

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 13TH SEPTEMBER 2012

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 24TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Report by the Director of Environment and Community Services on the Annual Quality
Performance Review (AQPR) of Parks and Leisure Services for 2011/12.

SUMMARY

This report sets out the achievements and reviews the performance of Parks and Leisure Services for the year 2011/12 and outlines improvement plans for the Service for 2012/13. This is the first Annual Quality and Performance Review (AQPR) for the Service since the following three sections; Leisure and Sport, Parks and Bereavement were brought together as one service following approval by the Executive in January 2011 (Paper No. 11-31).

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to support the recommendations. The Executive are recommended to agree the seeking of interest for improving and developing the Tooting Triangle site and the Parks and Bereavement Services Action 2012-13 and the Leisure and Sports Services Action Plan 2012-13.

The Director of Finance comments that in 2011/12 the net revenue expenditure of the Parks and Leisure Service covered within this report was £5,824,000 and the net revenue budget for 2012/13 is £5,894,000. Capital expenditure in 2011/12 was £316,000 and subject to approval the Capital Programme for 2012/13 will be £476,000.

In summary, Parks and Leisure Services continued to perform well during 2011/12, achieving Council objectives and priorities, delivering a significant number of action plan targets which contribute to a number of council strategies and striving to deliver continuous improvement in all areas. The Improvement Action Plans for 2012-13 detail how the sections aim to improve and deliver the Service's aims and objectives over the next 12 months.

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GLOSSARY

AQPR	Annual Quality and Performance Reviews
BVPI	Best Value Performance Indicators
CBP	Corporate Business Plan
CSPAN	Community Sport and Physical Activity Network
DCLM	DC Leisure Management Ltd.
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
DoH	Department of Health
EIA	Equality Impact Assessment
FOW	Friends of Woodfields
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GOL	Government Office for London
IFI	Inclusive Fitness Initiative
LC	Leisure Centre
L&SS	Leisure and Sport Services
NTC	National Tennis Centre
PDM	Partnership Development Manager
PE	Physical Education
QUEST	A leisure and sports quality management system
REPs	Register of Exercise Professionals
SSCO	School Sports Co-ordinator Programme
SE	Sport England
TCMAC	Tooting Common Management Advisory Committee
WCA	Woodfields Community Association

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Environment, Culture and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to support the recommendation in paragraph 3.
2. If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve any views, comments or additional recommendations on the report, these will be reported to the Executive for their consideration.
3. The Executive are recommended to approve:-
 - (a) the proposal to seek expressions of interest for the future improvement, operation and management of the Tooting Triangle site, SW17 (Bedford) paragraphs 114 – 116,
 - (b) the Parks and Bereavement Services Improvement Action Plan 2012-13 at Appendix 6; and
 - (c) the Leisure and Sport Services Improvement Action Plan 2012-13 at Appendix 7.

INTRODUCTION

4. This paper sets out the achievements of, and reviews the performance and improvements delivered by, Parks and Leisure Services for the year 2011/12 and outlines plans for continuous improvement for the coming year.

5. The Council's Parks and Leisure Services are responsible for a wide range of services and a significant number of facilities, parks, cemeteries and open spaces across the Borough and outside the Borough boundary within the Environment and Community Services Department. The Services are responsible for monitoring three significant contracts on behalf of the Council: the leisure centres management contract held by DC Leisure Management Ltd (DCLM) under which the day-to-day operation of the centres is carried out by the Wandsworth Community Leisure Association (WCLA), Parks and Cemeteries grounds maintenance, grave digging and horticulture contract held by Fountains part of the OCS Group and tree maintenance held by Advance Tree Services. The Services have direct responsibility for the management of seven sports sites, a wide range of activities and programmes carried out by the sport and physical activity development service, five cemeteries, two crematoria, allotments and a number of biodiversity schemes and programmes.

SERVICE STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE

6. Service aims and objectives. The Services' aims and objectives are set out in Appendix 1. The Services contribute positively to the Council's corporate strategic objectives and its aims and objectives also reflect the Council's ongoing corporate ambition to deliver high quality, value for money services and contribute to other Council strategies for example the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-15 and the Older People's Plan.
7. Financial Resources. Revenue budget statements showing net expenditure for each section within Parks and Leisure Services are attached at Appendix 2.
8. Human Resources. The current management and staffing structure for Parks and Leisure Services is attached at Appendix 3. This structure was reviewed during 2010-11 as part of a wider departmental staffing review of the former Leisure and Amenity Services Department and approved by the Executive (Paper No. 11-31) in January 2011 and recommended the merger between Parks and Bereavement Services and Leisure and Sport Services and resulted in a net post reduction of 8.4 FTE.
9. Policy and Strategy. The statutory duties on which Parks and Leisure Service policy and strategies are based are included in Appendix 1.
10. The Executive (Paper No's 11-855 and 12-197) recently approved the Parks Management Strategy 2011-2020 and the Active Wandsworth Strategy 2011-2016, which each provide the framework and improvement plans for the Parks and Leisure Service, which will guide the appropriate Services' annual action plans in 2012-13 and the following years.
11. The Parks Management Strategy (Paper no. 11-855), included a wide and varied consultation process, together with a review of national, regional and local strategies. The vision of the Parks Management Strategy 2011-2020 is: 'Wandsworth, a place with excellent and diverse parks and green spaces that everyone can enjoy and visit'. The Strategy identified three key strategic aims which will assist in achieving the overall vision of the strategy, these are:-

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- (a) To understand and manage the cultural asset that parks and green spaces represent.
 - (b) To understand and enhance the visitor experience of parks and green spaces.
 - (c) To devise and implement a range of methods to maintain and improve standards in delivering excellent parks and green spaces.
12. The Active Wandsworth Strategy (Paper No. 12-197), included a full review of national, regional, Council and previous sport and physical activity strategies and, together with a consultation programme that resulted in almost 300 responses, helped to shape the new strategy. Three strategic priorities were identified as a result of this process which are; Improving Places, Inspiring People and Increasing Participation. The document represents priorities for all members of the Community Sport & Physical Activity Network (CSPAN) which is Active Wandsworth, and as such was written in partnership with NHS Wandsworth. The vision for this new strategy is "Wandsworth, a place where everybody can enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle".
13. Performance Assessment. The performance of Parks and Leisure Services during 2011/12 is monitored on a number of different levels through corporate objectives, key issues, Topline indicators and local performance indicators for each area of the service, highlights of which are captured in the new 'Scorecard' performance sheets which are attached at Appendix 6 and 7. More specific details of some of the Service's key achievements are outlined in paragraphs 14 - 61.
14. Parks Maintenance and Cemeteries Contractor Performance 2011-12. This is the fifth year of the contract that provides horticultural and ecological maintenance, provision of sports facilities, litter clearance, management of water bodies, handyman and engineering duties and premises cleaning as appropriate in parks, green spaces and cemeteries. The cemeteries maintenance contract also provides for grave digging and memorial safety checks in cemeteries. The current contracts expire in February 2013.
15. Fountains Group plc, the Parks and Cemeteries maintenance contractor, continued to achieve generally high standards of maintenance across all aspects of the contract despite entering into Administration on 21st/22nd January 2012. On 23rd January the OCS Group acquired part of the Fountain's Group's business and assets, including those responsible for delivering this contract to the Council.
16. Compost created from the green waste arising from horticultural maintenance in parks, open space and cemeteries continued for six months of the year to be used as a mulch and soil improver on planted areas in the parks and open spaces. However, new legislation brought in by the Environment Agency caused the cessation of operations in the composting yard at Battersea Park and the additional costs arising from waste removal were split with the contractor. Under new transitional arrangements, composting temporarily resumed at the start of 2012 whilst a bespoke licence is being sought. Inert waste arising from grave digging continues to be used at Putney Vale Cemetery to create a new burial area for the future. In total, these operations have removed approximately 1000 tonnes of waste from general waste disposal annually.

