

Title of proposed EIA	Birmingham Food System Strategy: A bolder, healthier and more sustainable Birmingham (2022-2030)
Reference No	EQUA1038
EA is in support of	New Strategy
Review Frequency	Two Years
Date of first review	19/01/2025
Directorate	Strategy Equality and Partnerships
Division	Public Health
Service Area	Food Systems
Responsible Officer(s)	☐ Chloe Browne
Quality Control Officer(s)	☐ Sarah Pullen
Accountable Officer(s)	☐ Modupe Omonijo
Purpose of proposal	To seek approval of the Birmingham Food System Strategy: A bolder, healthier and more sustainable Birmingham (2022-2030)
Data sources	Survey(s); Consultation Results; Interviews; relevant reports/strategies; relevant research
Please include any other sources of data	
ASSESS THE IMPACT AGAINST THE PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS	
Protected characteristic: Age	Wider Community
Age details:	The overall impact of the strategy is likely to be positive for all age groups. Census 2021 reports that of the 1,144,900 citizens living in Birmingham, 27% are aged 0-18 years, 60% are aged 19-64 years and 13% are aged 65+ years. The strategy consists of actions across a range of different settings and work streams to create a fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food options are nutritious, affordable and desirable so everyone can thrive. Key features include ensuring that we consume a varied diet, balanced across food groups, which contains enough energy and nutrients for growth and development and for an active and healthy life across the life course. Furthermore, it recognises that food is central to our lives and that people of

all ages develop meaningful connections when they come together to share or grow food.

The strategy is underpinned by objectives and actions, delivered through the Big Bold City tool in order to ensure that we achieve a whole-system approach, address gaps, and focus actions where they are needed most. The tool includes viewing the strategy themes, work streams and actions from the perspective of all stages of the life course, including pregnancy and maternity, early years, children, young people, adults and older adults. In addition, the tool includes viewing actions across a range of settings which incorporate people of all ages, including education and childcare settings, the workplace and community settings.

The strategy also contains the Food Action Decision-Making and Prioritisation (FADMaP) tool to highlight key considerations for prioritising food policy actions and interventions. In terms of age, the tool guides us to put the citizen at the heart of our approach, working with citizens across the city to help co-produce a healthy, sustainable, economically viable food environment that is accessible to everyone. This will ensure that actions consider people of all ages.

Our strategy is evidence-based, drawing on a wide range of research and insights including the Birmingham Seldom Heard Voices Conversations, which included focus groups with Age Concern Birmingham and Birmingham Children's Trust. In addition, the strategy has evolved after receiving feedback through the Birmingham Food System Strategy Consultation. This involved engagement with organisations such as Bite Back 2030 (a youth-led campaign group), the Birmingham Youth Service and the BCC Older Adults team. The consultation feedback did not highlight any adverse impacts on this protected characteristic.

Protected characteristic: Disability

Disability details:

Wider Community

The Equality Act (2010) defines an individual as disabled if they have a

physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Census 2021 reports that 20% of people in Birmingham are disabled under the Equality Act. The strategy consists of actions across a range of different settings and work streams to create a fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food options are nutritious, affordable and desirable so everyone can thrive. The strategy focuses on prioritising actions where they are needed most to reduce inequalities and should therefore deliver benefits for people with a disability.

Key features of the strategy include tackling food justice together and ensuring that everyone, no matter their circumstances, can eat an affordable, healthy and sustainable diet, and communities support those who need it most. The strategy also aims to avoid, and proactively counteract, negative impacts from inequalities resulting from disability.

The strategy is underpinned by objectives and actions, delivered through the Big Bold City tool in order to ensure that we achieve a whole-system approach, address gaps, and focus actions where they are needed most. The tool includes viewing the strategy themes, work streams and actions from the perspective of different people and communities, including abilities such as visual or hearing impairment, physical disability and neurodiversity.

