking to expand to the rest of the Westminster facilities.
- 2.5 The ActiveWestminster Awards, now in its 10th year, is an annual event held to recognise and celebrate the incredible work that partners do across the city to create an 'ActiveWestminster'. Last year, 200 people attended the event at Lords Cricket Ground, where the 10 award category winners were announced.

2.6 Neighbourhood Sports Clubs operate across Westminster and are based within community venues, leisure centres, and on estate multi-use games areas. Currently almost 130 hours of free-to-access sports activities are offered each week to the local community and are delivered by experienced coaches and clubs who are well equipped to engage our local young people. The programme offers 'doorstep sport' through the 'people like me' approach, having trained the once-participants into lead coaches and mentors.

2.7 The Champions of the Future programme supports talented young people onto their next step, through grant funding, mentoring and training. Currently 100 talented athletes from a range of sports access and benefit from the scheme, which also includes a Gifted and Talented programme in schools. Previous Champions of the Future beneficiaries have gone on to win medals at various international tournaments, and some are now ambassadors of the programme.

2.8 The following table shows the figures of the number of people visiting leisure centres across Westminster:

Usage Comparison	2017/18 Actual	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual
Leisure			
<u>Sports and Leisure Centres- total usage</u>	2,301,533	2,526,447	234,180
Jubilee Sports Centre	249,075	52,613	CLOSED
Marshall Street Leisure Centre	239,873	250,077	21,912
Porchester Leisure Centre	553,045	505,829	39,805
Queen Mother Sports Centre	626,115	645,732	54,312
Seymour Leisure Centre	449,166	397,936	39,249
Little Venice Sports Centre	155,076	149,513	12,424
Moberly Sports & Education Centre	CLOSED	411,856	50,947
Swimming Lessons - all indoor sites – No. of People	29,183	112,891	15,531
<u>Outdoor Facilities- total usage</u>	1,318,972	1,448,648	348,130
Paddington Recreation Ground- active sports use	272,255	291,350	45,111
Paddington Recreation Ground- casual use	1,046,717	115,7298	303,019
St Augustine's Sports Centre	22,353	20,777	3,593

Major Projects and Programmes

2.9 The PALS team has unveiled a brand-new adventure playground in Paddington Recreation Ground for young people of all ages and abilities. This was designed by Ruth Willmott Associates, Playscheme, and even officers from the PALS team. The project was funded from a combination of both capital resource and from a successful application to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The

playground itself features bespoke equipment that offers inclusive, creative, and stimulating play for our younger residents, including a sensory trail.

- 2.10 The new Moberly Sports Centre opened in June 2018 and since then has been performing extremely well. The annual usage target of 360,000 was surpassed within 10 months of operation by an extra almost 100,000 visits. On average, the centre has been attracting around 45,000 visits a month, over 4,500 gym members, and Westminster's largest learn-to-swim programme of over 1,045.
- 2.11 The Jubilee Phase 2 start on site, which will deliver a new Community Sports Centre, is currently being negotiated with the Council's development partner EcoWorld due to viability issues. There are currently three options that are being prepared by colleagues in GPH and to Cllr Robathan. Whilst increased security has been put in place at the Jubilee site, the team are working toward a demolition of the site as soon as possible with preparatory works being conducted.
- 2.12 The legal agreements for the Chelsea Barracks Sports Centre have now been finalised with the reserved matters agreed, demonstrating good progress has been achieved given the size and complexity of the wider programme. The sports centre is currently on track to commence on site in 2023, with delivery in 2026. The sports centre will be subterranean in build and consists of a four-court sports hall, 25M pool, learner pool, two studios and a large health and fitness gym.
- 2.13 Seymour Leisure Centre/New Marylebone Library: Since meeting with Cabinet Members in March, officers have considered their advice and questions against the proposals and feasibility report, which has led to a number of positive actions. One of these key actions was engaging further with Sport England, who have agreed to fund a small project team to review the current plans, give overall cost advice and, as part of a second stage, work alongside council officers to develop a more detailed business case for the remodelling of Seymour Leisure Centre to incorporate a bigger library with its own entrance on Bryanston Place. Sport England are, like us, very keen to support 'co-located' services, such as bringing Leisure and Libraries together, and the prospect of capital investment for the project is already positive. Historic England has also visited the facility and the current proposals have been shared. The general view is positive, however more detailed conversations are ongoing about the change in space of the main hall to accommodate the new pool and raising the sports hall to a 1st floor mezzanine. The next and most vital stage that officers are taking forward is the production of a more detailed business case that will be presented in the next couple of months. Governance arrangements and the required resourcing for this work is being established and discussions concerning potential sources of funding is taking place over the coming weeks.
- 2.14 Queen Mother Sports Centre Redevelopment: Officers have been working with GPH colleagues to provide information relating to feasibility work, which is being carried out for Cllr Robathan. Revised Sports Centre plans have recently been shared with the Community Services Team, and comments are being collated and returned to GPH. The new scheme looks to incorporate a 2 x 25m aligned

