

Report to Cabinet

Title:	Buckinghamshire County Council Contribution to the Director of Public Health Annual Report
Date:	Monday 10 September 2018
Date can be implemented:	Tuesday 18 September 2018
Author:	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health
Contact officer:	Dr Jane O'Grady 01296 387623
Local members affected:	All
Portfolio areas affected:	All

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

[Guidance can be found on the intranet at the following link:

<https://intranet.buckscc.gov.uk/how-do-i/member-services/decision-making/>

Is the report confidential? Please contact Democratic Services.]

Summary

On 9th July 2018 the Cabinet received the 2018 Director of Public Health Annual Report 'Healthy Places, Healthy Futures - Growing Great Communities'. The report focuses on six areas of the physical and social environment that play an important role in health and wellbeing. These are:

- Community Life
- Healthy Homes
- Healthy Travel
- Air and Noise Pollution
- Green Spaces and Natural Environment
- Healthy Food Environment

These factors play a key role in helping local residents to live well and age well, achieve their potential and get the most out of life as well as avoid ill health, disability and frailty.

The report is for all partners and aims to stimulate conversations and action across partners and communities in Buckinghamshire about how we might promote health and wellbeing through influencing the environments in which we live.

Buckinghamshire County Council plays a key role in shaping the local built and natural environment and supporting community life. Following presentation of the report, Cabinet requested that work was undertaken to identify the specific contribution the Council was already making to delivering on this important agenda in its areas of responsibility. This

mapping should be used to inform the development of an action plan in response to this report for the council.

Appendix 1 provides a summary of the current and planned activity being undertaken across business units in the Council which is contributing to the delivery of the recommendations around the six key areas. The summary demonstrates that the Council is delivering a wide range of activities which support the priorities in the annual report but there is scope for doing more. It also reflects the fact that the council is not responsible for all areas in the report e.g. housing. A meeting of senior officers in the council in September will identify areas for further development in response to the report to be developed into an action plan.

In terms of the council's specific areas of responsibility related to this report, the highest impact areas in terms of benefits for residents wellbeing and consequently the council, public sector partners and businesses are

- Continuing to build on the examples of good practice listed in the appendix to strengthen local communities and give residents more say in how services are delivered e.g street associations, community organising work, children's services work in engaging children in designing services, participatory budgeting
- Continuing the good work to increase the promotion of active travel through infrastructure and other means. Setting and achieving ambitious targets to increase the proportion of residents engaging in active travel would bring further benefits to residents wellbeing and the quality of life in Buckinghamshire.
- Working with District Councils and developers to ensure a sufficient supply of good quality lifetime homes suitable for all ages and abilities

In addition there are links through the Bucks Planning Group and the Bucks Planning Officers Group to consider the physical design of new developments. The District Councils are currently progressing their local plans and the council has inputted into these. As these are approved, there will be further opportunity to influence planning via supplementary planning documents. The council should also continue to contribute to the planning process for the Aylesbury Garden Town.

Recommendation

The Cabinet is asked to

- **note the contribution of the County Council to the 6 areas highlighted in the report.**
- **note that a group of senior officers from all portfolios are meeting in September to consider how to implement the recommendations of the DPH Annual report in relation to the responsibilities of Buckinghamshire County Council.**
- **support the principle that continuing to develop and co-ordinate the Council wide contribution to the recommendations in this Director of Public Health Annual Report, is considered as part of the development of the Buckinghamshire County Council Corporate Working Group.**

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

The theme of this year's Director of Public Health 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.

The key areas of focus of the report examine how to improve health and wellbeing by improving the physical and social environment for communities in Buckinghamshire. These are listed below:

- Community Life
- Healthy Homes
- Healthy Travel
- Air and Noise Pollution
- Green Spaces and Natural Environment
- Healthy Food Environment

Delivering health and wellbeing through the physical and social environment can contribute to all three priorities in the County Council's Strategic Plan:

- Safeguarding Our Vulnerable
- Creating Opportunities and Building Self Reliance
- Ensuring Buckinghamshire is Thriving and Attractive

Business Units across the Council are already making a key contribution to the healthy places agenda and a range of initiatives are already underway. Cabinet requested a mapping exercise was undertaken to identify what work was already taking place in the council against the 6 areas in the report.

