

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

14th May 2024



Subject: **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24**

Report of: **Dr Justin Varney – Director of Public Health**

Relevant Cabinet Member: **Cllr Rob Pocock – Health & Social Care (Acting)**

Relevant O &S Chair(s): **Cllr Mick Brown – Health & Social Care**

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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 012764/2024		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:		

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this Director of Public Health Annual Report is to identify, discuss and reflect on the key changes that have occurred in Birmingham's population, as captured by the 2021 Census. The report considers the high level implications of these changes on the current and future health of the population in the city.

- 1.2 The report highlights the significant demographic shifts between the Census surveys and projects forward the potential future population scenarios for the city. Some of the key changes highlighted that although there is an overall growth in the population, there is a change in the age profile with a falling number of 0-5yr olds and a significant increase in 50-59yr olds, alongside this there is continued increase in ethnic diversity and other aspects of diversity across the city.
- 1.3 The report also highlights a slight increase in overcrowded households and a significant number of people who live alone in Birmingham, especially in older age which has important implications for social care.
- 1.4 The report considers in some areas the intersectionality between different identities and their link to outcomes, for example economic inactivity due to ill health is increasing in white and mixed ethnicity communities whilst it is static or falling in other ethnic communities. There is also a significant rise in economic inactivity due to caring responsibilities in the 35-64yr age group, especially in ethnic communities, and this has implications for the focus of the Council and partners in addressing worklessness.
- 1.5 The report highlights data from the Census which shows a marked increase in short journey's (less than 5km) being made by motorised vehicles and fall in the use of public transport for these journeys. If this trend continues then it will have significant impacts on health and the burden of social care due to inactivity leading to preventable chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes as well as significant damage to the climate. This reinforces the need for the Council's planning approach to prioritise active transport to support citizens to live healthier, longer lives.
- 1.6 These changes and the forward projections provide important context for the Council and NHS strategic and commissioning decision making, as the public sector faces significant financial challenges. The insight within the report can also enable further progress towards a focus on early intervention and prevention, thereby alleviating future cost pressures, and should support Cabinet and Officers to reflect on decision making in the context of projected future population change as well as historical activity.
- 1.7 Once published the report will be supported by a dissemination plan which includes webinars and facilitated workshops within the Council and with key partners as well as public presentations.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet formally receive the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023-24 and endorse its conclusions.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory duty to write an independent, evidence-based annual report detailing the health and well-being of our local population. The DPH Annual Report is an opportunity to provide advice and

recommendations on population health to both professionals and the public. The report includes a selected, specific issue that the DPH wishes to discuss within the report.

3.2 Birmingham City Council must publish the DPH Annual Report (under section 73B (5) & (6) of the NHS 2006 Act, inserted by section 31 of the Health and Social Care 2012 Act).

3.3 The content and structure of the report are decided locally and based on current evidence-based health priorities. Previous year's reports in Birmingham have focused on various topics, including impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic (2020-21), the built environment's effect on health and wellbeing (2021-22), and the use of digital technology for health improvement (2022-23).

3.4 This year's Annual Report (2023-24) has been focused around demographic change and how it can affect the health and wellbeing needs of Birmingham's population. This focus has been explored through six topics that encapsulate where have been the greatest changes since the last census:

- Age
- Ethnicity
- Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity
- International Immigration
- Housing
- Employment

3.5 For each chapter, there is an exploration of the census data through visualisations and analysis. These highlight where there have been the greatest demographic changes since the last census and some of the wider trends impacting Birmingham's population.

3.6 There is also a discussion on the health and wellbeing implications of these changes. Finally, there is a consideration of what these changes and trends might mean for the future of the population.

3.7 To supplement this analysis, the report includes case studies from a qualitative research exercise into the perspectives of Birmingham's residents around these changes. One case study has been included per chapter and a summary of all the case studies can be found in the appendices.

3.8 Each chapter also has a set of system reflections from key senior leaders across the city. These reflections provide their response to the census data as well as insight towards how organisations in the city might respond.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

4.1 **Option 1:** Do Nothing. The report is not received by Cabinet.

4.2 **Option 2:** Receive and endorse the Director of Public Health Annual Report.

4.3 The recommended option is Option 2: to receive and endorse the Annual Report.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Subject matter experts across the council and wider system have been consulted to provide local context for each chapter. Specific directorates that have been engaged are Adult Social Care, Housing, Public Health, Employment and Skills, and Strategy, Equality and Partnerships.
- 5.2 Key strategic leaders from across Birmingham have also been engaged to provide a system reflection for the chapter that most aligns to their portfolio. These reflections provide insight into how the discussed changes may shape their portfolio in the future.
- 5.3 Perspectives from Birmingham residents have been included through a research exercise and presented as case studies. A full summary of this exercise can be found in **Appendix 2**.

6 Risk Management

Risk Analysis			
Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
Partners do not endorse the report and do not disseminate widely.	Low	Low	Partners will be asked to endorse the report and, if possible, share it more widely through their networks so it can be used to generate discussion on the demographic changes in Birmingham.

7 Compliance Issues:

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

- 7.1.1 The conclusions within the Annual Report are consistent with the priorities of Birmingham City Council and the Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board. Specifically, this report has drawn from the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Birmingham Housing Strategy 2023-2028, Birmingham Levelling Up Strategy, Our Future City Plan, and The New Local Plan for Birmingham.
- 7.1.2 The report will help support future strategy and priority setting by providing some insight into changes in the city and potential future changes.

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 Birmingham City Council has a duty to publish the DPH Annual Report (under sections 73B (5) & (6) of the 2006 Act, inserted by section 31 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012).

7.3 Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 There are no financial implications for the delivery of the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023/24. The resources to deliver the report have come from the ringfenced Public Health Grant.
- 7.3.2 The report highlights the demographic changes between the Census surveys and projects these forward. These projections reflect a shrinking children's population and a growing older adult population which will have financial implications for the Council's medium to long term service pressures and these should be considered by the S151 and the Corporate Leadership team in the context of the current financial position, commissioning decision making, and the medium term financial plan.

7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)

- 7.4.1 None identified.

7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)

- 7.5.1 None identified.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.6.1 The report highlights the importance of understanding the whole of our population and the commitment to tackling discrimination and providing equality of opportunity for all citizens. The report includes specific explorations of changes in our communities of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity. An Equality Impact Assessment is attached as **Appendix 5**.

7.7 Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 7.7.1 None identified.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 **Appendix 1** - Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023-24 (*'From numbers to narratives'*: Exploring the changes between the 2011 and 2021 Census in Birmingham and the implications for the future health of our city)
- 8.2 **Appendix 2** - Case Study Summary Report
- 8.3 **Appendix 3** - Methodology for Population Projections
- 8.4 **Appendix 4** - Additional visualisations for Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023-24

8.5 **Appendix 5 – Equality Impact Assessment (EIA000427)**

9 Background Documents

9.1 None