pool (Central London's first flexible 50m pool) as well as meet the outline Employer's Requirements. The main 25m pool will be retained during the construction period, avoiding the need for a temporary pool, which previously was a challenge for the project team.

- 2.15 Paddington Recreation Ground: There is a package of works to carry out improvements at Paddington Recreation Ground using a combination of Capital budget and CIL funding worth circa £1.5million over the next 3 years. This work includes delivery of a new community suite, three new sports pitches, a callisthenics area, parkour equipment, a sprint track, and new efficient LED lighting as well as landscaping and completing works to the wildlife and forest garden area. These works are being coordinated by Ruth Willmott Associates and MSc Consultants. As part of this wider project there is a review of the Paddington Recreation Ground Management Plan being undertaken to work alongside the various policies applicable to the park and coordinate them with the works that will be undertaken making them relevant and accountable to the team and the contractors that operate in it.

Outdoor Adventurous Learning Centre – Sayers Croft

- 2.16 Sayers Croft is Westminster's flagship outdoor learning centre based in Surrey. The centre has 56 acres where children and young people can explore a wider choice of activities from pond dipping to climbing and DofE courses. Westminster schools benefit from priority access and charges where they can stay in one of the six chalets that provides over 200 beds. This year, residential visits are expected to reach 35,000.
- 2.17 Working in partnership with Everyone Active and the PALS team, extensive refurbishment work has taken place across Paddington Recreation Ground to improve the environmental area and classroom for Sayers Croft to provide Forest Schools. Each year, around 6,000 children benefit from the Forest Schools programme, which increases physical activity in the great outdoors. Last October the team were delighted to receive a special visit from the Duchess of Cambridge who has an interest in outdoor activity.
- 2.18 A further visit was made in the last couple of months by the Duchess of Cambridge. This was part of a 'closed doors' visit involving the BBC and Blue Peter, with a film to be shown on the programme later this year. The most impressive part of this was that the Duchess herself recommended returning to PRG as she was so impressed with what had been seen last year.

Strictly Westminster

- 2.19 Strictly Westminster is a 6-7 week disability dancing programme that we are looking to provide for the community starting in September 2019 and finishing with a Gala Final in November. It is also hoped that the winners will showcase their performance at the annual Christmas Tea Dance in early December.

2.20 Three half-day workshops will take place which will then be followed in the afternoon by auditions to participate in the Gala Final. Across the three workshop / audition days, the aim is to identify the 10 most promising dancers who will then be supported by 6 weeks of training to help them get ready for the Gala Final. It is hoped that 100 participants in total will attend from across the North, Central and South networks of the borough.

No Ball Games

2.21 It is important that residents are not restricted in being able to take part in physical activity near their homes, and this includes play. Therefore, current restrictive signage and byelaws such as 'No Ball Games' and 'No Cycling' will be removed to create a more permissive and supportive environment for physical activity, leisure and sport.

2.22 In order to implement this, the PALS Team (alongside Parks) are leading a review of the Byelaws and working up proposed new Byelaws to reflect our new ActiveWestminster Strategy, Biodiversity and Open Spaces strategy with input from Public Health.

3 VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR (VCS)

3.1 Abbey Community Centre Service Level Agreement (SLA): A new SLA has been finalised, agreed and signed off by all parties. This outlines arrangements for the grant made to the Abbey Community Association which funds their rent and activities at the Abbey Centre (34 Great Smith St, London SW1P 3BU). The centre, both independently and in some cases jointly with the Council, delivers a wide range of services which contribute to the health, wellbeing and level of engagement of the community in the south of the city. Many of their services support the vulnerable and bring people together in a way that supports community cohesion, tackles isolation and improves individual and collective wellbeing. The new SLA is in place from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2023 and will support outcome-focused service delivery and facilitate meaningful evaluation of impact over time.

