

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 May 2024
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Good Food Strategy Update – Q4 2023-2024
----------	---

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 2023-2024

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the 2023-2024 Q4 position in respect of actions and measures within the Good Food Strategy is 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 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 the 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 sets out specific actions to be undertaken to deliver these objectives under each theme.
- 3.5. The Strategy 2023-2024 action plan was approved by the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee on 20 September 2023 and is monitored using IMPROVe. Its progress is reported to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee at Quarter two and Quarter four.

4. Good Food Strategy 2023-2024 Q4 Update

- 4.1. The 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 four is as follows:-

Total number of performance/ contextual measures		22
Status – Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations	12 (55%)
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	0 (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	10 (45%)

- 4.3. There are no performance measures showing an amber or red status.
- 4.4. Eight of the performance measures are reported as contextual. These measures are for information only. An additional two measures will be reported later because end-year figures for these measures were not available at the time of preparing this report - no slippage is expected in relation to meeting targets for these measures.

4.5. The overall summary of improvement actions at the end of Quarter four is as follows:-

Total number of improvement actions		17
Status - Blue	Action Complete	4 (24%)
Status – Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations	12 (71%)
Status – Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target	1 (6%)
Status - Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target	0 (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	0 (0%)

Percentages do not total 100 due to rounding.

4.6. One of the measures shows an amber status. The measure relates to the facilitation of networking among food stakeholders. Specific networking activities around food have paused towards the end of the year due to the Policy Officer (Food Development) reducing her working hours and eventually leaving her post. As a result, there has been a lack of resources to support this activity. Other options to encourage a partnership approach around food are now being explored.

4.7. Progress on all objectives, actions and measures is set out in Appendix 1. Some of the highlights for each of the themes of the Good Food Strategy include:

Good Food at Home and the Community

- ◆ Eleven “Spectacular Summer Session” hubs (Education) were successfully delivered across the four localities in key locations across South Lanarkshire with breakfast and lunch served each day. Across the 6 weeks, over 4,500 meals were provided by Facilities Services.
- ◆ The Youth Family and Community Learning Service (Education) delivered a large variety of food related learning programmes to 686 learners through the year.
- ◆ In line with the national plan “Cash-First- towards ending the need for food banks in Scotland” published June 2023, the Council agreed to extend the Financial Wellbeing Support Fund for two years. As a result, Money Matter Advice service provided £50 cash payments to 1,743 households facing financial insecurity issues including food insecurity since October 2023.
- ◆ The Council financially supported seven local food banks with payment of £4,000. During the Christmas period, over 1,000 gifts were donated by the Council and SLLC staff to 8 of the food banks as well as over 700 food items.

Good Food in the Public Sector

- ◆ Levels of total primary and secondary school meal uptake (free and paid) exceeded the targets as well as the level of free primary and secondary school meals uptake.
- ◆ Following the presentation of the outcomes of the Market Capacity Assessment and the next steps at the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee on 20 September, actions were undertaken by services to follow up on recommendations. Activities included the following: the Council directly engaged with the 22 businesses interested in supplying food to the Council; Chatelherault venue is getting ready to proceed with Quick Quote processes to identify local

suppliers for meat, fruit and vegetables, coffee, and artisan bread in 2024-2025; engagement took place with other local authorities to understand good practices in relation to procurement of local food.

Good Food Economy

- ◆ 95% of food businesses were compliant with food safety statutory requirements, the target being 85%.
- ◆ Engagement with the food and drink sector included: South Lanarkshire Council representation on the Lanarkshire Larder Committee to ensure that outcomes including increased membership and networking are achieved; support to eight local businesses through the EAT South Lanarkshire Business Accelerator programme; promotion of business-to-business events including Larder of the Lowlands (April 2024) and national Meet the Buyer event (June 2024).

Good Food Growing

- ◆ With the opening of the Chatelherault allotment site in summer 2023, the number of plot holders on Council managed growing sites increased by 64 (which represents an 18 percent increase compared to last year) and total area increased by ten percent. The occupancy level of these sites is 99 percent.
- ◆ The Council wide Open Space Strategy is under development with the finalisation of the audit of open spaces, including for food growing. The engagement strategy for the formulation of the Council Local Development Plan 3 (LDP3) was developed. The new LDP3 represents an opportunity to further embed health and wellbeing in planning policies.

Good Food and the Environment

- ◆ The Waste Education Team updated the education materials used in primary schools to include a specific section on food waste reduction and recycling.

Good Food Governance

- ◆ The Fairtrade Zone Status of the Council was renewed following its successful application. The Council also supported the Fairtrade Education Award at the Scottish Fairtrade Awards Ceremony 2023.
- ◆ The Rural Conference took place in February 2024 with more than 100 participants. The conference was an opportunity to discuss community food growing projects and opportunities to secure funds to assist in the growth of experience and knowledge around community food projects.
- ◆ Opportunities to reinforce and support the third sector as part of the activities for the development and implementation of the future local Good Food Nation Plan (2025) are being considered across different services.

5. Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 5.1. 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

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. It was the role of the Policy Officer (Food Development) to monitor and report progress on the implementation of the Good Food Strategy. The policy officer has left the Council and the future of this role is being considered.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no direct financial implications as a result of the report.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. The Good Food Strategy 2023-2024 action plan, 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, helps to achieve the objectives of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy.

9. Other Implications

- 9.1. Given the departure of the Council's Food Policy Officer, new arrangements will be made for the development, implementation and monitoring of the upcoming local Good Food Nation Plan as part of the duty of the Council to develop Good Food Nation Plan as per the Good Food Nation Act (Scotland) 2022. The timescale to develop the plan has not yet been confirmed by the Scottish Government but it is expected that the local food plan will have to be approved by the end of 2025.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 10.1. The Equality Impact Assessment for the Good Food Strategy was conducted and approved.
- 10.2. There was no other requirement for consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

David Booth

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

24 April 2024

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

Previous References

- ◆ Executive Committee 4 December 2019 - Good Food Strategy
- ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee 20 September 2023 – Action plan for the fourth 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: Michelle Wilkie (Performance and Policy Development Manager)

E-mail: michelle.wilkie@southlanarkshire.gov.uk