

Move for Life!

ActiveWestminster Strategy DELIVERY PLAN

Our Key Commitments and Actions
2026



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ACTIVEWESTMINSTER STRATEGY DELIVERY PLAN

Our Vision for Westminster

Westminster's vision is to be a city where everyone has the chance to be active, leading healthier, happier lives. An active Westminster is also a fairer Westminster, as physical activity plays a vital role in reducing inequalities, yet access to opportunities is not equal for all.

The council's overarching **Fairer Westminster Strategy** sets out the long-term vision for fairness across the city. Building on this, the **ActiveWestminster Strategy 2024–2028** defines how physical activity will play its part in achieving that vision, through a council-wide approach that works across Westminster City Council services, partners and communities.

This document presents the key commitments and actions from the **ActiveWestminster Strategy Delivery Plan** for 2026, demonstrating our dedication to delivering the key priorities set out in the strategy. The aim of this action plan is to outline the next steps we are taking to create a Westminster where being active is part of everyday life for everyone.



OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AT A GLANCE

The Move for Life! framework aims to bring physical activity into everyday life for all, with clear commitments to support **children, young people, adults** and **older adults** to be more active in ways that work for them.

The **Move for Life!** framework focuses on three core themes:

Active Lives - We want activity to fit naturally into daily routines. At school, at work, while travelling or during leisure time. This theme focuses on helping people of all ages build healthier habits through regular movement.

Active Neighbourhoods - Every community in Westminster is unique. We aim to make local spaces more welcoming and supportive of activity by responding to the specific needs of neighbourhoods, ensuring residents have opportunities close to home.

Active City - We are strengthening the facilities, spaces and networks that help people be active, from leisure centres and parks to walking and cycling routes. Our aim is to create an environment that enables movement for all.

Active Lives

Active Neighbourhoods

Active City



Children



Young People



Adults



Older Adults

KEY COMMITMENTS – WHAT WE'RE FOCUSING ON

Expanding opportunities to get active

We'll support residents with accessible, inclusive and enjoyable ways to be active in every part of Westminster. This includes leisure centres, parks, libraries, youth clubs, gyms, cultural venues, housing estates, outdoor gyms, community hubs, school playgrounds, and walking and cycling routes.

Increasing access to free and low-cost activities

We'll make it easier for residents to enjoy affordable activities in leisure centres and community settings. This includes a new offer of free swimming for children and parents during school holidays, extended gym access for young people aged 11–15 when accompanied by a paying adult, intensive free swimming courses during school holidays, extended community group use, and other offers throughout the year.

Creating Westminster's first Play Strategy

We'll develop a city-wide strategic approach to play. Our aim is to ensure all 68 Westminster playground locations are inclusive, safe and offer high-quality opportunities for physical activity for children and families. We will also invest in playgrounds that need improvements.



KEY COMMITMENTS – WHAT WE'RE FOCUSING ON (Cont.)

**ACTIVE
LIVES**

Empowering women and girls in sport

We'll launch a city-wide plan to champion inclusion and representation for girls and women in sport, celebrating local female role models, sharing their stories, and co-designing spaces and programmes with women and girls.

Protecting discounts for Westminster residents and schools

We'll continue to protect discounted rates for Westminster residents, partner organisations and schools to help everyone stay active despite the cost of living pressures.

Supporting community access to outdoor learning

We'll support Westminster-based community groups with funding to cover transport and participation costs for day visits or residential stays at Sayers Croft Outdoor Education Centre in Surrey, as well as offering Forest School programmes and immersive outdoor learning at Sayers Croft London (Paddington Recreation Ground).



KEY COMMITMENTS – WHAT WE'RE FOCUSING ON (Cont.)

**ACTIVE
LIVES**

Making it easier to find out about how to get active

We'll re-imagine our online resources, making it easier for residents to discover and access local activities, facilities and discounts. We'll also strengthen offline promotion by using printed materials in libraries, community hubs, leisure centres and local notice boards, alongside support from local engagement officers and partner groups to broaden our outreach.

Expanding opportunities for people with disabilities

We'll increase inclusive provision by offering new weekly disability swimming sessions, and supporting adults living with dementia, learning disabilities or long-term health conditions.

Supporting residents with complex needs

We'll provide integrated pathways and targeted interventions for adults facing multiple disadvantages through the Changing Futures programme. This includes addressing issues like mental health challenges, complex needs or social isolation, using targeted, place-based and trauma-informed approaches.



KEY COMMITMENTS – WHAT WE'RE FOCUSING ON

ACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Working with the NHS to promote active lifestyles

We'll strengthen our partnership with the NHS and local GPs to help more residents get active through the Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS), offering tailored health support to physical activities and leisure facilities for underrepresented groups, including people from global majority backgrounds, people with disabilities and those with mental health conditions.

Providing more opportunities for the voluntary sector

We'll continue to work with Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) partners through the three-year Healthy Community Fund and Community Priorities Programme to build skills, capacity and trust. This will support implementing public health projects, enabling more community services and volunteering opportunities through Westminster Connects.

Creating pathways into sports employment

We'll offer training and sports-based qualifications for young people and adults, opening up new career and job opportunities in the sports and leisure sector.

