

Report to Cabinet

Title:	Director of Public Health Annual Report
Date:	9 July 2018
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Local members affected:	all
Portfolio areas affected:	all

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

Summary

It is a statutory duty for the Director of Public Health to produce an annual report on the health of their population. While it is the duty of Buckinghamshire County Council to publish the report, the report is for all partners in Buckinghamshire. The theme of this year's annual report is the vital importance of the places and communities in which people live to their health and wellbeing. This is particularly relevant at a time when the population of Buckinghamshire is growing, changing and ageing and there are plans for significant housing growth and infrastructure developments in Buckinghamshire over the next 20 years.

Where we live can influence how happy we are, whether we know our neighbours, how strong community ties are and our opportunities to live healthy lives. It can also influence how well children develop and how they do at school, crime levels, fear of crime and economic productivity. All these factors interact and can influence our health and risk of developing a wide range of long term conditions such as high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer and mental health problems.

The report sets out a brief overview of the health and wellbeing of Buckinghamshire residents, and focuses on six areas of the physical and social environment that play an important role in health and wellbeing: community life; housing; healthy travel; pollution; healthy food; and the natural environment. It also includes an update on the recommendations from last year's annual report. There is an executive summary to accompany the main report.

The report highlights that although on average Buckinghamshire residents are some of the healthiest in the country too many people are still living with potentially avoidable disability and long term conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and stroke. It is possible to prevent or

delay the onset of a wide range of long term conditions by altering the way we live our lives and the places we live.

The report also identifies that children, older people and people with existing poor health are more vulnerable to the impacts of adverse living conditions such as damp or cold housing, air and noise pollution and certain groups are also more likely to be exposed to adverse environmental conditions such as people on low incomes.

Improving the health of our residents makes sound economic sense and reduces demand on health and social care and other public sector services. As our population grows and ages it is more crucial than ever that all our residents start well, live well and age well to help everyone achieve their potential and get the most out of life as well as delay or prevent the onset of ill health, disability and frailty.

This report aims to stimulate conversations across partners and communities in Buckinghamshire about how we might promote health and wellbeing through influencing the environments in which we live. It is not planning guidance but highlights the key health and wellbeing benefits we can address through good planning. The evidence in the report can be used to inform planning for new developments or changes to existing neighbourhoods on a large or small scale and highlights the importance of involving residents of all ages and abilities in designing and shaping the places they live. It identifies several useful resources particularly the place standard toolkit which can be used by communities to help identify and prioritise improvements they might want to make to their local neighbourhoods.

The recommendations in the report are high level and aspirational and a group of officers can be tasked to develop practical actions in line with the councils priorities.

Recommendation

Cabinet is requested to note and endorse the Director of Public Health Annual Report.

The recommendations in the Director of Public Health Annual report are:

1. The promotion and protection of the health and wellbeing of everyone who lives and works in Buckinghamshire should be a major consideration when planning new developments or improving existing developments. This should be supported by health impact assessments where appropriate, to understand the impact on health and wellbeing of these changes, particularly for those most vulnerable and with the greatest risk of poor health.
2. Where possible, local authorities and developers should engage communities in co-designing new developments and making improvements to existing developments. They should ensure input from a wide range of current and future residents of all ages and abilities to ensure developments work for all.
3. Local authorities, communities, town and parish councils and local area forums should use this report to consider how they might work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their residents, drawing on the assets in their communities and their local knowledge of what might need to change.
4. The public and private sector, voluntary, community and faith sector including local authorities, the NHS, schools, universities and businesses should use this report to consider how they can help improve health and wellbeing through their actions that impact on the environment or strengthen communities in Buckinghamshire. This can include the services they provide, their policies on community engagement and co-design of services with communities, travel, land use and corporate social responsibility.

5. We should, where possible, encourage planning for new and existing developments to:
- Be socially inclusive, welcoming and accessible to all sections of our community. Designed on a human scale for people and taking into account the needs of children and older people and those with disabilities.
 - Provide safe, welcoming indoor and outdoor public places where people can meet.
 - Encourage physical activity, active travel and access to good public transport.
 - Incorporate natural landscaping and urban greening and good access to high quality green and blue public spaces e.g. parks and community gardens that people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy.
 - Improve access to healthy affordable food.
 - Be designed to help reduce crime.
 - Provide good quality homes using lifetime home principles and affordable housing.
 - Provide good access to employment, retail and community facilities and health services which can ideally be accessed by walking or cycling through mixed land use policies.
 - Minimise the impact of climate change and minimise air, water and noise pollution.
 - Foster strong social connections and a sense of belonging and link new and existing communities effectively.

This report should be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board to encourage all partners to support and adopt the recommendation in this report

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

It is a statutory duty for the Director of Public Health to produce an annual report on the health of their population and for the local authority to publish it. This year's annual report focuses on the importance of the places and communities in which people live to their health and wellbeing. This is particularly relevant at a time when the population of Buckinghamshire is growing, changing and ageing and there are plans for significant housing growth and infrastructure developments in Buckinghamshire over the next 20 years. A healthy population is vital for the economic and social success of Buckinghamshire and will help reduce the growth in demand on council services and other public sector services. Building healthy places will contribute significantly to maintaining a healthy population.

A key planning consideration is the need for good quality, affordable homes and homes that are suitable for people of all ages and abilities. As our population ages it is important that a range of housing is available that supports people's changing needs throughout life, maximising their health and independence. Designing neighbourhoods to promote health and social inclusion is also vital for all ages.

Adopting the recommendations of this report will contribute to building healthy and successful communities and help minimise any potential adverse effects of growth and other future challenges such as climate change.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

The recommendations aim to help maintain or improve the health of the population and if they are not supported there is potential that some opportunities to do this are missed.

C. Resource implications

This is a report setting out the high level evidence base on the impact of the physical and social environment on the health and wellbeing of our residents. There are no direct financial implications of adopting this report.

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment

This is a high level report covering a diverse range of areas and therefore cannot be covered by a single value for money assessment. Individual policy decisions may flow from the report which will have individual value for money assessments

E. Legal implications

No direct implications

F. Property implications

No direct implications.

G. Other implications/issues

This report is for partners as well as Buckinghamshire County Council and will be disseminated and presented after approval by Cabinet in a variety of forums.

H. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

The Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health has reviewed and approved the report. The report has also been shared with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing at the CHASC Business Unit Board.

Local Members will be sent copies of the report after Cabinet Decision and the report is also being presented at Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee and Health and Wellbeing Board.

I. Communication issues

Normal communication channels will be used to disseminate the report.

Background Papers

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on Friday 6 July 2018. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk