

**Interview with Education, Children's Services & Leisure
Scrutiny Sub-Committee - 26 November**

The themes;

A Events:

- I. *Can the Cabinet Member tell us how much will be allocated to the Black History Month (BHM) for 2014?*

The budget setting process for 2014/15 is being worked through and is not yet complete, but we expect the Black History Month budget to remain the same as this year.

- II. *Will there be proper Opening and closing events for next year BHM including better publication?*

The rationale for dropping the launch and closing event was that we were not getting sufficient interest from the community to attend the events. Setting up these events is very time consuming and uses up a lot of financial resources (venue hire, catering, additional publicity, fees to pay speakers and workshop fees), in addition to officer time to plan, programme, set up and manage. The numbers of people actually attending the events was reducing year on year and no longer justified the resources expended. The funding is now used to support the community's individual programmes and events and has been made available for local groups to bid for.

We do not yet have the complete figures for attendance at Black History Month this year, but we do know that these have already surpassed 2012 attendances. In 2012 there were 25 events programmed across the month. In 2013 there have been 31 events. In 2012 a total of 2387 people attended Black History Month events. Through evaluation forms that have been returned so far, we know that Black History Month has already reached 2979 people, and this does not include three of the larger funded projects, from which we are still awaiting data, and the 13 smaller community grants, that we have not yet received data for.

Marketing activity in 2013 comprised of the following: Southwark Council website, The Source, Southwark Life supplement, Black History Month leaflets, weekly e-bulletins to the arts database, information circulated to community councils via community engagement team, Black Heritage Today magazine and Nigerian Watch newspaper.

B Leisure:

- I. *Fusion - Can the cabinet member tells us how many faith group granted to use Fusion facilities for baptism this year?*

We allow churches to use the hydro pool at the Pulse for baptisms but they are not permitted to make block bookings and they are only permitted to make one booking per quarter. This prevents any one church from having the monopoly on bookings.

The reason for limiting access is that there is huge pressure on our pools at the moment. The health agenda and the varied number of groups that request access to these resources means that fair and sensitive programming is paramount.

In terms of usage of the hydro therapy pool by faith groups in the last year, 13 organisations have booked to use the facilities for baptisms.

- II. *Fusion - Can the cabinet member tell us if Southwark Council will seek for concession fees for their residents in Southwark?*

One of the ways to access the leisure centres in the borough is via a casual use, pay as you play card. This is called a Leisure Axess card and for an annual fee, holders of the card receive discounted rates on standard prices for a wide variety of activities. Residents of Southwark already receive a considerable discount on the card (30% on standard adult card) and depending on personal circumstances some individuals might also qualify for a Concession Leisure Axess card which is available at a nominal annual fee. Individuals who fall into one of the following categories are entitled to this concession upon production of valid documentation and again Southwark residents receive a discounted rate compared to non-residents: users with a disability, users on a low income, young people below the age of 19, full time students and users over the age of 60. Some examples of the annual cost of the Leisure Axess card and prices using it are outlined below:

Annual Fee for Leisure Axess Card (Southwark Residents / Non-Residents)

- Standard adult card - £50.10 / £72.30 (30% discount for residents)
- Family card for 2 adults and 2 children - £62.30 / £84.40 (26% discount for residents)
- Concessionary rate - £3 / £10.90 (72% discount for residents)

Leisure Centre Activity Costs (Leisure Axess Card / Standard Rate)

- Adult swim at peak times - £2.50 / £4.40 (43% discount for Leisure Axxess card)
- Family swim for 2 adult and 2 children - £4.60 / £9.10 (49% discount for Leisure Axxess card)
- Adult gym session at peak times - £6.30 / £8.20 (23% discount for Leisure Axxess card)
- Concession Leisure Axxess card holders can access activities at off peak times at significantly lower rates to take further advantage of activity price discounts (for example swimming for 60p and gym for £2.70)

III. *How much has the Council invested this year into Fusion?*

The Council does not invest in Fusion as such. It pays an annual management fee in exchange for the operation of the leisure centres that fall with in the agreement. This year the management fee is £1.4m. In addition to this the Council will be investing £285k of revenue for maintenance items that cost over £3k and also £120k on capital works to various sites (not including major projects such as Pulse).

C Proposed use of Seven Islands Leisure Centre as a police base for Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks.

My cabinet colleague, Councillor Livingstone, leads on this matter, but I understand from him that the police agree that this would be a good replacement site for Rotherhithe police stations, and that talks are well advanced between the Council and the Metropolitan Police Property Services on the works needed to the site. The proposal is for the police to use part of the northern wing of the leisure centre.

