

Creating a Healthy Food City Forum

Virtual Forum, Teams Meeting

Wednesday 18th November 2021

10:00-12:00



Agenda Item	Action Notes
<p>1. Welco me, apologi es and introdu ctions</p> <p>Dr Justin Varney</p>	<p>[Video: 00:00:00 – 00:08:34] https://birminghamcitycouncil-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/r/personal/bradley_yakoob_birmingham_gov_uk/Documents/Recordings/Creating%20a%20Healthy%20Food%20City%20Forum_%20November%202021-20211118_100434-Meeting%20Recording.mp4?csf=1&web=1&e=fbBbnZ</p> <p>Attendees: Justin Varney, Bradley Yakoob, Emma Frew, Lanre Akinola, Sarah Pullen, Maria Rivas, Rhys Boyer, Avneet Matharu, Heather Law, Shaleen Meelu, Florence Pardoe, Sarah Monk, Amit Dattani, Juliet Faulkner, Yumna Hussein (Youth – Chair of Bite Back Birmingham Youth Board), Modupe Omonijo</p> <p>Apologies: Cllr Mary Locke, Richard Schneider, Joy Carter, Anne Goodall, Gursharan Kaur, Tom Andrews, Martin Ramsdale</p> <p>Welcome and introductions from Dr Justin Varney</p> <p>Reviewed actions from the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TORs circulated with minutes • Please contribute to the Health & Wellbeing Board Strategy if you have not already • Feedback to Rhys regarding the affordability tool, which has not had high levels of uptake. Emma Frew has feedback regarding methodological robustness, to meet with Rhys individually. • People have been feeding into strategy
<p>2. MUFPP & Barcelo na Update</p>	<p>[Video: 00:05:55 – 00:21:27]</p> <p>Justin Varney gave an update on the MUFPP and Barcelona.</p> <p>Attended by Justin Varney, Cllr Hamilton, Maria Rivas, Florence Pardoe and Shaleen Meelu</p>

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	<p>Key updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Hamilton spoke at the plenary – recognising Brum as a city taking food agenda seriously• Justin led a European session on prioritisation of actions at European level• Launched Global Cities Food Justice Pledge – well received (chaired by Cllr Hamilton)• Feedback that globally this was a conversation that cities wanted to have• Key angle of pledge is as a political statement. Right to Food in UK is relating to poverty, but not food system side. Need to work with food economy so food is affordable. Rhys joining up pledges and linking up global cities to raise voices in food justice. Link with UN Committee on Food Justice who are keen on this.• Visited therapeutic community in a vineyard supporting young people with mental health difficulties into the wine industry• As thread of sustainability relating food and the Barcelona Commitment drawing link between food and environmental sustainability• Discussions with Bordeaux about wholesale markets• Discussions with Almira in Netherlands – they are running a food and agriculture expo (which launches next summer and runs for 6 months). Excited about strengthening relationship. Keen to build links with universities in Birmingham and do student exchanges etc.• Reaffirmed thinking regarding importance of work in food systems• Food Cities 2022 – working towards Commonwealth Games and holding food event• Discourse of food relating to health and wellbeing is quite unique. Rooting food approach in health and wellbeing of population is unusual in international arena.
3. COTP Update	<p>[Video: 00:21:27 – 00:28:00]</p> <p>Lanre Akinola gave an update on the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme:</p> <p>Workstream 1 <i>Creating a healthy food planning and economic climate through creation and implementation of a developer toolkit.</i></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report of the feedback has been written, which is now being converted into a one-page brief, both of which will go to Cabinet for approval.• In the process of developing plans on how to embed the toolkit into practice across the council, e.g., Toolkit piloted with Edgbaston Reservoir development and learning being captured. <p>Workstream 2 <i>Creating a healthy apprenticeship workforce that understands health, healthy eating and can support a healthier food economy, known as the spiral curriculum.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A pilot study will be conducted with a small sample of apprentices within BCC to collect feedback on the modules (apprentices currently being recruited).• The evaluation team from University of Birmingham have developed the evaluation methodology and will commence the interview and focus groups in January. <p>Workstream 3 <i>Creating a better understanding of food in the city through the Birmingham Basket and Birmingham Food System Exploration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due to the work Birmingham Public Health put into connecting with industry experts exploring food system innovation opportunities, we attracted the Mandala Consortium to conduct their food system research project in our city.• The Mandala Consortium, as part of their comprehensive research plans, have access to the data we were planning to collect so we are ensuring we maximise collaboration and avoid duplication.• After initial reflection and meetings, we are now commissioning a food system exploration project to capture the following around schools:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Barriers to food businesses providing healthy affordable food.○ Workforce pipeline issues that impact the food offer available.○ Key actions that would support food businesses to provide healthy affordable foods.• COTP money runs out in June so need to bring it all together now despite large Mandala work.• Mandala to present in January
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4. Other Partner Updates	[Video: 00:28:00 – 00:28:30] No updates
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5. Food System Strategy Review and Workshopping

