

# Report

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| Report to:       | <b>Climate Change and Sustainability Committee</b>             |
| Date of Meeting: | <b>31 August 2022</b>  |
| Report by:       | <b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b> |

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| Subject: | <b>Good Food Strategy Update – Quarter 4 2021/2022</b> |
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Committee on the status of Good Food Strategy actions and measures at Quarter 4 of 2021/2022

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the 2021/2022 Q4 position in respect of actions and measures within the Good Food Strategy be noted.

## 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. 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 Strategy action plan sets out specific actions to be undertaken to deliver these objectives under each theme.
- 3.5. The action plan was approved by the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee on 10 February 2021 and is monitored using IMPROVe. Its progress is reported to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee at Quarter 2 and Quarter 4.

#### **4. Good Food Strategy 2021/2022 Q4 Update**

- 4.1. The action plan progress report comes in two parts; the first part contains performance/contextual measures towards the Strategy's outcomes, and the second part contains improvement actions for each of the themes within the Strategy.
- 4.2. The overall summary of performance measures at the end of quarter 4 is as follows:-

|  |   |           |
|--|---|-----------|
| Total number of performance/ contextual measures |   | <b>21</b> |
| Status – Green                                   | The timescale or target has been met as per expectations  | 10 (48%)  |
| Status – Amber                                   | There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target   | 1 (5%)    |
| Status - Red                                     | There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target   | 2 (10%)   |
| 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 | 8 (38%)   |

*Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding*

- 4.3. The indicator showing an amber status refers to the increase of the size of the land provided for council managed food growing sites. Land available increased by 20% compared to the objective of 25% due to construction delays on Lesmahagow Road allotment in Strathaven (the site was handed over in May 2022). Two indicators related to food waste are red. We planned to estimate the share of households using the Council's food waste collection service through a survey. However, the analysis could not be undertaken as employees from the Waste Education team who were supposed to carry out the survey were redeployed to other priority activities in Waste Services in the Covid-19 context. A pilot project was developed to estimate the share of food waste from primary and secondary school dining rooms compared to food

produced. However, food waste from the dining rooms could not be identified and was instead included in the overall waste calculation in school dining rooms and kitchens.

4.4. The overall summary of improvements actions at the end of quarter 4 is as follows:-

|   |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| Total number of improvement actions     |   | <b>36</b> |
| Status - Blue                           | Action Complete   | 7 (19%)   |
| Status – Green                          | The timescale or target has been met as per expectations  | 26 (72%)  |
| Status – Amber                          | There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target   | 0 (0%)    |
| Status - Red                            | There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target   | 3 (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 | 0 (0%)    |

*Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding*

4.5. Three of the measures are red. This includes the status of the action referring to the development of the Council Open Space Strategy and the assessment of food growing opportunities. The Scottish Government postponed the publication of the final version of the regulations, and this delay negatively impacted the development of the Open Space Strategy for South Lanarkshire and delayed the completion of the local audit. The measure referring to the development of the action plan to achieve the Food for Life bronze award is also red. The action plan was not developed following the decision to not take forward the award based on the assessment carried out this year. The cost implications of making the required changes on the menu to achieve the award could not be justified. The last red measure is an action that should have been carried out by the Waste Education Team about the revision of the educational programme in school to better take into account food waste. However, this team was redeployed to other priority activities in the Covid-19 context and therefore the action could not be undertaken.

4.6. Progress on all objectives, actions and measures is set out in appendix 1. Some of the highlights for each of the themes of the action plan include:-

Good food at home and the community

- ◆ As community food organisations play a key role in tackling food insecurity, the Council continued to support them. An allocation of £0.048m was given to seven food banks through the Winter Fund provided by the Scottish Government.
- ◆ The Community Engagement Team directly issued food parcels to 454 households (feeding 1,032 people) through the Wellbeing line.
- ◆ To improve access to food, advice and support, the Council published the booklet “Money is not the only problem” and collaborated with the Independent Food Aid Network to develop and publish the “Cash First Referral Leaflet” for the area. Both are available in public places and in third sector organisations and can also be found online.
- ◆ 9,557 children were eligible for low income-based Free School Meals Payments during the school holiday periods (£30 payment per fortnight).

- ◆ 70 primary schools participated in the “Eat Them to Defeat Them” campaign with veg-themed lunches and activities organised for a period of five weeks. The national campaign from Veg Power and ITV uses advertising and programmes in schools to promote vegetable consumption.
- ◆ The Kitchen Learning Hub (KLH) was delivered to 42 service users of the Unpaid Work Service (Social Work). KLH is an ongoing practical cooking and education course that service users can take as part of the therapeutic, groupwork and vocational learning proportion of their court-ordered community service. Bread making sessions were also delivered.
- ◆ The Youth Family and Community Learning Service (Education) continued to provide food related learning programmes. In total, 414 learners participated in food related programmes including 63 who have achieved a national recognised food related award.

