

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 January 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Proposal for Food Strategy 2019 to 2024
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- ◆ approve the proposed plan for the development of a Food Strategy covering the period 2019 to 2024.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the proposed plan for the development of a Food Strategy for 2019 to 2024 be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 22 May 2018 approved the establishment of a Food Development Policy Officer for a period of 18 months. The post was created to ensure the adoption of a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach to tackle food issues, to connect Council initiatives to an overall strategy, and deliver them within a strategic framework. To do this, it is envisaged that the main task of the officer would include the development of a Council Food Strategy.
- 3.2. The Council has been active on food issues for many years with activities including: improvement of food hygiene and standards; implementation of food waste collection; development of school breakfast clubs, healthy eating and nutrition programmes; the development of initiatives tackling food poverty; the provision of allotments and food growing opportunities; and support to food businesses.
- 3.3. In September 2018, the Scottish Government published the Good Food Nation Programme of Measures which identifies five key areas of work: Health, Social Justice, Knowledge, Environmental Sustainability and Prosperity. The programme reinforces the commitment of the Government to the concept and reality of Scotland as a Good Food Nation and offers a framework of actions and guidelines for the development of local food strategies.
- 3.4. In addition, the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Part 9 has introduced new rights, duties and responsibilities regarding the provision of allotments and food growing opportunities for local authorities.
- 3.5. The development of local food strategies is part of a recent global trend. It echoes the increasing willingness to embark on a process of transition towards more sustainable food systems to tackle health, social, economic and environmental challenges which

are related to food. This trend also demonstrates the significant potential of local authorities - as places of empowerment and innovation - to deal with food issues.

4. Proposed Food Strategy 2019 to 2024

- 4.1. The Food Strategy will cover the period 2019 to 2024 and propose a vision for the development of a sustainable food system for the Council, its partners and its communities. It will also set out the objectives, outputs, activities and expected outcomes.
- 4.2. The Food Strategy will define the Council and the community's approach to address food related challenges, needs and demands. The strategy will encompass social, health, economic and environment concerns. In particular, it will represent a commitment to address food poverty and food related health issues and ensure the sustainability of the food system.
- 4.3. The Food Strategy will build on the current initiatives of the Council and identify future opportunities within a single and comprehensive strategic framework with common and agreed objectives. The strategy will enable higher horizontal and vertical policy integration and co-ordination between Resources and services and with Council's partners and other stakeholders. The strategy will offer a systemic approach to deal with the various and interrelated food challenges and take food as an opportunity to promote higher quality, thriving and sustainable communities.
- 4.4. Involvement of relevant Resources and services, partners as well as community engagement will be key aspects of the strategy formulation so as to ensure that food related challenges are fully addressed and needs and wants captured. Stakeholder representation will also enable higher commitment to the strategy implementation.

5. Proposed Plan for the development of the Food Strategy 2019 to 2024

- 5.1. The proposed timeline below provides the next steps for the development of the Food Strategy 2019 to 2024.

Next steps	Proposed Timeframe
Definition of the vision and objectives of the Food Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of food related challenges and opportunities (health, social, environmental and economic) as well as the needs and wants through consultations and engagement with Services and employees, partner organisations, private sector, third sector and existing forum; - Identification of EU, national and local priorities through policy review and consultations; - Development of a Media Engagement Plan with the Corporate Communication team; - Development of a Community Engagement Plan with the Community Engagement team; - Production of an intermediate report compiling and synthesizing the vision and objectives of the strategy. 	December 2018 to April 2019
Consultations (internal and key external stakeholders) to share and discuss the Food Strategy's vision and objectives.	March 2019
Definition of the governance and reporting mechanisms of the Food Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definition of internal reporting mechanisms (cross-resources 	April 2019

coordination group, members working group); - Establishment of a Food Partnership and potential sub-working groups based on needs (e.g. Fairtrade steering committee, Food growing sub-group, etc).	
Definition of the expected outcomes and outputs as well as activities for the first year through consultations with Resources and employees, the Food Partnership and sub-groups and proposition of a monitoring system. It is proposed that activities of the Strategy will be defined on an annual basis and a midterm review of the strategy will be conducted.	May – June 2019
Consultations (internal and key external stakeholders) to share and discuss the Food Strategy's outcomes, outputs and activities. Public consultation (surveys) to share and discuss the overall Food Strategy.	July 2019
Submission of the Food Strategy to Committee	September 2019
Application to join the national Sustainable Food Cities Network (considering applications to other international networks/labels).	September 2019
Launch of the Food Strategy with the organisation of a Food Forum (public event) and media engagement.	October 2019
Integration of strategy actions into Resource and Service Plans for 2020/2021	February/March 2020

6. Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 6.1. In January 2019, the Pre-screening exercise will be undertaken in order to assess whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. This exercise is expected to last from 3 to 4 weeks. Moreover, a Screening might be carried out depending on the results of the Pre-screening.
- 6.2. If the Screening concludes that an SEA is required, the timeline for the development of the strategy indicated above will be modified to take into account the deadlines and stages imposed by the SEA process. In that case, it is expected to have the final version the Food Strategy in December 2019 rather than September with later dates also affected.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. Development of the strategy will be one of the key tasks of the Policy Officer for Food Development. In addition, all Resources will need to contribute to the development of the Food Strategy to ensure that a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach is adopted. Implication of Resources and services will vary depending on the relevance of their activities with regards to food.
- 7.2. In addition to developing the Food Strategy, the Policy Officer for Food Development will champion and report on wider issues relating to the food agenda such as the development of the Council's approach to Fair Trade, and monitor food initiatives with regular dissemination of Food Watch bulletins to the Council and its partners. Further, the officer will also represent the Council's interests in food related matters.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. There are no financial implications at this stage.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. The Food Strategy will support the outcomes of the current Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. A consultation and an equalities impact assessment will be carried out as part of the development of the strategy.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

27 December 2018

Link(s) 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 report on Food Development – Policy Officer - 22 May 2018

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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