17. Table of rectification and default notices issued.

Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	% change +/-
Rectification orders	294	617	299	-52%
Default notices	161	233	88	-62%
Default notices as % of written rectification orders	55%	38%	29%	-29%

18. It is of note that the reduced level of defaults and rectifications was maintained despite Fountains experiencing substantial internal difficulties during and up to them eventually being acquired by OCS Group in January 2012.
19. Arboriculture maintenance contractor performance 2011-12. The objective of the Arboriculture Section is to “enhance the Borough’s environment through the planting, careful maintenance and preservation of trees”. This involves the maintenance of 75,000 Council owned trees, assisting the Borough Planner to process Preservation and Conservation Area applications, and tree planting.
20. The Arboriculture Team comprises the Arboriculture Manager, four Arboriculture Officers, and an administration officer. The four Arboriculture Officers are each responsible for the day-to-day works orders, enquiries, and tree surveys for a specific section of the Borough, each officer being responsible for approximately one quarter of the Borough. The administrative officer provides support to the team, and acts as a central point of contact for all tree related enquiries. Two members of staff left the Council employment although temporary replacements enabled the service to provide continuity to the maintenance programme.
21. Parks Operations, Development and Biodiversity Performance and Achievements in 2011-12.
22. Parks Operational Team. In addition to monitoring the day-to-day performance of Fountains, the Parks Operations Team deals with a number of other parks-related issues.
23. The Principal Parks Officer, (Operations) continues to work with the Council’s Policy Unit, the local NHS Trust and Fountains to apply a procedure for dealing with drug-related litter found in parks and open spaces. Details of drugs related litter found by staff are forwarded to the NHS Drugs Team who map finds and provide information to the Police and other NHS agencies. The procedures are recognised as examples of Best Practice and are being shared with other local authorities and NHS areas.
24. The Principal Parks Officer (Operations) continues to provide expert advice and guidance to officers and contractors on the use of pesticides, herbicides and fungicide substances as controls have been tightened by DEFRA. The European Union has now issued two new directives (Pesticides Sustainable Use and Birds and Mammals Directives) that will further limit the use of chemicals in horticultural maintenance. It is likely that the current 300 chemicals in use will reduce to 40.

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25. As noted in the Parks Service AQPR for 2010/11 (Paper No. 11-468) the use of chemical controls has been stopped for a couple of years on a small number of representative areas to allow officers to assess the effects and to trial alternative methods of controlling weeds and pests.
26. The Parks Operations Team continues to support the Council's Events Team with a programme of events in Battersea and other Council managed parks to ensure the parks are protected during the building and deconstruction of events and any reinstatement or damages are completed properly and are charged to the hirer to maintain the high quality of the parks and open spaces.
27. Parks Development and Biodiversity Team. The Team completed the Parks Management Strategy, collating all the consultation and feedback from colleagues and partnership groups as reported in paragraph 11. In addition the Team managed several improvement works which were undertaken at a number of parks during the year, some highlights are: the installation of outdoor gym equipment at Heathbrook Park; the installation of games tables for children in Godley Green; community participation planting events at Fred Wells Gardens and Bramford Gardens and the installation of a carved wooden bench on Tooting Common funded by the Friends of Tooting Common.
28. The Team continued the installation of new Parks Service signage advising visitors of "do's" and "don'ts" in parks in a number of locations with the final phase scheduled for 2012-13.
29. The Principal Parks Officer (Biodiversity) continues to provide expert guidance and advice to officers and members of the public in particular on protected species and invasive species. Legislative changes arising from the Natural Environment White Paper and the National Planning Policy Framework have been assimilated into working practices in particular contributing to the development of a London wide Local Nature Partnership. There has been continued to secure agreements and funding to deliver a range of opportunities for biodiversity improvements along the River Wandle.
30. Allotments. Allotments provide a wide range of benefits such as physical exercise, social and community contact, learning and practicing skills, as well as growing vegetables. The total number of allotment plots is now 633 of which 415 are direct let and 218 are leased to the Roehampton Garden Society (RGS). Overall, fifteen additional plots were created by dividing larger ones as they became vacant.
31. Table of information from the allotment waiting lists.

Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Average number of applicants per plot (as at 31 st March each year)	4.2	3.2	2.8

32. Woodfields Recreation Ground. At their meeting on 20th June 2011 the Executive approved the proposal that the Tooting Common Management Advisory (TCMAC), the Friends of Woodfields (FOW) and the Woodfields Community

Association (WCA) be invited to develop together a detailed business proposal for the management and maintenance of the Woodfields site (Paper No. 11-466).

