

# Agenda Item 10.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Director of Public Health’s Annual Report 2018</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board on Thursday, 14 June 2018
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>DIRECTOR/ KEY OFFICER</b>	Darrell Gale, Strategic Director of Public Health (Interim)

Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority/priorities most progressed through the report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enabling and empowering resilient communities</li> <li>2. Promoting and supporting good mental health</li> <li>3. Reducing health inequalities in our Borough</li> </ol>
Key outcomes achieved against the Strategy priority/priorities	Provides an analysis to inform place-based initiatives.

Reason for consideration by Health and Wellbeing Board	The Board is asked to read and note the DPH Annual Report and its conclusions and to share widely within their respective organisations and local communities, with the expectation that it will be used to inform plans and actions.
What (if any) public engagement has been carried out?	No public engagement has been carried out in the production of the Annual Report.
State the financial implications of the decision	None.

<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>The Board is asked to read and note the Director Public Health Annual Report and its conclusions and to share widely within their respective organisations and local communities.</p> <p><b>“Creating the Right Environments for Health”</b> recommends that;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. Existing green space should be improved and any new developments should include high quality green spaces. The use of professional design and</li> </ol>
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arrangements to ensure the ongoing management of natural environments should be considered if spaces are to be sustainable.

3. Opportunities to increase active transport should be considered when designing new green spaces and in the improvement of existing space.
4. 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.
5. Local Authorities and their public health teams should foster new relationships with organisations aiming to improve the natural environment and its use.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Since Public Health moved back into local government in 2013, we have reconnected with many of our valued colleagues in planning, leisure and sports development, parks and recreation, housing and highways (amongst others) to create place-based strategies and deliver actions which bind together these wider determinants of health with our local priorities.

***“Creating the Right Environments for Health”*** aims to reconnect professions, communities and landowners and highlight opportunities for them to work together to support the public’s health through creating and maintaining accessible high quality green spaces and natural environments. The report provides information and evidence that can support place-based strategies to realise the potential of green and natural spaces for the health and wellbeing of local residents and communities and showcases examples of how local communities are already using the natural environment to stay healthy or improve their health and wellbeing.

## **Background**

It is a statutory requirement for the Director of Public Health to produce an Annual Report on the health of the population. The form and contents of the report vary year to year. The 2017 report focused on Avoidable and Preventable Mortality. This year (2018) the report has taken a refreshing approach on “Creating the Right Environments for Health” aiming to hit a wider audience. It is in a less technical format, with illustrations and local case studies. The fact that it looks attractive does not make it any less authoritative; it presents an extensive literature review and analysis of the evidence base on the impact of the natural environment on human health. While the report covers the whole population, outcomes are presented in terms of mental health, children and young people, physical activity and communities and health inequalities.

As Wokingham is undergoing such major changes with the development of thousands of new homes and related infrastructure the time is right to use evidence of what impacts positively on the population in planning and design. Ways must be found to balance the loss of green space and it is hoped that this report will be used widely within the Borough.

## **Analysis of Issues**

The issues are all thoroughly covered in the Annual Report.

<b>Partner Implications</b>
All partners to read and consider how the evidence in the report can be used to inform their policies, use of space and staff and client interactions.

<b>Reasons for considering the report in Part 2</b>
N/A

<b>List of Background Papers</b>
Creating the Right Environments for Health. The Annual Report from the Director of Public Health (printed copies will be distributed at the meeting).

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