

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/2012 REPORT NO. 102

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Cabinet Meeting
12th October 2011
Council
9th November 2011

REPORT OF:

Director of Regeneration,
Leisure and Culture

Agenda – Part: 1

Item: 8

Subject: Implementing the Enfield Food Strategy KD3180.

Wards: All

Cabinet Member consulted: Cllr Goddard

Contact officer: Stacey Clift 020 8379 3876/ Judy Flight 020 8379 3175 (e-mail: Stacey.clift@enfield.gov.uk)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The draft Enfield Food Strategy – Every Bite Matters (2010) consultation was completed, with a wide range of comments received from diverse sources.
- 1.2 Various projects within the Enfield Food Strategy during 2010-11 have made progress.
- 1.3 Updates have been made to the Enfield Food Strategy to reflect the consultation feedback and a 3 year Enfield Food Strategy action plan has been devised, which is shorter and more focussed.
- 1.4 Policy changes that are required to implement the Enfield Food Strategy have been identified.
- 1.5 The Enfield Strategic Partnership has adopted the Enfield Food Strategy and discussions are underway on what role the Enfield Strategic Partnership Thematic Action Groups will play in identifying and implementing key interventions to support the Enfield Food Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the

- 2.1 Cabinet approves the development of the Enfield Food Strategy 3 Year Action Plan incorporating consultation feedback.
- 2.2 The Food Sector Board will manage the Enfield Food Strategy 3 Year Action Plan

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Enfield Food Strategy provides an opportunity for Enfield to adopt a holistic approach to the way we produce and eat food. The Enfield Food Strategy is comprised of four key strands/ themes: (a) Cultivating Communities, (b) Supporting Business, (c) Healthier Lifestyles and (d) Respecting the Environment. It seeks to identify, coordinate and build on the extensive food-related activity in the Borough, providing advice and support for food businesses, continuing delivery of 'cook and eat' programmes in schools and improving public sector procurement standards.
- 3.2 Progress made with initiatives relating to the Enfield Food Strategy during 2010/2011 are detailed in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3 The Enfield Food Strategy consultation was carried out over a period of 12 weeks from 28th July until the 22nd October 2010. A wide range of consultations were carried out with the public, voluntary organisations, businesses and internally within the Council (See Table 1)

Consultation Event	Number consulted
Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Launch	100-150
Enfield Autumn Show	400-600
Ponders End Green and Healthy Living Day	100-150
Enfield Town Library Drop in Session	20-30
Edmonton Green Town Library Drop in Session	15-20
Enfield Homes Springfield Road Festival	20-30
Home Support Network Event	20-30
Edmonton Cook Off	300
Total	675- 1110

Table 1: Food Strategy Consultation and Engagement

- 3.4 The draft Enfield Food Strategy was published on the Enfield Council website in order to collect electronic feedback. Items were also put on Council Website 'Latest News' section, the Council magazine – Our Enfield and the voluntary sector e-bulletins and publications in order to raise general awareness and encourage the public to provide feedback.
- 3.5 Key messages obtained from the consultation process have necessitated a need for a shorter and more focussed action plan that concentrates on the following areas:
- Demand for more land for residents to grow food, particularly around housing estates.

- There is a need to evaluate the role of allotments in social enterprise and review of local allotments.
- A high level of concern was expressed over the growth of take - away outlets and their popularity with school children.
- A high level of support was expressed for schools to educate children more on growing food and cooking.
- There was much interest in learning and skills training. Capel Manor Horticultural College is seen as a unique asset for Enfield that can be accessed to increase food growing expertise in the borough.
- Community co-operatives and farmers markets were strongly supported.
- Enfield has a strong food and drink industry which is to be supported by the action plan.
- Some businesses expressed concern about food waste.
- There is a strong support for fairly traded products.
- Greater connections need to be made with the Enfield Food Strategy and the Child and Family Poverty Strategy, particularly with regards to nutrition and infant mortality/ infant welfare.
- There is a need to assess the market gardening sector in the north of the Borough and its contribution to the Enfield Food Strategy and employment growth.