33. In October 2011 the TCMAC together with the WCA submitted an outline business plan: "A Vision for Woodfields". The FOW were not involved in the production of this outline plan having left the original grouping during the summer.
34. The outline business plan builds on the initial proposals that were submitted by the TCMAC and the WCA which were broadly similar to the initial proposals submitted by the FOW as noted in Paper No. 11-466.
35. Officers are keen to see these groups working together again and to that end they have so far met separately with representatives of the TCMAC and the FOW to ascertain if they are able and willing to do so, and to review the outline business plan and develop a final proposal for consideration by the Executive in early 2013.
36. Early indications are positive and officers intend to arrange a meeting of the three groups in October. Officers will attend this initial meeting to provide answers to questions and to offer advice and reassurance on procedural matters.
37. Officers have informed the groups that if they are unable to do this for any reason they, the officers, are likely to seek Members' approval to ask the TCMAC and the WCA to review their current proposal and make a final submission for consideration by the Executive in early 2013.
38. Bereavement Services Performance and Achievements in 2011-12.
39. Burial land. The amount of available land for burials continues to be a key challenge for the service. The Council provides space for new burials at Putney Vale, SW15 (Roehampton), Wandsworth, Magdalen Road, SW18 (Wandsworth Common), and Battersea New Cemetery in Morden, Surrey, and two cemeteries that only have room to reopen existing graves, at Putney Lower Common, SW15 (Thamesfield) and St Mary's Cemetery, Battersea Rise SW11 (Northcote).
40. The search for new land suitable for burials within the existing cemetery grounds continued with particular emphasis on Wandsworth Cemetery where space is at a premium. The current level of demand for burials indicates that Wandsworth Cemetery will exhaust its capacity for new burials within the next 2 -3 years. In the past year a new area has been identified in Wandsworth Cemetery which was not previously considered for use as burial land. This area will need to be landscaped and prepared for new burials to extend the working life of the Cemetery during 2012-13.
41. The purchase of new land for burials is neither economically nor environmentally viable. Therefore other options for increasing burial space and extending the active life of a cemetery include making use of current burial law to reclaim space within existing graves more than 75 years old. In preparation for reuse in line with current legislation graves within Wandsworth Cemetery have been identified which meet this criteria. A full report on the future of burial land within Wandsworth Cemeteries is currently being prepared for consideration by the Executive during 2012-13.

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42. Information Security. All of the approximately 310,000 Cemetery records and 109,000 Crematorium records are now backed up to CD's, which Stage 1 of a 4 stage project to transfer the records from the Registers onto an indexed database. This is in preparation to provide the registers online for public searches.
43. Stage 2, which was completed during 2011, involved taking the scanned images and entering them onto an indexed database which as a result has led to a more efficient and accurate search engine for burial and cremation records.
44. Stage 3 of the project will involve the electronic transfer of database records from another system onto one indexed system. As a result, all of the cemetery and crematorium records will be stored electronically ranging from 1851 when the first cemetery was opened in the borough, up until 2011.
45. Stage 4 of the project will involve transferring these records onto the Bereavement Service website for public access. Based on the experiences of other burial and cremation authorities database would be likely to encourage additional searches in particular by allowing genealogists, and others, to search from their home computer by purchasing a secure access key/code from the service.
46. Wandsworth Council have been members of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) Charter for the Bereaved since 2003. Members provide designated standards of service to the bereaved which are bench marked against bereavement services throughout the country. In 2011 Wandsworth Bereavement Services were validated as 'Gold Status' for services to the bereaved and are recognised as one of the best services in the country. The ICCM assessor commented 'Congratulations to the team for this excellent achievement and for providing what is obviously a first class service'.
47. With effect from 31st December 2012 legislation requires the ongoing reduction of mercury emissions from cremations. Mercury abatement requirements were reported to committee (Paper No. 10-661). Wandsworth, as part of a management agreement with North East Surrey Crematorium Board (NESCIB), carry out the day to day functions of the North East Surrey Crematorium. Following approval by the Executive (Paper No. 12-191) discussions have taken place with NESCIB with the intention of entering into a local 'burden sharing' agreement whereby both crematoria will collectively show a 50% reduction in mercury abatement and meet the impending legislation. A report on a review of Putney Vale Crematorium, including final details of the agreement for meeting these legal requirements, will be brought to the Committee early in 2013.
48. The recycling of metals from cremations was introduced at both Putney Vale and North East Surrey crematoria following approval by the Executive (Paper No. 11-685). An EIA assessment was carried out with different faith groups (and reported in Paper No. 11-685) to introduce the recycling of metals and the proceeds from the scheme will be distributed to national and locally nominated charities. The first payment arising out of this scheme has recently been made to a local charity.
49. The refurbishment of the Putney Vale Garden of Remembrance continues with the removal of large shrubs and heavy vegetation. Stage 5 of the programme was completed. This has included the planting of specimen trees and shrubs and the extension of designated areas for the scattering of ashes. This has both improved

- the general appearance of the garden and provided further choice to the bereaved. Further works to the ornamental ponds are planned.
50. The refurbishment to the Halls of Memory at Putney Vale were completed and now provide a designated rest room for Funeral Directors and the crematorium saw a 6% increase in cremations during 2011/12. This refurbishment also provided the opportunity to reposition the memorial plaques in the Hall of Memory which improved the general appearance of the area.
 51. The Service purchased an Electronic Book of Remembrance, which is displayed alongside the traditional Books of Remembrance at Putney Vale Crematorium. The electronic book provides visitors with a touch screen display and access to every entry within the traditional books. The Service has received many favourable comments about the new book which allows people to view a deceased's inscription whenever they choose to visit Putney Vale.
 52. The fifth annual memorial service was held at Putney Vale Cemetery to commemorate those loved ones who have been either buried in a Council-managed Cemetery or cremated at Putney Vale. The Service was led by the Mayor of Wandsworth who introduced speakers representing a number of religious faiths. The Service was very well received by the congregation and is now an established event in the bereavement services calendar.
 53. In 2011 a Christmas tree was placed in the Halls of Memory at Putney Vale allowing the bereaved to leave a personal message to a loved one. Many people chose to write a message on a star which was placed on the tree and the Service received numerous comments of gratitude from the public who contributed £100 in donations to the Mayor's Charity fund.
 54. North East Surrey Crematorium. The day-to-day management of the Crematorium falls to the Parks and Bereavement Service although the North East Surrey Crematorium Board (NESC) retains policy responsibility. The Bereavement Services section updates the NESC business plan and presents quarterly reports to the Board.
 55. Mercury Abatement works at North East Surrey Crematorium (NESC) were completed during 2011/12 and the facility is now 100% abated. New legislation with effect from 31st December 2012 requires all crematoriums to abate 50% of their emissions. NESC is therefore exceeding the 50% requirement. This presents NESC with the opportunity to 'burden share' their remaining abated cremations with an unabated crematorium and so allow that crematorium to meet the forthcoming legislation. Options for burden sharing with Wandsworth Council will be included in the crematorium review paper already outlined above.
 56. Stage 4 of the Garden of Remembrance improvement programme was completed, which included the removal of heavy vegetation and its replacement with specimen shrubs and trees in the area adjacent to the cloister walkway. Areas designated for the scattering of ashes have also been refurbished, providing improved facilities for visitors who have commented favourably on the marked improvements to the grounds.
 57. A third cremated remains grave circle was established within the Garden of Remembrance specifically for the burial of cremated remains caskets. This has

