



Glasgow City Council

General Purpose City Policy Committee

Report by Chief Executive

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**Item 3(b)**

13th August 2019

## Developing the Glasgow Food Strategy

### Purpose of Report:

To update members on progress developing the outcomes from the Food Inequality Inquiry. The report also sets out proposals for developing the Glasgow Food Strategy.

### Recommendations:

Members are asked to

- (i) consider and comment on the proposal to develop a Glasgow Food Strategy;
- (ii) consider the update in relation to tackling Food Inequality; and
- (iii) consider further work that the committee could be involved in to progress the development of actions to tackle food inequality.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No  consulted: Yes  No

#### **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

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## 1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The challenge presented by food inequality and poverty in Glasgow is one of the biggest public health challenges that we face in the city. The General Purposes City Policy Committee agreed in August 2018 to conduct an inquiry into food poverty and inequality.

1.2 The Food Poverty and Inequality Inquiry brought together city councillors, citizens, community food groups, foodbanks and academics. The Inquiry's remit was to

- Understand food inequality in Glasgow
- Look at the steps the city can take to prevent food inequality
- Consider how the city can make best use of the services and approaches already available
- Look at what the city can do to invest in longer term sustainable solutions

1.3 Members previously considered a report at their meeting in January, [Tackling Food Inequality update](#), which summarised the work of the Inquiry. The report informs members of progress to date. There were two broad areas of recommendations set out in the previous report :

- To develop a Food Plan or Strategy for Glasgow
- To explore new and innovative models to tackle food inequality and improve the response of the public sector

1.4 The value of developing action on food inequality as part of a broader city food plan or strategy lies in the recognition that, while food poverty is caused by poverty rather than too little food, inequalities exist and are exacerbated in our current food system. The most effective action on food inequality is therefore through anti-poverty measures in combination with changes to the wider food system. This food system influences issues related to food inequality such as the availability of affordable, nutritious food; the prevalence and pattern of dietary-related ill-health (and inequalities in dietary-related ill-health); opportunities for employment and skills development in a growing food, hospitality and tourism sector; interception of surplus food; local food growing; and the environmental impact relating to food.

1.5 A city food strategy would bring coherence, coordination and synergy to a range strategies and policies that relate to this food system and that already in existence or development. These include, but not limited to, Glasgow's approach to tackling poverty, the Child Poverty Action Plan, Our Resilient Glasgow Strategy, Glasgow's school food policy, Glasgow's food growing strategy, NHS GGC's public health strategy, Glasgow City Region's economic action plan, Glasgow City Region's Tourism Strategy

- 1.6 A city food strategy would enable coordinated city level action, which in turn can support the local level food action plans which are in development across the city. E.g. Food for Good in Govan.

## **2.0 Glasgow Food Policy Partnership and the Glasgow Food Summit**

- 2.1 Glasgow has a rich and diverse network of community food organisations and groups across the city, supported by city wide organisations and partnerships such as the [Glasgow Community Food Network](#) and the [Glasgow Food Policy Partnership \(GFPP\)](#). The GFPP brings together public, private and voluntary sector organisations who want to build a fairer, healthier and more sustainable food system for Glasgow. Councillor Anna Richardson attends GFPP along with officers from Neighbourhoods and Sustainability and Chief Executives Department. The Health and Social Care Partnership are also represented. Other members include Glasgow Community Food Network, Fareshare, Nourish Scotland and the Soil Association. It is supported and resourced by Glasgow Centre for Population Health.
- 2.2 GFPP has been working with partners to build the case for a Glasgow Food Plan. A Food Summit took place in May in the City Chambers. The Summit brought together a range of public, private, community and voluntary sector partners with an interest in developing a fairer food system for Glasgow. Bailie Elaine Ballantyne presented the opening address. Feedback from the summit is a separate item on today's agenda.

## **3.0 Developing Glasgow's Food Strategy**

- 3.1 Council Strategic Plan commitment 71 says that we will "support the development of Glasgow as a sustainable food city". To secure the 1<sup>st</sup> tier award level (bronze) as a Sustainable Food City requires as a minimum :
- An active cross sector partnership focussing on sustainable food
  - An action plan outlining objectives for at least one year ahead
  - Evidence that healthy and sustainable food is 'recognised/referred to' in city policies and strategies
- 3.2 The Food Summit provided a timely opportunity to progress the development of the shared understanding of the ambition and priorities that will be set out in the Glasgow Food Strategy. The themes adopted for the Summit provide a good structure for the Strategy and are consistent with those adopted by other cities
- Good food at home and reducing food insecurity
  - Good food for the economy
  - Good food in the community
  - Good food for children and young people
  - Growing good food
  - Good food for the environment

