

Appendix 1 – Creating a Healthy Food City Forum Highlight Report

1.1 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 not met since the last update to the Health and Wellbeing Board and such meetings have been placed on hold due to the need for Public Health to focus resources on the Enhanced Measures being taken against COVID-19 in Birmingham.

1.2 Current Circumstance

While the Forum itself has been cancelled, work continues to be delivered on the work programmes as detailed below:

The **Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Project** is in the process of:

- Finalising an invitation to tender for the Birmingham Basket to establish a retail basket tracker to provide timely insight into the food purchasing behaviour of Birmingham.
- The workshop arranged for late July 2020 to finalise the spiral curriculum content regarding food knowledge and skills, has been postponed until 15 October 2020. 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.
- Finalising the content of the Developers Toolkit to support the creation of healthy communities through health-promoting planning policies and development management in Birmingham, has now been handed over to the Creating a Physically Active City Forum, although this Forum will contribute as appropriate.

Current activity on the **Birmingham Food Conversation** includes:

- Engagement through the launch of the National Food Conversation and a complementary BeHeard survey for Birmingham. The BeHeard survey launched on 22nd October 2019 through BeHeard platform, questionnaire based on Pune initial work and with input from academic partners. There have been 394 participants to date, key findings from initial quantitative analysis are in Appendix A (as previously shared with the Board), the further work to analyse the qualitative feedback has now been completed and incorporated.
- Thirty-one different organisations were commissioned to deliver 'Seldom Heard Food Voices'. The groups were facilitated by community research consultants. A total of 372 persons were

engaged across all the focus groups. All organisations reported details of scripts and resources used, as well as the structured focus group content. We are still in the process of reviewing the documents to identify appropriate actions to take forward in both the short and long term.

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. A full summary was reported to the last Board. We have subsequently 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 **Food Foundation Partnership** 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. The partners have been in discussions and negotiations regarding how best to deliver on the goals of the partnership. The partners have been in ongoing conversations to discuss:

- Milan Urban Food Policy Pact's planned Milan Pact Talks event and the submission of video or videos to highlight the work in Birmingham.
- Need to be really engaged in the UN food systems summit which is now July 2021.
- The upcoming joint update meeting regarding the BINDI project (Birmingham Public Health partnership with Pune, India), and how we can maximise sharing knowledge on nutritious food systems and work together towards Commonwealth 2022 legacy.

1.3 Next Steps and Delivery

- Finalise the tender for the Birmingham Basket.
- Hold Spiral Curriculum Workshop in October 2020.
- Finalise Seldom Heard Voices recommendations.
- Submit revised drafts of 2 sections of the Sustainable Food Places application and seek further feedback before completing remaining sections.
- Continue to engage with Food Foundation and wider partners.