

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board **DATE:** 9 May 2018

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WARD(S): All

PART I

FOR DISCUSSION

THEMED DISCUSSION: DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Purpose of Report

This report presents the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (2018) – ‘Creating the Right Environments for Health’ and summarises its recommendations.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Board is requested to note the report.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

The Report highlights that access to the natural environment and green space has a positive benefit on the first three of the following Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy 2016 – 2020 (SJWS) priorities:

- 1) Protecting vulnerable children
- 2) Increasing life expectancy by focussing on inequalities
- 3) Improving mental health and wellbeing
- 4) Housing

3b. The JSNA

The Report highlights that access to the natural environment and green space has a positive benefit on a variety of health issues that have been well documented in the Slough JSNA. Specific benefits include improved mental health and wellbeing, increased physical activity and increased opportunities for communities to meet and reduce social isolation – all of which are seen across the lifecourse. In addition, these benefits are thought to be even more favourable in less affluent and many BME groups within the community and thus help address health inequalities.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The Report recognises the benefits of the natural environment and green space to help the Council address its first three 2018 Five Year Plan outcomes around best start in life, healthier people and making Slough more attractive. This is particularly timely, given the considerable discussion about the course of Slough's urban regeneration. However, the Report also recognises the inherent tension in addressing the Council's 4th and 5th outcomes around residential and commercial development.

- 1) Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives
- 2) Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs
- 3) Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit
- 4) Our residents will have access to good quality homes
- 5) Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no financial implications of proposed action.

(b) Risk Management (*Compulsory section to be included in **all** reports*)

In accepting for information the contents of this Report, there are no significant risks, threats and opportunities associated.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications (*compulsory section to be included in **all** reports*)

There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

5. **Summary**

- The Wellbeing Board is being asked to receive the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (2018), 'Creating the Right Environments for Health' and that the final report is published on the Council website.

6. **Supporting Information**

6.1 Directors of Public Health have a statutory duty to write an Annual Public Health (APH) report which informs people about the health of their community, health gaps and priorities that need to be addressed and to ensure the report will be published and in the public domain. The APH enables the Director of Public Health to make an independent judgement about the state of health and wellbeing of the local population and the opportunities for improving it. The report provides necessary information for decision making that can have an impact on local health and wellbeing.

6.2 The APH (2018), *Creating the Right Environments for Health*, focuses on one of the wider determinants of health – the natural environment – and how this could be used to improve the health of Slough's people. It begins by describing the natural

environment and its relationship to other determinants of health (such as income and social status, educational attainment, employment), then goes on to examine particular health dimensions in this context. Finally, it considers the challenges and opportunities to the natural environment that we can adjust in order to improve the wellbeing of our communities and from these, builds recommendations to act on.

6.3 The natural environment can have wide ranging health benefits for individuals and our communities. The Report examines how there is clear evidence for a range of improvements to health and wellbeing, including but not limited to:

- Mental health
- Pregnancy
- Childhood development
- Reduction in cardiovascular disease
- Increasing physical activity
- Reducing health inequalities
- Improving cohesion in communities

6.4 The Report has been able to showcase the wide range of success stories from Slough, along with other organisations that are increasing our health and wellbeing by using the natural environment. It also considers the current health of our population, particularly in the areas that could be improved by green spaces. There are opportunities and challenges to using green spaces, and they have also been considered including some of the limitations to achieving these benefits and a few of the ways we might make more use of the assets in our area.

6.5 The Report's recommendations are:

1. Local authorities and other agencies should continue to encourage community initiatives that make the most of natural space available, with the aim of improving mental health, increasing physical activity and strengthening communities.
2. Existing green space should be improved and any new developments should include quality green spaces and be designed with active transport in mind.
3. Planning guidance for new developments should specifically consider the use of green and blue space to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and others using the space.
4. Public health / Local Authority should foster new relationships with organisations aiming to improve the natural environment and its use.

7. **Comments of Other Committees**

This report has not been presented to any other committees.

8. **Conclusion**

The Report provides an overview of the relationships between the natural environment and health and how Slough might use green space to improve health and wellbeing.

Slough Wellbeing Board is requested to receive for information the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (2018), *Creating the Right Environments for Health*.

The final Report should be published on the Slough Borough Council website.

9. **Appendices attached**

'A' Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (2018): *Creating the Right Environments for Health*

10. **Background Papers**

None