

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	4 November 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Good Food Strategy Update – Q2 2020/2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Committee of the status of the Good Food Strategy actions and measures at quarter 2 of 2020/2021

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the 2020/2021 quarter 2 position in respect of actions and measures within the Good Food Strategy be noted.

3. Background

3.1 The Good Food Strategy was approved by the Executive Committee on 4 December 2019 and covers a five year period from 2020 to 2025.

3.2. The vision of the strategy is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire through the development of a Good Food Council where food is celebrated, supports healthy life and wellbeing, is affordable and accessible to all, encourages a fair and inclusive food economy, has limited impacts on the environment and climate change, and promotes animal welfare.

3.3. The strategy sets out outcomes and actions organised around six themes and twelve objectives:

Good Food at Home and in the Community

- 1. Supporting good food education and culture
- 2. Reducing food poverty and insecurity

Good Food in the Public Sector

- 3. Improving food in schools and in council properties
- 4. Improving food in public places

Good Food Economy

- 5. Supporting a good food retail and catering environment
- 6. Encouraging a fair and inclusive local food economy

Good Food Growing

- 7. Providing food growing opportunities
- 8. Promoting good food growing and sustainability

Good Food for the Environment

- 9. Reducing waste and packaging
- 10. Limiting the impact of food system on the environment and climate change

Good Food Governance

- 11. Developing and strengthening food partnerships
- 12. Making good food a priority in the council's area

3.4 The action plan sets out the specific actions to progress the 12 objectives of the strategy. Actions and measures were identified together with Council services involved in food related activities. The action plan for the first year of implementation of the strategy was approved by the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee on 17 September 2020.

3.5 In line with other Council reporting procedures, the action plan is monitored using IMPROVe and progress is reported to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee at Quarter 2 and Quarter 4.

4. Good Food Strategy Update - Q2 2020-21

4.1 The Good Food Strategy Update – Q2 2020/2021 shows progress made during the first six months of implementation of the strategy i.e. the period covering 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020.

4.2 Progress in the implementation of the strategy was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic as the Council was required to reduce and suspend a number of services following Government advice. More detailed information on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food related activities is available in section 5. Nonetheless, new actions were also carried out to respond to food challenges caused by the pandemic. These actions are not included in the action plan - which was prepared before the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic- but an overview is provided in section 6.

4.3 The action plan progress report comes in two parts; the first part contains performance/contextual measures, and the second part contains improvement actions. Details for each action as reported in IMPROVe can be found in Appendix 1.

4.4 The overall summary of performance/ contextual measures at the end of quarter two is as follows:-

Total number of performance/ contextual measures		51
Status – Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations	10 (20%)
Status – Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target	15 (29%)
Status - Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target	4 (8%)
Reportable at a later stage/ contextual	For some measures, the statistics are not yet available to allow us to report whether the target has been reached or not. These will be reported when available	22 (43%)

- 4.5 The overall summary of improvements actions at the end of quarter two is as follows:-

Total number of improvement actions		42
Status - Blue	Action Complete	1 (2%)
Status – Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations	11 (26%)
Status – Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target	17 (41%)
Status - Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target	0
Reportable at a later stage/ contextual	For some measures, the statistics are not yet available to allow us to report whether the target has been reached or not. These will be reported when available	13 (31%)

5. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food related activities: disruptions and achievements

- 5.1 The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted the implementation of the Good Food Strategy over the last six months as reflected by the number of activities with measures showing a “Red”, “Amber” or “To be reported later” status. Main disruptions and delays are set out below.
- 5.2 Actions aiming at supporting good food education and culture with the delivery of educational programmes were cancelled as schools were closed. Actions targeting specific groups such as learners of the Youth, Family and

Community Learning services and service users of the Unpaid Work Service were also disrupted but finally took place using alternative methods such as online courses.