The strategy also contains the Food Action Decision-Making and Prioritisation (FADMaP) tool to highlight key considerations for prioritising food policy actions and interventions. In terms of disability, the tool guides us to address poverty and inequalities to ensure nutritious fulfilling food in the city of Birmingham should be a right of all its people. Beyond food, it considers the accessibility of proposed actions in terms of equipment, technology, literacy, transport and more. This will ensure that actions consider people with a disability.

Our strategy is evidence-based,

drawing on a wide range of research and insights including the Birmingham Seldom Heard Voices Conversations, which included focus groups with people with learning difficulties, physical impairments and sensory impairments. In addition, the strategy has evolved after receiving feedback through the Birmingham Food System Strategy Consultation. This involved engagement with schools; networks; national, regional and Birmingham based organisations; and members of Birmingham's communities. The consultation feedback did not highlight any adverse impacts on this protected characteristic.

Protected characteristic: Sex

Gender details:

Wider Community

With the key principle of 'equalise', whereby the strategy focuses actions to where they are most needed to reduce inequalities, it will address inequalities based on this characteristic. The strategy consists of actions across a range of different settings and work streams to create a fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food options are nutritious, affordable and desirable so everyone can thrive.

The strategy aims to avoid, and proactively counteract, negative impacts from inequalities resulting from gender. Furthermore, the strategy outlines how it aligns with the sustainable development goals, including the sustainable development goal 1.b, which is about creating policy frameworks that are gender sensitive to eradicate poverty.

The strategy is underpinned by objectives and actions, delivered through the Big Bold City tool in order to ensure that we achieve a whole-system approach, address gaps, and focus actions where they are needed most. The tool includes viewing the strategy themes, work streams and actions from the perspective of different people and communities including genders and gender identity.

The strategy also contains the Food Action Decision-Making and Prioritisation (FADMaP) tool to highlight key considerations for prioritising food policy actions and

interventions. In terms of gender, the tool guides us to put the citizen at the heart of our approach, working with citizens across the city to help co-produce a healthy, sustainable, economically viable food environment that is accessible to everyone. This will ensure that actions consider people of all genders.

Our strategy is evidence-based, drawing on a wide range of research and insights including the Birmingham Seldom Heard Voices Conversations, which included focus groups with people of all genders. In addition, the strategy has evolved after receiving feedback through the Birmingham Food System Strategy Consultation. This involved engagement with schools; networks; national, regional and Birmingham based organisations; and members of Birmingham's communities. The consultation feedback did not highlight any adverse impacts on this protected characteristic.

Protected characteristics: Gender Reassignment

Gender reassignment details:

Wider Community

Current estimates suggest that there are approximately 536,648 trans people in the UK and 9,124 trans people in Birmingham. We know that this community faces inequalities in health and therefore have ensured that the strategy will consist of actions that will consider how to reduce inequalities for this community.

The strategy is underpinned by objectives and actions, delivered through the Big Bold City tool in order to ensure that we achieve a whole-system approach, address gaps, and focus actions where they are needed most. The tool includes viewing the strategy themes, work streams and actions from the perspective of different people and communities including gender identity.

The strategy also contains the Food Action Decision-Making and Prioritisation (FADMaP) tool to highlight key considerations for prioritising food policy actions and interventions. In terms of gender reassignment, the tool guides us to put the citizen at the heart of our

approach, working with citizens across the city to help co-produce a healthy, sustainable, economically viable food environment that is accessible to everyone. This will ensure that actions consider people of the trans community.

Our strategy is evidence-based, drawing on a wide range of research and insights including the Birmingham Seldom Heard Voices Conversations, which included focus groups with LGBTQI+ citizens. In addition, the strategy has evolved after receiving feedback through the Birmingham Food System Strategy Consultation. This involved engagement with LGBTQI+ networks. The consultation feedback did not highlight any adverse impacts on this protected characteristic.

Protected characteristics: Marriage and Civil Partnership

Marriage and civil partnership details:

Wider Community

Evidence has shown that marital status can influence a person's health-related behaviours and outcomes. The way in which it does so is through factors such as economic support, social support, and household living situation.

