

Report to FULL COUNCIL

Date: 28 March 2023

Title: Annual Report of Director of Public Health

**Report by: Ansaf Azhar, Corporate Director of Public Health and
Community Safety**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Full Council is RECOMMENDED to

Note the Director of Public Health Annual Report and to take every opportunity to support actions and initiatives that will progress related work.

Executive Summary

2. Directors of Public Health have a statutory duty to publish an annual report on a subject of their choice that they feel demonstrates the state of health within their community. The purpose of this item is to share the report for 22/23
3. In summary, this Director of Public Health Annual Report shines the spotlight on what is one of the biggest public health threats as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic –excess weight.

Director of Public Health Annual Report Overview

4. Directors of Public Health have a statutory duty to publish an annual report on a subject of their choice that demonstrates the state of health within their community. The purpose of this item is to share this report with Cabinet.
5. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted preventative public health services and a worsening of some lifestyle behaviours has been seen nationally during the last two years. This poses a significant public health risk going forward and is likely to be a bigger threat for the wellbeing of our residents over the next decade than the pandemic itself.
6. Excess weight is not simply influenced by what an individual chooses to eat or how much physical activity they participate in. It is far more complex than this, with a broad range of social, economic and environmental factors playing a significant role. There isn't one single intervention which on its own can solve this problem. A whole systems approach is needed to effect change.

7. We already have many great initiatives in place, but we can go much further. Whether we are planners, educational leaders, local businesses, health and social care commissioners or providers – through a systematic, partnership approach District and Countywide plans can influence the availability, access to and promotion of healthy, affordable food, active transport and greenspace to encourage physical activity. Working together, we can support people in Oxfordshire to be a healthy weight and thus improve the health and wellbeing of our population.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

8. This report supports the current Oxfordshire County Council Strategic Plan for working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer and healthier county. Particularly the areas to prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents and tackle inequalities. Actions resulting from the plan will also touch on: creating opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential, working with local businesses for environmental economic and social benefit and action to address climate change.

Finance and Legal

9. There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report.

Annex: Director of Public Health Annual Report

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