Creating fairer access to facilities

We'll develop and launch a WCC Fairer Access Policy to ensure equitable use of indoor and outdoor facilities, giving Westminster community groups and residents fair opportunities to access the spaces they need.



KEY COMMITMENTS – WHAT WE'RE FOCUSING ON (Cont.)

ACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Opening access to sports for all

We'll create opportunities to get involved in sports at all levels through school competitions, our skills & training programme and the bursary, the gifted and talented scheme, the Champions of the Future programme and other empowering initiatives.

Supporting outdoor play and Active Streets

We'll continue to raise awareness of the Active Streets Programme to support the delivery of Play Streets, Street Play and School Streets, enabling children, young people and families to play and be active outdoors close to home. We'll also provide guidance and resources to help communities and schools set up their own sessions.

Support Active Travel

We'll expand cycling initiatives, including Bikeworks for residents with mobility or learning difficulties, and increase cycle training for all ages. Additionally, we'll create more new school streets, launch a School 'Air Fund' for clean measures and introduce a greening plan to enhance biodiversity in active spaces.

Supporting young people's mental health

We'll incorporate mental health support into physical activity for young people and ensure service users can access a wide range of local mental health services, helping to prevent crises and encourage supportive conversations about mental wellbeing.



WHAT WE'RE INVESTING IN - FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SPACES

We'll deliver a programme of new and upgraded playgrounds, multi-use games areas, outdoor gyms and public spaces across Westminster's housing estates, parks and open spaces to meet provision gaps and to ensure attractiveness, sustainability, accessibility and a varied programme for all residents.

Improving our leisure centre facilities

Continue investment in borough leisure centres to ensure affordability, attractiveness, sustainability and accessibility for all residents including investment in:

- Seymour Leisure Centre - A new and improved remodelled centre.
- Queen Mother Sports Centre - Refurbishment of the gym and reception area.
- Paddington Recreation Ground - Gym refurbishment.
- Little Venice Sports Centre - Gym refurbishment.
- Moberly Sports Centre - Refurbishment of the gym and spa.
- Porchester Centre - Refurbishment of the gym, female change and accessible change.
- Marshall Street Leisure Centre - Improvement to the centre's roofs.

Develop plans for outdoor gyms

The following areas have been identified as underserved communities where additional outdoor gym equipment and supervised sessions will enhance physical activity, health outcomes and social cohesion:

- Fisherton Street
- Grosvenor House
- Johnson's Place



WHAT WE'RE INVESTING IN – FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SPACES (Cont.)

Develop plans for new Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)

These areas have been identified as under-resourced communities where additional informal play spaces will promote physical activity, improved health, and foster social cohesion.

The **new** MUGAs:

- Ark King Solomon Academy - Younger Years
- Wilberforce MUGA

The MUGAs that will be **upgraded**:

- Johnson's Place MUGA
- Drury Lane MUGA
- Church Street Kennett House MUGA
- Queens Park Garden MUGA x 2

Providing additional outdoor equipment

These new additional equipment initiatives will prioritise underserved areas, aiming to raise activity levels, enhance health and build community connections.

- Swing Boxes – easy to access outdoor weight boxes in parks and open spaces.
- Equip Boxes – easy to access outdoor boxes that store equipment to be used alongside other informal facilities, such as table tennis bats and basketballs.



WHAT WE'RE INVESTING IN – FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SPACES (Cont.)

Develop plans to upgrade or create new playgrounds

The investment in playgrounds will help increase activity levels, improve wellbeing and bring communities together, alongside providing inclusive and accessible play equipment.

These **new** playgrounds have been identified in areas where play provision can be improved:

- Golden Square Playground
- Pimlico Gardens Playground
- Westbourne Green Open Space - A Space for Girls

The following playgrounds to be **upgraded** have been identified to improve their current condition:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| • Avenues Playground | • Lupus Street Playground |
| • Causton Street Playground | • Mozart - Lawes Playground |
| • Chippendale Playground | • Orange Park Playground |
| • Drury Lane Playground | • Paddington Street Gardens Playground |
| • Exeter Playground | • Porchester Square Playground |
| • Fisherton Street Playground | • St Mary's Churchyard Playground |
| • Lisson Green - Under 5's Playground | • Westbourne Green Open Space Playground |



WHAT WE'RE INVESTING IN – FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SPACES (Cont.)

Improve access and facilities at Paddington Recreation Ground

These projects have been identified to further enhance the accessibility of Paddington Recreation Ground, whilst further enhancing physical activity, health outcomes, environmental outcomes and social cohesion.

- Continue pathway improvement works
- Pavilion Changing Room
- Additional accessible play equipment
- Cafe & Pavilion automatic doors accessibility project
- Additional site security – upgrade CCTV
- Allotment/Urban farming project
- Padel tennis facility
- Village Green renewal
- Cricket nets replacement

Providing additional Active Streets

These streets have been identified in underserved communities where creating additional safe school zones and play spaces will help improve physical activity levels, health and environmental outcomes and boost social cohesion.

- School Streets - St Saviour's CE Primary School, St George's Hanover Square CE Primary School, St Barnabas CE Primary School, Edward Wilson Primary School, St Gabriel's CE Primary School and St Joseph's RC Primary School.
- Play Street - Barnsdale Road.





City of Westminster



active.westminster.gov.uk



active@westminster.gov.uk