The strategy is underpinned by objectives and actions, delivered through the Big Bold City tool in order to ensure that we achieve a whole-system approach, address gaps, and focus actions where they are needed most. The tool includes ensuring that we tackle food justice together and ensuring everyone, no matter their circumstances, can eat an affordable, healthy and sustainable diet, and communities support those who need it most.

The strategy also contains the Food Action Decision-Making and Prioritisation (FADMaP) tool to highlight key considerations for prioritising food policy actions and interventions. In terms of marriage and civil partnerships, the tool highlights that Birmingham citizens should have access to food, and the means to cook

and prepare meals, in all living situations and life circumstances e.g. marital status.

Our strategy is evidence-based, drawing on a wide range of research and insights including the Birmingham Seldom Heard Voices Conversations, which included focus groups with people across a range of protected characteristics. In addition, the strategy has evolved after receiving feedback through the Birmingham Food System Strategy Consultation. The consultation feedback did not highlight any adverse impacts on this protected characteristic.

Protected characteristics: Pregnancy and Maternity

Pregnancy and maternity details:

Wider Community

The strategy is likely to have a positive impact on this group. It consists of actions across a range of different settings and work streams to create a fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food options are nutritious, affordable and desirable so everyone can thrive.

Eating healthily is important at every stage of life but it is especially important when planning and during a pregnancy. It is essential for the health of the mother as well as for the growth and development of the baby. The strategy recognises the importance of consuming a varied diet, balanced across food groups, which contains enough energy and nutrients for growth and development and for an active and healthy life across the life course.

The strategy is underpinned by objectives and actions, delivered through the Big Bold City tool in order to ensure that we achieve a whole-system approach, address gaps, and focus actions where they are needed most. The tool includes viewing the strategy themes, work streams and actions from the perspective of all stages of the life course, including in pregnancy and maternity.

The strategy also contains the Food Action Decision-Making and Prioritisation (FADMaP) tool to

highlight key considerations for prioritising food policy actions and interventions. In terms of pregnancy and maternity, the tool guides us to put the citizen at the heart of our approach, working with citizens across the city to help co-produce a healthy, sustainable, economically viable food environment that is accessible to everyone.

Our strategy is evidence-based, drawing on a wide range of research and insights including the Birmingham Seldom Heard Voices Conversations, which included focus groups with pregnant mothers. In addition, the strategy has evolved after receiving feedback through the Birmingham Food System Strategy Consultation. This involved engagement with Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust. The consultation feedback did not highlight any adverse impacts on this protected characteristic.

Protected characteristics: Race

Race details:

Wider Community

According to Census 2021 data, 51.4% of the Birmingham population identify as an ethnicity which is non-white. There is a range of national evidence on the health and wider inequalities affecting ethnically diverse groups. For example, some minority ethnic groups have higher rates of cardiovascular disease, overweight and obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Key features of the strategy include giving people the opportunity to learn about food, nutrition and sustainability in a way that is culturally appropriate and tailored to the diverse needs of our city. In addition, the strategy aims to respect local cultures, heritage, culinary practices, knowledge and consumption patterns, and values regarding the way food is sourced, produced and consumed.

The strategy is underpinned by objectives and actions, delivered through the Big Bold City tool in order to ensure that we achieve a whole-system approach, address gaps, and focus actions where they are needed most. The tool includes viewing the strategy themes, work streams and actions across different people and communities including protected

characteristics such as ethnicity and race.

The strategy also contains the Food Action Decision-Making and Prioritisation (FADMaP) tool to highlight key considerations for prioritising food policy actions and interventions. In terms of race, the tool highlights that there are significantly different relationships with food in different cultures and communities across the city and our action needs to work with, and for, these communities to find solutions and approaches that work in the context of celebrating this diversity. In addition, it considers accessibility of proposed actions and how to reduce barriers, e.g. language, delivery method or context.

