

	<u>Agenda Item: 14</u>
Report to:	Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board
Date:	19 January 2021
TITLE:	CREATING A HEALTHY FOOD CITY FORUM UPDATE
Organisation	Birmingham City Council
Presenting Officer	Paul Campbell, Service Lead (Wider Determinants), Public Health

Report Type:	Presentation
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1. Purpose:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an update on delivery to date, and current and planned activity on selected work streams within the context Creating a Healthy Food City Forum and wider food portfolio of work. To seek approval and input from the Board where noted within the report and as summarised in section 3. Recommendations.

2. Implications: # Please indicate Y or N as appropriate]		
BHWP Strategy Priorities	Childhood Obesity	Y
	Health Inequalities	Y
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		
Creating a Healthy Food City		Y
Creating a Mentally Healthy City		
Creating an Active City		
Creating a City without Inequality		Y
Health Protection		

3. Recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorse the inclusion of the resilience theme into the Draft Food Strategy. To participate (or nominate representatives to participate) in a workshop on the Emergency Food Plan. It is suggested this approach should include representation from multiple levels / sectors (the Board, one or more Fora, the Food Justice Network and possible more), to enable moving forward at pace.

4. Report Body

4.1 Context

The main purpose of the Forum is to work together to apply a whole system approach to understanding the food landscape of the city and improving the food behaviours at a population level across Birmingham by ensuring that a joint action plan is developed and delivered.

The forum has met 14 January 2021 for the first time since June 2020. The Forum meetings were placed on hold due to the need for Public Health to focus resources on the various being taken against COVID-19 in Birmingham. Whilst the Forum itself has been on hold various projects have been progressed and this report will provide updates to the Board as requested on:

Food Strategy
Emergency Food Plan
Birmingham Food Conversation
Food Poverty
International Partnerships
Sustainable Food Places Application
Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Project

The full agenda of the recent Creating a Healthy Food City can be seen as **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Current Circumstance

4.2.1 Food Strategy

During late 2019 and early 2020 there were multiple rounds of consultation with partners on the Birmingham Food Strategy, with the intention of public consultation shortly thereafter. The COVID-19 response placed these conversations and the strategy itself on hold, however the input of partners was captured and can be seen in **Appendix 2**.

The most notable update to the strategy since the previous draft is the inclusion of a resilience workstream. This has become more important than ever considering the upcoming COVID-19 recovery phase, and the potential implications of the exit from the European Union. Please see recommendations above and next steps below.

4.2.2 Emergency Food Plan

There have been some preliminary discussion on creating an Emergency Food Plan as an interim measure during the ongoing COVID-19 response to ensure that parts of the Birmingham Food Strategy that have been placed in hold, but would be of assistance to the response, can be strategically shaped and implemented. Initial thoughts are that the plan would focus on communications around eating well and healthily despite current restrictions, the resilience of the food system, and food transport logistics. An initial skeleton draft of some thoughts on this can be seen in **Appendix 3**. It is accepted that there is more activity that may have been missed, please see

recommendations above and next steps below.

4.2.3 Birmingham Food Conversation

The Birmingham Food Conversation consisted of **two substantial pieces of primary data collection**.

Firstly, the Birmingham Food Survey; although this was cut short to prevent the bias inherent on continuing the survey during the COVID-19 response there were 394 responses received. The full summary of results is available to view in **Appendix 4**, although headline findings include:

- 40% of respondents feeling the single biggest intervention could be making fruit and vegetables more affordable / accessible.
- 31% highlighted the need for locally grown / sourced food.
- 28% felt there should be restrictions on takeaway advertising.
- 47% described their diet as healthy, and a further 48% as average.
- 40% stated that they never drank fizzy drinks.
- Over four fifths felt they had been taught to cook, although the vast majority of these were self taught.

We are currently developing internally how the findings of this report can better inform the food systems approach to multiple strands of work.

Secondly, thirty-one different organisations were commissioned to **deliver ‘Seldom Heard Food Voices’ research**. The groups were facilitated by community research consultants, employees of organisations serving the needs of specific target groups, and occasionally a combination of organisations matching research expertise with organisational reach.

All organisations reported details of scripts and resources used as well as the structure focus group. All groups covered the questions highlighted in the tender specification. The facilitators delivered these questions in a range of ways, adapting them where appropriate for the groups they were working with.

We have completed draft version of the final report and are in the process of finalising recommendations around the consensus opinions on what is required to create a healthy city, as well as some unexpected and unsolicited comments on how to engage better as part of future consultation processes.

4.2.4 Food Poverty

In November 2020 Birmingham City Council re-established the Food Poverty Core Group to better understand the systems level responses we can put in place across the local systems in Birmingham to ensure a robust and coordinated response to the various issues around food poverty.

The three themes we need to focus on; 1) prevention of people going into food poverty 2) crisis management – how do we get them out of it 3) recovery – moving forward, long term impact.

A rapid evidence review will be completed on each theme for action / discussion by the group.

4.2.5 International Partnerships

The Food Foundation Partnership contract was finalised to assist with implementation of national and international food policies and guidelines, and specialist advice, support and management of Birmingham's international relationships launched on 01 July 2020 and will be effective for two years. The partners have been in ongoing conversations to discuss:

Key project deliverables by quarter over the life of the contract

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact's Milan Pact Talks event took place on 17 December and showcased the videos that Birmingham City Council and other partners submitted to highlight food strategy work. The key common themes of focus were food aid in the COVID-19 response, healthy diet, and shaping food economies. Birmingham has been invited to share learning around our wide approach to the inequalities highlighted by COVID-19 surveys and data collection.

