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| Title: | Spade to Spoon: Digging Deeper: A food strategy and action plan for Brighton & Hove |
| Author(s): | Vic Borrill - Director, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership |
| Purpose: | The paper is to seek the Strategic Partnership's endorsement of the food strategy and to ask for participation of members in the delivery of the <i>Food Strategy's</i> objectives. |

The **Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP)** has been operating since 2003. It is a politically neutral, not for profit organisation that takes a strategic approach to food work in the city, bringing together community groups, statutory agencies, local businesses and residents. The Food Partnership is working for a sustainable food system – one that is healthy, respects environmental limits and supports a vibrant farming and food economy. The Food Partnership also delivers a range of community based projects including cookery, food growing, nutrition and healthy weight initiatives.

The Food Partnership operates a membership structure open to anyone who lives or work in the city. It currently has 850 members - individuals and organisations who are committed to improving the city's food system. The Food Partnership is responsible for driving forward the actions outlined in the city's Food Strategy, Spade to Spoon. More details, including on how to join can be found at www.bhfood.org.uk

1. Context

- 1.1 This work has been led by the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership, supported by the Sustainability Team at Brighton & Hove City Council, Brighton & Hove's Public Health team and Food Matters.
- 1.2 It updates the 2006 Brighton & Hove Food Strategy which was one of the first citywide food strategies to be published in the UK. Progress has been reviewed (90% of the actions were achieved) and new priorities identified in consultation with a wide range of organisations and individuals.
- 1.3 The refresh process was informed by a range of national and local policy and research listed in Appendix one. The consultation process took place over 9 months and involved

meetings with Food Partnership members, the community and voluntary sector, local businesses, teams at Brighton & Hove City Council, the public health team and a public consultation event which was attended by 40 individuals and organisations interested in food work. The draft of the aims and action plan was circulated via 'survey monkey' and comments received from 150 residents. An Equalities Impact Assessment of the strategy was undertaken (available by contacting Vic on vic@bhfood.org.uk or 01273 431700).

2. Summary

- 2.1 *Spade to Spoon: Digging Deeper* sets out a long term vision for the city's food system: one that is healthy, sustainable and fair. It includes a set of aims, objectives and a five year action plan for partners. Attached is a summary version of the strategy which includes the aims, objectives and an example action plan for one aim. The others are available but to save paper this one is attached as an example, if LSP members would like a copy of any of the other action plans please contact Vic on Vic@bhfood.org.uk
- 2.2 The *Food Strategy* provides a strategic context for the wide range of food related activities across the city. It takes an integrated, cross-sectoral approach to food, which links initiatives within public health, environmental sustainability, community development, procurement education, agriculture, cultural and economic development, waste management, urban planning and tourism.
- 2.3 It shows how a focus on food can help achieve many of the city's social, health, economic and environmental priorities that the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership have committed to, as expressed in the *Sustainable Communities Strategy*. Work has been set against the following outcomes to demonstrate how food work contributes to achieving them.
 - Reducing health inequalities and addressing long standing public health issues
 - Reducing the city's ecological footprint
 - Reducing inequalities and ending child poverty
 - Reducing Green House Gas emissions
 - Living within environmental limits
 - Increasing participation in community activity
 - Sustainable economic growth
 - A low waste city

- 2.5 *Spade to Spoon: Digging Deeper* identifies where the city is doing well and where the challenges lie. It has been developed in the knowledge that, by working in partnership, we can take the work on transforming a city's food system to the next level and that in doing this we should seek to share what we learn nationally and internationally.

3. Timescales and next steps

- 3.1 Partners have agreed to undertake work identified in the *Food Strategy*.
- 3.2 The strategy was approved by the City Sustainability Partnership on 7th November and endorsed by Brighton & Hove City Council Cabinet on 8th December 2011.
- 3.3 The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership is currently securing partners sign up for the strategy including presentation to the strategic partnership.
- 3.4 The *Food Strategy* will go for final sign off to the Food Partnership's members at their Annual General Meeting on 3rd March.
- 3.4 The strategy will be published as an online version (with interactive links to action plans) and as a printed summary for public launch during the Spring Food Festival on 3rd April.
- 3.5 The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership will be responsible for driving forward delivery of the strategy and reporting annually on progress to the Board of the Food Partnership, the City Sustainability Partnership and NHS Brighton & Hove public health team.
- 3.6 Any questions, comments or suggestions for the *Food Strategy* please get in touch with Vic Borrill on Vic@bhfood.org.uk or 01273 431700.