



Leicester's Food Plan 2020-25

For consideration by: Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission

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Lead director: Ivan Browne

Ward(s) affected: All

Report author: Etain McDermott, Public Health Programme Manager

Author contact details: etain.mcdermott@leicester.gov.uk; 0116 454 2377

1.0 Purpose of Briefing

- 1.1 To provide a summary as to the development of the Food Plan 2020 - 2025 and other associated initiatives.
- 1.2 To highlight achievements related to the previous food plan.
- 1.3 To update the Commission on future priorities and next steps in relation to the Food Plan 2020 - 2025.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 This briefing note is for information only

3.0 Background

3.1 Leicester's 1st Food Plan was launched in April 2014 and marked the start of a long term programme to make Leicester 'a healthy and sustainable food city': a place where the production, distribution, purchase and use of food supports better health, stronger communities and a successful economy – while protecting the environment and conserving natural resources.

3.2 The 2014 – 2016 Food Plan aimed to see more community food projects in place across the city, more land under food production, increases in cookery skills courses, a growing food economy and new food-related enterprises thriving.

3.3A programme of work has been underway to develop Leicester's 2nd Food Plan. Recent focus has been to reflect on the success of the previous plan, develop new priorities based on consultation with key stakeholders that reflect the current picture in relation to food across Leicester City and to re-invigorate partnerships to effectively update and implement the new food plan from 2020 onwards.

3.4 The Food Plan is multi-faceted and aims to bring together health, environment sustainability and economic development into a single plan with relevant commitments and ambitions.

3.5 The draft plan is currently in the design phase with an anticipated launch date of March 2020.

4.0 History of Leicester's Food Plan

Leicester's 1st food plan was launched in 2014 with its associated actions and ambitions remaining a priority across a number of Council Departments. There is as much focus as ever on food, particularly the importance of access to good food for all, reducing food poverty, tackling environmental issues and increasing sustainable practice within the food sector.

The impact of poor nutrition and limited access to good food increases health inequalities across the city, leading to negative impacts on diet related ill health amongst the most disadvantaged. The Food Plan therefore remains a Public Health priority.

Below is a summary of food related activity since the launch of the 2014 Food Plan.

4.1 2014

- Leicester became a founding member of the Sustainable Food Cities Network
- Food Partnership established
- Development of healthy and sustainable food policies
- Food strategy developed and action plan implemented
- Food Plan Charter developed
- Food Plan Board established led by the Deputy Mayor
- Recruitment of a Food Plan Project Manager

4.2 2015

- Commissioning of Food and Nutrition Programmes:
 - Food for Life - developing healthy food culture in schools
 - Food Growing Support Programme - bespoke support to communities to develop skills and resilience in food growing
- Launch of Get Growing Grant Scheme
- Leicester Nutrition and Dietetic Service working in early years settings to develop policy and practice around food and nutrition
- Networking Event for Food Plan stakeholders
- First Holiday Food Programme delivered
- Development and delivery of emergency food provision and links into surplus food for food banks (FareShare East Midlands)
- Emergence of Community Food Projects such as The Real Junk Food project
- Food Hall Established in the Market Place
- The Allotment Strategy 2015-2020 launched

4.3 2016

- Food Poverty Conference
- Emergency Food Partnership established
- Development of Food Poverty Strategy
- Food Growing Events held in the community
- Implementation of the peer support breastfeeding programme

4.4 2017

- Food Poverty Event organised by Action Homeless on behalf of the emergency food partnership
- Development and co-ordination of the holiday food programme 2017-2020
- Approval for Phase 2 of Leicester's Food Plan:
 - To re-instate the food plan board
 - To link the food plan formally to the sustainability board to maximise the opportunities for co-ordination
- Launch of Good Food East Midlands (Public Health England)
- Feeding Leicester partnership established

