

## OFFICE FOR HEALTH IMPROVEMENT & DISPARITIES: COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

### Summary

The Committee will receive an update on plans for community water fluoridation for the North East of England.

### Detail

1. Following a meeting of Tees Valley Directors of Public Health, an approach was made in August 2023 requesting that a briefing on community water fluoridation be given to the Committee.
2. The Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) Regional Director and NHS Regional Director of Public Health (North East & Yorkshire) is scheduled to be in attendance to provide this update, and will be supported by the Consultant in Dental Public Health, NHS England (North East & Yorkshire). A presentation has been prepared and can be found at **Appendix 1**.
3. For further background reading, a policy paper was published by the Department of Health and Social Care (updated 10 March 2022) in relation to water fluoridation within the context of the new Health and Care Bill. This paper covers evidence of benefit, evidence of potential harm, the impact of the Bill on this scheme, and how these provisions will help to improve public health. Please see the following link:
  - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-care-bill-factsheets/health-and-care-bill-water-fluoridation>
4. There is also a dedicated 'Fluoride' page on the NHS website which includes commentary on community water fluoridation as well as research on such schemes. Further details can be accessed at the following link:
  - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/fluoride/>

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