

Report of:	Erik Scollay - Director for Adult Social Care and Health Integration Councillor Dorothy Davison - Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
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Submitted to:	Executive - 16 June 2020
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Subject:	Director of Public Health Annual Report, 2019
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
That Executive receive the Director of Public Health Report 2019 for information and note the recommendations that will be implemented from the report.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?¹
Information	No	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
Directors of Public Health (DsPH) have a statutory requirement to produce an annual report on the health of their population. The recommendations within the report contribute to the delivery of the priorities for place and people within the 2020-23 Strategic Plan. The 2019 DPH annual report is a joint report for Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough Council.		

Ward(s) affected
Implementation of the recommendations outlined within the report will positively impact on all wards in Middlesbrough.

What is the purpose of this report?

To recommend that Executive receive the Director for Public Health (DPH) Annual Report 2019 for information.

¹ Remove for non-Executive reports

Report Background

The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory requirement to produce an annual report on the health of their population. The 2019 DPH annual report, '*As Clean as it can be*' is a joint report for South Tees (Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough). The report describes the impact of air quality on health and highlights the economic, health, wider wellbeing and care impact on our local population. It makes recommendations for improving air quality in the South Tees area to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce health inequalities.

As Clean as it can be, Director of Public Health Annual Report 2019

Summary of the report content

Air quality in the South Tees is good and it meets national and European standards. The report details the low levels of common pollutants and how they have reduced over time. However, the evidence shows that even levels of air quality that are considered good can negatively affect health and we should be aiming to make our air "as clean as it can be". The report makes a case for the Public Health challenge of air quality and emphasises the need for a system wide and community response to tackle it. Good quality air is a wider determinant that impacts on our health and wellbeing.

Although we all breathe the same air, air pollution affects certain populations disproportionately - the very young, older adults, adults with pre-existing lung and heart conditions and disadvantaged communities. The DPH Annual Report explores these differences showing how improving air quality is part of addressing unfairness in health outcomes experienced in South Tees. The need for action on air pollution is strongly linked with action to tackle climate change and develop more sustainable ways of living.

The report describes the different sources of air pollutants, and how they are monitored at different sites across South Tees. It also looks at some existing initiatives and considers the views of local residents from recent consultation and community events.

A key challenge to improving air quality is local transport systems which are heavily utilised. We aim to reduce local transport related air pollution and to develop the opportunities to adopt new ways of moving about. Improving public transport, creating more green space and increasing walking and cycling as part of our daily lives is a key part of this, and will bring other benefits to both physical and mental health. Whilst the focus of the report is outdoor air quality, reference is also made to indoor air quality which is mainly affected by tobacco smoke.

The report is a call to partnership action to tackle the issue of air pollution in South Tees. The recommendations set out how residents, communities, businesses and public sector services can work together to improve the air that we breathe. Councils in particular, with their roles in relation to transport, schools, and tobacco control are well placed to implement a variety of solutions with partners that can act to improve air quality.

Summary of the recommendations from the report

There is currently a South Tees Clean Air Strategy and associated action plan being developed. The recommendations from the 2019 DPH annual report will be incorporated

into the strategy and plan to help monitor progress towards achieving cleaner air for South Tees. Below is a summary of the recommendations from the report.

Recommendation 1	Establish a South Tees Clean Air Partnership to develop and deliver the South Tees strategy
Recommendation 2	Continue to monitor air quality proactively to ensure that potential hotspots of poor air quality are detected early and that measures are put in place to make improvements.
Recommendation 3	Engage with the public on air quality matters, provide information and awareness raising to empower them to change their behaviour and consider its impact on cleaner air.
Recommendation 4	Engage with businesses to raise awareness of how they impact on clean air and how they and their employee's behaviour can maximise their contribution to cleaner air.
Recommendation 5	Continue to lobby for national measures to improve air quality and access to funding at a local level to develop and implement initiative and projects which will contribute to cleaner air.
Recommendation 6	Continue to work with partners to achieve our ambition towards smoke free South Tees.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

That Executive receive the Director of Public Health Report 2019 for information and note the recommendations that will be implemented from the report.

Why is this being recommended?

The recommendations from the Director of Public Health annual report 2019, when implemented, will contribute to achieving Middlesbrough Council's Strategic Plan 2020-23.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

The production of an annual report is a statutory requirement of a Director of Public Health and provides an objective impression of the health status of the population based on sound epidemiological principles, and calls for system-level action in response to health and wellbeing needs of the local area. The publication of this report supports the delivery of this statutory function.

Financial

The implementation of the recommendations and actions outlined in the Director of Public Health annual report will be achieved through the deployment of the Council's Public Health and Public Protection budget as well as the key role of other Council departments and external agencies. There is uncertainty on the future funding for the public health grant for the Council. This could have an impact on the ability to deliver against the recommendations in the DPH annual report.

Policy Framework

The Director of Public Health annual report does not have any direct impact on the Council's policy framework. It is in line with Strategic Priorities to improve health and wellbeing and the local environment.

Equality and Diversity

The Director of Public Health annual report recommendations positively affects everyone who lives, works or visits the Borough. It is inclusive of all members of the community whatever their background or circumstance. Tackling inequalities, equality and diversity are an integral part of improving health and reducing health inequalities. There is, however, a particular emphasis on supporting those members of the community that face the greatest levels of disadvantage and reducing the health inequalities in length and quality of life.

Risk

The recommendations within the report will have a positive impact on the poor quality of air which affects the health of those exposed in the South Tees and will make an impact in reducing this for now and future generations (O3-020) and by taking a partnership approach this will ensure that there is a joined up South Tees Clean Air Strategy for the area with participation from all stakeholders (O8-008).

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

The implementation of the recommendations and actions outlined in the Director of Public Health annual report will be achieved partly through the deployment of the council's Public Health and Public Protection staff or often working in external partnerships and with other Council departments. The report will also be presented to the Health and Wellbeing board as well as other partnership meetings and organisational board meetings to ensure the actions and recommendations are embedded in the different plans and strategies.

Appendices

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2019.

Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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