

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 23 February 2016

Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City - Progress Report

Item number	7.5
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive Summary

This report details progress made by the Edible Edinburgh initiative in delivering the Sustainable Food City Plan since its launch in June 2014. Key successes are highlighted and areas for future action are outlined. Continuing support is sought for Edible Edinburgh in driving the sustainable food agenda in the city along with a continued Council commitment to playing a key role in delivering the Sustainable Food City Plan.

This report also proposes Council representation at the Sustainable Food Cities Network annual conference in Liverpool on 21-22 March 2016. The theme of the 2016 conference is 'The True Cost of Food: Who Profits, Who Pays and What Needs to Change?' It is proposed that the Convenor of Transport and Environment and Chair of the Edible Edinburgh Partnership, Councillor Lesley Hinds, accepts the offer of a free place at the conference and attends with the Edible Edinburgh officer.

Links

Coalition pledges	P16, P17, P24, p27, P28, P43, P48, P49, P50
Council priorities	CO4, CO8, CO10, CO18, CO23, CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1, SO2, SO3, SO4

Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City - Progress report

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note progress with the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan;
- 1.2 To continue to support the Edible Edinburgh initiative in driving the Plan;
- 1.3 To continue to work with Edible Edinburgh to implement the plan and to progress actions which require direct Council involvement; and
- 1.4 To approve attendance at the Sustainable Food Cities Network annual conference in Liverpool on 21-22 March 2016 by the Convener of Transport and Environment and Chair of the Edible Edinburgh Partnership, Councillor Lesley Hinds.

2. Background

- 2.1 The [Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan](#) was developed in response to public demand by a range of public, private and third sector partner organisations including the Council and launched in June 2014. It provides a strategic framework for Edinburgh to develop as a sustainable food city and outlines actions for delivering this transformation.
- 2.2 The Edible Edinburgh initiative is delivered by a cross sector partnership recognised within Community Planning structures as a sub-group of the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership. The initiative and Plan contribute to a number of key city strategies and priorities including Sustainable Edinburgh 2020, the Poverty and Inequality Framework, the Health Inequalities Framework and the Prevention Strategic Plan. Actions are delivered by collaborative partnership working across all sectors to harness and direct resources, support active citizenship and build community resilience. Progress with the action plan is outlined in [Appendix 1, Table 1](#).
- 2.3 Following a [report to the Transport and Environment Committee](#) on 3 June 2014, the Council agreed to endorse the Plan and to support it with a range of specific actions. Details and progress with these are outlined in [Appendix 1, Table 2](#).
- 2.4 The Council awarded Edible Edinburgh £20,000 in 2014/15 (Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 fund) to fund a part time development officer. A further £20,000 was awarded in 2015/16. The development officer coordinates and supports the work of Edible Edinburgh in harnessing the resources of its members and the wider community in delivering the Sustainable Food City Plan.
- 2.5 The Edible Edinburgh initiative is a member of the UK Sustainable Food Cities Network which supports over forty UK cities in developing cross sector

approaches to building healthy and sustainable communities by transforming food systems.

3. Main report

Progress with the Sustainable Food City Plan

- 3.1 Edible Edinburgh agreed that an early focus within the Sustainable Food City Plan would be on food poverty and on addressing the rapid rise in the use of food banks. This focus is reflected in the actions and achievements to date, several of which are innovative and have led the way for others to follow. For example, the February 2015 joint statement on Food Poverty by the Leaders of Edinburgh and Glasgow Councils established a model for the UK Sustainable Food Cities Network, resulting in over thirty UK cities signing a joint declaration calling on the UK Government to end food poverty. In recognition of Edible Edinburgh's work on food poverty, the Chair of the partnership was invited to join a Scottish Government short life working group on food poverty which is due to report to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice in February 2016.
- 3.2 Early action has also focused on influencing key policy developments relevant to sustainable food. For example, Edible Edinburgh's response to the SESPlan Main Issues Report consultation in 2015 noted:
 - 3.2.1 the Local Authority Planning function has a key role to play in building a better food system. This role includes ensuring communities are more resilient places.
 - 3.2.2 The SESPlan proposal omitted food related issues, in particular:
 - 3.2.2.1 the need to protect agricultural land adjacent to the city;
 - 3.2.2.2 to support the development of infrastructure for short supply chains;
 - 3.2.2.3 and to develop and maintain areas for growing and producing food within the city.
- 3.3 Further success has been experienced by the Edible Edinburgh sub group, the Edinburgh Food for Life (FFL) Partnership. The three year Edinburgh FFL pilot project was established in 2012 to improve the sustainability of food procurement and catering in the city's key public sector organisations. As a result, the University of Edinburgh has attained FFL Catering Mark accreditation for all its catering outlets in the city and the Council has attained accreditation for all Council schools, four care homes and two respite/day centres. [Evaluations of the FFL framework](#) in schools demonstrate outcomes such as a 3:1 social return on investment on FFL menus; positive impacts on children's behaviour and educational attainment; and the development of sustainable food sourcing and school meal provision. The Council has recently re-committed to rolling out Food for Life across all its production kitchen operations by summer 2016 ([Education Children and Families Committee, 6 October 2015](#)).

