

## HAVE YOUR SAY

how to get involved in the consultation process

The Food Strategy and Action Plan are currently out to community wide consultation. The closing date for this process is:

**Friday September 30th 2005.**

We are keen to receive comments, and any additional actions that may not currently be included in the Action Plan, from organisations, residents and in particular anyone who may be working directly on food issues across the City. We would like to ensure that your work is adequately reflected and supported by the Action Plan. Similarly we are asking for those who support the aims and objectives of the Strategy to give their endorsement to the work.

This is a summary of the Food Strategy and Action Plan. The full document and a pro-forma for responding to the consultation are available from:

**Food Matters**, Community Base, 113 Queens Road,  
Brighton BN1 3XG

**tel:** 01273 234 833

**email:** [strategyconsultation@foodmatters.org](mailto:strategyconsultation@foodmatters.org)

and at the following websites:

[www.bhfood.org.uk](http://www.bhfood.org.uk)

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)

[www.brightonandhovecitypct.nhs.uk/](http://www.brightonandhovecitypct.nhs.uk/)

[healthyives/healthyeating/](http://healthyives/healthyeating/)

Further copies of this summary document for display or to pass on to colleagues and friends are also available from the above address.

**The Strategy is supported by the following organisations:**

Brighton and Hove City   
Teaching Primary Care Trust

  
Brighton & Hove



Brighton & Hove  
**Food Partnership**



## SPADE TO SPOON

*Making the Connections*

A Food Strategy and Action Plan for Brighton and Hove (draft)  
Summary Document



## WHAT IS WRONG WITH OUR FOOD?

The production and consumption of food, its relationship to our health, and its impact on the environment in which we live, is coming increasingly under the spotlight. A series of food and agriculture crises and rising levels obesity have woken us up to the enormous impact of food on health, the environment, and the economic prosperity of both rural and urban communities.

How our food is produced and distributed has a fundamental effect on our environment. Modern intensive agriculture and its dependence on chemical inputs results in increased environmental hazards such as pollution, soil erosion, and deforestation, which in turn have their effect on health and well being. Food products have often travelled thousand of miles, criss-crossing continents, before arriving on our plates. The resultant 'food miles' and associated carbon emissions are a major contributor to climate change.

## WHY A FOOD STRATEGY FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE?

Looking at the food system of the City offers opportunities for tackling health inequalities, creating employment, increasing economic prosperity and improving the environment around us. A Food Strategy brings these opportunities together in one place, recognising their interconnectedness. 'Spade to Spoon: making the connections' is aimed at everyone in the City, especially those whose work in some way involves food. In the spirit of other strategies and plans within the City, it has been developed in the belief that by working in partnership across the community we can better address the problems we face.

By looking at the food system from 'spade to spoon', all the various elements are brought together, including how and where our food is grown, how it is delivered to our schools, hospitals and work canteens, where we shop, and where the waste generated by the food system ends up. The strategy highlights the fantastic work already being undertaken, such as improvements in school meals, increasing opportunities for growing food, building capacity and skills in the catering sector, recycling waste, provision of cooking skills and healthy eating advice. By Bringing all this together in one document makes it possible to see where further actions can support and enhance the current work and take it one step further.

## THE BRIGHTON & HOVE FOOD PARTNERSHIP

The Brighton and Hove Food Partnership has been established to create an active network of interested organisations, businesses and residents. Its mission is 'to work across the community to strengthen the growth and development of a localised food system which promotes social equity, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, global fairtrade and the health and well-being of all residents'.

Together with the Primary Care Trust and the Sustainability Commission at the City Council, the Food Partnership will oversee the development of the work outlined in 'Spade to Spoon'. The first step in this process is to consult with the community on the aims and actions of the strategy, and fill in any gaps.



**AIM: INCREASE ACCESS FOR ALL RESIDENTS TO NUTRITIOUS, SAFE, AFFORDABLE FOOD IN CULTURALLY & SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE WAYS**

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

REDUCE THE RISE IN CHILDHOOD OBESITY  
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS SUFFERING FROM DIET-RELATED DISEASE  
ENCOURAGE AN INCREASE IN CONSUMPTION OF FRESH FOOD  
ENSURE THAT LOCAL SHOPPING CENTRES, AND IN PARTICULAR FOOD OUTLETS, ARE MAINTAINED  
CELEBRATE THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF FOOD ACROSS THE CITY

**KEY ACTIONS**

Increase the uptake of breastfeeding  
Run workshop to understand and raise awareness of the importance of local centres with food outlets, and to inform local development framework  
Increase the uptake of allotments across the city  
Monitor and improve nutritional standards of meals provided by adult social care  
Work with schools to replace existing vending machines with healthy alternatives  
Work with NHS catering contractors to ensure contract specifications include dietary guidelines