[Video: 00:28:30 – 00:35:55]

Sarah Pullen gave an update on the Food System Strategy and facilitated the workshop.

Change to timelines: seek permissions from Cabinet in March for permission to launch food strategy day after election (May 2022). Extra time will make strategy more “Birmingham” and easier for citizens to see where we are. Other option is to go to Cabinet in January and then have consultation broken up by election period, which wouldn’t be ideal.

Digesting email feedback. Justin shared initial thinking around this:

- Citizens have told us that the food on offer across the city is not affordable, is not always possible to eat in a way that supports cultural diversity and eating a healthy balanced diet is not easy, the offer is not helping our citizens have a healthy relationship with food.
- Community organisations have told us that too many people struggle with getting enough food to feed themselves and their families and that too many people lack the knowledge and skills to cook a healthy meal.
- Businesses have told us that there are challenges in making healthy food a part of an economically sustainable business and they recognise there is too much food waste.
- The experience of the pandemic has shone a harsh and hard light on the fragility of food security within cities, exacerbating existing inequalities in many communities.
- Creating a healthy food city where everyone can access and afford a healthy, sustainable, safe, and delicious food everyday requires action at every level of the city.

We aim to do this through three key strands of actions:

- Create an economically vibrant food business sector that provides affordable, healthy, delicious food that celebrates the diversity of our city.

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- Work with our community and voluntary sector to mitigate the impacts of poverty on food security and maximise the uptake of support programmes such as healthy start vouchers and free school meals.
- Work across the life course to support people to make healthier choices about food in their lives from weaning to moving into independence in adulthood and staying healthy in later life.

NOTE: Lots of what people mentioned was previously in the strategy, but it was too long. So, we moved into the appendices which will be shared at a later date. Summary of feedback: overall people have said that it is ambitious, need clearer objectives and highlight key change levers, and the action plan is extremely important (strategy shapes what actions will be, has a different role to the action plan)

Objectives

Currently, objectives need refining (in menti presentation, attached with minutes).

Objectives can be refined further – some can be outcomes that happen (e.g., world leader) but not explicit outcomes of strategy. Top voted 5 particularly helpful, can help us streamline.

Emma Frew – objectives are framed very positively, does there need to be some others such as using all levers available to reduce access to unhealthy food? Answer of not being negative and disempowering people. Being careful that not BCC saying what people can and cannot eat – careful wording. But do need to reduce unhealthy elements of economy, just more challenging e.g., Licensing barriers.

Amit – is increasing ACCESS to food in there or part of objective 3? Need systems to work coherently e.g., Physios noticing food insecurity. Short term work so people know what services are available from them. Regarding objectives – need to get wording right so they are expressed clearly.

Big bold city approach (in menti presentation, attached with minutes)

Additions suggested:

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Youth centres in community settings - find that children are coming in hungry, and not in budget to buy food for them.2) Community Health Trust (Sarah Monk can be link)3) Supported housing settings4) School associations and other organisations which are giving out food parcels e.g., Answorth association of schools (who have been providing food parcels through schools).5) Asylum Home Office accommodation6) Garden centres <p>Be sure to define target populations for interventions.</p> <p>Potential work in mapping food insecurity interventions and support.</p>
6. Food System Action Plan Creation and Workshopping	<p>[Video: 01:18:00– 00:42:25]</p> <p>Grid has been sent with the minutes to be filled in – please populate and send to rosemary.jenkins@birmingham.gov.uk by 23/12/21</p> <p>See menti for written responses – these minutes capture the verbal conversations.</p> <p>Resources are tight due to demands on statutory services due to COVID-19, so important to remember this is a partnership. So, thinking about financials. But voluntary support resources also tight! How does city council make decisions re. funding? “What is the Council’s role regarding poverty and destitution” rapid and important work has been commissioned to help sort this out. Examining what are the roles of the city and partners for people who cannot afford food – recognise shame associated with this, quite specific to food. Working what partners and the city can do to deliver this piece of work. Recognise positive side of food (i.e. Celebrating culture, bringing people together) and negative (shame and stigma when cannot afford food). Important narrative! What is acceptable to communities and individuals? Examine communities and spot how people around them are struggling, role of volunteers and neighbours – stress importance of everyone to be their brother’s keeper (while we build up structural solutions). Galvanising the actions and voices of people in Birmingham – not separating the real reality people are facing.</p>