3.2 Westminster Advice Services (WASP contract): A full procurement exercise for the Westminster Advice Services contract was completed in September 2018. The contract was awarded to a consortium led by Citizens Advice Westminster. The service provides advice services for Westminster residents, ranging from general advice, for example to help people navigate council services, through to tailored advice and casework for complex multiple needs. Services are free of charge to people living in Westminster, including temporary residents. The new contract incorporates some additional areas of service previously commissioned separately: 'Advice Plus' funded by Public Health, Licensing Advice and debt advice for CityWest Homes residents. The second round of performance monitoring for the new contract has been carried out the contract is on track.

- 3.3 Volunteering Contracts: Officers are continuing to review existing provision with a view to developing our strategic and commissioning approach for contracts due to expire in 2020. Those existing contracts are: Team Westminster Flagship Volunteering, Team Westminster Outreach & Development Service, Westminster Time Credits provided by Tempo Ltd.
- 3.4 Community Awards 2019: The Community Awards, in partnership with One Westminster and Groundwork, are the Council's annual ceremony to recognise volunteers in Westminster. After successfully running for some years, a refresh of the concept, audience and communications approach and budgets is being adopted. There are new categories all aligned to the City for All vision, aimed at widening the reach of engagement amongst residents. The awards have been renamed as the #MyWestminster Community Awards. Nominations closed on 7th of June, with the awards planned for the 9th of July in City Hall.

4 CULTURE

- 4.1 With the support of the new Cabinet Member for Sport, Culture and Community, further changes are planned to transform the current draft Cultural Vision (resulting from an internal council audit) into a Cultural Strategy to align it with the Council's City for All vision and to strengthen its relevance among external stakeholders including residents. The strategy will clearly demonstrate its delivery of overarching City for All vision aims:

- **'Caring and fairer city'**: with a focus on access to culture for more Westminster residents, particularly the hard-to-reach
- **'City of opportunity'**: Subject to development, the City Lions programme will provide more cultural access opportunities for young people
- **'City that celebrates its communities'**: Creative placemaking objectives will be closely aligned with this ambition
- **'Healthier and greener city'**: Social prescribing and mental health initiatives such as 'Westminster Sings' will support public health outcomes

The Cultural Strategy will incorporate an action plan for the period 2020-2024. Detail will be included on how Westminster's Cultural Strategy aligns with DCMS, Arts Council and GLA cultural policies to demonstrate its wider relevance. A roundtable, open forum and other stakeholder meetings during a pre-consultation phase will test the emerging priorities and develop actions in the Cultural Strategy. The formal consultation process will enable the draft Cultural Strategy to be published online and promoted widely among residents, internal and external stakeholders whose feedback will inform the final publication. This consultation period will be October- November 2019 towards a publication date of January 2020.

- 4.2 The Cultural Policy Officer is working closely with the Business Team on developing a roundtable event on 19th June to find practical ways to make apprenticeships more user-friendly and valuable for local creative and cultural businesses. A recent Council Creativity Skills seminar identified particular needs to ensure that apprenticeships are tailored to existing and future technical and digital skills needs and that access issues are addressed.

Creative & Cultural Skills are partnering on this event and they have resources, as a delivery partner of the DCMS Creative Careers programme, that can support the outcomes of this initiative.

- 4.3 To promote arts engagement and accreditation for local schoolchildren, the Council is hosting an Arts Award event on 10th July in the Lord Mayor’s Parlour that is supported by A New Direction (the bridge organisation for London) in collaboration with Islington, Camden, Haringey and Kensington & Chelsea councils, that will be attended by local schoolteachers and arts organisations.
- 4.4 A world-leading expert on Banksy conservation, Chris Bull of Fine Art Restoration Company, is to build a hi-spec cabinet to conserve the new art work intervention next to Marble Arch that appeared during the Extinction Rebellion protest. The conservation report uncovered strong links with other Banksy works that had used similar stencils or were linked to performances by pop band, Massive Attack. In addition, the conservationist is providing pro-bono advice on options regarding the Council’s Fitzrovia Banksy which is in a poor condition and has been re-located from its original site.
- 4.5 The following Green Plaque nominations are in progress:

Submission	Organisation	Notes	Status
Informal approval in place			
Westminster Hospital Westminster Green, 8 Dean Ryle Street, London SW1P 4DA	CW+, the charity of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	The nomination commemorates the 300-year anniversary of Westminster Hospital in 2019, which was located on this site from 1939 to 1992. Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust was formed from Westminster Hospital.	Informal approval in place. Cabinet report underway.

