

# Report

Report to:	<b>Executive Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>24 August 2022</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Appointment of Food Champion</b>
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## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ consider and approve an elected member appointment as the Council's Food Champion
- ◆ agree the role outline of the Food Champion and the next steps following appointment

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

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

- (1) that Councillor Gowland be appointed as the Council's Food Champion;
- (2) that the role for the Food Champion, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report be agreed; and
- (3) the next steps, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report, be agreed.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1. On 4 December 2019, the Executive Committee approved the Good Food Strategy which 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. Since the approval of the Good Food Strategy, the socio-economic context and broader health context have strongly evolved with COVID-19, Brexit and the current cost of living crisis. This has impacted access to food for consumers in the Council's area as well as local food and drink producers and manufacturers. Access to healthy and low-cost food has been identified as a priority during the consultations for the formulation of the Council and community plans.
- 3.4. The policy context is also changing rapidly to respond to these new challenges with the development of the following plans and regulations: Good Food Nation Bill; Local Food Plan for Everyone; Ending the Need for Food Banks: a draft national plan; Land Reform in a Net Zero Nation; and the Restrictions on food and drink high in fat, sugar, or salt.

- 3.5. Engagement with local food stakeholders and partnership working have also evolved since the approval of the Good Food Strategy with the creation of new food groups such as, the Good Food Forum, the Food Growing Group, the Fairtrade Steering Group, Lanarkshire Larder and the Sustainable Food Procurement Group.
- 3.6. Improving governance around food is also part of the key themes of the Good Food Strategy with the objective to ensure that an increasing number of stakeholders can influence or contribute to the development of a Good Food Council through higher engagement and participation and to enhance accountability of the food stakeholders. Two objectives under the Good Food Governance theme are included in the strategy:-
- ◆ Objective 11: Engage with, build on and support the various local food initiatives and encourage collaboration and partnership
  - ◆ Objective 12: Ensure that healthy, sustainable, fair food is embedded in local policies, increase policy coherence and guarantee that food has a high profile across the council by connecting with partners.
- 3.7. To ensure good governance and accountability in the implementation of the Good Food Strategy, key food development and progress on the implementation are reported to the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Committee given the links between the food strategy and the Sustainable Development agenda. Moreover, food initiatives and projects are also discussed at the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Steering Group which is led by key Council officers. The Sustainable Food Procurement Group is a Project Review Group developed to progress the agenda of this steering group.

#### **4. Rationale for the Nomination of a Local Food Champion**

- 4.1. The nomination of a Food Champion for South Lanarkshire would help to:-
- ◆ guarantee that food is a priority given the current food challenges directly affecting local communities as shown by statistics and the recent engagement with local communities
  - ◆ represent the Council's position and influence the political agenda in this fast-changing national policy context
  - ◆ facilitate and increase connections among the increasing number of stakeholders involved in local food policy actions and initiatives
  - ◆ deliver the Good Food Strategy objectives aiming at improving governance around food

#### **5. Role and activities of the Food Champion**

- 5.1. The role of the Food Champion for South Lanarkshire would be to:-

Represent. They will act as an ambassador, at local and national levels, representing the Council's position and vision in relation to food. They will help to raise the profile of local food initiatives and actions.

Promote. They will advocate Good Food as defined in the Good Food Strategy by taking into account all aspects of food from farm to fork. They will encourage the transition towards a healthier, fairer, and more sustainable food system.

Influence. They will provide guidance on the implementation of the Good Food Strategy and action plans to address access to food; food supply chain security; local food growth and positive nutrition.

Connect. They will help create more links with the community so that an increasing number of people, including food stakeholders, can influence and participate to the development of a Good Food Council through higher engagement and participation in local policy decisions and initiatives.

Facilitate. They will help to increase connections between the different food stakeholders whether they are from the public, third or private sectors and will contribute to foster links between the different local food groups and forum.

5.2. To do this, the Food Champion will undertake the following activities:-

- ◆ keep informed of the progress in the implementation of the Good Food Strategy (annual action plans), key local initiatives (minutes of the different local food groups) and the national political agenda
- ◆ ensure that actions of the Good Food Strategy are taken forward with a specific scrutiny on the definition and implementation of the Good Food action plan and participate in the Climate Change and Sustainability Committees
- ◆ represent the Council's views and positions in relation to food security in consultation with relevant Council officers when required
- ◆ participate and contribute to meetings of the different food groups and networks depending on agenda and needs
- ◆ maintain energy and enthusiasm with local food stakeholders and provide effective leadership

## **6. Nomination of the Council's Food Champion**

6.1. It is proposed that Councillor Ross Gowland be appointed as Food Champion for South Lanarkshire.

## **7. Next steps**

7.1. Once the Food Champion has been appointed, officers will prepare an induction programme to support their development and understanding of the benefit of an integrated approach to food, learning about the local food challenges and opportunities including current actions and initiatives, meeting key actors of the local food systems, and getting a better knowledge of the local and national policy context.

7.2. If agreed, the appointment of the Food Champion will also be communicated to the public with the help of Corporate Communications.

## **8. Employee Implications**

8.1. There are no specific employee implications. However, the Policy Officer for Food Development is expected to liaise on a regular basis with the Food Champion. Other relevant Council officers will also liaise with the Food Champion on an ad hoc basis as required.

## **9. Financial Implications**

9.1. There are no financial implications arising from the proposals in this paper.

## **10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 10.1. The Food Champion, by taking into account all the aspects of the food systems from farm to fork and encouraging the transition towards a more sustainable food system will help to achieve the objectives of the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy.

## **11. Other Implications**

- 11.1. There are no other implications.

## **12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 12.1. No Equality Impact Assessment or consultations are required in this case.

**David Booth**

**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

20 July 2022

### **Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

#### Values

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Ambitious, self-aware and improving
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

#### Priorities

- ◆ We will work to put people first and reduce inequality
- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places
- ◆ We will work to recover, progress and improve

#### Outcomes

- ◆ Our children and young people thrive
- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Thriving business, fair jobs and vibrant town centres
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities
- ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Executive Committee 4 December 2019 - 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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