

	<b><u>Agenda Item: xx</u></b>
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Birmingham Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> September 2021</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	Public Questions
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Birmingham City Council</b>
<b>Presenting Officer</b>	xxx

<b>Report Type:</b>	<b>Information</b>
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<b>1. Purpose:</b>
To inform the Board of Public Question themes and responses

2. Implications:		
BHWB Strategy Priorities	Childhood Obesity	Y
	Health Inequalities	Y
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		N
Creating a Healthy Food City		N
Creating a Mentally Healthy City		Y
Creating an Active City		Y
Creating a City without Inequality		Y
Health Protection		Y

<b>3. Recommendation</b>
<p>It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the question themes raised</li> <li>• Note and support action to implement responses as appropriate</li> </ul>

<b>4. Written Question Details</b>
<p><b>4.1 Question outline</b></p> <p>The question raises concerns for the mental health, physical health and anxiety of those who reside in close proximity to Birmingham's busy, main</p>

roads. Particular reference is given to the effects of air and noise pollution, environmental safety, speeding, loss of greenery and linked inequalities. Clarity is sought on Council approach.

#### **4.2 Question response**

Your enquiry acknowledges the multiple environmental factors that impact the health and wellbeing of residents and communities. Overall, Birmingham is a green city with considerable areas of nature within. There may be a need to look to rebalance the historical distribution of green space across the City and enhance any open space to ensure its maximum potential. The majority of land laid out for Parks and planting was set out in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Since then, using planning opportunities, the City Council has tried to acquire additional land or ensure that developments have a plan to improve the local environment. As a result, green space in the City has grown over the last few years, not reduced.

As a public safety measure, some shrub beds have been removed from the streets mainly down to their growth and the need to maintain sightlines and community safety. The City Council is committed to reducing the exposure of people in Birmingham to poor air quality in order to improve health. The recently introduced Clean Air Zone is a significant step towards this.

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:  
Mary Orhewere, Assistant Director of Public Health  
Stacey Gunther, Service Lead - Governance