Middlesex Hospital Medical School	Douglas Irish & Prof Gavin Vinson The Society of Endocrinology	It was at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School that James Tait, Sylvia Simpson and Hilary Grundy made the epochal discovery of the hormone aldosterone. This hormone is secreted by the adrenal gland, and among all the hormones it shares only with insulin the distinction of being essential for life.	Informal approval in place. Cabinet report underway.
Sir Alan Dawtry Pimlico station underpass	Sir Rodney Brooke	Former Chief Executive of Westminster City Council and instrumental in bringing a tube station to Pimlico.	Informal approval in place. Cabinet report underway.
Gramophone Recording Company 31 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden	James Hall, journalist	In 1898 the UK's first gramophone recording studio was opened in the basement of 31 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, by The Gramophone Company.	Informal approval in place. Cabinet report underway.
Nipper Pat Daly 19 and 24 Hatton Street, NW8	Alexander Daley, grandson	Nipper Pat Daly was Marylebone's most successful professional boxer and arguably boxing's greatest ever prodigy - known as 'Marylebone's Wonderboy'.	Informal approval in place. Cabinet report underway.
Lady Jane shop, Carnaby Street	Danny Ben-Moshe, son of co-founder Henry Moss who is still alive	First ladies fashion shop on Carnaby Street, known for the 'live mannequins' stunt.	Informal approval in place. Cabinet report underway.

Cabinet reports submitted

William Whiteley 2 Kildare Terrace, W2	Kildare Terrace and Newton Road Residents Association	William Whiteley 1831-1907 Founder of London's first department store lived here 1868-1885	Cabinet report submitted
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Live nominations

Headquarters of the Australian Imperial Force, 1914-18 95 Horseferry Road, SW1P 2DX	Caroline Macnaughton, London Scottish Regimental Trust comptroller@londonscottishregt.org	The building stands on the site of a group of buildings that formed the headquarters of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), 1914-1918. A Green Plaque nomination has been submitted for the centenary year of the end of the First World War.	Awaiting further information from sponsor.
John Dryden, 44 Gerrard Street	Nicola Avery-Gee Central Medway Investments Limited, building owners	John Dryden (1631- 1700) England's first poet laureate Lived in a house on this site from 1687-1700	Royal Society of Arts plaque in incorrect location at 43 Gerrard Street – passed back to nominator to pursue and advised that we cannot place two plaques on one building. Hold until resolved.
Dr James Risien Russell, 44 Wimpole Street	Helen Burgess	Dr. James Samuel Risien Russell, thought to be the first black Consultant in the UK and esteemed neurologist had his private practice and residence here and died at work at his desk in 1939.	On hold - Windrush Foundation has advised that a Blue Plaque nomination is currently underway.

Dr James Miranda Barry 14 Margaret Street, W1	Simon Shaw, independent	Dr James Miranda Barry, Britain's first woman doctor, died here July 1865	No funding or building permission in place.
Julian and Leo Amery, 112 Eaton Square	Baroness Rawlings	Julian and Leo Amery owned 112 Eaton Square for over half a century and held most amazing meetings and historical events. A biography has recently been written by Richard Bassett on Julian.	Buildings owners Grosvenor have refused permission Previously refused by English Heritage.
Halima Nalecz, 5-7 Porchester Place, London W2 2BS	Joanna Love, The Church Commissioners for England	This was the gallery, studio of the artist for over three decades. Halima Nalecz 1914 to 2008 Artist, Patron and Gallery owner. Founded the Drian Gallery on this site in 1957. She promoted the careers of fledging artists from the British abstract expressionists and donated 565 works to Polish national museums	Further research required.