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The Food Team is currently working on a plan to begin addressing these issues (in collaboration with TAWS) which will be circulated in due course.

Food production – growing network, capturing potential assets. Council permissions are a barrier to growing. List of 8 sites which have been shared by BCC. Needs council responsibility. Co-ordinated action and bringing people together. Plus, other areas of food production in urban spaces to explore and innovate. Garden centres – access to affordable pots and plants etc.

Food System Team continuously capturing case studies and best practice.

Food waste – national legislation coming. Expensive for council to start food waste collection (requires special machines). Initial work has been done (but a long-term potential action). Waste is something Birmingham citizens always want to discuss! Potential work to be done with volunteers to collect food from places that is edible and take it to places which can use it place away (e.g., Spearhead miss out on food because nobody drives). Need better connections between places which have surplus and those who can use them (especially when perishable). A huge risk is inflation which will increase waste as many shop shelves will not be cleared as people cannot afford to buy. Food Trails is also looking at rocket composters as a solution for tower blocks and food waste (non-usable). Problem with getting license quickly.

Food economy and employment – possibility to pull together people who are passionate about food. Huge opportunities for galvanising communities in this. Would be good for city to create a network to collect and cook in their community - especially older/retired community teaching food skills to younger.

Food skills and knowledge – looking at different projects related to commonwealth games. Love Food Hate Waste make useful tools

Will be meetings around actions for individual workstreams over the next two months (opt in) e.g., LEP in food skills and knowledge

Important that strategy is OWNED by city and partners – get involved and get it right – need partners to help shape!

NOTE: we are getting on with some of this work already.

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7. Chair Closing Remarks

[Video: 01:55:50 – 01:57:52]

Have freed up cash with COVID-19 money to support foodbanks in the short term between now and Christmas.

Great contributions!

Food System Team only existed since August so moving at pace!

Actions:

- Emma Frew & Rhys Boyer - organise a meeting to discuss Food Affordability Tool
- ALL – contribute to HWB strategy if haven't already [Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy: Creating a Bolder, Healthier City - Birmingham City Council - Citizen Space \(birminghambeheard.org.uk\)](#)
- ALL – use food affordability tool and feedback to Rhys regarding comments (rhys.boyer@birmingham.gov.uk)
- ALL – if additional actions, please fill in the grid attached with the minutes by 23/12/21
- ALL – fill in doodle polls for workstream action workshops you would like to attend (please only fill in doodle for workshop you want to attend)
 - Food Sourcing https://doodle.com/poll/bnz7vhud6fb6gmik?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link
 - Food Transformation https://doodle.com/poll/24kruxdetuke7a93?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link
 - Food Production https://doodle.com/poll/hz9fui36mznvrnrg?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link
 - Food Waste & Recycling https://doodle.com/poll/rs2ytzs5967w62hi?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link
 - Food Economy & Employment https://doodle.com/poll/2mtya9xepwmutfqg?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link
 - Food Skills & Knowledge https://doodle.com/poll/msqbs8yvc3fy9e6f?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link
 - Food Behaviour Change https://doodle.com/poll/ur73rf62kh4uqe6c?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link
 - Food Innovation, Partnerships and Research https://doodle.com/poll/c8wetqu9snwggw8zf?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ALL – continue to read through and respond to the strategy (email comments to Rosie rosemary.jenkins@birmingham.gov.uk)• Food Team & TAWS – develop actions to address food poverty issues raised
8. AOB	n/a
9. Date/time of next meeting	12th January 2021 2pm – 4pm