**AIM: RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ROLE OF FOOD IN SUPPORTING HEALTH, THE ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF FOOD AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO GOOD HEALTH  
TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF HOW FOOD IS PRODUCED

**KEY ACTIONS**

Employ a food worker to work on food issues across the city  
Employ a dedicated school food worker  
Promote healthy eating messages in all NHS and community settings  
Develop a Healthy Schools Partnership to promote healthy eating  
Encourage schools to adopt a whole school approach to food  
Encourage schools to involve children in growing and preparing their own food  
Develop community courses in healthy eating and nutrition  
Promote and deliver food hygiene courses

**AIM: REDUCE, RE-USE AND RECYCLE WASTE GENERATED BY THE FOOD SYSTEM**

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

REDUCE PACKAGING AND WASTE CREATED BY THE FOOD SYSTEM AND INCREASE RECYCLING RATES  
INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF RECYCLING OF COMPOSTABLE WASTE FROM PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND BUSINESSES  
ENCOURAGE HOUSEHOLD AND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING  
MAKE COMPOST AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE SOIL FERTILITY IN PUBLIC PARKS AND PRIVATE RESIDENCES

**KEY ACTIONS**

Develop a city wide campaign promoting reduction of waste and packaging in different settings e.g. schools  
Develop targets to increase home composting  
Explore the feasibility of running a trial kitchen food waste collection  
Work with supermarkets and fast food outlets in the city to reduce use of plastic bags and containers  
Extend scheme to make available cheaper composting bins, accompanied by education on use



# SPADE TO SPOON

## *Making the Connections*

A Food Strategy and Action Plan  
for Brighton and Hove



**AIM: PROMOTE FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS WHICH CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT**

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY ACROSS THE CITY OF FOOD PRODUCED FROM ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE METHODS  
REDUCE THE USE OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD GROWN IN ALLOTMENTS, GARDENS AND PUBLIC SPACES  
ENCOURAGE FARMS OWNED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND IN THE LOCAL AREA TO ADOPT ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES  
PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE EFFECTS OF DIVERSE FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

**KEY ACTIONS**

Provide information on different methods of food production and their impact on the environment  
Develop a pilot with a council tenanted farm to raise environmental standards and facilitate engagement in the local food system  
Through the allotment service promote systems of growing food which enhance and protect wildlife and the environment

**AIM: EXCHANGE INFORMATION, SUPPORT AND ADVICE AND BUILD CAPACITY IN ALL SECTORS OF THE FOOD SYSTEM**

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

DEVELOP THE BRIGHTON & HOVE FOOD PARTNERSHIP INTO A FOCUS FOR ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR ALL SECTORS OF THE FOOD COMMUNITY  
ENCOURAGE SHARING AND EXCHANGE ACROSS DIVERSE SECTORS  
TAKE FORWARD THE FOOD STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN AND ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION  
INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH BUILDING CAPACITY AND SKILLS

**KEY ACTIONS**

Organise an annual event bringing together diverse sectors of the food system  
Provide the opportunity for health professionals to undertake basic nutrition training  
Develop a website providing information on a range of food issues  
Promote vocational qualifications in catering, healthy eating and market gardening at secondary school level  
Improve community based training facilities

**AIM: INTRODUCE PROCUREMENT POLICIES WITHIN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WHICH USE LOCALLY PRODUCED, HEALTHY FOOD AND SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT, ANIMAL WELFARE AND FAIRTRADE**

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

INCREASE THE USE OF LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS  
ENCOURAGE THE CONSUMPTION OF HEALTHIER FOOD IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS  
ENCOURAGE PURCHASING POLICIES WHICH FAVOUR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, ANIMAL WELFARE AND FAIRTRADE  
INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF FAIRTRADE FOOD AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE CITY

**KEY ACTIONS**

Establish a working group to look at procurement issues across the city  
Promote sustainable procurement of food within council contracts  
Work with school meals contractor to increase the amount of local produce in the LEA school meals contract  
Improve the nutritional quality of school meals  
Provide all public sector contractors with list of local/regional producers/suppliers

**AIM: ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VIBRANT LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY AND EXPAND LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION**

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PURCHASING AND CONSUMING LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD  
RAISE THE PROFILE OF LOCAL FOOD TO VISITORS ACROSS THE CITY  
RECOGNISE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM TO ECONOMIC PROSPERITY  
SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD PRODUCERS AND PROCESSORS BOTH WITHIN THE CITY AND ACROSS THE REGION

**KEY ACTIONS**

Explore opportunities to work with catering outlets across the city to increase use of local produce  
Develop a council facilitated farmers market for the City  
Brighton & Hove tenant farmers to supply lamb to the branded scheme 'Sussex Downs Lamb' being piloted by Sussex Downs Conservation Board  
Explore ways of supporting and increasing commercial horticulture opportunities within the City  
Undertake feasibility study of mobile delivery service of locally produced fresh produce to increase access in poorly serviced areas