4.6 Current City of Sculpture proposals are listed below.

Location	Sculpture	Artist & gallery	Status	Timeframe
Planning permission approved				
Park Lane, Island 6 opposite The Hilton	Crawling	Sophie Ryder, Hignell Gallery	Planning permission granted. Awaiting confirmation of removal date of current sculpture, One Million Queen before installation and licenses can be	As soon as current sculpture is removed

			booked. Planning enforcement are involved.	
Golden Square	Bra and Corset	Kalliopi Lemos, Gazelli Art House	Planning permission granted	Requested that installation takes place after Pride (7 July onwards)
Cavendish Square Gardens	Visitor	David Breuer-Weil	Planning permission extended	Immediate
Berkeley Square Gardens	Butterflies	Manolo Valdes, Opera Gallery	Planning permission extended to Oct 2019	Immediate
Planning applications submitted				
Marble Arch	Orphans	Gillie and Marc, independent	Planning application submitted	Dec 2019 installation
Golden Square	Hello Sunshine	Graham McLoughlin, independent	Planning application submitted and corporate sponsorship being sought by artist	Late July/early August
Soho Square	Baba Yaga	Irina Lagoshina, Tim Jurjevs	Planning application submitted	Summer 2019
Withdrawn or removed				
Park Lane, Dorchester	Charging Bull or Il Cavallo	Arturo Di Modica, Geist Holdings	Withdrawn due to ill health of artist	N/A
Cavendish Square Gardens	Ba Le Panda and Doggy John	Julien Marinetti, Galerie Londres	Withdrawn	N/A
Berkeley Square Gardens	Bronze Oak Grove	Rob and Nic Carter, independent	Removed	May 2019

Expressions of interest				
Soho Square	Unknown	Pieter Obels, Porcini Gallery	Looking to replace current Obels sculpture with a new installation	TBC
Berkeley Square or Mount Street Gardens	Staircase	Rachel Whiteread, Gagosian Gallery	Cabinet Member briefing to be submitted	March 2020

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

5.1 Open Forum took place on 22nd May where 62 people attended. The details of the next meeting will be available in due course.

6 CITY LIONS

6.1 City Lions is a two-year pilot programme which commenced in Summer 2018. It targets disadvantaged young people aged 13-16. It aims to enrich young people's lives by encouraging participation in cultural and creative opportunities. City Lions is helping young people discover and celebrate their own culture and creativity and make the best of what Westminster has to offer.

6.2 As well as broadening young people's horizons by offering workshops, one-off events and exclusive offers, City Lions aims to use Westminster City Council's influence to provide unique opportunities for those most in need in the City.

6.3 City Lions also endeavours to raise awareness of the career opportunities that lie within these industries, by exposing young people to the wider cultural and creative sectors via work placements, shadowing opportunities and talks with industry professionals.

6.4 The programme objectives are:

- engage 345 young people per year;
- provide 30 unique work experience opportunities per year;
- provide 10 creativity workshops in association with Westminster schools, youth clubs, children's services and youth organisations;

6.5 City Lions is nearing the end of the first year of the programme. It has engaged 313 young people to date. 174 Westminster students have taken part in creativity workshops, which have included at least one visit to a cultural organisation such as the Saatchi Gallery, the Photographer's Gallery or Somerset House. Of the participants that were identified as Westminster residents, 52% of young people originated from the top 30% most deprived

wards in the borough. Two additional workshops to coincide with the summer holidays have also been planned.

- 6.6 An additional 139 young people have participated in at least one, standalone activity sourced by City Lions. These include film premieres, tickets to exclusive events and ice skating at Somerset House.
- 6.7 City Lions has successfully brokered 29 exciting work experience placements, which have been put out to various Westminster schools and the Looked After Children's team for allocation. Providers include Child Graddon Lewis Architects, Everyone Active and Balfour Beatty.
- 6.8 City Lions has also been working in partnership with several external organisations to create unique events, including: Creative Industries Week: 8th – 12th July; AEG British Summer Time: 5th – 14th July; Youth Takeover Day: 10th July; Society of London Theatre (SOLT) Inspiring Future Theatre Day: Bring Back Stage; On Stage: 3rd July; and Multiplex Construction Learning Initiative: 21st May onwards.