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- proved to be the most popular memorial that the crematorium offers to the bereaved. Due to the popularity of the cremated remains grave areas a fourth circle is planned subject to the identification of suitable land for its placement officers are investigating options for future consideration.
58. A focus group meeting with Funeral Directors took place in 2011 and a range of subjects were discussed. A question and answer session provided the opportunity for Funeral Directors to raise a number of points and these were recorded for future consideration and, where appropriate, will form part of future reports for both NESCS and Wandsworth Bereavement Services.
59. An HD TV screen was installed in the Crematorium's waiting area to enable those attending very large services to be able to view the service. The new screen is now in use and the Crematorium is now able to better facilitate large congregations. Further investigations into a 'virtual tour' of the facilities via the website are being looked at.
60. Leisure Centres Management Contract Performance and Achievements 2011/12. Performance indicator information detailing the performance of leisure centres during 2011/12 is set out in the new Leisure and Sport 'Scorecard' at Appendix 5. Overall attendances at the leisure centres were 3,140,596 in 2010/11 and 3,101,581 in 2011/12, a drop of 39,015 attendances. This was largely due to the effect of the economy on gym memberships and other dry side attendances. DC Leisure invested £2,113 on health and safety security gates for the pool side at Balham Leisure centre, £6,162 on gymnastic kit and a new trampoline and pads at Latchmere Leisure centre, £6,786 on a new pool vacuum and spin class stereo together with £9,000 on two new spring boards at Putney Leisure centre and £1,800 on new goals, and £2,500 on soft play equipment at the Wandle Recreation Centre as well as £7,000 on tiling, gym and sports hall kit upgrades.
61. Sports Facilities Performance and Achievements 2011/12. Performance indicator information detailing the performance of sports facilities during 2011/12 is set out in the new Leisure and Sport 'Scorecard' at Appendix 5. Overall, Sports Facilities finished 2011-12 with 652,465 total attendances, with excellent results noted at the track and infield visits at Battersea Park Millennium Arena and sports hall visits at Battersea Sports Centre.
62. The achievements of Sports Facilities during the year under review include the following:-
- (a) Battersea Park Millennium Arena: Overall attendances were slightly down on the previous year. Total attendances were 193,835 compared to 206,724 in 2010/11. This drop is largely due to a decrease in gym attendances, which is a result of lower cost alternatives. However, overall tennis attendances were up on 2010/11, in particular the tennis courses attendances increased following a consultation exercise which resulted in the programme being altered to an hourly session and introduced all year round tots tennis with 100% take up, players from age 3 upwards can now progress through to the age of 14.

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- (b) Battersea Park All Weather Pitch, attendees were down on target due to the replacement of the artificial surface which closed the facility for six weeks, 76,550 in 2011/12 compared to 99,304 in 2010/11.
 - (c) Tooting Bec Athletics Track exceeded its attendances of the previous year with 42,531 visits compared to 34,666. This can be attributed to an increase in 4,000 in athletics attendances due to closer working with Herne Hill Harriers Athletics Club.
 - (d) A summer and winter football league was introduced at Furzedown Recreation Centre which filled empty slots and increased awareness of the facility, which help the site to an additional 1,000 attendances in 2011/12 (25,951 from 24,723)
 - (e) The numbers at the Barn Elms Boathouse saw an overall decrease (31,716 compared to 42,089) last year due to one large regular school booking and a university club moving to other facilities. However, the number of juniors attending our own courses, as well as adult 'Learn to Row' courses, has increased as efforts to develop the sport within the borough. In response to the loss of the regular school and university officers are continuing in the process of completing agreements with three new schools to make use of the Boathouse.
 - (f) Barn Elms Sports Centre finished 2011/12 with 193,845 attendances compared to 198,267 in 2010/11. This is largely due to implementations of more stringent recording mechanisms for all areas of activity.
 - (g) Battersea Sports Centre had an excellent year finishing with an overall attendance of 75,310 compared to 66,023 in 2010/11. This apparent reduction is thought to be largely due to the excellent partnership formed with the Wandsworth (Housing) Estates team in the area encouraging use of the sport hall and all weather pitch, as well as a thriving holiday programme.
63. Sport and Physical Activity Development Performance and Achievements 2011/12. The Sport and Physical Activity section within Leisure and Sport Services provides a range of services targeted towards young people, voluntary sports clubs, coaches and volunteers, people with disabilities and programmes stimulating participation in physical activity. Performance indicator information detailing the performance of sport and physical activity development during 2011/12 is set out in the new Leisure and Sport 'Scorecard' at Appendix 5. Details of programmes implemented during 2011-12 include:
64. Young People: The Sport Unlimited programme was replaced in 2011 with a new initiative called Sportivate. The programme is aimed at getting young people aged between 14-25 years back into sport/physical activity by offering free or low cost activities. Programmes are offered for 6-8 weeks and with linking to local sports clubs the participants are encouraged to continue after the programmes end. Year 1 was launched in June 2011 and 23 projects were delivered throughout the rest of the year with 2,513 attendances in total. Programmes included Judo, Zumba, Yoga, Football, Cricket, athletics and boxing. Retention of young people from these programmes will be monitored and reported in 2012-13.

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65. The regular school coaching programme continues to be popular, and 8,220 pupils received regular coaching opportunities in curriculum time. A total of 4,399 pupils received extra curricular coaching which, while a drop from 5,288 on the previous year is largely attributable to the loss of several coaches available to deliver these sessions, as well as an increase in community organisations offering similar activities. A lot of the coaching is based around multi sports, giving young people a basis of the fundamentals of movement. Sports- specific coaching is also provided to support schools entry and participation at local competitions. A further 1,693 young people regularly attended sports-specific coaching programmes including Sportshall Athletics and Netball in the community.
66. A comprehensive sports competition calendar for Primary and Secondary schools was delivered in partnership with the School Games Co-ordinator. Wandsworth Sports Development took the lead across several sports delivering the Secondary School Athletics Tag Rugby, Netball, Basketball competitions as well as Primary School Sportshall Athletics, Swimming and Football competitions. A total of 5,030 children have taken part in these competitions over the past year. 2011 saw the Mini Olympics event take place at a new venue and a new element was introduced, the Ergo (Indoor Rowing) Relay Challenge. 12 schools took part in the event with 120 children enjoying a combination of football, tag rugby, hockey, netball and athletics. Awards were on offer for the winning school and those that showed good sportsmanship and fair play throughout the day. The new sport element was very popular and will be included in future competitions. All the participants received a 'goodie' bag and t-shirt donated by various organisations.
67. A range of community programmes were offered to support young people accessing some unique opportunities across the Borough. The continuing partnership with the Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative delivered free tennis sessions to 5,450 school pupils in the borough during curriculum time and was able to do some talent spotting for the All England Club. A further 381 pupils received tennis training through the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton as part of their community programme, with talented players progressing through into the Wandsworth Academy which is currently at capacity. At Burntwood School, the Community Swimming Programme supported 1,615 young people to access affordable swimming lessons with a pathway to progress from non-swimmer into advanced classes. This was achieved even though the programme had to be suspended for a term due to the closure of the pool.
68. A total of 2,791 young people accessed the Holiday Programme through the Easter, summer and October holidays enjoying a range of sports across the Borough, with a greater variety of courses on offer this represents an increase from 2,399 in 10/11.
69. Grants & Funding. Four Club Development Grants were offered to Clubs throughout 2011/12 totalling £2,000 The Funding Workshop was held within Active Wandsworth Network where grants from Mayors Legacy Skills Fund, Sportivate, Sportsmakers Initiative, Active Wandsworth Sports Grant and Active Wandsworth Club Development Grant were promoted. Fifteen clubs attended the workshop. Over 30 meetings with clubs were held to promote and assist clubs with completing application forms including: Herne Hill Harriers in achieving funding to support 'ClubMark' application and Wandsworth Wolves Basketball

Club with 'Give it a Go' funding and Allegra Del Notre Dance Group with a 'Big Society Fund' application.