- 3.4 Progress with the early actions agreed by the Council includes the development of an interim Community Asset Transfer Policy which helps clarify issues relating to land access; inclusion of the aspiration for a minimum of four new food growing/ distribution cooperative initiatives in the Cooperative Capital Work Plan; and an increase of 49% - an extra 2100 tonnes - in the amount of kerbside and communal food waste collected by the Council in the year to date (April-December 2015) than in the same period last year.

Edible Edinburgh funding arrangements

- 3.5 Edible Edinburgh delivers actions by engaging with and supporting the collaboration of its members, supporters and relevant local organisations. Edible Edinburgh's impact is in adding value to partners' actions through coordination and awareness raising as well as through its own development work. This work is coordinated by a part time development officer. Funding for this post ends in May 2016 and efforts are underway to identify and secure alternative funding. A final contribution of £7,000 from the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 budget has been ring-fenced for 2016-17, thereafter this budget will be fully committed. An application for £8,000 has been submitted to the Edinburgh Partnership and there may be an opportunity to access additional funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation via the UK Sustainable Food Cities Network in late 2016.

Sustainable Food Cities Network Annual Conference

- 3.6 This year, the Sustainable Food Cities Network annual conference will be held in Liverpool on 21-22 March. The theme is 'The True Cost of Food: Who Profits, Who Pays and What needs to Change?' The conference will explore and share experiences of issues ranging from the role of policy makers in healthy eating, the potential benefits of a re-localised food economy and issues of food security with regards to the increasing global population and the planet's natural capital.
- 3.7 Liverpool University, host of this year's Conference, has offered all Sustainable Food Cities Network members two free conference places and subsidised accommodation at the University. It is proposed that the Convenor of Transport and Environment and Chair of the Edible Edinburgh Partnership, Councillor Lesley Hinds, accepts the offer of a free place at the conference and attends with the Edible Edinburgh officer.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Ongoing delivery of the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City action plan across all objectives.
- 4.2 Increased numbers of organisations and individuals signed up to the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Charter and engaging on Social Media.

- 4.3 Increased and strengthened cross-sector engagement with and collaboration under the Sustainable Food City Plan.
- 4.4 Development a food hubs model as an alternative to food banks.
- 4.5 Contribution to the development of an updated allotments strategy and a local food growing strategy with reference to the Community Empowerment Act.
- 4.6 Food for Life roll-out across all Council production kitchen operations by summer 2016.
- 4.7 Development of indicators to measure progress of Edinburgh as a sustainable food city.
- 4.8 Continued increase in the percentage of household food waste recycled year on year in the city.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Council action to meet its commitments as a partner in Edible Edinburgh is aligned with adopted policy and therefore contained within existing budgets.
- 5.2 Edible Edinburgh will seek funding as required to further its action plan.
- 5.3 A free place is available for a Council delegate at this year's Sustainable Food Cities Network annual conference. Subsidised accommodation is offered at £20 per night in the University. The cost of return travel to Liverpool depends on travel mode and time of booking. Travel arrangements will be made in accordance with the Council's Sustainable Travel Plan.
- 5.4 The total estimated cost for accommodation and travel is in the region of £100-£150.
- 5.5 Costs for elected member attendance will be met from the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 budget for 2015/16.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Continued Council support for the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City plan contributes to mitigating risks of non-compliance with statutory requirements, specifically the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- 6.2 In addition, the Council is ensuring that it is taking action to deliver against adopted policies and strategies.
- 6.3 Further, the Council is fulfilling its Community Planning obligations by working in partnership to deliver better services and improve the lives of local people.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 Equality and rights are a key component of the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan which is underpinned by principles including being inclusive, engaging and sustainable. Delivery of this plan will improve Council ability to deliver the public sector equality duty.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The impacts of this report in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties have been considered. In summary, the proposals in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because they support Council action in partnership across all sectors, to reduce carbon emissions, increase the city's resilience to climate change impacts and improve social justice, economic wellbeing and environmental good stewardship.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The Edible Edinburgh initiative is delivered by a city-wide, cross-sector partnership with regular and ongoing engagement between members and the wider Edinburgh community.