- 3.6 Officers are working to incorporate this feedback and develop a SMART action plan to implement the Enfield Food Strategy around the key themes of (a) Cultivating Communities, (b) Supporting Business, (c) Healthier Lifestyles and (d) Respecting the Environment (see **Appendix 2**). The Sustainable Communities Team within Regeneration, Leisure and Culture will work with Communities, Partnerships and External Relations team and the Thematic Action Group Chairs together with relevant directorates in the Council to organise specific events to populate the action plan with realistic partnership interventions. It is important to note that in implementing the Enfield Food Strategy we are working in partnership with the Enfield Strategic Partnership and supporting partners and agencies. Consequently, the Enfield Food Strategy 3 year Action Plan is designed with the intention of being a “live” and evolving document that will be regularly updated to reflect changing priorities and new interventions as they come on board and will therefore allow for partners to pursue aspects of the Enfield Food Strategy, as they see appropriate.
- 3.7 The revised 3 Year Food Strategy will be mindful of the emerging 3 year Child and Family Poverty action plan and will aim to contribute to child and family poverty issues around nutrition and wellbeing.
- 3.8 Two distinct policy changes are required to implement part of the action plan of the Enfield Food Strategy.
- a) Development Controls to limit provision of new takeaways near Schools. New planning policy is being looked at for the Development Management Document that is currently being produced.

- b) Work to improve the nutritional content of food from takeaways and restaurants is under the management of the Environment Health team. More work is required to inform new policy developments.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 A wide-ranging Food Strategy and Action Plan is considered to be the most effective approach to addressing the issues identified.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The revised Enfield Food Strategy is based on the feedback received during consultation. The Food Strategy will help Enfield to address some of the Borough's key challenges while maximising the benefits of strategic opportunities such as neighbourhood regeneration. The focus is on healthier eating and lifestyles, economic prosperity, job creation and food security. Many of the projects that will emerge from this strategy deliver multiple benefits, to society, economy and the environment.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

The strategy includes an action Plan (Appendix 2) which set out the anticipated sources of funding to achieve each of the actions identified.

Individual proposals within the action Plan will be subject to an appraisal of resource requirement prior to its implementation and correct processes will be followed to ensure that the required funding is in place.

Where possible the plan will be delivered by extending and adapting existing services and within existing budgetary resources. However it does indicate that external funding will be sought to deliver the ambitions of the Strategy, these proposals are subject to successful external bids

6.2 Legal Implications

- 6.2.1 The Council has the power to do anything that promotes the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area pursuant to section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. The implementation of the Food Strategy by the Council is considered likely to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Borough. There is no express prohibition, restriction or limitation contained in a statute against the use of the section 2 power in this way.

- 6.2.2 Where the need arises to enter into an agreement for goods, works or services in order to implement the Food Strategy this must be done in accordance with the Council's Constitution, namely the Contract Procedure Rules and the contract must

be in a form approved by the Assistant Director for Legal Services.

- 6.2.3 The use of Council owned land and particularly Allotments will need to be considered in light of any applicable legislation and in the context of which the land is held by the Council. Allotments must therefore be used wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family.

7. KEY RISKS

- 7.1 A detailed risk register has been prepared (**see Appendix 3**)
- 7.2 Implementing the Enfield Food Strategy also provides a number of opportunities to address issues such as educating children more on growing food and cooking."

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for All

The Food Strategy aims to be inclusive, benefiting people of all communities in the borough. The Strategy tackles issues around spatial inequalities in health, access and income issues relating to healthy food, and the specific requirements of different parts of the community.

8.2 Growth and Sustainability

The Food Strategy will empower people, helping them to understand how their buying habits can make a difference to the local economy. Sustainability is at the core of the Enfield Food Strategy, encouraging respect for the environment while seeking to promote sustainable economic growth.

8.3 Strong Communities

The Enfield Food Strategy seeks to increase individual and community involvement with food growing and raise awareness about the health and environmental impacts of production and consumption. It will promote healthier communities that are more cohesive and sustainable. The Strategy will provide opportunities for people to work more with each other, community organizations and the Council.

9. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Implementation of the Enfield Food Strategy will contribute to the achievement of targets relating to reducing inequality, sustainability and improving health: 1(a) and 1(e) of Aim 1 "Build prosperous, sustainable communities"; 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) of Aim 2-"A cleaner, greener, sustainable

Enfield”, and 5(c), 5(d) and 5(f) of Aim 5 - “A healthier Enfield where people are able to live independent lives”; *Putting Enfield First: Council Business Plan: 2009/2012*

Background Papers

- Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: ‘Food 2030’, UK’s Food Strategy (2010)
- Mayor of London: ‘The Mayor's Food Strategy: Healthy and Sustainable Food for London’ (2006)