7 LIBRARIES

Overview of Libraries, Archives and Registration Services

- 7.1 There are 13 libraries including two specialist libraries in the City of Westminster, providing a wide range of services for people who live, work or study in the borough. Our purpose is to enable them to read, learn and connect with one another. All our libraries have free Wi-Fi. Nearly two million people visit the libraries annually, borrowing over 1.2 million items including eBooks, eMagazines, eNews and eAudio. Libraries hold over 9,500 events, including 3,300 children's events.
- 7.2 The City of Westminster Archives Centre was granted Accredited Status by the National Archives in July 2016, the first London borough to be granted this status.

Priorities for the Libraries and Archives Service, 2019/20

- 7.3 Priorities in the Libraries and Archives 2018/19 business plan included improving the libraries' working culture and a renewed focus on promoting reading as part of the service's purpose to help people to read, learn, and connect. It is intended that the foundations of a motivated and purposeful team will enable the delivery of the service operating model and future strategy.
- 7.4 A new business planning approach for the service has been implemented for 2019/20, which harnesses the knowledge of staff from across the service which was shared with key stakeholders for comment. The plan is linked to the Council's medium-term financial strategy and the business planning process in the wider City Management and Communities directorate, of which libraries and archives are part.

- 7.5 The library service is delivered through a shared arrangement with Hammersmith and Fulham, and Kensington and Chelsea. The Council remains committed to keeping its libraries open and accessible to all.
- 7.6 In December 2018, Hammersmith and Fulham Council signalled it wanted to end the agreement for a shared TriBorough library service after six years of working together. Westminster City Council, together with Kensington and Chelsea, will form a BiBorough library and archive service in place of the current arrangements. The aim will be for a seamless transition to new arrangements, with any impacts on library service users minimised.
- 7.7 Key challenges and risks include:
- changes in customer demand resulting in requirements for new digital services to be provided alongside existing print and analogue formats, which may increase costs although there are also opportunities for more efficient provision;
 - increasingly diverse use of library spaces, and potential for conflict between differing needs and uses;
 - cost of maintaining busy public buildings such as libraries to an appropriate standard;
 - declining income from traditional sources such as charges for overdue books and loan of CDs, and the need to develop new sources of funding that are complementary to residents' expectations of what libraries are for.

Marylebone Library

- 7.8 A new library for Marylebone will be provided at the Seymour Centre and work to plan and design it, alongside improvements to the sport and leisure facilities, is underway. Co-location with sports and leisure will enable libraries and leisure to work together, promoting well-being and physical and mental health, and encouraging people to take part in activities. The new library will provide a modern, sustainable and relevant service for the whole community with a great choice of books, up to the minute IT facilities and a comprehensive programme of events.

Libraries Advisory Board

- 7.9 The Council established an advisory board in 2017 to advise it on the long-term future for libraries in Westminster and to assist in the formulation of a long-term strategy. The Board is chaired by Chris Cotton DL, former CEO of the Royal Albert Hall, who was tasked with advising and supporting the Council in developing a long-term strategy for its library service, taking account of external development and Westminster's needs and priorities aligned to City for All.

- 7.10 Historic England has also been shown around the facility and the current proposals shared. The general view is positive, however more detailed conversations are on-going about the change in space of the main hall to accommodate the new pool and raised sports hall to a mezzanine floor structure.
- 7.11 The next and most vital stage that officers are taking forward is the production of a more detailed business case that will be presented in the next couple of months. Governance arrangements and the required resourcing for this work are being established and discussions concerning potential sources of funding is taking place over the coming weeks.

Westminster Reference Library

- 7.12 Westminster Reference Library, with support from the Westminster economy team, is starting a three-month trial period in June offering an affordable workspace for creative businesses such as art, fashion, design film and media start-ups at a cost of £200 per month for six fixed desk workspaces on the mezzanine level of the ground floor library area.

Improved Digital

- 7.13 Public Wi-Fi in all libraries have been improved. In December 2018, a BlueCloud Mobile library app was launched giving customers the choice of more digital resources which has seen an increase in downloads of eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers by 259 per cent.

8 REGISTRATION SERVICE

- 8.1 Westminster has the highest number of approved venues for marriage and civil partnership in London with over 150 venues - three times more than the second highest in London, and the third highest in England and Wales.
- 8.2 The General Register Office of England and Wales (part of the Home Office) carries out assurance reviews of local authority registration services every two years. This involves an examination of the security arrangements for the security of official forms used in the registration of births, marriages and deaths and data storage arrangements and security of records and information. A review in July 2018 concluded that the City of Westminster Registration Service provides “high” assurance, an improvement on the “satisfactory” level achieved in 2016.
- 8.3 The Registration Service is working with libraries to introduce the EU Settlement Scheme at Victoria library, where customers without an Android device can upload documents and data in support of their application to be recognised as a settled EU Citizen in the UK. This will be offered free of charge to Westminster residents, with non-residents paying £21. At the time of writing, this was expected to start at the end of May 2019.