4.5 2018

- Multi-agency Food Plan Event held to establish future food plan priorities
- Lead Member approved Leicester to become a Feeding Britain Pilot
- Recommissioning of Food Growing and Food for Life Programmes 2018-

2021

- Development of Food Plan Board to take forward food, health and sustainability strategically across the city:
 - **Food and Drink Sector**
 - LLEP, Economic Development, Environment Team, Food and Drink Forum
 - Public Health led work to address health in food businesses as part of Health in all Policies
 - Partnership work with Leicestershire County Council and the Food and Drinks Forum to identify opportunities to work with Food and Drink Sector
 - **Food Poverty**
 - Building food security - community food growing for low income families, improving cooking skills
 - Protecting people from hunger – auto-registration for free school meals, boosting uptake of healthy start vouchers, improving council tax debt collection practices, holiday food provision and breakfast clubs
 - Low cost food for vulnerable groups – social supermarkets, community cafes, mobile shops, access to white goods and furniture
 - Supporting people in crisis – implementation of ‘food bank plus’ to provide advice and support alongside food; drop-in kitchens; emergency cash payments or vouchers; fuel banks
- Social Value Charter Launched
- Liz Kendall MP agreed to Chair Feeding Leicester steering group
- Children, Young People and Families Healthy Weight strategy launched with implementation of the ‘1000 tweaks’ social media campaign
- Leicester’s 3rd Holiday Food Programme implemented
- Pilot Exchange visit to bring Feeding Britain pilot areas together to share learning and experiences of alternative food bank models, including voucher free food banks, community led food hubs and social supermarkets
- Funding bid for Department for Education Holiday Activity and Food Grant Fund

4.6 2019

- Hosted Feeding Britain Trustee and MP Visit
- 2nd Food Plan Consultation Event
- Holiday Food Programme - long term plan developed to ensure sustainability and secure further funding
- Food Plan Board agree 2nd plan ambitions
- LCC Catering achieve Food Served Here Silver Award
- Partnership work with Business Experts FoodSync to organise a workshop with East Midlands Chamber, Food and Drink Forum, LLEP and local universities to support businesses to link with the sustainable food agenda
- Final draft of Food Plan and Action Plan developed

5 Leicester’s Food Plan 2014 – 2016 achievements:

5.1 Supporting Healthier Food Choices

- The development of a healthy weight strategy for children and young people which aims to halt the rise in children presenting as overweight or obese in

Year 6 by 2023

- The implementation of the '1000 tweaks' social media campaign to encourage individuals, families, organisations and businesses to make small changes to help children and young people to eat good food and enjoy physical activity
- Support to schools to increase positive healthy eating behaviours, knowledge about nutrition and increased cooking and growing skills
- Support to early years settings to provide healthy, balanced meals and snacks for under 5's and their families through "Eat Better, Start Better". To date over 100 settings have engaged in the programme and 39 settings have achieved the 'Good Nutrition for Under 5's' award
- Improved support to breastfeeding mums so that by 6-8 weeks, 58% of mums are still breastfeeding. This is significantly higher than the national average
- In 2015, Leicestershire Partnership Trust achieved level 3 of UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative and in 2018 University Hospitals of Leicester achieved level 2
- Improved food standards for Leicester City Council school dinners serving fresher, healthy, ethical food using some local and organic ingredients through the Silver Food for Life Served Here accreditation award
- Development of holiday food programme through collaborative partnership working and influencing national policy providing over 32,000 meals and reaching up to 1,900 children in 2019

5.2 Tackling Food Poverty

- Leicester as a Feeding Britain Pilot site (Feeding Leicester) developing joined up, longer-term approaches to tackling food poverty
- Development of an Emergency Food Partnership to support food aid projects including increased access to surplus food, funding to purchase white goods and development of advice offers in four food banks
- Emergency food provision in the city for those in crisis via the City Councils customer services, delivered by the Action Homeless Stop Shop

