



**Bedfordshire, Luton
and Milton Keynes**
Health and Care Partnership

People, Places, Planet
BLMK CARES

**Rapid Health Impact
Assessment:**
BLMK Green Plan
2025-2032

Rapid Health Impact Assessment of the BLMK ICS Green Plan

Assessment against the Recommendations from the
Green Plan Health Impact Assessment 2023

July 2025

Overview.....	2
Alignment with the Health Impact Assessment.....	3
1. Clearer and More Specific Health Goals.....	3
2. Health Benefits Highlighted	3
3. Work and Wellbeing.....	3
Areas for Additional Consideration from the Health Impact Assessment	4
1. Health Outcome Measures	4
2. Communities at risk	4
3. Joint Governance.....	4
Recommendations.....	5

Overview

The Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (BLMK ICB) has recently published a refreshed BLMK Green Plan covering the years 2025-2032. This system-wide Green Plan sets out ambitions to work towards becoming a sustainable healthcare system, through its “People, Places, Planet: **BLMK CARES**” vision and delivery plan.

In 2023 the BLMK Integrated Care System (ICS) published a [Health Impact Assessment](#) (HIA) for its previous [2022-2025 Green Plan](#).

This briefing assesses the new [BLMK ICS 2025-2032 Green Plan](#) against the recommendations made in the original HIA, to ensure the learning was captured in the refreshed plan.

The report was compiled following this rapid assessment by Anna Starling, Public Health Registrar, and review by Dr Tim Simmance, Associate Director of Sustainability and Growth, BLMK ICB.

The review is due to be presented to the Green Plan Leadership Group in December 2025.

Alignment with the Health Impact Assessment

1. Clearer and More Specific Health Goals

The 2023 Health Impact Assessment recommended specific and measurable targets in areas that could lead to health benefits such as travel and medicines management.

The 2025-32 plan:

- Commits to a 10% reduction in car travel by 2030 through investment in active travel infrastructure, behaviour change initiatives, and policy changes. It includes a proposal for measuring the shift using travel surveys and carbon emissions tracking.
- Sets a clear goal to reduce carbon emissions from inhalers by 50% by 2028, primarily by switching to low-carbon alternatives, developing clinical guidelines, and engaging patients on inhaler choice.

2. Health Benefits Highlighted

The 2023 HIA recommended the importance of highlighting co-benefits to health to engage stakeholders and justify action. It specifically suggested this in strategies around travel, estates and food systems.

The 2025-32 plan:

- Highlights the health benefits of decarbonisation through active travel and improvements in the food system. These are framed as strategies that reduce emissions and enhance population well-being.
- Focuses on links between improved air quality and reductions in respiratory disease, particularly in children and those with chronic conditions. The benefits are stated in initiatives like the Air Quality and Greener Transport Plan and Sustainable Procurement commitments.

3. Work and Wellbeing

The 2023 HIA highlighted the role of the NHS as an employer and the potential to impact workforce health through sustainability measures.

It recommended integrating health and wellbeing into NHS workforce estates and travel strategies to support retention, reduce sickness absence and model healthy behaviours.

The 2025-2032 Green Plan:

- Emphasizes the health and wellbeing of the ICS workforce, proposing improvements to active commuting infrastructure such as cycling facilities and showers, the development of staff green spaces, and alignment with wellbeing programmes.

Areas for Additional Consideration from the Health Impact Assessment

1. Health Outcome Measures

The 2023 HIA recommended that health outcome measures should be in the Green Plan to enable monitoring of the impact on health outcomes and strengthen accountability.

The 2025-32 plan does not include specific health outcome measures such as asthma admissions, physical activity levels, or mental wellbeing metrics. It does however commit to development of a health-environmental dashboard to measure progress against sustainability initiatives in environmental and health impact terms (and the links between them), including to assist with measuring the impact of preventative activities.

2. Communities at risk

The HIA recommended better understanding and focusing areas of work on communities most at risk from climate impacts, such as those in the areas with highest deprivation. This is to ensure the effectiveness and fairness of future strategies.

The Green Plan states that climate change affects individuals and populations unequally. It also sets out commitments to identify and provide support for those more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and to work with communities to better adapt to climate change and reduce health risks. However, as health equity is a priority for the BLMK ICS, more clarity could be provided to demonstrate the link between the BLMK Green Plan 2025-32 and system efforts to address equity.

3. Joint Governance

The 2022 HIA recommended the creation of joint governance arrangements such as steering groups or oversight committees to ensure health expertise is embedded across all Green Plan themes.

In the 2025-32 plan a refreshed governance structure is proposed, with a Green Plan Leadership Group consisting of wide representation from other public bodies, including Public Health teams, and with links to other public sector organisations. There are also commitments in the Green Plan to maximise resource, including through sustainability teams working in a matrix, and to build links between organisations so that climate and health issues were included within all local plans.

A single system-wide governance structure was considered for the refreshed Green Plan, however the complexities of governance structures across the five different main statutory bodies risked duplication and confusion. It was decided at the precursor to the Green Plan Leadership Group to narrow the remit of the Group to delivery of the Green Plan only.

To ensure joint sustainability and health decision-making and prioritisation, the governance and operational links between public sector bodies with responsibility for protecting and improving population health and wellbeing may need to be kept under continuous review.

Recommendations

This briefing puts forward three initial recommendations for consideration within delivery of the BLMK Green Plan 2025-32

1. Include health outcomes in the Green Plan's delivery framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• While the health-environmental dashboard is in development, introduce three health measures that are routinely available that link to the plan such as childhood asthma indicators.• This will support discussion on the links between green plan actions and health outcomes prior to availability of the dashboard and inform development of the dashboard.• Track in Green Plan progress reports.
2. Targeted Action for Vulnerable Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify communities disproportionately affected by air pollution or hot weather/cold weather changes in BLMK.• Work with one of these communities on the action to create and test an approach to community adaptation.• Use knowledge from existing community health partnerships in BMK and Luton Councils.
3. Explore Governance Arrangements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss potential for a health and sustainability steering group to support engagement with the green plan and progress joint sustainability and health aims• Raise with relevant public health leads in BMK and Luton Councils for discussion.

November 2025