Background reading/external references

[Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City Plan](#)

[Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City: Transport and Environment Committee, 3 June 2014](#)

[Food for Life Evaluations](#)

[Food for Life Accreditation in Schools – Update: Education Children and Families Committee Report, 6 October 2015](#)

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10. Links

Coalition pledges	P16 – Examine ways to source new funding to support small businesses
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P17 - Continue efforts to develop the city's gap sites and encourage regeneration.

P24 - Maintain and embrace support for our world-famous festivals and events.

P27 – Seek to work in full partnership with Council staff and their representatives

P28 - Further strengthen our links with the business community by developing and implementing strategies to promote and protect the economic well being of the city.

P43 - Invest in healthy living and fitness advice for those most in need.

P48 - Use Green Flag and other strategies to preserve our green spaces.

P49 - Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill.

P50 - Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of 42% by 2020.

Council priorities

CO4 - Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy

CO8 – Edinburgh's economy creates and sustains job opportunities

CO10 – Improved health and reduced inequalities

CO18 – Green - We reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production

CO23 – Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community

CO26 – The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives

Single Outcome Agreement

SO1 – Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all

SO2 – Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health

SO3 – Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential

SO4 - Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric

APPENDIX 1 – Edible Edinburgh: Progress and Key Successes

Table 1: Edible Edinburgh – Progress and Key Successes: July 2014-December 2015

Aim	OBJECTIVE / EARLY ACTIONS	PROGRESS TO DATE	Ongoing / Future Action
Health and Wellbeing	Engage with community food initiatives to explore alternatives to food banks.	<p>Edinburgh Community Food and Community Food and Health Scotland representatives now included on Edible Edinburgh steering group.</p> <p>Joint working on food poverty established between Edinburgh (Edible Edinburgh) and Glasgow (Glasgow Food Policy Partnership) and a range of national organisations from the food, health and poverty fields (including Pilton Community Health Project).</p> <p>Joint Council leader’s statement on food poverty (Edinburgh and Glasgow) issued in February 2015. Follow up statement issued by Directors of Public Health (Edinburgh and Glasgow) focussing on the health implications of food poverty. This established a model for the UK Sustainable Food Cities Network to emulate, resulting in over 30 UK cities calling on the UK Government to end food poverty.</p>	<p>The future of joint work by Sustainable Food City partnerships in Scotland will be reviewed in the light of the recommendation of the Scottish Government Short Life Working Group on Food Poverty. This will build on the successes to date of the joint Edinburgh/Glasgow Food Poverty Group.</p>

	<p>Develop effective links with NHS/HISG</p>	<p>Joint leader's visit a Glasgow food project in Challenge Poverty Week, 2015.</p> <p>A joint approach by Edinburgh and Glasgow has been made to the Scottish Government proposing Scottish collaboration to address food poverty. At the core of these proposals is the potential to pilot food hubs as an alternative to food banks.</p> <p>Edible Edinburgh chair invited as Scottish Local Authority representative onto Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice's short life working group on food poverty.</p> <p>Edible Edinburgh has written to all party leaders at the Scottish Parliament suggesting that food poverty is issue that could be included in their manifestos for the 2016 elections.</p> <p>Edible Edinburgh is now represented on the Council's Welfare Reform reference group and officer working group.</p> <p>NHS Lothian and Health Inequalities Standing Group representative now on Edible Edinburgh steering group. Represents Edible Edinburgh on the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership.</p>	<p>Food hub proposals developed by the joint Edinburgh/Glasgow Food Poverty Group are being considered further by the Scottish Government Short Life Working Group on Food Poverty and will form an important element in their recommendations (due in February 2016), by proposing sustainable and empowering responses to food poverty.</p>
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	Lets policy.		
Environment	<p>Develop a baseline to measure Edinburgh's progress as a Sustainable Food City.</p> <p>Continue to reduce food waste levels.</p>	<p>Edible Edinburgh contributes and reports as a sub-group to the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership which in turn reports to the Edinburgh Partnership. Actions towards carbon reductions in the city are included as a measure of sustainable development within the Community Plan.</p> <p>Edible Edinburgh is participating in research led by the University of Cardiff, Food Matters and the UK Sustainable Food City Network to develop metrics for evaluating the work of sustainable food city partnerships and indicators to assess progress towards becoming a sustainable food city.</p> <p>In the year to date (April-December 2015) CEC has collected 2100 tonnes more food waste (kerbside and communal) than was collected for the same period last year – an increase of 49%.</p>	<p>A workshop is scheduled in Edinburgh for February 2016. Outcomes will consider complementary work being undertaken by the Rowett Institute.</p> <p>An Edible Edinburgh sub-group on food waste will be established in 2016.</p>
Buying Food	Delivery of the Edinburgh Food for Life Partnership pilot project (EFFLP).	The Edinburgh Food for Life Partnership pilot project successfully concluded in autumn 2015. Edinburgh University has attained the bronze level Food for Life Catering Mark accreditation across all its catering outlets in the city. The Council has attained bronze level Food for Life Catering Mark accreditation for all Council schools and several care homes and day centres.	The Council has committed to rolling out the bronze standard to all its catering operations by summer 2016 and is piloting the silver Catering Mark at Currie High and Buckstone Primary Schools.

