

Report

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Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 May 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Food Development – Policy Officer
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ request approval for the establishment of 1FTE Food Development Policy Officer for a period of 18 months to develop and co-ordinate a range of food related projects for the Council.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the establishment of 1 FTE post of Food Development - Policy Officer, (Grade 3) (Level 2 to 4), (£29,161 to £35,311) within Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services for a fixed term of 18 months, subject to the agreement of transfer of funding to reserves by Executive Committee in June, be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. Food is essential to our health and survival; it is at the heart of our economy, shapes our environment and helps form our culture and social lives. In turn there are a wide range of issues with food that impact significantly on our lives - its availability, production, preparation, consumption and waste generated. Some of these have, in recent years, been reported in the media whether campaigns regarding school dinners, concerns about food safety and obesity, or more recently food poverty and food banks.
- 3.2. The Council has been active on food issues including improving hygiene standards in restaurants, implementing a new food waste collection service to recycle food waste and running healthy eating and nutrition programmes.
- 3.3. Increasingly community food initiatives across Scotland are responding to demands for people experiencing the most severe effects of food poverty. The provision of emergency food parcels through food banks is growing. However, balancing the need for short-term food provision with creating sustainable change for people experiencing food poverty is a rising challenge across Scotland.
- 3.4. The Council has also recently approved a pilot for the roll out of new initiatives which will help to tackle a number of food related issues:-

- ◆ A school breakfast club is a provision for children to eat a healthy breakfast in a safe environment before the start of the school day. Nationally, the introduction of breakfast clubs has mainly been driven by concerns that a proportion of pupils are not eating breakfast and arriving at school hungry, which may impact negatively on their wellbeing, learning and behaviour.
- ◆ The Council has also acknowledged that the school summer holidays can be a challenging time for low-income families. Children who benefit from free school lunches often miss meals and go hungry once their school closes for the holidays.

3.5. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Part 9 of which was emailed on 1 April 2018, introduces new rights, duties and responsibilities regarding the provision of allotments and food growing opportunities. The Council has already commenced work in this area and has until 1 April 2020 to develop a Food Growing Strategy.

3.6. Whilst the above projects/initiatives all have merit, they have been undertaken as standalone pieces of work and not linked to an overall strategy for the Council and, as such, it is now considered appropriate that this be addressed.

4. Proposal

4.1. Following on from the above, to ensure a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach is adopted going forward and is delivered within a strategic framework that includes working with partners, it is proposed that a Policy Officer (Food Development) post is created for an initial period of 18 months.

4.2. The creation of this post would demonstrate that the Council is committed to tackle the issue of food poverty in South Lanarkshire to promote the good health of all our residents and to ensure that the way we produce, consume and distribute our food has minimal negative impacts on the environment. These ambitions cannot be delivered by the Council alone, but will require work with partners such as Scottish Government, NHS and third sector organisations.

4.3. It is envisaged that the main tasks of the post would include:-

- ◆ Develop a Community Food Plan
- ◆ Support and enhance the development of a Council's Allotment Strategy
- ◆ Support and enhance the development of a Council's Food Strategy
- ◆ Create a Council Food Forum
- ◆ Investigate the establishment of a Council Food Procurement Partnership to increase the amount of locally produced food retained for use through procurement in local communities
- ◆ Support and enhance school meal, breakfast clubs and holiday club initiatives in schools and communities
- ◆ Identify and develop food provision through volunteering and employability/skills programmes
- ◆ Map out all activities across the authority with a view of improving the links between organisations and initiatives

4.4. It is proposed that the officer would report progress through the Sustainable Development Member Officer Working Group, with progress also being reported through Committee.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. The following post should be added to the Community and Enterprise Resources' establishment on a 18 month fixed term basis as detailed below:-

Post	Current Number of Posts (FTE)	Proposed Number of Posts (FTE)	Grade	SCP Range	Hourly Rate	Annual Salary	Gross Cost (inc on costs)
Policy Officer (Food Development)	0	1.0	Grade 3	61 - 74	£15.98	£29,161	£37,998
			Level 2 - 4		-	£19.35	-

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Within the year end position for 2017/18 for Community and Enterprise Resources it is expected that funding of £0.070m can be identified to be earmarked within reserves to finance this post for a period of 18 months. Transfers to reserves will be subject to approval by Executive Committee at the end of June.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There is a risk that the Council may be unable to meet their legislative obligations in terms of delivering additional allotment sites to meet demand however work has commenced to ensure that the Council complies with its legislative requirements under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

With regards to sustainability, the focus on the effective management of food by ensuring that the way we produce, consume and distribute, our food has minimal negative impacts on the environment will link into the Councils sustainability strategy.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. As part of the work to be undertaken by the Policy Officer (Food Development), consideration will be given to the requirement to undertake all associated impact and strategic environmental assessments.
- 8.2. All necessary consultation arrangements have taken place.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

9 May 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/ Objectives

- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities

Previous References

- ◆ None

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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