Appendix 1 summarises key activity across the Council currently supporting this agenda. The distribution of examples reflects the councils responsibilities e.g. there is less on housing as this is a District Council responsibility. The greatest number of examples and good practice are around community life and engaging residents and healthy travel reflecting the responsibilities of the council.

The first priority community life includes actions to strengthen communities, increase social connections and social cohesion, give local people more say in services, increase volunteering, reduce social isolation and protect vulnerable people – all of which improve health and wellbeing. There are examples of good practice around engaging residents in services that would benefit from being adopted across the council.

Although there is much good work underway bearing in mind the health and social care challenges we face and the changes in our population and environment in the coming years the council will need to give the areas in the report increasing focus.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

Not Applicable

C. Resource implications

All activity listed is within existing resources

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment

Not applicable

E. Legal implications

No direct implications

F. Property implications

No direct implications

G. Other implications/issues

Improving the health and wellbeing of residents has been a responsibility of the council since 2013. This report addresses only factors relating to the aspects of the physical and social environment. The report is for all partners, not just Buckinghamshire County Council and all have a role to play in keeping Buckinghamshire a great place to grow up, live and work.

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

The report has been shared with Cabinet and is available on the council website and will be presented in a variety of forums.

I. Communication issues

The Director of Public Health Annual Report will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group Board and other meetings after that. It will be disseminated via the normal communications channels.

J. Progress Monitoring

In common with previous DPH annual reports an update is provided in subsequent year's reports. It is proposed that the Corporate Working Group will facilitate a managed programme of activities to respond to the recommendations in the Director of Public Health's Annual report. This programme will be for the development of new growth areas, with learning identified and then considered in relation to existing communities.

K. Review

Not applicable

Background Papers

Healthy Places, Healthy Futures, Growing Great Communities: available at <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s116835/Appendix%201%20for%20Public%20Health%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

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 7 September 2018. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – The Contribution of Buckinghamshire County Council to the Recommendations in ‘Healthy Places, Healthy Futures - Growing Great Communities’

<p>Community Life The communities we live and work in profoundly affect our wellbeing. Actions to strengthen communities, increase social connections and social cohesion, give local people more say in services, increase volunteering, reduce social isolation and protect vulnerable people all of which improve health and wellbeing. This section provides examples of initiatives either delivered or commissioned by Buckinghamshire County Council.</p>	
Portfolio	Actions
<p>Planning and Environment/ Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering opportunities are available across Transport, Economy and Environment. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assisting the Rights of Way team with management and maintenance of the Rights of Way network, with advice provided by the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum. ○ Gathering information and reports to ensure the Environment team have up to date records, ○ The Simply Walks programme, which provides volunteer led walks to over 700 walkers every week on more than 80 walks across the County. ○ Working as part of the Natural Environment Partnership (NEP), we have also pulled together a volunteering directory for those looking to get involved in conservation in their area.
<p>Children’s Services/ Education and Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bucks School Linking Network facilitates twinning locally between schools in different contexts. This encourages conversations and connections between young people of different backgrounds. It supports young people and adults to understand each other better, strengthens community cohesion and promotes British Values. • Bucks Model United Nations events engage students in debating world affairs and deepen understanding of diversity, equality and community. • Community links with a range of community organisations across Bucks who engage with the Council on education issues regarding achievement and attainment of vulnerable • 15 youth centres have been leased on a nominal rent to community run management committees. • The Youth Service commissions Action4youth a local voluntary and community youth sector infrastructure organisation to work with Youth Clubs to support their financial and volunteering sustainability. • Youth Service programmes that focus on building on young people’s strengths and promote factors to help young people cope with adversity and challenge. • Youth Service approaches to co-designing services with children and young people including children and young people in care and with special educational needs and disability.
<p>Health and Wellbeing/ Community Engagement and Public Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the Adult Social Care ‘strength based approach’ to social care practice which utilises the support that families and the local community can offer. • Working with partners, including the Charitable & Communities Sector, to create a shared model for prevention services and to develop a shared approach to strengthening communities. • Developing Dementia-friendly communities • Developing Street Associations initiative aims to build community resilience by supporting residents to keep their neighbours safe and well • Developing a Community Assets Digital Tool to make information on