- 8.4 The Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration Etc.) Act, which received Royal Assent on 26th March 2019, contains provisions for regulations to be made to extend eligibility for forming a civil partnership to opposite sex couples. The exact implementation date is not yet confirmed but the regulations must be in force by 31st December 2019. The Westminster Registration Service has already received enquiries from interested couples and is ready to facilitate bookings.

9 WESTMINSTER ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE (WAES)

Introduction and Strategic Review

- 9.1 WAES is the City Council's Adult Education Service, delivering learning and training programmes to around 8500 learners annually. Operating through a delegated scheme of management, the Service has a Board of Governors. It is grant funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and receives no funding from the City Council.
- 9.2 A strategic review of the service is currently underway. An external consultant has been engaged to provide some independence and additional scrutiny. The purpose of the review is to help the City Council and specifically the Westminster Adult Education Service to:
- Give WAES prominence on its work and impact/outcomes achieved to date;
 - Continue to improve the quality and effectiveness of adult education and training strategy and provision, playing a key role in meeting the economic and educational needs of the area, increasing learner participation, raising achievement and supporting progression;
 - Acquire a better understanding of how WAES can best position itself both in terms of impacts and opportunities in relation to the future of adult skills and successfully deliver on its new Strategic Plan for the period 2019-22.
 - Identify the future needs of the service including WAES accommodation requirements in line with strategic direction and planning;
 - Assess the current contribution WAES makes to fulfilling the wider City for All Vision and identify its potential to deliver increased impact through informing, shaping and supporting the delivery of the City Skills Framework and Economic Opportunity Strategy in relation to adult skills.
 - Assess the effectiveness of links with other City Council services/departments, the wider Adult Skills provider community, other strategic and commercial partners in order to derive maximum benefit to adult learners in Westminster and the local community.
- 9.3 The Head of Business and Enterprise (Economy Team in the Growth Planning and Housing Directorate) is the Council's lead officer for the strategic review, which will conclude at the end of July. The strategic review

report is scheduled to be presented at the Economic Development, Education and Place Shaping Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 16th September 2019.

Skills Training for Employment

- 9.4 WAES 2 Employment is a suite of employment focused training programmes that the adult education service delivers with key partners to actively support and progress learners into employment. To date we have run three distinct programmes:
- **Construction and Customer Service:** This is delivered in partnership with Access Employment and Education Training (AEET), Westminster Employment Service (WES) and Central London Forward (CLF): This project is aimed at London residents with an emphasis on CLF residents. Learners are provided with training in Employability Skills, Health and Safety and CSCS (in the case of construction learners). The learners are then supported by job coaches into work. To date, 188 learners have completed and 46 have progressed to employment.
 - **Construction traineeship in partnership:** This is delivered with Geason Training, Morgan Sindall and City of Westminster Housing Service. WAES is supporting the CityFutures programme in which residents gain construction training and work experience with progression into either an apprenticeship or employment.
 - **Personal Fitness programme in partnership with Moberly Sports Centre:** This programme allows learners and residents to gain a qualification at level 3 and take advantage of the wonderful facilities at Moberly Sport Centre. Once qualified, participants can become personal trainers in both the employed and self-employed sectors. We currently have 20 learners on this programme, which is due to finish in July.
- 9.5 WAES Traineeships support young residents towards employment. WAES hosted a Traineeship Open Day and Work-Ready Event on the 5th March 2019 at the WAES Lisson Grove site to provide an insight into our Traineeship and Employability programmes for 2019. The event raised participant awareness of the challenges of professional standards in the workplace. Participants were able to hear from the employers about the work and development opportunities available. WAES has established a regular base on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Job Centre in Marylebone. This space is used to exhibit our offer and enables our staff to give advice on training, traineeships and future study options that can lead to careers and improved employment prospects for benefit claimants.

