

Leisure and Community Facilities

Access to leisure and community services contribute to the overall wellbeing of individuals living and working in Westminster and help residents to live well for longer in their community. Existing leisure and community facilities include family centres, cultural hubs, workspaces, sports centres, and play areas. Leisure and community facilities provide spaces for residents and visitors to learn, exercise and interact with one another, and their delivery is crucial to supporting the growth by creating thriving, integrated communities as set out in the City Plan.

Planned Projects

Community Facilities, Leisure Centres and Recreation

Population growth projections, as well as commitments to tackling health inequalities and achieving net zero in the borough indicates increased demand for leisure facilities which will need to be provided through new developments and improvements to existing facilities, as well as improving upon the recreational offerings of our parks and green spaces. Increasing provision in parks and other community spaces to provide opportunities for leisure and exercise for free, and to encourage the use of the green infrastructure that the borough offers.

Leisure Centres and Recreation Facilities	
Category	**Details**
Lead	The Council in collaboration with Everyone Active (Leisure Contractor)
Current Provision	Major regeneration of Paddington Recreation Ground, new Little Venice Sports Centre, redevelopment of Marshall St Leisure Centre, capital investment in existing leisure and community centres, refurbishment of Seymour Leisure Centre, partner-run sites like The Hub in The Regent's Park
Known Planned Provision	New Moberly Physical Activity, Leisure, and Sport facility in Queens Park, new Physical Activity, Leisure, and Sport facility in Chelsea Barracks, redevelopment of Seymour Leisure Centre, potential refurbishment of Queen Mother Sports Centre , maximising outdoor learning facility (Sayers Croft), ensuring genuine community use of school sports facilities. Additionally, calisthenics gyms across the borough aimed at encouraging digital smart screens in parks and outdoor spaces that stream free content to encourage residents to become more active for free.
Future Needs	Population projections indicate increased and changing demand for leisure facilities that enable improved environmental outcomes and tackle health inequalities, which includes new developments and improvements to existing facilities.
Funding	CIL and S106 Agreements, developer contributions, General Fund budget, public funding streams, business community partnerships, Sport England funding.

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Below is the schedule of planned provision of leisure centre infrastructure.

Schedule									
Prioritisation	**Programme / Strategic project**	**Location/s**	**Description**	**Provider**	**Estimated WCC cost**	**Phasing (Start)**	**Phasing (End)**	**Timescale**	**Total Funding gap**
Crucial	Health and Wellbeing Projects	Borough-wide	To promote access to sports and physical activity opportunities, a number of capital projects will be delivered across the City to improve the quality and provision of sporting facilities	WCC	£4,246,000	2019	2025	Medium	£2,502,000.00
Important	Community Hubs Programme	Borough-Wide	New approach and delivery model to develop the city-wide Community Hubs Programme to strengthen community connections and make it easier for local communities to access different services in one place throughout neighbourhoods	WCC	£10,000,000	2024	2027	Short	Full funding authorised
Crucial	Sports & Leisure- New Centres	Borough-wide	New facilities offering good quality equipment, helps to keep people active by attracting residents and users to use the latest in sports and leisure equipment at local facilities	Corporate Property	£500,000	2021	2022	Short	£500,000.00
Crucial	Seymour Leisure Centre Refurbishment	W1H 5TJ	Refurbishment and reconfiguration of the existing accommodation at Seymour leisure centre (SLC) and including the new Marylebone library within the centre. Linked to Corporate Property 'Marylebone Library' above	WCC	£18,770,000	2023	2024	Short	£18,770,000.00
Crucial	New Leisure Centre -		Chelsea Barracks is a S106 leisure infrastructure	WCC	£5,450,000	?	?	?	?

	redevelopments		delivery project agreed with the Qatari mixed use residential, leisure & health development with plans agreed. There is also a need to redevelop the aging Queen Mother Sports Centre as part of the improvement to the offer to those residents, users, clubs and schools in the south of the Borough.						
Essential	Calisthenics Outdoor Gyms	Borough-Wide	The implementation of calisthenics gyms would seek to attract and support a year-on-year increase for women and girls to become more engaged and active in physical activities. Data has shown there is low participation in sport and physical activity from this group. Calisthenics gyms form part of our strategic plan to deliver new and improved facilities to meet local needs, maximise flexibility and fill the gaps in overall facility provision. Promote the development of 'nontraditional' facilities to promote wider engagement.	WCC, The Great Outdoor Gym Company	£120,000	2024	2025	Short	£ -

Essential	Basketball Courts and Artwork	W10 4RQ	One of the project goals is to encourage the community to have a sporty and healthy lifestyle, through a new refreshing approach that combines sports, art and people. Sport in our world is one of the authentic tools for bringing hearts together and creating communities. The pitches will become a symbol of accepting difference and creating a sense of belonging for every child who goes out onto the court.	WCC	£51,000	2024			£ -
Essential	Leisure 2026 ready improvements	Borough-wide	The current Leisure contract expires in 2026, and options are being assessed for the future of Leisure in Westminster. This could include an extension, a re-let or inhousing to name a few. Whatever the decision, there will be an essential need to ensure investment into the Leisure Infrastructure to improve the look and feel of the centres to ensure that income levels are maintained or improved. Works will meet with current competition of private leisure facilities and ensure that any future re-let/procurement of Leisure Contract is financially lucrative to WCC via net benefit Management Fees.	WCC	£3,250,000				