D Proposed Camberwell Library / Libraries:

- I. *Can the cabinet member explained in details while the site chosen in Camberwell is the only appropriate site to build the new library and when is the work starting?*

Please refer to the attached Frequently Asked Questions document which includes details of the business case for this project and why this site is the most suitable location for the new library building.

Early works have started on the site already and full construction works will start within the next few weeks. Construction will be completed by September 2014 with the new library opening in autumn 2014.

- II. *What is the cost of running the libraries in Camberwell now and how much are we saving when the new library is built?*

The current Camberwell Library on Camberwell Church Street has a budget of £346,721 for the current financial year. This includes a rental of £83,500. Final revenue costs for the new library are still subject to review but there will be no rental charge as the Council will own the new building.

- III. *Is the Council propose to plant new trees as part of the library new development?*

Yes. There will be 6 new trees on the site including Quercus Palustris (Pin Oak) and Cercis Canaderisis (Judas tree).

This project will also contribute some budget towards planting trees along Lomond Grove to support the 'Green link' down to Burgess Park. Along with new trees planted in Camberwell Green, there will be a net increase of trees of 2 trees.

E Olympic legacy.

We have invested £2 million in Olympic legacy projects that will benefit local people and contribute to improved health and well being. Most of these are now completed and in use. Completed projects are:

- Camberwell Leisure Centre Jubilee Hall
- Herne Hill Velodrome
- Burgess Park BMX track
- Homestall Road grass pitches
- Trinity Games area in Camberwell
- Peckham Pool disabled access hoist
- Bethwin Playground

Phase one of the Peckham Rye project is completed with the upgrading of the pitches. Phase two which will include the re-provision of changing rooms is part of a wider programme of improvements to the park which will be delivered over the next year.

Work on Southwark Sports ground in Dulwich is expected to be completed by the summer.

Work on Southwark Park Athletics Track has commenced and a bid to the capital programme for funding to upgrade and bring the pavilion back into use is being submitted as part of the Capital refresh report in January. Work already completed includes:

- Securing a further £705,000 external funding for the project
- Securing external revenue funding for an athletics activator post to develop athletics in the borough and to lever in more funding
- Drafted procurement documentation and design specifications

The £2m capital legacy funding has also been used to lever in almost £1 million of additional funding for the legacy projects. Details are set out below.

£991,000 additional funding for Olympic Legacy projects

List of Awards

- £97k from Sport England Inspired facilities Fund for Camberwell Baths Sports Hall
- £145k from Sport England Inspired facilities Fund for Southwark Park Sports Complex
- £42k from Sport Englands Protecting Playing Fields for Homestall Road
- £76k from London Marathon Charitable Trust for MUGA at Southwark Sports Ground

- £150k from London Marathon Charitable Trust for Southwark Park Sports complex
- £ 75k from London Marathon Charitable Trust for Burgess Park BMX
- £30k from London Marathon Charitable Trust for Bethwin Road MUGA
- £5k from Garfield Weston Foundation for Trinity Project
- £121k from Mayor of London Facilities Fund for Burgess Park BMX
- £100 from British Cycling for Burgess Park BMX
- £150k Sport England improvement Fund for Homestall Road

Per Project Breakdown:

Project	OCLF Awards	Additional External Funding Secured (May 13)
Camberwell Baths	£490k	£97k
Southwark Park Athletics Track	£370k	£295k
Southwark Sports Ground	£85k	£76k
Burgess BMX	£150k	£296
Trinity	£30k	£5k
Bethwin	£95k	£30k
Homestall Road	£175k	£192k
TOTAL	£1,395,000	£991,000

There is also 1 live application with a potential of a further £230k additional funding (tbc June 2013)

- £230k from Mayor of London Facility Fund for Southwark Park Sports Complex

F Peckham Pulse

The Peckham Pulse is currently undergoing two phases of investment works (2013/14 - £500k and 2014/14 - £1.8m). The main aim of the works is to bring the centre up to the standard of the other recently redeveloped centres such as Camberwell and Dulwich Leisure Centres. In addition to this, the investment has to address the outcomes of recent lifecycle condition surveys as well as revitalising areas within the building such as the spa.

Works that are currently under way are the full replacement of the gym air conditioning system and replacement of the emergency lighting system. Both projects are due to finish in December. A further 6 other packages of works will be completed by the end of the year whilst the technical team work on the investment for the coming year.