	<p>over 2,000 assets available to the public and professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community appraisal workshop planned for the autumn in partnership with the Hughenden Street Association. • Amersham Decides – working with community groups and schools to get people voting for which local groups would receive local area funding to carry out projects. • Addressing social isolation through cultural activities • The East Wycombe Community Organising programme • Walton Court and Southcourt Healthy Living Centre community engagement work • Local Area Forums have developed a wide range of projects which are community based and both engage and strengthen communities.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Service Centre supports all the key areas by dealing with community queries by assisting and signposting to the relevant areas. • Using research with users to understand how people with different needs or abilities interact with services to inform decisions about how we design all aspects of our services (face to face, post, telephone and online) • Undertaking communication campaigns to ensure local communities are well informed about issues which can impact on their health and wellbeing including topics such as Time to Change, working with Trading Standards on scams, preparation for flooding, promoting green spaces and improving health for people with learning difficulties and autism

<p>Healthy Homes Living in an affordable and good quality home is fundamental to people’s physical and mental health and wellbeing and can reduce demand on services</p>	
Portfolio	Actions
Health and Wellbeing / Community Engagement and Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care are working with partners to develop and utilise a range of options to maintain independence such as extra care, shared live and assistive technology • Adult Social Care Market Position Statement for Housing and Accommodation Solutions is under development

<p>Healthy Travel Active travel, such as walking and cycling improves our health by promoting physical activity. It also delivers other benefits such as reducing air and noise pollution and increasing social connections.</p>	
Portfolio	Actions
Planning and Environment / Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights of Way Team manage maintain and promote the 3324km of Rights of Way Network across Buckinghamshire. An interactive ‘Buckinghamshire Walks and Rides’ map is available • BCC are one of 10 local authorities working in partnership with Modeshift and Cycling UK on the Living Streets project. to encourage active travel to schools and workplaces as well as route audits and travel planning. • Walking Zone Maps are available to schools to create 5/10/15 minute walking zones around their schools. Schools can receive up to 500 printed copies as well as online versions being available to all schools in the county. The maps, showing walking and cycling routes, will help

	<p>to encourage more families to walk to school, increasing active travel, reducing congestion, reducing car use for the school journey and improving air quality in the local area. <i>(This is cross portfolio with Education and Skills and Community Engagement and Public Health)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing travel plans • New walking and cycling links including Winslow and Buckingham cycleway. Delivery is also underway for a cycleway in Taplow and there are assurances on a Stoke Mandeville Cycleway and a Cycleway in Wendover • Transport Strategy colleagues are working with HS2 to adapt their schemes and plans to incorporate more cycling opportunities to align with the county's cycling aspirations. • Continuing to look for more opportunities active and sustainable travel through footpaths and cycleways around the county. Aspirations include: Thame - Haddenham Station – Aylesbury, High Wycombe – Bourne End, National Cycleway Scheme following the HS2 corridor north to south. • The canal improvement delivered, in partnership with the Canal and River Trust, between the Arla site and Aylesbury town centre; there is an aspiration for upgrade of the canal between Aylesbury, Tring and Wendover which would provide further active travel opportunities. • HomeRun is a school community and commuting app which aims to connect communities, reduce air pollution and lower carbon footprints. • Investigating the causes of road traffic collisions on Buckinghamshire County Council's roads and taking measures to prevent them. • There are a number of schemes to instil road safety and active travel principles in children from a young age with a number of schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Travel Plans to increase active and sustainable travel to school. Currently there are 60 accredited schools <i>(This is cross portfolio with Children's Services, Public Health and Communities)</i> • Travel Assistance guidance has been drafted and being incorporated into Council-wide policy development <i>(This is cross portfolio with Children's Services, Health and Wellbeing)</i>
Children's Services / Education and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wholesale review of the Children's Services transport offer incorporates, sustainability, promoting independence and protecting the environment • Each school has been encouraged to engage with the school community and encourage families to participate. Schools have also been encouraged to contact the press to create local interest and invite local councillors. • 55 School crossing Patroller sites helping children and their parents/carers to cross busy roads on their journeys to and from school. • 'Healthy Movers' programme. Healthy Movers is a holistic approach to building the knowledge, skills and understanding of families and early years practitioners to promote physical activity and the benefits associated with this.

