

SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 60

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: City Food Strategy review and revision
Date of Meeting: 25 March 2011
Report of: Strategic Director, Resources
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Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report is an update on the review of Spade to Spoon: a Food Strategy and Action Plan for Brighton & Hove (originally published in 2006) that is being led by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership.
- 1.2 The review is being undertaken by Vic Borrill, Director, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and involves working with the City Council, NHS Brighton & Hove, the voluntary and community sector and local food businesses.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Committee acknowledges the achievements of Spade to Spoon 2006 – 2010.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Committee supports the involvement of the departments listed in 3.7 in reviewing the strategy working with the Food Partnership to identify new targets and areas of partnership work.
- 2.3 That the Cabinet Committee endorses the high level outcomes identified for the Food Strategy in 3.5

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 At the time of publication in 2006, the Brighton & Hove Food Strategy was the first of its kind, celebrated nationally and considered the most far reaching UK local food policy of it's time. It brought together work from the public, private and community/voluntary sector to enhance health, social, environmental and economic benefits through the food sector, and minimize the many negative impacts of food. The city council was a key partner and wrote around 50 targets for the original Action Plan, which was endorsed by the then Policy & Resources Committee 9 November 2009, with cross party support.

3.2 **Some of the key Spade to Spoon targets that have been achieved include:-**

- All schools adopting a whole school food approach as part of the Healthy Schools programme.
- The introduction of the Healthy Choice Award to enable easy identification of healthy options when eating out.
- 75% of all nurseries that are have achieved a Healthy Choice Award
- Three new community kitchens have been developed
- The Food Partnership is funded by the PCT to employ three community based dieticians to reduce obesity in adults and children
- There has been an increase in the number of peer led cookery groups
- The Food Partnership secured £500,000 funding to the city for a Big Lottery project to increase the amount of food grown in the city
- Recycling rates for food packaging have increase

3.3 The review will revisit the national context in which local work is being delivered and consider how the food strategy is enabling the city to deliver on key priorities including meeting climate change targets and delivering on the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities.

3.4 **Potential benefits to council for being engaged in the review:**

- The council put forward around 50 targets in the existing Strategy, most of which have been achieved. The review will highlight this success and offer opportunities for positive communications around these achievements.
- B&H Food Partnership are the lead partner on Harvest Brighton & Hove, a £500,000 Big Lottery funded project for food growing work in the city; and also deliver substantial work around health (commissioned by the PCT). A review of council work by the Food Partnership is likely to lead to further collaboration and joint working from which the council can benefit from support and resources from the Food Partnership.
- The food agenda is still high in the public's mind e.g. the Jamie Oliver/school dinners and Ministry of Food programmes and high profile campaigns about sustainable fishing practices – this time the issues are particularly around food prices, global food shortages, and climate change impacts. A review will facilitate consolidation of council action around this agenda – in which B&H is already a perceived national leader through the existing Food Strategy
- New targets may simply reflect work already undertaken by the city council – raising its profile and providing strategic support.

3.5 The process will consult on high level outcomes the strategy is aiming to deliver on and produce an updated action plan for the stakeholders to take forward.

Outcomes to be covered by the Food Strategy

The process of developing the Food Strategy will refine these outcomes however at this stage of the review the following high level outcomes are proposed for the Food Strategy:

- (a) People in Brighton & Hove eat a healthier and more sustainable diet
- (b) The amount of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions that can be attributed to our food system are reduced
- (c) Reduce levels of food poverty (or prevent them from increasing)
- (d) A reduction in health inequalities attributed to diet.
- (e) The amount of food (and packaging related to food) that is thrown away is reduced.
- (f) The city has a resilient sustainable local food economy.

(g) The city grows more of its own food.

3.6 Proposed timeline 2011

1 st March	Community and voluntary sector consultation
14 th March	City Sustainability Partnership consultation
25 th March	Report presented to Sustainability Cabinet Committee meeting
April - June	Meetings held with Council Officers and Redraft Action Plan
	Meetings held with other stakeholders eg health, local businesses, education
June 2011	Stakeholder event to identify priorities
July 2011	Final strategy approved by all partners and published

3.7 Council teams required for involvement

Because healthy, sustainable food is such a cross cutting issue there is a requirement for numerous teams from the Council to input into this process.

Adult Social Care (Residential and Day Care Services for elderly people), Allotments Service, Cityclean, Communities Team, Countryside, Economic Development, Food Safety Team, Healthy Schools Team (CYPT), Housing, Parks, Planning, Procurement / client contracts, School Futures (CYPT), School Meals Team, Sustainability Team, Town Centre Management, Transport

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 In addition to the consultation work with teams across the council (see above): there will be consultation with the voluntary and community sector at the CVSF Your Space event on 1st March. There will be consultation at the City Sustainability Partnership Meeting on 14th March 2011.

