

Date:	30 June 2021
Report of:	Councillor Melvyn Caplan
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for City Management
Report Author and Contact Details:	Kisi Smith-Charlemagne, Interim Cabinet Officer (kcharlemagne@westminster.gov.uk)

As per the new agreed Cabinet Member report structure, this update provides highlights on my City for All priorities, areas of current focus in the Deputy Leader and City Management Portfolio and pertinent performance information.

1. City for All Vision and Strategy (2021 – 2022)

1.1 *Thriving Economy*

1.1.1 *Oxford Street Transformation*

The programme delivery is progressing very well and to plan. Phase 1 of the temporary works to deliver a greener Oxford Street has been completed with all footway widening works delivered in time for the West End's reopening on 12 April, providing much needed support for businesses and communities. Over 75 new seating and planting units have been delivered and installed. When completed, by end of June, the designs will bring to the district new lighting features, 40-percent more trees, over 1500 new plants from 65 species and double the amount of seating.

Another key intervention for 2021 is Marble Arch Mound. The 24-metre high climbable hill will create a new visitor experience in the West End and deliver sweeping views of Oxford Street, Hyde Park and surrounding areas. The project, which was granted planning approval on 30 March 2021, is now on site, making good progress toward opening to public in July. Marble Arch Mound will be open for a period of six months. Subject to social distancing and the appropriate guidance, the project is expected to attract approximately 200,000 visitors, generating significant cumulative spend in the area.

We are also making very good progress on permanent works in the district. In March we started construction on the Soho Photography Quarter with Phase 1 opening expected in July. This is the first of the permanent schemes being delivered this year and will be followed by a range of laneways and greenways projects which will start on site later this year.

Oxford Circus is one of the key projects to start delivery this year. We worked closely with the Crown Estate as well as Transport for London (TfL), New West End Company (NVEC) and other stakeholders to develop a scheme which can put the district on a global stage, delivering an integrated solution incorporating the highest quality public realm, improved access to the London Underground and a cleaner and greener environment. Phase 1 of the works – car free piazzas on Oxford Street, either end of the circus – is targeting delivery by end of November 2021. In parallel, an International Design Competition will be launched in the summer, to procure a world class design and team, to deliver the end scheme.

The Zero Carbon Demonstrator scheme is also a key milestone for the end of the year. This will deliver a variety of low carbon solutions across the district, incorporating technical solutions such as active travel hubs and electric vehicle (EV) charging points, with high quality placemaking.

1.1.2 *Safe movement across Westminster*

The temporary School Streets programme, implemented as a response to the pandemic has been extended until the end of this academic year. The wider programme is being developed for implementation in the autumn.

A review of accessibility across the al fresco streets has been carried out in partnership with Transport for All. An additional 20 dropped kerbs have been installed across Soho and the council is committed to continuing to improve accessibility for all users across the City.

1.2 *Greener and Cleaner*

1.2.1 *West End Public Toilets and Enhanced Street Cleansing Operations*

To ensure the West End continues to be an attractive visitor destination the provision of public toilet facilities and street cleansing services have been substantially enhanced since lockdown ended. Prior to lockdown the council deployed 12 mobile urinals at key locations each Friday and Saturday evening. This has now been increased to 18 mobile urinals and 12 portaloos to ensure the needs of female visitors are met. These facilities are also now deployed on Sundays and Bank Holiday Monday's (in addition to Friday and Saturday) and will also be deployed during weekday events, such as the Euro 2021 football matches. Additional signage has also been installed directing visitors to these facilities. The units are intensively used by West End visitors so are now being emptied in situ and left in place throughout the weekend which also helps reduce day-time street urination problems.

The evening and night-time street cleansing operation in the West End has also been increased with additional street cleaning teams and flusher/washer vehicles operating in key areas from 10pm. Further street cleaning resources are also then introduced from 3am each weekend night to provide a detailed clean-up of the West End once the crowds have reduced and in preparation for the re-opening of businesses the next morning. The Automatic Public Toilet unit at Maida Hill Market has also recently been upgraded so that it is free entry for all residents and visitors (previously it was restricted to free entry for disabled users with a Radar key and a 50p entry charge applied to all other users).

1.2.2 Sustainable transport – Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging

The Council is on track to install a further 500 chargers in 2021/2022 in addition to the 1,000 implemented across the City. The charging points will range from 3kW to 50kW and be installed at key residential and commercial locations across the city. The charging points are available to all users, making it easier for residents to switch to environmentally friendly transport solutions.

1.2.3 Reduce energy consumption - Light-emitting diode (LED) street lights

In 2019 the Council commenced a programme of installing LED street lights to improve lighting control and reduce energy consumption that was expected to conclude at the end of March 2022. As of the end of May, we have switched 10,101 of our street lamps to LED, with a further 4,146 to be switched by November 2021 as part of our accelerated programme. Once complete it is projected that 1,335 tonnes CO₂e emissions will be saved per annum. Equally a programme of LED lighting improvements continue within the leisure service and the main sports pitches have now been converted to energy efficient lighting.

