

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Public Health and Wellbeing

LEAD OFFICERS: Dominic Harrison

DATE: Thursday, 9 July 2020

PORTFOLIO(S) AFFECTED: All

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

KEY DECISION: Y

SUBJECT:

Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight - 3 Years On

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In April 2017 Blackburn with Darwen's Borough Council and Clinical Commissioning Group became the first in the country to sign a joint Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight. The Declaration, which requires senior level commitment, encapsulates a vision to promote healthy weight and to improve the health and wellbeing of those who live, work and go to school in Blackburn with Darwen.
- 1.2 Overseen by the Eat Well Move More Shape Up strategic steering group, there has been significant progress against a number of the local commitments. Whilst progress has been slower against the generic commitments in the Declaration there are a number of upcoming opportunities to embed healthy weight as a priority including the development of the Local Plan and the Department for Transport's emergency funding to promote walking and cycling.
- 1.3 In 2019, Blackburn with Darwen Public Health commissioned Food Active to carry out an independent evaluation of the Healthy Weight Declaration. A number of key Officers and Members were interviewed as part of the evaluation and after assimilation of the information, collected a set of recommendations were provided as part of the final report. The report highlights the need for continued momentum, system wide working where healthy weight is seen as everyone's business and working with communities and Elected Members to drive the Declaration forwards using clear and consistent messages. There is also a further recommendation to review and refresh the local commitments beyond 2020. In light of the recent evidence of the impact of obesity and diabetes on COVID-19 outcomes this is an opportune time to revisit and revise the local commitments in the Declaration to highlight the importance of a healthy weight for health and wellbeing, encouraging and supporting a resilient food system and active travel for all.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- Notes the content of the report.
- Notes to progress made to date and the key issues impacting on effective implementation of the commitments within the Declaration.
- Notes the content of and recommendations in the Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight Evaluation.

- Supports the review and refresh of the current Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Since the signing of the Declaration there has been significant progress against a number of the local commitments including

- Designation of Blackburn with Darwen as a Breastfeeding Friendly Borough.
- Formation of the BwD Food Alliance, which manages the delivery Good Food Plan.
- Support to introduce the Daily Mile in primary schools in the borough.
- Development of a primary school food policy for schools to adopt.
- An Early Years Food & Physical Activity Guide developed for all early years settings.

3.2 Since signing the Healthy Weight Declaration, Blackburn with Darwen Council has led two successful Pennine Lancashire wide applications to national funding opportunities which impact on healthy weight across the life course. The Department of Health and Social Care funded Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme 'Healthier Place Healthier Future' and the Sport England funded Local Delivery Pilot 'Together an Active Future' present significant opportunities to raise the profile of physical activity and healthy eating whilst influencing local policy and practice to embed healthy weight in all policies. This national investment and support brings the national spotlight to Blackburn with Darwen with other local authorities keen to learn from our work.

3.3 Whilst there has been much progress, there is a great deal of work still to do (Appendix A). A feature of the approach to tackling unhealthy weight in Blackburn with Darwen is the strong partnerships that exist across organisations and the understanding of the need to take a systems approach. The independent evaluation carried out in 2019 led to a number of key findings which will inform future development and priorities in tackling unhealthy weight.

3.4 In July 2019, Public Health England published a guide for local authorities to promoting a healthy weight by taking a whole systems approach. A local whole systems approach to healthy weight is a 'health in all policies' approach, which draws on local authorities' strengths and recognises they can create local approaches more effectively by engaging with their community and local assets. This guide supports both the Declaration and the systems approach we are taking in Blackburn with Darwen.

3.5 The current COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the fragility in the food system for all and the potential impact on the most vulnerable in our communities and the need for a local approach to building resilience across the system. It also gives an opportunity to capitalise on the messages around the importance of physical activity in promoting health and wellbeing. The national message to be more active has positively impacted the numbers walking and cycling and people have also been cooking more often and beginning to grow their own fruit and vegetables. It is well documented that obesity and diabetes worsen the impact of COVID-19 and may begin to support a social movement around healthy weight being facilitated by the Healthier Place Healthier Future programme.

3.6 The original Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight has been reviewed and refreshed by Food Active and will be launched in June 2020. With this in mind, and on the back of the recent evaluation of Blackburn with Darwen's current Declaration, it would be an appropriate time for Blackburn with Darwen to refresh and relaunch

4 KEY ISSUES & RISKS

4.1 There is a real opportunity to capitalise on the impact of COVID-19 on people's attitudes to health and wellbeing. While this is the case it presents a window of opportunity make a real difference. It is recognised that the framing of messages around healthy weight will be important to ensure community engagement with the Declaration and work through the Healthier Place Healthier Future programme can work to develop appropriate local framing of healthy weight messages.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The review and refresh of the Declaration would be undertaken by the Public Health team. This work would be supported by the Shape Up sub group membership and overseen by Eat Well Move More Shape Up strategic steering group. Action and activity will be shared across partners where possible.

9 EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision.

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision.

10 CONSULTATIONS

Ten Officers and Elected Members were interviewed as part of the independent evaluation. The Eat Well Move More Shape Up steering board and Shape Up sub group have been consulted and are supportive of a review and refresh of the Declaration.

11 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

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DATE:	11 th June 2020
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Blackburn with Darwen's Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight 2017 Blackburn with Darwen's Local Government Healthy Weight Declaration: An Evaluation