70. Club development. One-to-one sessions with a development officer were offered to clubs at the Active Wandsworth Network and Active Wandsworth Awards. A number of clubs took up this specific opportunity including Battersea Ironsides Ladies Football Club and Balham Blazers Football Club. Thirty Clubs in Wandsworth have achieved ClubMark status a quality national benchmark for local voluntary sports club. Bedhead FC and Herne Hill Harriers were both successful in achieving ClubMark accreditation during 2011/12. The Service now has a total of 164 local voluntary sports clubs on a database with whom the section regularly communicates and provides advice and guidance. Via Legacy Makers, a Council support package for clubs has been put together that includes information on funding, coach education, ClubMark, links to external organisations and other internal events including Get Active Wandsworth Festival and London Youth Games. A Sports Club Audit has been developed and it will be distributed during 2012/-13.
71. Coach Education. Six Safeguarding courses; three Emergency 1st Aid Courses and two 'Club for All' courses took place in 2011/12. A total of 147 people attended these courses. Leisure and Sport Services were successful in applying to become a Licensed Partner with SportsCoach UK, enabling the team to continue to deliver valuable courses to the local voluntary sport club infrastructure in the Borough. It is hoped to organise a formal celebration of the work of volunteers, particularly in relation to the London Olympics and Paralympics.
72. Volunteers. Wandsworth Force Volunteering programme has been developed. 40 volunteers from Roehampton University, Volunteering Wandsworth and Sportmakers signed up to the programme. Volunteering opportunities are sent to volunteers on a monthly basis. Volunteers have been deployed at the Primary Schools Tag Rugby Tournament, The Sportshall Athletics Competitions and at the Special Schools Boccia Competition. Volunteers have also had opportunities at sports clubs offered to them. It is hoped to organise a formal celebration of the work of volunteers, particularly in relation to the London Olympics and Paralympics, in order to raise the profile of opportunities for volunteering in sport in Wandsworth.
73. People with Disabilities. A Sports Development Officer continues to support local clubs and community groups in providing a variety of sporting opportunities for people with disabilities through providing facilities, coaching services and transport for a range of groups including Chelsea FC Foundation, Tooting Tryers, Dolphins Swimming Club, Pocklington Trust and Wandsworth Special Olympics. These partnerships saw over 5,344 disabled athletes take part in a wide range of regular sports and activities including swimming, football, athletics, curling, boccia and multisport as well as new sessions with London Recumbents Cycles and Wandsworth Amateur Swimming Association. A wide range of tournaments and competitions including in Football, Swimming, Boccia and the multi- sports Panathlon Games had over 800 attendances with 50 athletes going on to represent the Borough at the London Panathlon finals and the London Youth Games.

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74. Wandsworth was very successful in securing £62,485 Aiming High Funding and engaged with External Orgs and Clubs to deliver a large range of new activities for children with disabilities, with no fewer than 6 new projects commencing. Projects included new opportunities in swimming, rowing, cycling, table tennis, athletics and boxing.
75. Two sports services –sites, Tooting Bec Athletics Track and Battersea Park Millennium Arena, were supported to gain IFI 'Working Towards' accreditation. This included staff receiving accredited disability equality training and the co-ordination of an outreach plan to increase the inclusivity within classes.
76. Events and Activities. The Team built upon the foundation of the young people's performances at the 2010 London Youth Games as Team Wandsworth had their best ever London Youth Games performance in 2011 where several more medals were won by individual teams. Overall, the Borough finished second and only four points behind the eventual winners and it also saw the Borough retain the Inner London trophy, recognising the highest placed Inner London Borough. The Games have helped to provide a catalyst for a lot of sports development work throughout the year, including establishing new clubs in Basketball, as well as greater links and support to sports such as archery and weightlifting.
77. Physical Activity. Adult physical activity attendance decreased from 15,229 in 2010-11 to 9,517 in 2011-2012. This was to be expected largely because the Walk4Life post funding came to an end and the team also lost the Senior Physical Activity Officer during the year. A subsequent review of all classes and programmes resulted in a number of changes, including merging programmes, some programmes stopped and other classes were handed over to instructors and partners such as leisure facilities or housing associations and records therefore ceased. The resulting changes have led to a consolidation of programmes and classes and, through closer working with NHS Wandsworth, a more sustainable programme going forward
78. As a result of the above changes only two Fit 4 Life programmes ran successfully during the year instead of the planned 4, and these were operated with reduced sessions owing to the lack of interest. This will be addressed through the expansion of the Active Lifestyles programme in 2012-2013 which will merge with the Fit 4 Life programme to allow more flexibility and targeted work.
79. The Walk4Life programme will be re-developed in 2012-2013 as part of the Active Lifestyles expansion plan and will target specific community groups.
80. Workplace health attendances increased from 551 in 2010-11 to 617 in 2011-12. The 5K Your Way event saw the highest attendance since it was introduced with 79 employees taking part. New sessions have been added to the programme for staff to try, for example tennis, zumba and Pilates, these have been very popular and further consultation will take place with staff to widen the programme in the future.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CUSTOMERS, PARTNERS AND STAFF

81. Customer Engagement. Leisure and Sport Services have consulted with customers and users on the change of use of four of the twenty tennis courts into

beach volleyball courts at Barn Elms Sports Centre and the proposal by DC Leisure to convert a squash court into additional workout studio space to meet the growing demand for workout classes. The beach volleyball courts received unanimous support from local schools and customers whilst the retention of squash courts at Balham LC received divided support. Therefore it was decided to put the latter proposal on hold until wider facility developments are considered as part of the future leisure centres management contract in 2013-14 to see if both elements can be provided.