4.2 There will be consultation with the public health team at NHS Brighton & Hove and the local food business sector.

4.3 There will be a public / stakeholder consultation on the draft strategy in June.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 The Sustainability Team has provided £2,900 from within existing budget resources to pay the Food Partnership to undertake this review and strategy revision work. Various Delivery units across the Council will be involved in supporting the review, which will largely be staff time and be met from existing budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: Mike Bentley

Date: 23/02/11

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report. The Cabinet Committee has the requisite powers to agree the recommendations at paragraph 2 above.

Lawyer Consulted:

Oliver Dixon

Date: 01/03/11

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be conducted for the Food Strategy and the outcomes within it. One specific outcome relates to tackling health inequalities attributed to poor diet.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 With the estimated annual cost of diseases related to overweight and obesity in Brighton and Hove at £78.1 million in 2010, with 25% of the city's ecological footprint related to food and with 35% of our domestic waste stream being food (most of which could have been eaten) there is an imperative to continue to work in partnership to improve the sustainability of the city's food system. A vibrant local food economy is also a key component of a sustainable future - bringing jobs, skills, tourists and investment to the city.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 A significant contributor to the increasing rate of crime, aggression, depression and poor school performance is poor nutrition. That was the conclusion of the 2008 inquiry held by the Associate Parliamentary Food and Health Forum (an all-party independent forum for the exchange of views and information on food policy in the UK Parliament). Raising awareness of the links between diet and behaviour and improving the nutrition of residents is a key strand of the food strategy.
- 5.6 Establishing community food growing projects in areas with problems such as fly tipping can reduce the problem as has been seen in the area around Moulsecoomb Forest Garden as project users and volunteers both look out for and look after the area.
- 5.7 The experience of current food projects across the city is that they experience minimal crime or vandalism. Many people believed that the open nature of the demonstration growing garden in Preston Park would lead to theft and vandalism which one year in has not been the case.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.8 The Food Partnership has allocated staff time between January and July 2011 to work on the review. There is a risk that with the pressures on statutory services at the moment that the review may not be seen as a priority for the departments involved. This is why we are asking for the Sustainability Cabinet Committee's endorsement of the review. In order to ensure that the review remains on target the Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy will be overseeing the work

with regular updates on progress. Other potential risks are that the strategy is not connected to other city wide strategies and/or is not owned by stakeholders. The Food Partnership is linked in well via the City Sustainability Partnership and the Healthy City Partnership and has a good understanding of the policy context. There will be a public / stakeholder consultation event in June as part of the review process.

- 5.9 The review offers an opportunity for the partners to reflect on what has worked well and not so well and to work together on ideas and priorities. The review also allows partners to identify and work towards city wide outcomes for food and health and sustainability. This is an opportunity to identify where further workforce development / training may be effective and to share good practice. Actions identified within the strategy may also lead to new partnerships and projects with the potential to attract additional funding to the city.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.10 Creating the City of Opportunity: Sustainable Community Strategy. There are a number of relevant areas within the strategy including targets for reducing CO2 emissions per capita, reducing health inequalities, preventing and reducing obesity, connecting green spaces, reducing waste, sustainable transport and living within environmental limits.
- 5.11 Corporate Plan targets: Reduce city & council carbon emissions; reduction in obesity in primary schools; positive activities for young people; improving the health of residents; encourage people to live healthy active lives.
- 5.12 Core Strategy: support for food growing within the city, introduce planning policies which support food growing in developments
- 5.13 Waste Strategy: 35% of the domestic waste stream is food. Most of which is avoidable food waste. The 2010 Municipal Waste Strategy includes a target to reduce food waste by 10%, to increase home composting and support community composting.
- 5.14 One Planet Living: Led by the City Sustainability Partnership (CSP) a piece of work is currently being undertaken by Best Foot Forward to deliver a plan to reduce the city's ecological footprint. As food is responsible for 25% of our current footprint, actions in this area will be key.
- 5.15 Child Poverty Needs Assessment: Approx 1 in 5 children in Brighton & Hove lives in child poverty. Children living in poverty will be living in food poverty. The JSNA for 2011/12 identifies the issue of food poverty as an issue for the city.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 It could be an option not to review and revise the strategy at this time; but since most of the actions have been completed and it is getting out of date, revision is now necessary.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Leader of the council asked at the last meeting on 9 February 2011 for this item to be on this agenda, as it is timely and important for the city.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Spade to Spoon: a Food Strategy and Action Plan for Brighton & Hove Summer 2006 (the original strategy): <http://www.bhfood.org.uk/pdfs/SpadeToSpoon.pdf>