

# Report of the Director of Public Health to the meeting of the Bradford District Health and Wellbeing Board to be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> 2023

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## Subject:

**The Bradford District Good Food Strategy**

## Summary statement:

This report presents a summary of the new Bradford district co-produced 'Good Food' strategy and makes recommendations to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:**

One of the guiding principles of the strategy is to work to reduce food inequalities and promote dignity and choice; People have dignity and equitable access to safe, healthy, affordable food; regardless of where they live or how much they earn. We will work together to help change how we communicate about money and food, to help reduce social stigma around seeking support. Food poverty is one aspect of broader poverty and usually relates to low-income. This strategy will sit alongside and contribute to ongoing work to reduce wider poverty and inequalities. Working to improve the quality of food and to reduce food insecurities will improve health, wellbeing and quality of life for people across Bradford District.

We have performed an Equality Impact Assessment for the strategy to ensure that we are considering all aspects of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. We have worked closely with the council's equality lead in the development of the strategy. All associated projects which will be enacted as a result of the strategy will include further Equality Impact Assessments.

The co-production of the strategy and its associated community engagement was performed with a diverse subset of key partners and organisations from across the district. The local community consultation summary report can be viewed in Appendix 2.

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

Health and Social Care

## 1. SUMMARY

- This report presents a summary of the newly developed Good Food Strategy for Bradford District. The development of the strategy has been led by Public Health alongside a broad multi-stakeholder group of partners from across the district.
- The strategy has gone through substantial co-production. As well as the engagement of stakeholders and organisations from across the public, private and voluntary sector, it has also had input from over 1,000 residents. (See appendix 1 for the full report)
- The strategy will report on progress to the Living Well steering group and the District's Health and Wellbeing Board. Its implementation and direction is set through the new 'Sustainable Food Partnership' which is a diverse mix of 45 partners and stakeholders from across the district.
- The report also makes recommendations to the Health and Wellbeing Board members to help advocate and further embed the strategy and its outcomes across the district.

## 2. BACKGROUND

This report presents a summary of the Good Food Strategy for Bradford District. The full strategy is attached in Appendix 1

### The Bradford Good Food strategy

*"To put accessible and nutritious food for all at the heart of Bradford's policies and actions. We do this in order to reduce health and social inequalities, to improve health and wellbeing and to create a secure and sustainable food system that works for people and strengthens our local economy"*

We live in a world where extortionate amounts of food are wasted whilst people in our District go hungry on a daily basis.

Many recent events have highlighted the stresses that our food system is under and the fragility of the global food supply chain. A perfect storm has added to an ongoing cost of living crisis, including the war in Ukraine, the Covid-19 pandemic and the trade frictions caused by the exit from the EU.

Public Health have taken the lead in co-developing the Bradford District Food Strategy with various council departments, external organisations and key stakeholders, but it is only the host, not the owner of the strategy. Due to the systemic and cross-cutting nature of the food system, it is vital that the strategic action plan in development is owned by the whole Council and district partners and not just seen as a public health or Living Well initiative.

The strategy development group met throughout 2021/22 to explore the challenges of creating a place and a culture where good food is readily accessible to all. The group looked at the gap between where we think we are and where we want to get to.

This co-production process identified four key outcomes that we would need to address to ensure that people from every community can access good food in all parts of the District:

- 1) **Creating an Eating Well culture** – developing knowledge and skills, and access to healthy affordable food
- 2) **Tackling Food Insecurities** – increasing access to, and availability of, healthy fresh low cost food.
- 3) **Community-led food growing** – sustaining and expanding local food production
- 4) **A sustainable food system for all** – creating a resilient and sustainable food system which protects bio-diversity and reduces impact on climate change.

Guiding principles of the Strategy are:

- We put prevention first
- We work to reduce food inequalities and promote dignity and choice
- Our food sector is sustainable and ethical
- People and communities are the District's greatest assets
- We are collaborative

### **Governance and the new 'Sustainable Food Partnership'**

The new 'Sustainable Food Partnership', which formally launched in September 2022, will coordinate the delivery of this strategy and report on progress to the Living Well steering group and the District's Health and Wellbeing Board.