82. Sport and Physical Activity Development provide evaluation forms at the end of every course for coaches, participants and guardians to complete. These are used gather constructive feedback on the sessions and programme and engage users and the community to shape future programmes and delivery.
83. The Bereavement Service continues to seek views and opinions from the recently bereaved by means of a questionnaire. The return rate appears to have dropped slightly from the previous 20% to closer to 16%, but is still a more than satisfactory and useful rate of response. The survey continues to confirm high levels of satisfaction with the staff and services provided. Officers continue to work with the Council's Multi Faith group and other appropriate groups to encourage greater participation of members of ethnic groups and others in the survey.
84. Parks Officers continue to work with the Commons' Management Advisory Groups as well as Friends groups at Battersea Park and Tooting Common. Officers have worked with local community groups at Fred Wells Gardens, SW11 (St. Mary's Park) and Heathbrook Park, SW8 (Queenstown) to try and establish 'Friends' groups as well as continuing to support Transition Town Wandsworth and the local community group at Bramford Gardens, SW18 (Fairfield).
85. Officers continue to look for ways to engage and consult with young people to ensure that the Service is able to respond appropriately to young people's hopes and aspirations for parks and open spaces. Parks officers have met with the Children's and Young People's participation officers and the service is represented on the Play Partnership Group and the Play Panel.
86. Partnerships. Parks and Leisure Services works with a wide and varied range of partners across the Service at a local, sub-regional, London and National basis.
87. The range of activities covered within the Parks Services involves joint working with diverse outside organisations. The table below gives an indication of the partnerships:

Parks Team	Partners referred to in this report
Allotments service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - London Allotment Officers group - All of the Borough's six allotments site associations - Garden Organic - Capital Growth
Arboriculture team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced Tree Services; contractor - London Tree Officers Association
Bereavement Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funeral directors - Inter-faith groups - North East Surrey Crematorium Board

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Biodiversity team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Metropolitan Police Wildlife Liaison Officers - London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum (chair) - London Biodiversity Partnership - Government Office for London (work on LAA targets) - Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL) (chair steering group & planning tool development) - funding bodies such as SITA Trust, Western Riverside Environmental Fund (WREF) & Grantscape - London Parks and Greenspaces Forum (biodiversity sub group) - RSPB (joint events and house sparrow research project) - DEFRA (on protected species management) - London Wildlife Sites Board (establishing committee)
Development team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wandle Forum, (Biodiversity and Landscape sub group and Heritage sub-group) - Green Flag Award Scheme - London in Bloom - Council Services; Sports, Play, Events, Arts, Filming, Parks Police and Dog Control, Highways, Libraries, Planning, Transportation, Voluntary Sector Development Agency - Friends of Battersea Park, Friends of Tooting Commons
Operations team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fountains; contractor - Heritage Lottery Fund - St George's NHS Trust (Drugs Unit) - Tooting Common MAC - Wandsworth Common MAC
Parks Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams - Probation Service - Battersea Society, Putney Society, Wandsworth Society - Thrive - Transition Town Wandsworth

88. Groups or meeting that Leisure and Sport staff attend on behalf of the Council in respect of working in partnership include; various Pro-Active Central London meetings and forums, sports Specific Forums which include the Inner London Cricket Forum, Wandsworth Amateur Swimming Association, Wandsworth Football Development Group, Wandsworth Tennis Development Group, Exercise on Referral Steering group, Obesity Steering Group, Wandsworth School Sports Partnership, Interactive Central London Group, London Youth Games Foundation, Roehampton University Sport and Wellbeing Group amongst others. The main forum which the Service uses to engage with partners in Wandsworth to progress sport and physical activity in the borough is through Active Wandsworth (formerly Wandsworth Sport and Physical Activity Network).
89. Active Wandsworth. Active Wandsworth assisted with hosting several key events in 2011/12 these included:-
- (a) Active Wandsworth Awards which reward young sports people and volunteers in the borough for their achievement the previous year. 111 nominations were received and Winston Gordon, former Ernest Bevin pupil and Team GB Judo competitor inspired over 220 local athletes, coaches and volunteers with his story of progressing from representing Wandsworth at the London Youth Games to competing for Team GB in the two previous Olympic Games and his ambition to compete in the London 2012 Olympics.

- (b) The Active Wandsworth Network Forum is the annual meeting for representatives of all people and organisations in the Borough with an interest in sport and physical activity. This year the Forum had over 60 attendees and the forum was hosted at South Thames College. Three local students inspired the network with their stories of how sport and physical activity had shaped their lives for the better. Delegates were then given the choice of three workshops to attend, which considered either; the future of school sport, the future for public health and club funding. All workshops also had a chance to feedback on the draft Active Wandsworth Strategy 2011-16.
 - (c) The second Get Active Wandsworth Festival took place between the 9th and 24th July 2011, with over 2 weeks of free sport, health and physical activity sessions taking place throughout the Borough. The Festival was launched with the Get Active Day on Tooting Bec Common on Saturday July 9th with over 2,000 people attending. Elise Laverick a Team GB rower helped launch the day. Over the two week festival a total of almost 4,000 people took part in festival sessions.
 - (d) The Active Wandsworth Advisory Group consulted and wrote a draft of its new objectives- "Active Wandsworth Strategy 2011-2016". Over 300 responses were received and helped shape the final copy, which will have three main strategic aims; Improving Places, Inspiring People and Increasing Participation. As part of the consultation process a "Talk Active" day was arranged with key stakeholders to allow them to feedback their thoughts.
90. Staff Engagement, Learning and Development. Monthly team meetings -both service- wide and team specific- are held to disseminate information and to review performance. Staff members have been involved in plans through service review days and at team or site staff meetings. All staff members have completed an individual training matrix to create an overall team training plan for each site and the Service.

CUSTOMER CARE AND FAIR ACCESS TO SERVICES

91. Customer Care. Leisure and Sport Services aim to provide opportunities for all residents as well as those who work, study or visit in the Borough to participate in sport and physical activity. All sites display customer standards for the service and remind staff within inductions and team meetings.
92. Equality issues. Inclusive and Active 2 headlines were discussed at a service planning day, and incorporated into our own service plan. It has now been signed off by Interactive as the London Forum for Disability Sport and awaits sign off from the Council to enable the action plan to be progressed.
93. The Service continued to work in partnership with the Housing Department and Youth Service to financially support the National Kickz programme, which is delivered locally by Chelsea FC and provides opportunities for young people who may otherwise be difficult to engage to participate in sport sessions, predominantly football, and attend educational workshops in two parts of the Borough, the Henry Prince and Ashburton Estates. A total of 5,130 attendances

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enabled young people to receive training and support and participate in positive activities throughout the year. The programme is free and removes barriers to participation for many young people in the Borough.

