

	<b><u>Agenda Item: 14</u></b>
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Birmingham Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM FOOD SYSTEM STRATEGY: POST-CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND FINAL RATIFICATION</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Birmingham City Council</b>
<b>Presenting Officer</b>	<b>Sarah Pullen, Service Lead (Food System), Public Health</b>

<b>Report Type:</b>	<b>Approval</b>
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<b>1. Purpose:</b>
1.1. To provide insight into the Birmingham Food System Strategy consultation findings and present final Birmingham Food System Strategy documentation
1.2. Seek approval of the final Birmingham Food System Strategy
1.3. Seek approval to proceed to Cabinet for final approval and ratification in April 2023

<b>2. Implications (tick all that apply):</b>		
Creating a Bolder, Healthier, City (2022-2030) – Strategic Priorities	Closing the Gap (Inequalities)	Y
	Theme 1: Healthy and Affordable Food	Y
	Theme 2: Mental Wellness and Balance	
	Theme 3: Active at Every Age and Ability	
	Theme 4: Contributing to a Green and Sustainable Future	Y
	Theme 5: Protect and Detect	
	Getting the Best Start in Life	
	Living, Working and Learning Well	
	Ageing and Dying Well	
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		

<b>3. Recommendation</b>
3.1. Formally approve the Birmingham Food System Strategy: A Bolder, Healthier, and More Sustainable Birmingham, as set out in this cover report and appended documents.

- 3.2. Endorse immediate implementation of the Birmingham Food System Strategy: A Bolder, Healthier, and More Sustainable Birmingham.
- 3.3. Enable the Health and Wellbeing Board and its sub forum, Creating a Healthy Food City Forum, to review and provide oversight of the Birmingham Food System Strategy.
- 3.4. Approve the Birmingham Food System Strategy progressing to Cabinet in April 2023.

#### **4. Report Body**

##### **Background**

- 4.1. The Creating a Healthy Food City forum is a sub-forum of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Forum has co-produced the Birmingham Food System Strategy: “A Bolder, Healthier and More Sustainable Birmingham”. This is the first food system strategy for Birmingham.
- 4.2. The Food System Team conducted a comprehensive public consultation, following our attendance at Cabinet in March 2022. The consultation on the Birmingham Food system Strategy 2022-2030 was successful. We received 87 responses on BeHeard and engaged citizens through more than 10 events. Overall, feedback on the strategy was consistently positive, with high levels of agreement throughout.
- 4.3. Following the analysis of all the feedback from the comprehensive consultation, we incorporated all the key suggestions into the final Birmingham Food System Strategy. The changes included an additional workstream of “Food Safety and Standards”, reorganising all the workstreams into four cross cutting themes and six strategic workstreams, and ensuring key text such as the vision are succinct and focused.
- 4.4. The Birmingham Food System Strategy has been developed by the Food System Team in the Public Health Division, with input from public and local 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 projects focused on the Birmingham’s food system and associated factors that shape people’s diets such as the Birmingham Food Survey, Childhood Obesity Trailblazer, and the Birmingham Seldom Heard Voices Food Conversations.
- 4.5. The strategy sets out the Creating a Healthy Food City forum’s ambitions for the next 8 years (2022-2030). “A Bolder, Healthier and More Sustainable Birmingham” is based on a series of work streams and settings (the Big Bold City approach).
- 4.6. It includes ambitions, objectives, and potential actions to be taken, alongside the key partners, levers, and leaders who will help us achieve them. Throughout the strategy is a commitment to achieve positive change across the city’s socio-economic groups to help reduce dietary and health inequalities.
- 4.7. The vision of the strategy: to create a fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food options are nutritious, affordable and desirable so everyone can thrive.

- 4.8. The Creating a Healthy Food City Forum has developed a framework for action which are broken down into four cross-cutting themes and six strategic work streams. These work streams are;

Cross-Cutting Themes:

**Food Skills & Knowledge** - Empowering citizens with knowledge and skills in relation to the food system.

**Food Behaviour Change** - Developing the capability, opportunity and motivation for key behaviours that will enable long term change.

**Food Security & Resilience** - Increasing access to sufficient affordable, nutritious and safe food for all citizens, all the time, in every community, and at every age.

**Food Innovation, Data & Research** - Gathering insights and data and facilitating innovation, collaboration, learning and research across the food system.

Strategic Work Streams:

**Food Production** - Empowering and enabling citizens and local producers to grow food throughout the year and connect to the city's food system.

**Food Sourcing** - Increasing both supply and demand for local, environmentally sustainable, ethical and nutritious foods in the food system.

**Food Transformation** - Transforming the food offer and diets to contain more diverse, nutritious and sustainable ingredients, and less fat, salt and sugar.

**Food Waste & Recycling** - Minimising food waste and unsustainable packaging throughout the food system and maximising the repurposing and redistribution of surplus.

**Food Economy & Employment** - Facilitating a thriving local food economy for all and maximising training and employment opportunities.

**Food Safety & Standards** - Improving food safety and standards for Birmingham's citizens and businesses.

- 4.9. As we develop the Food System Strategic Action plan, it is important that we consider whether proposed actions are people focused, addressing key priorities, and if they are effective and realistic. 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. We will use this tool to compare potential actions, aid decision-making and prioritisation and to strengthen proposed plans. Actions will be people focused by ensuring they are citizen-first, celebrating diversity, empowering. They will be working towards addressing key priorities by ensuring actions are addressing poverty and inequalities, healthy and safe, environmentally sustainable and economically sustainable. The actions will be effective and realistic by ensuring they are evidence-based, cost-effective, risk-aware and resilient, scaled and paced, learning and improving.

## 5. Compliance Issues

### 5.1. HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update

All work within the remit of the Forum will be reported to the Board as either a presentation or as part of the information updates detailing all Forum activity as per current governance arrangements.

Day-to-day responsibilities are managed:

- Internally via regular Food System Team meetings in line with Agile project management principles (bi-weekly updates as a minimum), and regular updates to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing through the Public Health Cabinet Member Briefing sessions (as requested).
- With partners through the Creating a Healthy Food City Forum itself, as well as multiple interfaces on shared work packages, objectives, and outcomes.

### 5.2. Management Responsibility

Sarah Pullen, Service Lead (Food System), Public Health, Birmingham City Council

Bradley Yakoob, Senior Public Health Officer (Food System), Public Health, Birmingham City Council

Rosie Jenkins, Senior Public Health Officer (Food System), Public Health, Birmingham City Council

## 6. Risk Analysis

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
There is potential reputational and stakeholder damage if the Birmingham Food System Strategy is not approved, implemented, and launched in 2023.	Medium	High	We have continued to work closely with all partners, stakeholder, citizen champions, and food legends throughout the process. We have worked closely with elected officials and senior level officials across the city to anticipate and prepare for the Birmingham Food System Strategy approval and launch in 2023. We have ensured that all processes and governance have been followed and implemented to ensure a smooth transition through approval levels.

## Appendices

**Appendix 1:** Birmingham Food System Strategy 2022-2030

**Appendix 2:** Consultation Outcome and Findings Summary

**Appendix 3:** Equality Impact Assessment

**Appendix 4:** Consultation Findings Report

**Appendix 5:** BeHeard Survey Response Tables

**Appendix 6:** Environment and Sustainability Assessment

The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

Sarah Pullen, Service Lead (Food System team), Public Health, BCC

Bradley Yakoob, Senior Officer (Food System team), Public Health, BCC

Rosie Jenkins, Senior Officer (Food System team), Public Health, BCC

Chloe Browne, Graduate Officer (Food System team), Public Health, BCC