Growth Funding Opportunities

- 9.6 A key driver for the WAES 2019-22 Strategy is to grow the business by seeking and securing additional sources of funding, which will enable us to expand our activities with Westminster and other London residents. Over the last three

months, we have submitted bids for four funding opportunities to support a range of activities. These include:

- **Returners Fund:** The Government Equalities Office is seeking to fund programmes to help get carers who have been out of work for more than 12 months back into work. WAES has bid for £80K to support parents into work in the hospitality sector. This will be targeted at Westminster residents but not limited to them.
- **Erasmus:** European Union funding has allowed for member countries to bid for funding to support improvement in current practices. WAES has bid for €225K to support the exchange of Good Practice in the use of technology to support teaching learning and assessment methods. This will be a collaboration with adult education partners in Italy, Poland and Spain.
- **The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) Adult Learning:** RBKC has published a tender to deliver its adult education budget. WAES has submitted a bid for £200K to deliver to RBKC residents and WAES currently delivers to over 300 RBKC residents.
- **The Greater London Authority (GLA):** In May, the GLA published a call for proposals for a six-year funding opportunity to support lifelong learning and facilitate the transition from education to work. WAES is part of a joint bid, which has a value of £1.3M.

9.7 **National recognition of achievement:** The Festival of Learning is the biggest celebration of lifelong learning in England. It highlights the benefits of learning, celebrates the achievements of adults who have used learning to transform their lives and encourages everyone to embrace lifelong learning. The awards have high recognition within the further and adult education sector. WAES entered two staff and three learners for the awards. The learners received an award for outstanding achievement and a staff member received a certificate in recognition of high standards in teaching and learning. The certificates will be presented to the learners at the WAES Annual Learner Awards on 10th July at Regent's University and the staff member will receive their award at the WAES Staff Conference on 22nd July 2019.

WAES Events

9.8 **Open Events:** We have held three open events; one on 7th March 2019 at Lisson Grove Centre, another on 4th April 2019 at Amberley Centre, and one on 15th May at the Pimlico Centre. The events focused on offering 'have-a-go' sessions in floristry, visual art, ceramics and fashion. ESOL learners were assessed and enrolled and advice and guidance was offered by our learner experience team. Our open evenings offer an opportunity for the public to meet our team, ask questions, visit the classrooms and enrol on a programme of their choice. We also offer advice on financing.

Health and Wellbeing Events

- 9.9 On 9th April 2019 at Holy Apostles' Hall, Pimlico, WAES staff showcased our curriculum offer and opportunities for local residents at the Community Champions Health Fair.
- 9.10 In April, staff attended the Spring Health Fair and Employment Zone in Pimlico. It offered an opportunity to promote our provision within the local community. The event proved very popular and gave WAES a great opportunity to engage with local residents on our curriculum offer and showed how residents can engage with WAES.
- 9.11 On 13th May 2019, members of WAES' Service Management team participated in the Westminster City Council event on Mental Health by contributing to a presentation regarding Mental Health and Wellbeing impact at WAES. This included presenting the curriculum offer we have in the field, support services for staff and learners.

Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 9.12 On 21st February 2019, we delivered a new event called International Mother Language Day. The Family Learning team offered a number of activities for children and parents. This attracted high levels of attendance from learners, families and staff. The interactive activities were a great opportunity for social integration and celebrating the diversity of the WAES learners and staff.
- 9.13 WAES celebrated International Women's Day by highlighting the achievements of women all over the world. There was a display in reception and canteen and a cake sale that benefited a local women's charity, The Marylebone Project.
- 9.14 At the Lisson Grove site, as part of the celebration of International Women's Day, the ceramics team and learners offered a wide range of high quality ceramics for sale. The profits of the sale were donated to charities that were chosen by our learners.
- 9.15 In April, WAES learners with learning difficulties and disabilities created a great day that captured the spirit of business enterprise with a very successful confectionary sale and donation box to raise money for Great Ormond Street. This event displayed the learners at their best and work-ready skills were at the forefront of the activity. This was a showcase of how learners with disabilities and difficult-to-overcome barriers are determined to prepare for employment and future steps towards independence.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the
Background Papers please contact Olivia Chadelle x4170
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APPENDICES:

For any supplementary documentation; especially from external stakeholders or documents which do not fit this template.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

This section is for any background papers used to formulate the report or referred to in the body of the report.