<p><i>Air and Noise Pollution (Healthy Travel will also contribute to this key area)</i> Air and noise pollution have a range of harmful effects on health the very young, very old and those with poor health are most likely to be negatively affected by pollution.</p>	
Portfolio	Actions
Planning and Environment / Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Office for Low Emission Vehicles funded project to deploy 27 car charging points in Buckinghamshire for residents who don't have access to charging points at home

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transport Plan 4 encourages active and sustainable travel for appropriate journeys e.g. Bucks Commute Smart, expansion of the cycle network. One of the key objectives of the recently adopted Freight Strategy is to protect the environment and minimise pollution. Delivering a range of actions to ensure that our own vehicles minimise air and noise pollution where possible Monitoring environmental measures in relation to all Local Growth Fund schemes. Including noise and vibration, traffic counts and speed surveys, as well as air quality monitoring and lighting. The surveys are undertaken pre and post scheme implementation to evaluate the effectiveness of the schemes. Undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments and environmental surveys Overseeing the HS2 Road Safety Fund. The 'Getting to School Strategy' is currently being developed, educates parents about the benefits to air quality of fewer people driving their children to school and the benefits of active travel such as walking and cycling. Work will consider how digital connectivity that may reduce some travel and the potential of increased teleworking
Health and Wellbeing / Community Engagement and Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health led on and co-ordinated a countywide multi-agency workshop on air quality. The workshop identified a number of key actions and these will now be progressed by the Air Quality Management Group

<i>Green Spaces and Natural Environment</i>	
Portfolio	Actions
Planning and Environment /Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buckinghamshire there are four Country Parks (Black Park, Langley Park, Denham and Thorney) The Country Parks team are looking into a proposal for indoor play facilities. This would mean that active play opportunities would be available year round at Black Park. Pursuing a net environmental gain principle in local plans i.e. all developments need to demonstrate a net environmental gain. A countywide biodiversity accounting system is being developed and will involve improvements to local green infrastructure as part of new developments. Three panels (Calvert Area, Colne Valley and Chilterns AONB) have been set up, in relation to HS2, which have funding for environmental mitigation projects (£1m, £3m and £3m). New Green Infrastructure standards are being developed under the DEFRA 25 Year Environment Plan
Children's Services / Education and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALF - through the various activities that are provided by the 3 centres in the Charity develop an appreciation of the natural environment is promoted and skills are developed through activities to enable young people to be aware of green spaces and the beneficial impact these can have on their lives. A nursery is participating in the ECO award which focuses on empowering Another nursery is working towards the Curiosity Accreditation, which includes development of their outdoor environment based predominantly on the views and interests of the children.

Healthy Food Environment	
Portfolio	Actions
Planning and Environment / Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fighting Food Waste Project • Let's Cook project to train local community groups to deliver healthy eating workshops in Buckinghamshire. • The San Remo Café's at Black Park offer healthy food options and are accredited with a Gold Award part of the 'Eat Out, Eat Well' scheme.
Children's Services / Education and Skills	During 2017-18 training has been delivered to early years practitioners to support them with promoting healthy eating within their setting and to encourage children and their families to eat healthily (<i>cross portfolio with Community Engagement and Public Health</i>).

Wider planning and environmental issues	
Portfolio	Actions
Planning and Environment / Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with the District Council and Local Enterprise Partnerships on the Aylesbury Garden Town initiative. • The BCC HS2 team are providing support to a number of projects who are looking to submit bids to the HS2 Ltd Community & Environment Fund. These include: Wendover Community Library to part fund their aspiration to extend the library, and a Blue Light services project to construct a community hub near the North Portal.
Health and Wellbeing / Community Engagement and Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Public Health Team contributes to work on the health impacts of new growth areas and national infrastructure. This includes commenting on scoping documents for and completed Environmental Impact Assessments and contributing to responses to national consultation documents
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Property Team give due care and consideration of matters pertaining to Community Life, Travel, Pollution, Landscaping and Environment by including these aspects within their briefing of consultants and contractors for building construction projects, particularly the larger ones.