

Appendix 1 – Creating a Healthy Food City Forum Highlight Report

1. Context

- 1.1 The 'Creating a Healthy Food City Forum' (CHFCF) is a sub-committee of the statutory Health and Wellbeing Board. The forum focusses on implementing a whole-system approach to create a fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food options are nutritious, affordable and desirable so everyone can thrive.
- 1.2 The CHFCF collaborates with partners and organisations including the voluntary sector, charities, health partners, education, academics, community projects and businesses. Co-production and co-ownership is key to our approach and our principles are to collaborate, empower and equalise.

2. Current Situation

2.1 Birmingham Food System Strategy Governance

- 2.1.1 Strategy launch event planned for 12th and 13th October with local focus on day 1, and national and international focus on day 2.
- 2.1.2 Annual report to capture case studies and progress on the strategy planned for release at launch event.
- 2.2.3 Strategic action plan and working groups being set up for all work streams and themes.

2.2 Local Action

- 2.2.1 Birmingham Food Revolution and Local Food Legends projects empowering and showcasing local action
- 2.2.2 Creative Dinners – BCC x University College Birmingham catering college events providing opportunity for cross-sector collaborations.

2.3 National Action

- 2.3.1 Sustainable Food Places Network award application being submitted in 2023 to recognise Birmingham's achievements with food systems.
- 2.3.2 UK Urban Food Forum being set up by Birmingham as a national city learning exchange network to sit under the international MUFPP city network.
- 2.3.3 The Food Foundation, the charity that supported Henry Dimbleby and national campaigns, is supporting Birmingham with expert guidance.

2.4 International Action

- 2.4.1 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) city network membership has continued which enables us to benefit from the sharing of best practice.
- 2.4.2 Delice International Food Network has enabled our city to learn from how gastronomy and food culture can help shift population diets.
- 2.3.3 Birmingham x Johannesburg Action Plan 2022-2026 has been finalised and includes food system learning exchanges.

2.5 Strategic Work Streams

- 2.5.1 Food Production work stream has been empowering local action through Local Food Legends community grant funding.
- 2.5.2 Food Sourcing work stream has led to coordinated working with BCC Food Procurement Team and Cityserve school catering.
- 2.5.3 Food Transformation work stream includes the development of a Full of Beans Campaign promoting beans and pulses targeting food businesses, families and schools. Also, a convenience store pilot where the number of healthy food options in 25 convenience stores will be increased through the Good Food Wholesale and Retail Pilot which was successful in London.
- 2.5.4 Food Waste and Recycling work stream includes the Surplus Food Project mapping sources and recipients of surplus food and developing local infrastructure for redistribution. Also, we have begun coordinated working with BCC Waste and Recycling Team.
- 2.5.5 Food Economy and Employment work stream includes supporting the Sustainable Food Tourism work being led by BCC Tourism team.
- 2.5.6 Food Safety and Standards includes beginning a review of food marks, standards, and labels with the aim to create a guide.

2.6 Cross Cutting Themes

- 2.6.1 Food Skills and Knowledge theme includes the development of Culturally Diverse Healthy Eating Guides and delivery of focus groups with health professionals and communities.
- 2.6.2 Food Behaviour Change theme includes embedding behavioural science into our approaches, such as the Full of Beans campaign.
- 2.6.3 Food Security and Resilience theme includes the development of a Global Food Justice Toolkit to enable cities to self-assess progress and review evidence based best practice. In addition, several members of the CHFCF have been part of the Cost of Living emergency response Food Provision work strand and overseen grants and support across the city to tackle food insecurity.
- 2.6.4 Food Innovation, Research and Data theme has included projects such as the Youth Service led project “Harnessing the Youth Voice for Food Environments”, the community researcher driven project “East Birmingham Food System Exploration” and our city’s support of the UKRI Transforming UK Food Systems research being led by the Mandala Consortium.

3. Next Steps and Delivery

- Develop Food System Strategic Action Plan with city-wide partnership
- Strategy launch event on 12th and 13th October 2023
- Launch Full of Beans campaign
- Continue with ongoing projects