94. Support was also provided to the Battersea Summer Scheme in providing their annual five-a-side football competition and four day summer sports and cultural event in August in Battersea Park. 2000 young people accessed both events where they were provided with details of ongoing activities and support units throughout the year.
95. In partnership with Extended Schools the Holiday Programme supported the Disadvantaged Subsidy Programme providing free places to several courses during the October, Easter and Summer Holidays. Children who receive free school meals could utilise the subsidy to ensure they did not miss out on a range of sporting activities throughout the holiday periods. Funding was also gained through ASDA's Sporting Chance initiative to offer further free places to ASDA customers who collected the relevant vouchers.
96. Inclusive and Active 2 headlines were discussed at a service planning day, and incorporated into our own service plan. The Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI), which is a scheme designed to ensure sport and fitness centres are accessible to disabled people, was rolled out at Battersea Park Millennium Arena and Tooting Bec Athletics Track. An action was written for each site to reach provisional status. Staff on-site attended disability awareness training.
97. Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The Council has statutory obligations under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, which is concerned with safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applies to Council services generally. While no single specific Act applies to safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, the same principles are being applied to both children and adults. Parks and Leisure Services senior managers have provided appropriate briefings to staff on what to look for and where to channel any concerns that they might have. Training courses continue to be delivered to new staff across the service including contracted staff in the leisure centres and on parks and open spaces and refresher training will be held every three years for all staff members.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND COMPLAINTS

98. Customer Satisfaction. Active People Survey 4 results indicate that 72.3% are satisfied with local sports provision in Wandsworth, an improvement from 2010/11 which was 69.7%. All sports activities and facilities hold customer feedback forms and evaluate the activity after every course.
99. Customer Complaints. Complaints increased from 16 in 2010/11 to 26 in 2011/12 and 1 compliment. Of these 26 complaints 25 were resolved at the Level 1 stage with entry 1 escalating to Level 3 before being resolved.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS AND BETTER USE OF RESOURCES

100. Service Recommendation and Developments for 2012/13. The Parks and Leisure Services Action Plans –which are designed to deliver continuous performance

improvements, reach the targets set in the corporate plan and work towards meeting the aims and objectives for the Service during 2012-13 - are attached at Appendix 6 and 7. Some of the key actions for the forthcoming year include;

101. Parks and Bereavement Services Action Plan 2012-13. The following actions are being pursued in 2012-13 and are contained in the Services Improvement plan attached at Appendix 6:-
- (a) Complete the tendering of the next Parks and Cemeteries grounds maintenance, grave digging and horticulture and tree maintenance contracts.
 - (b) Trial outdoor barbeque facilities in selected parks and open spaces.
 - (c) In conjunction with Thrive, progress the refurbishment and development of the Old English Garden in Battersea Park.
 - (d) Complete proposals for the future use of the pavilion and grounds at Woodfields.
 - (e) Investigate options for alternative music provision at Putney Vale Cemetery in addition to the existing organ provision.
 - (f) Investigate proposals to allow the recently digitalised burial and cremation records to be available online.
 - (g) Continue to review available burial land in Cemeteries and bring forward proposals for the re-use of existing graves.
102. Leisure and Sport Services Action Plan 2012/13. The following actions are being pursued in 2012-13 and are contained in the Services Improvement plan attached at Appendix 7:-
- (a) Implement 'Horizons', the on-line booking system for sports facilities.
 - (b) Resurface athletics track at Battersea Park Millennium Arena.
 - (c) Resurface tennis courts at Battersea Park Millennium Arena and Barn Elms Sports Centre.
 - (d) Convert four tennis courts into four new beach volleyball courts at Barn Elms Sport Centre.
 - (e) Make improvements to Tooting Bec Athletics Track aligned to Sport England funding.
 - (f) Deliver Year 2 of the Sportivate programme.
 - (g) Deliver the third Get Active Wandsworth Festival.
 - (h) Deliver on the Inclusive and Active 2 action plan.
 - (i) Implement Active Wandsworth Strategy 2011-2016 action plan in conjunction with Active Wandsworth partners.
 - (j) Promote, recruit and deploy volunteers for Active Wandsworth Force.
103. Property Management Issues. Leisure and Sport Services are responsible for 14 leisure and sport sites, the majority of which are in the Borough; although Barn Elms Sports Centre and Boathouse are located just outside the Borough boundary in the London Borough of Richmond. There are a variety of buildings housing leisure and sports facilities that date back over many years but also several that are modern and recently refurbished. The sites also contain facilities catering for outdoor sports with a variety of different surfaces for different sports for training and competition purposes. All of the sites that Leisure and Sports Services are responsible for are detailed under the services responsibilities in Appendix 1. Whilst seven sites are managed under contract by DCLM the Council still has a

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significant role in looking after the fabric, plant and buildings within the Leisure Centre management contract as well as maintenance issues above a certain cost threshold.

104. All properties managed by Leisure and Sport Services are considered to be fit for purpose and are subject to regular review to ensure that the facilities remain as such. All sites are visited by the public and paying customers to purchase a sports related activity or at the very least as spectators at an event and therefore the Council has obligations for each site under health and safety legislation as well as with regard to ensuring the sites (including sports equipment, goals, lane ropes, gym equipment, etc. as well as changing rooms, first aid rooms and staff offices) are presentable, clean and in good working order. With regards to the leisure centres contract, regular meetings are held to review operations at each site and general maintenance issues. There is also a 5 year planned and preventative maintenance schedule which is reviewed annually to prioritise work over the year.
105. The facilities and services offered by Leisure and Sport Services are continually reviewed to ensure current needs are met and to facilitate new and developing needs and requirements, for example; building improvement works that have been successfully carried out to enhance and improve the Council's leisure properties during 2010/11 which include replacement of the artificial pitch at Furzedown Recreation Centre, new studio and refurbishment of changing rooms at Tooting Bec Athletics track.
106. The Parks Service maintains one flagship London park, two large commons, two major local parks, 3 active, and 4 closed cemeteries, 26 smaller local parks and open spaces, 10 allotment sites and 2 crematoria. There are a variety of built premises sited in open spaces and cemeteries including offices, chapels, storage sheds, and contractor's premises. There are 31 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in the Borough, of which 15 are owned and managed by the Council.
107. All available evidence, which includes observation, quantities of litter and general wear and tear, supports the view that the parks and open spaces are well used throughout the year with demand/use peaking over weekends in the summer. Visitors use parks and open spaces for a wide range of activities ranging from formal sport through to gentle exercise and quiet enjoyment. Visitor numbers are not known. The following paragraph headings reflect current advice on the reporting of property considerations.
108. Fit for purpose. All properties managed by Parks and Leisure Services are considered to be generally fit for current purposes and all are subject to regular review to ensure that this remains the case. As noted elsewhere in this report the Service is currently making improvements to several sports sites, reviewing management plans for all parks and open spaces and continuing surveys to identify new and additional burial spaces in the cemeteries.
109. Providing good access. Parks and Leisure Services generally provide good and open access up to a point. Whilst access is free and generally unrestrained in parks and open spaces it has to be recognised that access to some areas of open space land may be limited or even non-existent for the less able and wheelchair users. Office, storage and changing room premises located in a number of the

parks, commons and cemeteries with the exception of the Trees Team offices at Wandsworth Common, which are on the first floor, are accessible to all although access and facilities for wheelchair users and the less able need to be improved at Tooting Common and Roehampton Playing Fields.