5.3 Supporting Food Growing

- The community food growing support programme provides funding to community groups to develop food growing skills and knowledge. Over 60 community groups and 70 schools in the city have been supported.
- Leicester City Council maintains 45 allotment sites holding more than 3,000 plots, there are currently 22 allotment societies who have voluntary stewards providing day to day management and support to allotment holders
- Development of "Grow your Own Grub" project with schools, 12 schools in 2019 grew a meal in a wheelbarrow and designed a recipe as part of a competition supported by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and Leicester City Council

5.4 Supporting the Food and Drink Sector and Reducing Waste

- Comprehensive support to food and drinks businesses managed by Leicester City Council has secured £3.1million of funding from European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to deliver the 'Collaborate' project - a comprehensive three-year business support programme across Leicester and Leicestershire running from 2017 to 2019
- A "Meet the Producer" event was held linking local catering businesses with

local suppliers. The aim of which was to reduce food miles, support local food growing and encourage re-distribution of surplus food to reduce food waste

- FareShare East Midlands distributes tonnes of surplus food annually, reducing food waste and creating good links with local supermarkets such as Tesco, Co-op East Midlands.

6 Ambitions of Leicester’s Food Plan 2020 onwards;

6.1 To enable the Food Plan to achieve its vision, a number of ambitions have been developed. These ambitions focus on the whole food system, recognising how health, social, economic and environmental factors are interconnected.

Ambitions		Outcomes
1	Supporting Healthier & Sustainable Food Choices	Improved food knowledge and skills Increased access to nutritional and sustainable food Making healthier choices an easy choice
2	Tackling food poverty	Improved access to good food for all Reducing the impact of deprivation on diet
3	Building community food knowledge, skills and resources	Connected communities sharing skills and knowledge about food growing and cooking and celebrating the diversity of food
4	Promoting a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy	Improved health and sustainable food offer Food businesses generating quality employment. Responding to consumer demand to increase the availability of healthy and sustainable food
5	Transforming catering and food procurement	Encourage Public organisations and businesses to provide food that improves the health and wellbeing of communities, the environment and local food and farming economy’s Embedding health and sustainability into current procurement practice; influencing local organisations to prioritise health and environmental sustainability within their buying power, including minimising waste and carbon use
6	Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system	Encourage and support the adoption of sustainable diets to improve health and environment Reduce energy use in food production Reduced use of plastics across the food system

7. Governance

The Food Plan has been developed in partnership with a number of key stakeholders including environmental sustainability, economic regeneration, tourism, culture and inward investment and revenues and benefits. With key stakeholders contributing to relevant sections, actions and ambitions.

The draft plan has had on-going oversight from the Chair of the Food Plan Board and has been presented to the Board for comment on a number of occasions;

December 2018

June 2019

December 2019

The plan has been approved by the Board to move into the design phase with an anticipated launch date of March 2020.

8. Next Steps

To get approval for publication and launch of Leicester's Food Plan 2020-2025.

6. Financial, legal and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Rohit Rughani, Principal Accountant, Ext. 37 4003

6.2 Legal implications

There is mention within the report of securing ERDF funding to deliver projects to support the food and drink sector and reducing waste. Any funding conditions will need to be complied with and cascaded down appropriately.

In respect of all other projects arising from the delivery of the Food Plan, legal advice should be sought as maybe required.

Mannah Begum, Principal Solicitor, Contracts and Commercial Team, Ext 1423

6.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

The production, consumption and disposal of food is a significant source of carbon emissions from a variety of sources. Following the council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 addressing consumption related carbon emissions in the city is important to efforts to achieve carbon neutrality in Leicester.

Many of the actions within the food plan have had and will continue to have a positive impact on these emissions. This includes work to support and encourage food growing, reducing food waste and energy use in food production, and promoting and increasing provision of sustainable food options.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

6.4 Equalities Implications

An ECA has not been completed

6.5 Other Implications

None

7. Background information and other papers:

None