- 3.3 It is proposed that the Strategy is a long term document, a framework for the city: it should provide an overview of the current situation for each theme and what we want to achieve over the life of the Strategy. A year 1 implementation plan should be developed and agreed in parallel to the Strategy.
- 3.4 Every organisation and individual Glaswegian can do something to improve food : whether at home, in work and through getting involved in initiatives in local communities. For each theme the Strategy could be set out with :
- actions for individuals and communities
  - what Glasgow City Council will do to deliver and support change
  - Areas of action that need to be led by/ supported by other partners in the city, including other public sector partners, RSLs and business
- 3.5 Through the Sustainable Food Cities network we have engaged with other cities that have developed Food Strategies or Plans and learned from their experience. From this , the following broad timescale and key actions are proposed :

August to October 2019:	develop baseline, agree strategy outcomes and identify theme leads
November/ December 2019:	develop priorities for each theme, through engaging with key stakeholders and communities
January 2020	agree consultation and engagement approach
January/February 2020	draft Strategy and year 1 implementation plan
March to May 2020	consultation and engagement
June/July 2020	draft final Strategy and Year 1 implementation plan
August 2020	agreement of Strategy and implementation plan

#### 4.0 Responses to Food Inequality

- 4.1 The Food Poverty and Inequality Inquiry highlighted a range of good practice from Glasgow, Scotland and beyond that can be shared and replicated. This will be comprehensively addressed in the development of the Food Strategy as a Year 1 priority, however a number of examples are worth highlighting to members: the work of Menu for Change, the Rose Voucher Scheme and the development of community food pantries.
- 4.2 [Menu for Change](#) aim to reduce the need for emergency food aid by ensuring that people get access to cash, rights and the food that they need before they are in crisis. Menu for Change submitted evidence to the Food Poverty and Inequality Inquiry which highlighted work in other local authority areas which had helped to improve local responses to food insecurity. In one local authority area, the implementation of improved referral pathways had led to a 22% drop in food bank referrals, through ensuring that food bank referrals were only made when cash based and more sustainable responses had been exhausted. Menu

for Change will be working with Council staff over the coming months to review our current referral pathways and help identify possible improvements.

- 4.3 The [Alexandra Rose Trust](#) aims to provide access to fresh fruit and vegetables to low income families and currently operates in London, Barnsley and Liverpool. Families are identified through Childrens Centres. A voucher to spend on fruit or vegetables of £3 per week is allocated (double for children under one). The vouchers can be redeemed at fruit and veg stalls, markets, mobile grocery vans, community shops and any retailers who are signed up to take the voucher (e vouchers are also available). As well as benefitting the families who participate it also can help build and support local economies that provide nutritious, particularly areas where there are few places selling fresh, affordable food.
- 4.4 The model has only been in place for about 4 years but evaluations carried out to date show positive impacts on families health and well being. Currently funding is a mix of council funding, Big Lottery and other charitable foundations and some corporate sponsorship/donations. Officers are currently scoping out the possibility of piloting the Rose Voucher scheme in Glasgow.
- 4.5 Community Food Pantries help people to access affordable food. Unlike foodbanks they are not an emergency response. They are often linked to food redistribution schemes such as Fareshare. Typically a community pantry operates on a cooperative model: members pay a small weekly subscription in return for which they can select goods of a higher value (for example for a subscription of £2.50 a week , members can choose 10 items/items to the value of £15). Scotland first community pantry opened in Aberdeen at the end of 2018. There are currently 3 community pantry models being developed in Glasgow: in Ruchazie, Parkhead and Castlemilk.
- 4.6 It is proposed that tackling food inequality is given a high priority in the Glasgow Food Strategy and in particular in the Year 1 implementation Plan. Members of the General Purposes Committee may wish to consider how they can further support the development of activity to tackle food inequality.

## 5.0 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	Funding for specific initiatives mentioned in the report will be identified as part of the development of implementation plans.
<i>Legal:</i>	No new legal issues
<i>Personnel:</i>	No direct personnel implications
<i>Procurement:</i>	No relevant procurement issues

**Council Strategic Plan:** Supports themes , A Healthier City, A Sustainable and Low carbon City, Resilient and Empowered Neighbourhoods  
Council Strategic Plan commitment no 72

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22* Not directly

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?* An improved response to food inequality and poverty should benefit those groups disproportionately affected.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.* The measures proposed are intended to help tackle food inequality and therefore help address socio economic disadvantage

**Sustainability Impacts:**

*Environmental:*

*Social, including Article 19 opportunities:* Promotion of food growing and community food initiatives should strengthen social cohesion and have wider health benefits.

*Economic:*

**Privacy and Data Protection impacts:** No data protection impacts

**6.0 Recommendations**

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