110. Meeting current and future needs. Facilities and opportunities offered by parks, open spaces, allotments and cemeteries are reviewed frequently to ensure that current needs are met and to facilitate where practical new and developing needs. Currently officers are looking at ways to create additional space within the cemeteries for burials and for areas that might be used for allotments or food growing, two areas where demand exceeds supply. Offices, storage and changing facilities are generally suitable and sufficient for current needs, but little or no space is available for any development or expansion. Storage space is under particular pressure. Officers are considering appropriate uses for 3 unused cemetery chapels; at Wandsworth, Battersea Rise, SW18 (Northcote) and Putney Lower Common, SW15 (Thamesfield) cemeteries.
111. Fully utilised. In general parks and leisure services sites, open spaces, allotments and cemeteries are fully utilised and being put to best use, with the exception of the 3 chapels referred to above. Whilst visitor numbers are not collected in parks and open spaces, there is no doubt that they are both well used and well appreciated (by residents and non residents). Both considerations are addressed in the ongoing programme of developing management plans for all parks and open spaces. Allotment plots are fully occupied and there is a substantial waiting list, a strong indication that additional land is needed for allotment development. Work continues to identify new burial space at Wandsworth Cemetery. Offices, storage and changing facilities are all fully utilised and being put to best use in the context of current operations and demands.
112. Service or property reviews. Use of residential properties in parks and cemeteries is reviewed on a property by property basis each time a property falls vacant. Properties that are identified as surplus to operational requirement are placed with the Borough Valuer for disposal. There is an ongoing review of burial space in the cemeteries to identify new burial spaces and graves that might be reclaimed for re-use. No other service reviews are planned in the medium term.
113. Improvements including the Tooting Triangle site. A significant amount of the South and East carriageways in Battersea Park were resurfaced during 2011-12. There is an ongoing steady programme of small improvements in parks and open spaces generally linked to the developing programme of management plans. One site that would benefit considerably from improvement is the Tooting Triangle Site, SW17 (Bedford) where two informal expressions of interest have recently been received that could involve improvements.
114. The area concerned is the old floodlit, but unfenced, redgra/shale artificial football pitch area of Tooting Common (approximately 70m x 50m) located near the playground and former youth club and known locally as the Tooting Triangle site. The pitch is currently managed and maintained through the parks grounds maintenance and sports booking contract by Fountains, part of the OCS Group. It is rarely formally booked and there are occasional impromptu games on the old shale court surface. One expression of interest has come from a local businessman who, together with a local football club, proposes using the existing

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site to create two floodlight 7-a-side artificial grass pitches for use by schools at little or no cost during the day and by and other local football clubs in the evening and weekends. The second expression of interest, without yet any firm proposals, has come from a local Sports Club who have indicated that they might be interested in taking over the entire site.

115. Given this evidence of external interest in the site it is recommended that the Borough Valuer instructs Lambert Smith Hampton to test the market by seeking expressions of interest from groups or organisations interested in the future improvement, operation and maintenance of the Tooting Triangle site. This will require the input of the Borough Solicitor to ensure that the market testing is clear as to what are appropriate uses of common land and it will be necessary to require prospective tenderers to:

- a) undertake ecological survey work to determine use of the site by bats (which may have a bearing on floodlight operational timings) and for the Council to match this with its own independent survey;
- b) be aware of the lack of car parking and the limited public transport access which would restrict user accessibility - parking under the nearby railway bridge and on nearby hard standing would not be permitted; and
- c) take into account any other local competing facilities.

Once expressions of interest are received, the advice of the Borough Valuer would also be sought as to what the terms and length of an appropriate lease might be.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.

116. In 2011/12 the net revenue expenditure of the Parks and Leisure Service covered within this report was £5,824,000 and the net revenue budget for 2012/13 is £5,894,000. The subjective breakdown by Service group is shown in Appendix 2.
117. Capital expenditure for 2011/12 and the capital programme for 2012/13 is detailed in the table below. The 2012/13 and 2013/14 capital programme includes slippage from 2011/12 and is subject to approval of the review of the capital programme to be reported to the Finance and Corporate Resources OSC on the 2nd October.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Leisure & Sports Capital Scheme	2011/12		2012/13	2013/14
	Capital Programme	Actual Spend	Capital Programme	Capital Programme
	£000	£000	£000	£000
All Weather Pitch Replacement	356	294	62	0
Barn Elms Rowing Facilities	25	22	0	0
Battersea Park Cricket Pitch	3	-1	0	0
Tooting Leisure Centre - Replacement Boilers	12	0	12	0
Furzedown Recreation Centre - Tennis Court	12	0	12	0

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Tooting Bec Athletic Track - Hammer Cage. Long Jump and Athletics	152	12	140	0
Tennis Courts - Battersea Park	0	0	0	234
Completed Schemes	0	-11	0	0
Total	560	316	226	234

Parks & Bereavement	2011/12		2012/13	2013/14
Capital Scheme	Capital Programme	Actual Spend	Capital Programme	Capital Programme
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Battersea Park - Access Barriers	50	0	0	0
Battersea Park - Renewal of Hard Surfaces	0	0	250	250
St Marys Church - Boundary Wall	0	0	0	30
Total	50	0	250	280

118. All future developments identified in this report will be met from within existing revenue and capital resources.

CONCLUSION

119. Parks and Leisure Services continued to perform well during 2011/12, achieving Council objectives and priorities, delivering a significant number of action plan targets which contribute to a number of Council strategies and striving to deliver continuous improvements in all areas. All three sections have continued to work with customers, residents, local voluntary organisations and other key partners to deliver the specific actions identified in the service plan for 2011/12 in order to meet the Services' aim and objectives. The Improvement Action Plans for 2012-13 detail how the sections aim to improve and deliver the Service's aims and objectives over the next 12 months.

The Town Hall,
Wandsworth,
SW18 2PU.

A G McDONALD
Director of Environment and Community
Services

5th September 2012

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Background Papers

No background documents were relied upon in the preparation of this report.

All reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committees, regulatory and other committees, the Executive and the full Council can be viewed on the Council's website (www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov) unless the report was published before May 2001, in which case the Committee Secretary, Mr D Jones-Owen (020 8871 7032) djonesowen@wandsworth.gov.uk can supply it if required.