The main role of the partnership is to provide the operational direction of the strategy, and to bring together 45 key District Partners to operate through a 'Whole System' approach to help influence and shape a healthier and sustainable food system. The Partnership recently joined the Sustainable Food Places Network (SFP) and has subsequently structured the strategy action plan around the SFP thematic guidance. The six themes are:

1. **Strategy and Governance** – Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action
2. **Good Food Movement** – Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement
3. **Healthy Food For All** – Tackling food related poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food
4. **Sustainable Food Economy** – Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy
5. **Catering and Procurement** – Transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local and sustainable food supply chains
6. **Food for the Planet** – Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming to end food waste

The Bradford Good Food Strategy is an opportunity for us to understand, connect and extend the food-related work that is underway in the health and public sector, in the private sector through food businesses, food producers, retailers, farmers and the agricultural sector and the voluntary, community and faith sector. It sets out a vision for the kind of food system that the District will need for the future, and a high-level plan for how to achieve that vision.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- N/A

### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- Due to the complexity and multiple components that come together to create a food system, funding comes from a range of sources often building on or shaping existing investment plans to simultaneously support transformation of the food system.
- The new Sustainable Food partnership will continue to work with its broad stakeholder network to prioritise and direct funding towards the key outcomes of the strategy. It will also continue to be pro-active with its application to external funders and local/regional/national partners to help leverage further funding to deliver on the four key outcomes of the strategy
- There are no financial implications as a result of this report

### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

- There are no significant risks arising out of the report. However, it should be noted that if implementing the Food Strategy is unsuccessful we:
  - Continue to provide short term solutions if we fail to focus upstream on creating sustainable opportunities,
  - Continue to work in organisational and departmental siloes and fail to capitalise on opportunities to amplify impact, in particular through public sector procurement
  - Miss the chance to demonstrate the districts commitment to embedding sustainability and clean growth across all policies and strategies.

### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- There are no legal issues arising from the issues contained in this report

### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

#### **7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- Delivery of the strategy will support the District Plan, wellbeing, health and wider sustainable development.
- Sustainability is at the heart of the strategy. Outcome four focuses on the creation of a **sustainable food system for all** – creating a resilient and sustainable food system which protects bio-diversity and reduces impact on climate change and as such will help contribute towards the districts 2038 ambition of reaching ‘net zero’, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and in our ongoing work on the climate emergency

#### **7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

- Tackling and creating a more sustainable food system will have a direct impact on reducing our carbon footprint and towards achieving ‘net zero’.

#### **7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- N/A

#### **7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

- N/A

#### **7.5 TRADE UNION**

- N/A

#### **7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

- Our ambition is to create healthy and sustainable food system for residents across the district. In order to achieve this, it's important we ensure that the outcomes of the strategy are embedded in local plans. We will continue to work in partnership with locality teams, community partnerships and other place based teams to ensure 'good food' is a priority in local wards.

#### **7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)**

- N/A

#### **7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The strategy has direct long term implications for children and young people across the Bradford district. The partnership works closely with Children's Services and schools to support implementation. It engaged with over 800 children and their families as part of its co-production, and will ensure ongoing direct input from children into the operation and strategic direction of the strategy and its action plan.

#### **7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

- N/A

#### **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

- None

#### **9. OPTIONS**

- This strategy for the district sets out a clear vision which aims to unite people with a shared purpose. Its success will depend on people and organisations from across the district working together. The return on investment for creating a healthy and sustainable food system is well evidenced and so its delivery will also help reduce avoidable costs as well as leading to happier, healthier lives for people in Bradford. Everyone has a role to play in improving the food system in the district.
- whole system approach.
- Identify funding and resource that can support the delivery of the action plan.

#### **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The board members are asked to adopt the strategy as detailed in appendix 1 of this report.

Recommendations on how board members can support the delivery of the strategy:

- Senior level commitment to embed the key outcomes of the food strategy into policy as an enabler, meeting multiple outcomes
- For members to advocate for the strategy at every opportunity, and to understand the breadth and depth of the strategy which intersects across multiple health and wellbeing outcomes, and multiple outcomes of the district plan.
- Share and discuss this strategy with colleagues. Members of the Sustainable Food Partnership are available to present on the strategy at relevant committees.
- Support staff capacity to collaborate across the system to deliver a co-ordinated

## 11. APPENDICES

- The Good Food strategy consultation summary report



Adobe Acrobat  
PDFXML Document

- The Bradford District Good Food Strategy



Bradford Good  
Food Strategy - Post