Our strategy is evidence-based, drawing on a wide range of research and insights including the Birmingham Seldom Heard Voices Conversations, which included focus groups with ethnic minority communities, specifically separate focus groups with the following ethnic groups: Polish and eastern European, Chinese/Vietnamese/Korean, African and South Asian. In addition, the strategy has evolved after receiving feedback through the Birmingham Food System Strategy Consultation. This involved engagement with members of Birmingham's communities from a range of ethnicities. The consultation feedback did not highlight any adverse impacts on this protected characteristic. The strategy will help us to improve our understanding of these inequalities and allow us to respond to them.

Protected characteristics: Religion or Beliefs

Religion or beliefs details:

Wider Community

The relationship between faith, religion and health is complex, with our beliefs influencing health-related behaviours including our diet and physical activity levels. Census 2021 found that 69.8% of Birmingham citizens identified with a religion.

Key features of the strategy include giving people the opportunity to learn about food, nutrition and sustainability in a way that is appropriate to citizens cultures and beliefs and tailored to the diverse needs of our city.

The strategy is underpinned by objectives and actions, delivered through the Big Bold City tool in order to ensure that we achieve a whole-system approach, address gaps, and focus actions where they are needed most. The tool includes viewing the strategy themes, work streams and actions across different people and communities including religion or beliefs and other protected characteristics.

The strategy also contains the Food Action Decision-Making and Prioritisation (FADMaP) tool to highlight key considerations for prioritising food policy actions and interventions. In terms of religion or beliefs, the tool highlights that there are significantly different relationships with food in different cultures and communities across the city and our action needs to work with, and for, these communities to find solutions and approaches that work in the context of celebrating this diversity.

Our strategy is evidence-based, drawing on a wide range of research and insights including the Birmingham Seldom Heard Voices Conversations, which included focus groups with people across a range of protected characteristics. In addition, the strategy has evolved after receiving feedback through the Birmingham Food System Strategy Consultation. This involved engagement with South Aston United Reformed Church and other religious groups. The consultation feedback did not highlight any adverse impacts on this protected characteristic.

Protected characteristics: Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation details:

Wider Community

Census 2021 reports that 3% of people in Birmingham identify as LGB+. Evidence suggests that members of this community experience health inequalities throughout their lives.

Key features of the strategy include considering that there is no one-size fits all approach to nutrition and health, and that solutions should be tailored to our diverse communities within the city.

The strategy is underpinned by objectives and actions, delivered through the Big Bold City tool in order

to ensure that we achieve a whole-system approach, address gaps, and focus actions where they are needed most. The tool includes viewing the strategy themes, work streams and actions across different people and communities including sexual orientation and other protected characteristics.

The strategy also contains the Food Action Decision-Making and Prioritisation (FADMaP) tool to highlight key considerations for prioritising food policy actions and interventions. In terms of sexual orientation, the tool highlights that we should work with communities to find solutions and approaches that work in the context of celebrating them.

Our strategy is evidence-based, drawing on a wide range of research and insights including the Birmingham Seldom Heard Voices Conversations, which included focus groups with LGBTQI+ citizens. In addition, the strategy has evolved after receiving feedback through the Birmingham Food System Strategy Consultation. This involved engagement with LGBTQI+ networks. The consultation feedback did not highlight any adverse impacts on this protected characteristic.

Socio-economic impacts

The proposed Birmingham Food System Strategy: A bolder, healthier and more sustainable Birmingham (2022-2030), will catalyse partner collaboration to create a food system that facilitates all people to consume more local, healthy and sustainable food and create a vibrant and sustainable food economy that will provide employment opportunities and economic benefits for local people.