- The BINDI project (Birmingham Public Health partnership with Pune, India). How we can maximise sharing knowledge on food systems and work together towards Commonwealth 2022 legacy. The December 2020 update was cancelled and we are awaiting a rescheduled update for January 2021.

4.2.6 Sustainable Food Places Application

The Sustainable Food Places Award is designed to recognise and celebrate the success of those places taking a joined-up, holistic approach to food and that have achieved significant positive change across six key food issues. We have held discussions with the awarding body to finalise the application and be accredited as a food partnership that is making healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of Birmingham. The deadline for final submission has now been extended to 15 April 2021.

There are ongoing conversations regarding which the food system partners in Birmingham who can assist with finalising the application which will be led by Birmingham City Council.

4.2.7 Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Project

The Childhood Obesity Trailblazer is a national project to encourage Local Authorities to focus their efforts on becoming healthy food places. In Birmingham we have three workstreams to enable this ambition.

Workstream 1 - Creating a health food planning and economic climate through creation and implementation of a developer toolkit. The content of the toolkit is for the most part created, and we will shortly enter the design phase. The substantive delivery of this work has been moved to the Place Service Lead within the Wider Determinants Team of Public Health to enable better resource capacity to deliver, and to ensure that benefits of the toolkit are maximised by considering as many Public Health place based development outcomes as possible and also be complementary to a healthy food city environment. The developer toolkit will be signed-off by the end of

January 2021.

Workstream 2 - Creating a better understanding of food in the city through the Birmingham Basket. Through initial market scoping we have identified at least one supplier capable of delivering the required data, information and insight to understand how the people of Birmingham purchase food. However, we have decided a full competitive tender process should be utilised to ensure we commission the most innovative, and value for money solution. The full tender process will be initiated before the end of December 2020 for delivery of baseline data by end of February 2020.

Workstream 3 - Creating a healthy apprenticeship workforce that understands health, healthy eating and can support a healthier food economy. We are using our leverage through the corporate management team and health and wellbeing board to ensure that commissioning specifications for employment, skills and apprenticeships services for Birmingham City Council employees carry a health and wellbeing spiral curriculum. A spiral curriculum is an approach to education that involves regularly re-visiting the same educational topics over the course of a student's education. Each time the content is re-visited, the student gains deeper knowledge of the topic.

Base line data collection commenced 12 October 2020 having agreed the evaluation process and methodology.

As part of a workshop with employment, skills and apprenticeship providers on 15 October 2020 we gauged interest of providers and on the whole engagement was positive amongst the 15 organisations who attended. Issues were identified as part of the workshop that meant the initial approach was deemed unworkable in practice, however the project delivery has been reframed. A new draft of the operational implementation has been drafted for review by the key partners.

4.3 Next Steps / Delivery

4.3.1 Food Strategy

- To ask that the Board endorse the inclusion of the resilience theme into the Draft Food Strategy today.
- To finalise the Draft Food Strategy with agreement from partners by March 2021 Creating a Healthy Food City Forum.
- To enter full public consultation with a view to finalising and publishing the Food Strategy in September / October 2021.

4.3.2 Emergency Food Plan

- To hold a workshop as soon as possible to co-develop the plan with all stakeholders and sign-up to actions.
- To deliver on the actions at pace and ensure regular shared updates to relevant Fora and the Board on progress.

4.3.3 Birmingham Food Conversation

- Finalise the results of both the survey and Seldom Heard Voices reports and utilise these to inform the wider portfolio.

4.3.4 Food Poverty

- Complete rapid evidence reviews around the three core strategic areas and develop these into action plans for the Food Poverty Core Group over the next six months. It is envisaged this will be closely aligned with the Emergency Food Plan work.

4.3.5 International Partnerships

- Finalise Food Foundation partnership project deliverables by March 2021.
- Continue to engage with national and international partners.
- Share best practice with MUFPP partners in line with agreed governance on sign-off of sharing.

4.3.6 Sustainable Food Places Application

- Finalise partners to contribute to systems level application in February 2021.
- Submit redrafted application in early March 2021 for final comments ahead of April 2021 deadline.

4.2.7 Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Project

- Obtain final governance around implementation of developer toolkit.
- Initiate tender process for Birmingham Basket.
- Finalise the reframed delivery of Spiral Curriculum.

5. Compliance Issues

5.1 HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update

All work within the remit of the Forum will be reported to the Board as either a presentation (similar to today) or as part of the information updates detailing all Forum activity as per current governance arrangements.

Day to day responsibilities are managed:

- Internally via regular food programme huddle meetings in line with Agile project management principles (monthly updates as a minimum), and regular updates to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing through the Public Health Cabinet Member Briefing sessions (as requested).

- With partners through the Creating a Healthy Food City Forum itself, as well as multiple interfaces on shared work packages, objectives, and outcomes.

5.2 Management Responsibility

Paul Campbell, Service Lead (Wider Determinants), Public Health,
Birmingham City Council
Elizabeth Griffiths, Assistant Director of Public Health, Birmingham City
Council

6. Risk Analysis

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
To follow CMB and CHFC Forum	#	#	#
#	#	#	#
#	#	#	#

Appendices

See attached 4 Appendices. Subject to change on final submission to the board.

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

Paul Campbell, Service Lead (Wider Determinants), Public Health, Birmingham City
Council
e-mail: paul.campbell@birmingham.gov.uk