#### Good food in the public sector

- ◆ Menus in schools are now compliant with the new regulation for Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in schools.
- ◆ Following the establishment of the Sustainable Food Procurement group, a session called “How do Local Authorities procure Food and Drink” was organised at the Lanarkshire Meet the Buyer event with the objective to provide information to local businesses on how they can supply food and drink to the Council. Funding was also secured, and a consultancy firm identified to carry out an analysis of the capacity of local food and drink businesses to supply food and drink to the different council buyers (the analysis will be undertaken in 2022/2023).

#### Good food economy

- ◆ 93% of food businesses were compliant with food safety statutory requirements, the target being 85%.
- ◆ The Economic Development Team ran a project funded by the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) Consulting and the Council to raise the profile of the local food and drink sector. This included encouraging groups and schools to grow food and offering support to community groups and schools in building skills, gaining employability and providing information about setting up food businesses.
- ◆ The Council part-funded a co-ordinator post for Lanarkshire Larder, which is a local network for local food and drink businesses.
- ◆ Several food related businesses also received Council grants to support their development and growth. The Council also worked closely with other organisations to offer a “one-stop shop” approach to support businesses.

### Good food growing

- ◆ Number of plot holders on council managed sites increased by 31% with the opening of the new allotment in Lammermoor in East Kilbride compared to a target of a 20% increase. A site is also under construction in Strathaven and it is planned to investigate two sites to serve Hamilton and surrounding areas.
- ◆ It is estimated that over 2,210 pupils were directly involved in food growing activities.

### Good food and the environment

- ◆ The Council signed the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration (July 2021) showing its commitment to tackle climate emergency through integrated food policies.
- ◆ The decision was taken to offer hot composters to rural areas as an alternative to extending the food waste collection service to rural areas that do not currently have a means of recycling food waste (estimated start late summer 2022).
- ◆ With support from the Council, 77 tonnes of food surplus have been distributed by the charity FareShare to local organisations. This represents 183,337 meal portions and a value of £275,005.
- ◆ Several campaigns promoting sustainable food were also developed or shared on the intranet and social media such as the publication of the seasonality calendars, promotion of the Fairtrade Fortnight or promotion of the Love Food Hate Waste action week.

### Good food governance

- ◆ A network composed of food stakeholders from the third, private and public sector regularly met to discuss specific food topics such as the impact of Covid-19 on food, links between the food system and climate change, local food as part of the national consultation “Local food for everyone” or links between food and planning.
- ◆ Membership to the UK network Sustainable Food Places was achieved (June 2021). This recognises and celebrates the partnership approach that the Council is taking to achieve positive changes on a range of key food issues.
- ◆ Discussions were initiated with the Community Planning Partnership Progress Board on how to embed food more strategically into community planning.

## **5. Other Food Related Actions not Included in the IMPROVe Report**

- 5.1. Other actions in relation to food were developed but are not included in the IMPROVe report as the decision to implement them was taken after the approval of the 2021/2022 action plan.
- 5.2. This includes the expansion of Universal Free School Meals to P5 children and the development of the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme in nursery. Both initiatives started in August 2021.
- 5.3. Summer Session hubs ran within 14 locations across South Lanarkshire for a period of 6 weeks with breakfast and lunch served every day. Enrolment in the clubs was primarily targeted at those in receipt of free school meal entitlement, living with mental health, isolation, bereavement, anxiety, and financial difficulties and who are living in the surrounding communities. 834 participants attended and Facilities Services provided up to 10,000 meals over the duration of the programme.

- 5.4. As noted by this Committee at its meeting on 3 November 2021, two community grants schemes were launched in January 2022 offering the possibility for community groups and external partners operating in South Lanarkshire to apply to the Climate Emergency Fund (including for food projects) and Food Strategy Support Fund. Progress in the delivery of these grants is being presented to this Committee in a separate report.

**6. Employee Implications**

- 6.1. Resources and Services involved in food related activities are required to contribute to the implementation of the Good Food Strategy to ensure that actions and targets are met. The Policy Officer (Food Development) monitors and reports the Council's progress.

**7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. Specific financial implications relating to the implementation of the action plan were reported on a case-by-case basis.

**8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 8.1. The Food action plan 2021/2022, 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.

**9. Other Implications**

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

**10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 10.1. The Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted and approved.

**11. Strategic Environmental Assessment**

- 11.1. Following the SEA pre-screening exercise and communication with the Scottish Government, it was concluded that no further action was required in relation to the SEA process for the Good Food Strategy

**David Booth**

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

23 August 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
- ◆ Excellent employer

### 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
- ◆ Inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Executive Committee 4 December 2019 - Good Food Strategy
- ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee 10 February 2021 – Action Plan for the second year of implementation of the Good Food Strategy
- ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee 3 November 2021 - Community Grants - Climate Emergency Fund and Food Strategy Support Fund
- ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee 2 February 2022 – Good Food Strategy Update – Q2 2021-22

### **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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