1.3 Vibrant Communities

1.3.1 Active environment - Leisure facilities

Leisure centres re-opened from 12 April, after receiving the Government's go-ahead under step two of the four-step roadmap out of lockdown. Moberly Sports Centre, Paddington Recreation Ground, Little Venice Sports Centre, the Porchester Centre, Seymour Leisure Centre, Marshall Street Leisure Centre and Queen Mother Sports Centre operated by Everyone Active in partnership with the Council reopened with normal opening hours, nearly four months of closure due to the third national lockdown

As of 17 May, the Porchester Spa re-opened for the first time since March 2020 and group exercise/activities were permitted to resume. We had almost 3,000 bookings for group exercise classes in the first week and in the first six-weeks of reopening 3,250 new customers joined the centres for fitness and/or swimming lessons.

Visitor numbers by month across all Westminster Leisure/Sport Centres May 2019-May 2021



*	May-19	May-21	%	Difference
Porchester	31502	31612	100%	Equal
Padd Rec	18740	33831	181%	(+) 81%
Seymour	27819	22657	81%	(-) 19%
Marshall	22429	7767	35%	(-) 65%
Queen Mother	42347	31651	75%	(-) 25%
Little Venice	6555	8394	128%	(+) 28%
Moberly	36172	47457	131%	(+) 31%
Overall	185,564	183,369	99%	(-) 1%

* The data is exported from the Moving Communities dashboard, based on the raw participant data is provided by Everyone Active on a per centre basis.

Prior to re-opening, and since re-opening Little Venice Sports Centre & Moberly Sports Centre has and continues to be utilised as a lateral flow community testing facility every day. The test centre at Little Venice Sports Centre will continue for at least the next 3 months, where it will be continually reviewed. The test centre facility at Moberly will be decommissioned as of 11 July.

Additionally, Little Venice Sports Centre has also been utilised as vaccination site on Wednesdays and Fridays Sports Centre since mid-May. The ambition has been to administer c.4000 vaccinations pw, with average administered has been c.3500 vaccinations pw. Following liaison with the CCG they have advised that the vaccination centre at Little Venice Sports Centre will **currently** continue up to 31 of July. However, may be extended due to the expedited vaccine roll-out.

1.3.2 Pride 2021

Pride 2021 is currently being planned with a different parade route, starting on Park Lane and finishing on Whitehall and in Piccadilly, Haymarket and Trafalgar Square. A detailed cleansing plan has not yet been produced, as the Cleansing team is awaiting a meeting (to be held on 29 June) between the Events team and the organisers to determine factors such as lay-up points and barrier lines. It is expected that the "Soho box" element of the plan will be similar to previous years. In addition to this increased level of cleansing resource, COVID-19 grant funding is also being used to provide a "mini-Pride" level of extra flushing vehicles, sweepers, and a rapid reaction cleaning team each weekend

1.3.3 "Euro 2020" Football Matches

The cleansing team will be working closely with the City Inspectors and the Events team over the next few weeks to ensure that there is minimal disruption (and risk) during the Euro Football matches taking place in London. There will be an increased managerial presence on the ground at key times, staff will be working in pairs after 5pm and teams will be tasked with targeted cleansing at periods when there are less football fans on the streets (during matches etc.). This process has been successful for the matches that have attracted large crowds in the West End. There will also be additional staff in Soho, Covent Garden, Chinatown and the Trafalgar Square areas.

1.4 Smart City

1.4.1 Smart Technology Trials

The trial to test solar compactor litter bins on Oxford Street has been delayed slightly due to import issues but the bins have now been received and the trial is due to start on 28 June. The solar compactor bins can send an alert when they need emptying which will reduce vehicle movements. Behavioural psychology experts from University College London are also working with officers to test different graphics and signage ideas to measure what impact they have on litter bin usage, recycling and littering within the immediate vicinity of the bins.

2. Cabinet Member Decisions (May – 21 June 2021)

Since the last report, as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for City Management, the following formal decisions have been made:

- Rental E-scooter Trial Footway site locations. A map of the locations throughout the borough and by wards can be found in appendix A and B.

3. Key Performance Indicators

Waste tonnages were unsurprisingly significantly impacted by COVID-19 with overall tonnages reducing by 53% during 2020/21 but the end of lockdown has seen a notable increase in commercial activity. A total of 11,533 tonnes of waste (including recycling) was collected during May 2021; an increase of 60% on May 2020 but still 27% below May 2019.

The anti-skid elements of PPM carriageway schemes remain outstanding due to a global shortage of the relevant materials.

As of quarter four 20/21:

- 100% of urgent lighting defects made safe within an agreed timescale;
- 99% of carriageway and footway defects repaired or made safe within 24 hours;

During May 2021:

- 86% of Resident parking bays were available (based on number of bays and average of those suspended), the 14% was made up of bay suspensions. The table shows the breakdown of Suspension reasons against the KPI.