			It is essential that WCC residents can be as healthy & active as unaffordable private leisure centre members. This meets %232035, ActiveWestminster strategy & fairer Westminster strategy objectives.						
Essential	Ecological / Environmental sustainability Leisure projects	Borough-wide	WCC doesn't have any Grass pitches, and all of the MUGA's, Artificial Grass Pitches in Westminster use un-sustainable materials in order to meet strict sports facility surface guidelines. However, there are new pitch surface materials developed, including a hybrid of Grass and AGP's, which is better for the environment. Investment into the improvement of the sustainability and reduction of environmental impact of leisure and sports pitch facilities would help to meet the pressing climate and ecological emergency and reduce the use of plastics, macadam and other un-sustainable materials.	WCC	£1,620,000				
Essential	Decarbonisation / Water saving / EV infrastructure in leisure works	Borough-wide	Investment into the continued improvement of sustainability and reduction of the environmental impact of our older and aging public leisure facilities via decarbonisation and environmental impact	WCC	£3,500,000				

			reduction works. Improvements to insulation, energy usage, water management, adding EV charge points where possible and other works to meet the pressing climate and ecological emergency are needed.						
Essential	Built Facilities Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy, Play Strategy Infrastructure projects	Borough-wide	The last BFS, PPS & PS, which informs the strategic plan for leisure, playing pitch and play facility infrastructure delivery, were carried out just before the Covid pandemic hit and changed the way many of us get and stay active. Supply and demand needs have arguably changed since then and to inform Westminster's strategic needs, a further data driven BFS, PPS & PS is needed to help determine the requirements of the Westminster population as well as those that work, study or visit the City.	WCC	£68,000				
Essential	Pimlico Gardens Improvements	SW1V 3JY	Improvements of facilities to enable Pimlico Gardens to better meet the leisure needs of the area (e.g. small café, restoration of Victorian gardener's hut, possible river viewing area).	WCC		TBC	TBC	Short	
Desirable	Ebury Bridge fitness/recreational facility	SW1W 9TB	Provision of a fitness/Recreational facility as part of Ebury Bridge regeneration	WCC	£1,347,000	2024	2028	Short	£

Libraries

Known planned provision for libraries in Westminster involves relocating Marylebone Library to underutilised areas of the existing Seymour Leisure Centre. This scheme will ensure the library is located within more suitable accommodation and its funding allocation to be kept in the Council's Capital Programme.

Libraries	
Category	**Details**
Lead	The Council in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kensington, Chelsea, Hammersmith, and Fulham
Current Provision	Westminster has 17 libraries, including Archives, Charing Cross Library, and Westminster Reference Library,
Known Planned Provision	Relocating Marylebone Library to Seymour Leisure Centre for co-location with a community hub. Relocating Church Street Library as part of area regeneration plans to create a purpose-built library and community garden.
Future Needs	Ensure libraries continually develop to reflect changing societal roles and community needs. Expand reading, digital, and business support programs tailored to local needs. Increase uptake among community groups to justify ongoing investment.
Funding	Funding from CIL and S106 agreements, General Fund budget, Central Music Library Committee, National Lottery, and Arts Council funding.

Schedule									
Prioritisation	**Programme / Strategic project**	**Location/s**	**Description**	**Provider**	**Estimated WCC cost**	**Phasing (Start)**	**Phasing (End)**	**Timescale**	**Total Funding gap**
Crucial	Marylebone Library	W1G 9UQ	Involves the construction of a new library in underutilised areas of the existing Seymour Leisure Centre to ensure that the allocation for Marylebone Library CMR is kept in the capital programme.	WCC	£6,229,000	2019	TBC		£6,229,000

Sports Pitches	
Category	**Details**
Lead	The Council delivers sports pitches and facilities in collaboration with partners, including Everyone Active (sports and leisure contractor), the Football Association, the Premier League and Sport England.
Current Provision	Westminster is home to various high-quality sporting facilities, including 58 park-based physical activity, leisure, and sports facilities[1], provided through a mix of publicly and privately owned facilities and spaces.
Known Planned Provision	The Council's Playing Pitch Strategy 2021 (PPS) assesses playing pitch provision and contains an action plan to address identified shortcomings and meet existing shortfalls in sports facilities, including: improving quality to enhance capacity and accommodate more demand; transferring demand from overcrowded sites to those with available capacity; securing long-term community use through the Council's Community Use Agreements (CUAs) for existing and future sites; collaborating with commercial and private providers to expand community access via CUAs; and increasing utilisation of all-weather pitches and floodlit facilities.
Future Needs	The Planning Policy Statement (PPS) has assessed future playing pitch requirements in Westminster, aligning with the City Plan's objective to deliver 22,222 new homes. The assessment covers various sports, including football, cricket, rugby union, hockey (artificial grass pitches), tennis, bowling greens, and other outdoor facilities. It is acknowledged that the PPS and associated needs assessment were formulated before the COVID-19 pandemic, and an updated evaluation is necessary to identify future sports infrastructure needs. The Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) will be revised to reflect the latest information and considerations.
Funding	Funding needs to be secured through external partner and developer contributions in applicable situations and other local community schemes. The PPS notes that other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated to support the delivery of sports facilities improvement projects.

Schedule

Prioritisation	Programme / Strategic project	Location/s	Description	Provider	Estimated WCC cost	Phasing (Start)	Phasing (End)	Timescale	Total Funding gap
Essential	PRG Padel Tennis Facility	W9 1LQ	New physical activity facility, following demand from local resident/Councilors	WCC	£200,000				

[1] See ActiveWestminser Strategy 2018 - 2022