The Big Bold City tool ensures that actions are taken across all stages of the life course, across different people and communities (including protected characteristics), across the city including areas of deprivation, and across different settings. Furthermore, improving the food system has the potential to have

	positive impacts on socio-economic outcomes for individuals and the population as a whole. Throughout the strategy there is a focus on how to overcome barriers to eating a healthy and nutritious diet due to poverty; access and affordability; and being at-risk including asylum seekers and refugees, those who are homeless and those at risk due to life circumstances such as loss of employment or fleeing domestic abuse.
Please indicate any actions arising from completing this screening exercise.	N/A
Please indicate whether a full impact assessment is recommended	NO
What data has been collected to facilitate the assessment of this policy/proposal?	
Consultation analysis	
Adverse impact on any people with protected characteristics.	
Could the policy/proposal be modified to reduce or eliminate any adverse impact?	
How will the effect(s) of this policy/proposal on equality be monitored?	
What data is required in the future?	
Are there any adverse impacts on any particular group(s)	No
If yes, please explain your reasons for going ahead.	
Initial equality impact assessment of your proposal	
Consulted People or Groups	
Informed People or Groups	
Summary and evidence of findings from your EIA	The Birmingham Food System Strategy: A bolder, healthier and more sustainable food city in Birmingham (2022-2030), consists of actions across a range of different settings and work streams. The vision of the strategy is to create a fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food options are nutritious, affordable and desirable so everyone can thrive. The strategy should not adversely impact the nine protected characteristics and by improving the food system for the benefit of all people across the city will aim to reduce dietary and health inequalities

Whilst celebrating our local diversity.

The strategy has been developed by adopting a citizen-first approach. Local engagement was undertaken with various consultation events carried out across the city to help us understand both public and professional views on the draft strategy. The feedback obtained has been used to amend and finalise the strategy.

The strategy is underpinned by objectives and actions delivered through the Big Bold City tool with its themes, work streams and actions developed across the life course, various local communities and settings taking into account local need and characteristics in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. The local settings include public, private, voluntary and various community organisations who are involved with our local population.

The strategy framework consists of four cross-cutting themes and six strategy work streams.

Cross-cutting themes:

1. Food Skills and Knowledge-empowering citizens with knowledge and skills in relation to the food system.
2. Food Behaviour Change-developing the capability, opportunity and motivation for key behaviours that will enable long term change.
3. Food Security and Resilience-increasing access to sufficient, affordable, nutritious and safe food for all citizens, all the time, in every community, and at every age.
4. Food Innovation, Research and Data- gathering insights and data and facilitating innovation, collaboration, learning and research across the food system.

Strategy work streams:

1. Food Production-empowering and enabling citizens and local producers to grow food throughout the year and connect to the city's food system.
2. Food Sourcing- increasing both supply and demand for local, environmentally sustainable, ethical and nutritious foods in the food system.
3. Food transformation-transforming the food offer and diets

to contain more diverse, nutritious and sustainable ingredients, and less fat, salt and sugar.

4. Food Waste and Recycling- minimising food waste and unsustainable packaging throughout the food system and maximising the repurposing and redistribution of surplus.

5. Food Economy and Employment-facilitating a thriving local food economy for all and maximising training and employment opportunities.

6. Food Safety and Standards-improving food safety and standards for Birmingham's citizens and businesses.

The strategy also contains the Food Action Decision-Making and Prioritisation (FADMaP) tool which incorporates indicators that highlight key considerations for prioritising food policy actions and interventions locally. Actions will be people focused and realistic to drive our local effort towards achieving our ambition and addressing key priorities.

QUALITY CONTORL SECTION

Submit to the Quality Control Officer for reviewing?

No

Quality Control Officer comments

The Equality Impact Assessment has considered the impact of the strategy on protected characteristics, and has approaches in place to proactively reduce the inequalities faced by people with protected characteristics. No adverse impacts have been identified.

Decision by Quality Control Officer

Proceed for final approval

Submit draft to Accountable Officer?

Yes

Decision by Accountable Officer

Approve

Date approved / rejected by the Accountable Officer

24/01/2023

Reasons for approval or rejection

The Food System Strategy has been reviewed to assess its impact on the population in line with the Equality Act 2010. The outcome of this review has been outlined in the relevant sections above and continuous monitoring is in place.

Please print and save a PDF copy for your records

Yes

version: 1.12.0

Created at 19/12/2022 12:17 PM by  Chloe Browne

Last modified at 24/01/2023 03:11 PM by Workflow on behalf of  Modupe Omonijo

Close