

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

22nd March 2022



Subject: DRAFT BIRMINGHAM FOOD SYSTEM STRATEGY:
CREATING A BOLDER, HEALTHIER AND MORE
SUSTAINABLE FOOD CITY

Report of: Dr Justin Varney,
Director of Public Health

Relevant Cabinet Member: Cllr Paulette Hamilton, Adult Social Care and Health

Relevant O &S Chair(s): Cllr Mick Brown, Health and Social Care

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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 009677/2022		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:		

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Creating a Healthy Food City forum is a sub-forum of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Forum has created the Birmingham Food System Strategy: “Creating a Bolder, Healthier and More Sustainable Food City”. This is the first food system strategy for Birmingham.
- 1.2 The draft strategy has been developed by the new Food System Team in the Public Health division, with input from stakeholder groups, the Food

Foundation, and best practice from national and international organisations (e.g. the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact). It has also been informed by research on Birmingham's food system and the factors that shape people's diets through projects such as the Birmingham Food Survey and the Birmingham Seldom Heard Voices Food Conversations.

- 1.3 The strategy sets out the Creating a Healthy Food City forum's ambitions for the next 8 years (2022-2030). "Creating a Bolder, Healthier and More Sustainable Food City" is based on a series of work streams and settings (the Big Bold City approach).
- 1.4 It includes ambitions, objectives, and potential actions to be taken, alongside the key partners, indicators, and leaders who will help us achieve them. Throughout the strategy is a commitment to undertake change across the city and across socio-economic groups in order to reduce dietary and health inequalities.
- 1.5 The vision of the strategy is to: Create a bold, fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food choices are nutritious, affordable and desirable so all citizens can achieve their potential for a happy, healthy life.
- 1.6 This will be achieved across people and communities (including different demographics, life circumstances and those with protected characteristics), across the life course, across the city (including areas of deprivation and access to supermarkets) and a range of settings (the Big Bold City Approach). Settings include Birmingham City Council (including Council services such as lifestyle services, education, regulation and enforcement and other services); public services (e.g. medical settings, libraries, commissioned services) ; research, innovation and partners (e.g. knowledge hubs, innovation companies, charities, industry organisations and networks); food business (e.g. catering, restaurants, cafés, canteens, takeaways, farm shops, food delivery services, markets, supermarkets, convenience stores and other food retailers); supply chain (e.g. producers, logistics, delivery); workplace and employers (e.g. onsite food offer, workplace policies and initiatives); education settings (including early years, schools); further education settings (including colleges and universities); community (including community centres, shared spaces, third sector); and home.
- 1.7 The Creating a Healthy Food City Forum has developed a framework for action through nine workstreams. These workstreams are:
 - 1.7.1 **Food Production** - Empower citizens and local producers to grow and preserve food and connect to the city's food system.
 - 1.7.2 **Food Sourcing** - Increase sourcing of local, environmentally sustainable, ethical and nutritious foods across the food system.
 - 1.7.3 **Food Transformation** - Transform diets to contain more diverse and nutritious ingredients, and less fat, salt and sugar.

- 1.7.4 **Food Waste and Recycling** - Maximise the repurposing and distribution of surplus food and minimise waste and unsustainable packaging.
- 1.7.5 **Food Economy and Employment** - Create a thriving local food economy for all and maximise training and employment opportunities.
- 1.7.6 **Food Skills and Knowledge** - Empower citizens with knowledge and skills in relation to the food system from farm to fork.
- 1.7.7 **Food Behaviour Change** - Ensure the capability, opportunity and motivation for key behaviours that will enable long term change.
- 1.7.8 **Food Security and Resilience** - Ensure citizens in every community at every age have access to sufficient affordable nutritious safe food for health.
- 1.7.9 **Food Innovation, Partnerships and Research** - Gather insights and facilitate innovation, collaboration, learning and research across the food system.
- 1.8 Through the work streams, there are key considerations to compare proposed action to in order to aid decision-making and prioritisation, and to strengthen proposed plans. This has led to the development of the Food Action Decision-Making and Prioritisation tool, which will enable effective prioritisation of different actions to improve the food system. Actions will be: citizen-first, celebrating diversity, addressing poverty and inequalities, healthy and safe, environmentally sustainable, economically sustainable, empowering, evidence-based, cost-effective, scaled and paced, learning and improving, risk-aware and resilient.
- 1.9 The purpose of the consultation is to seek views on The Birmingham Food System Strategy: "Creating a Bolder, Healthier and More Sustainable Food City". It will assess support for our vision and key objectives, our aim to embed actions across the city (Big Bold City approach), our Framework for Action and our tool for decision-making and policy prioritisation.
- 1.10 Cabinet is asked to give approach to launch a public consultation exercise to seek comments on the draft Birmingham Food System Strategy.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

Give approval to consult on The Birmingham Food System Strategy: "Creating a Bolder, Healthier and More Sustainable Food City", as set out in this cover report and appended documents.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Creating a Healthy Food City forum is a sub-forum of the Health and Wellbeing Board, a statutory body created under the Health and Care Act 2012.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

Public consultation exercise

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Permission is sought by the Cabinet to launch a public consultation exercise to seek views on the draft Birmingham Food System Strategy.
- 5.2 A 18 week public consultation process is planned; the consultation will build upon best practice methods developed by the Public Health Division in its consultations on food and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic offering a range of social media and online forums, targeted community engagement, wider stakeholder engagement, ward forums and utilising existing community trusted engagement channels.

6 Risk Management

Risk Analysis			
Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
Lack of citizen and partner engagement in the development of the draft strategy and its priorities.	Low	Medium	The draft framework has co-produced with partners and received support from a large number of partners prior to consultation. Full public consultation exercise to gauge support is planned.

7 Compliance issues

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

The draft Birmingham Food System Strategy links to the Council's priorities.

7.2 Legal implications

None identified.

7.3 Financial Implications

The cost for the public consultation exercise on the Birmingham Food System Strategy are likely to be immaterial. Any costs incurred will be met through the Public Health grant.

7.4 Procurement implications

None identified.

7.5 Human resources implications

None identified; consultation support will be delivered through existing staff.

7.6 Public sector equality duty

The public sector equality duty drives the need for equality assessments (Initial and Full). An initial assessment should be prepared from the outset based upon available knowledge and information. If there is no adverse impact, then that fact should be stated within the Report and the initial assessment document appended to the Report duly signed and dated.

Equality Impact Assessment completed on 09/11/2021 and attached as **Appendix 4**.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Birmingham Food System Strategy 2022-2030

8.2 Appendix 2 - Public consultation plan for draft Birmingham Food System Strategy: "Creating a Bolder, Healthier and More Sustainable Food City"

8.3 Appendix 3 - Draft public consultation questions

8.4 Appendix 4 - Equality impact assessment

9. Background Documents

Discussion via the Creating a Healthy Food City forum