- 5.3 Actions with the objective of improving food in schools and public places (e.g. new Regulation for Nutritional Requirements, Food for Life Standards, Healthy Living Award) were delayed either because they were closed or services had to focus on other priorities to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.
- 5.4 Actions related to the promotion of a Good Food economy were also disrupted because of the cancellation of event and workshop planned with the private sector. Social distancing measures and conflicting priorities led to this decision.
- 5.5 Activities supporting the development of governance mechanisms were also delayed as new priorities have emerged for food stakeholders. Nonetheless, new relationships and partnerships with food stakeholders in particular with the community and third sector organisations have been developed in response to food challenges caused by the pandemic. This recent development will be considered to rethink future governance mechanisms in the next six months.
- 5.6 As it is the first food strategy and action plan, it was planned to build baseline indicators when relevant so as to determine targets for monitoring purposes. However, due to the exceptionality of the first six months, most of baseline indicators could not be identified.
- 5.7 Food growing activities have been implemented as expected with increased number of people participating in food growing either with the creation of new allotment sites (e.g. Fernbrae Meadows) or with the development of alternative food growing opportunities implemented in partnership with community organisations.

6. Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on food related activities: new specific actions in response to the crisis

- 6.1 Several Council services have been engaging in new food related activities in response to the COVID-19 crisis using funding from the Scottish Government (Food Fund - April to June, funding for Free School meals - July to September, grant to support people to access food and other essentials - July to September). An overview is provided below.
- 6.2 Activities included below are Council initiatives as reported by officers and services. While it does not include actions undertaken by the community, it is planned to continue to take stock of initiatives that took place at community level during the next months.

- 6.3 Cash payment were made to families entitled to Free School meals benefiting to approximately 8,800 pupils (April to June).
- 6.4 The Community Engagement Team supported the existing community and third sector by supplementing existing food banks. Moreover, food packs were distributed directly to vulnerable people and people with COVID-19 symptoms based on demand received through the Wellbeing Helpline. Between March and September, 4,865 free food parcels were distributed.
- 6.5 The Meals at Home programme, led by Community and Enterprise Resource and Social Work, aimed at supporting vulnerable families with the delivery of hot meals during the lockdown period (121 families/394 individuals).
- 6.6 Housing services organised the delivery of hot meals, prepared by Facilities Management, to Cluster Homeless Projects (123 beneficiaries), food packs to those presented as homeless (30 homeless presentations per week) and to sheltered housing tenants (1,218 tenants). Figures refer to the period April to June.
- 6.7 From April to July, meals prepared by Facilities Management (breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack) were served in Community Hubs to marginalised groups and key workers' children (67,085 meals served). During summer holidays, different options were used to continue to deliver free school meals to children of key workers and eligible children: meals served in hubs (6,229 free meals in 10 locations), cash payment, vouchers or home deliveries.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1 Monitoring the implementation of the action plan is the key task of the Policy Officer (Food Development).
- 7.2 In addition, the implementation of the strategy is the task of Resources and Services involved in food related activities as identified during the development of the Good Food Strategy and as indicated in the action plan.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 Although there are no financial implications at this stage, specific financial implications related to the implementation of the strategy will be foreseen and reported on a case-by-case basis.

9. Climate change, sustainability and environmental implications

- 9.1 By promoting Good Food, food which is environmentally-friendly and helps tackle climate change, the Good Food Strategy is aligned with the sustainable development and climate change objectives of the Council. More specifically, it supports the outcomes of the current Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy, in particular Outcome 1.2 stating that the Council is environmentally responsible in the procurement,

use and disposal of resources. In particular, the strategy encourages procurement and consumption of sustainable food, supports the reduction of food waste and food packaging, promote the redistribution of food surplus and encourage food composting. It also aims at connecting with the community, partners and the private sector to reduce the impacts of the food system – from farm to fork- on the environment and its contribution to climate change.

10. Other Implications

10.1. There are no implications for risk in terms of the information contained within this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

11.1 The Equalities Impact Assessment has been conducted and approved.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

12 October 2020

Links to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities;
- ◆ Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth;
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration.

Previous References

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 12 November 2019 - Good Food Strategy
- ◆ Executive Committee 4 December 2019 - Good Food Strategy
- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources 31 March 2020 - Action Plan – 1st year of implementation of the Good Food Strategy
- ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee 17 September 2020 – Action Plan for the first year of implementation of the Good Food Strategy

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:

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