	<p>Investigate Opportunities for a joint food procurement strategy for Edinburgh's public sector organisations under the Procurement Reform Act.</p>	<p>A universities sub group has been established (FRiED) focusing on transforming food cultures within universities. A joint seminar with FRiED and the Soil Association Scotland was held in November 2015.</p> <p>The Edinburgh and Lothian Health Foundation has established a discrete Food for Life project within health and social care sites across Edinburgh.</p>	<p>Project ongoing.</p> <p>Opportunities for further work by the EFFLP will be investigated at a meeting in early 2016.</p>
<p>Economy</p>	<p>Develop a strategy for food skills and jobs.</p>	<p>Recently established business sub group to encourage more private sector involvement in the sustainable food agenda using the Charter as a tool for engagement. Involves</p>	<p>Work Ongoing</p>

	<p>Include a food strand in the Cooperative Capital programme.</p>	<p>representatives of Scottish Business in the Community and private sector businesses.</p> <p>The Cooperative Capital included the following aspiration in their current work plan -“<i>Encourage a minimum of 4 food growing/ distribution cooperative initiatives (under the ‘Changing the market and economic infrastructure’ objective).</i>” Edible Edinburgh provides progress reports on projects that demonstrate a cooperative/coproduction approach.</p>	
<p>Cultural Change</p>	<p>Map existing community food initiatives, develop networks and support events to promote sustainable food.</p> <p>Develop a city food charter.</p> <p>Build and expand capacity in the</p>	<p>Edible Edinburgh website and social media functions revised and re-launched in July 2015. Website features include a ‘pledge of the month’ and ‘community project of the month’. Edible Edinburgh currently has over 1,200 Twitter followers and 655 on Facebook.</p> <p>Edible Edinburgh supported the inaugural, community led ‘Power of Food’ festival in summer 2015.</p> <p>The Sustainable Food City Charter was launched as part of the Power of Food Festival.</p> <p>Edible Edinburgh has contributed to a range of presentations, meetings and events in order to raise awareness and engagement with the sustainable food agenda. Examples</p>	<p>Edible Edinburgh is committed to ensuring that community sector views are considered in</p>

	<p>community food sector.</p>	<p>include - Entente Florale 2014, Pilton Community Health Food Poverty Seminar 2014, Open Doors Festival 2015, World Expo 2015, Edinburgh College of Art event 2015 and a range of community events in Pilton, Muirhouse and Edinburgh East, etc).</p> <p>Edible Edinburgh contributed a response to the Scottish Government's 'Becoming A Good Food Nation' document in 2014.</p> <p>The Edible Edinburgh initiative was highlighted as a good practice case study in the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 annual report 2014/15.</p> <p>Edible Edinburgh was represented at the annual UK Sustainable Food Cities network event in March 2015 and co-hosted a 'north' meeting of the network in November 2015.</p> <p>Edible Edinburgh supported the Councils Green Pencil Award 2015 (school essay on 'Food for Thought').</p>	<p>relevant policy debates and will continue to work closely with the sector to support this. Engagement and collaboration will be particularly important in the coming year in relation to issues around food poverty, procurement, land use and asset transfer.</p>
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Table 2: Council Actions to Support the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan: July 2014-December 2015

	ACTION	PROGRESS TO DATE / PLANNED
1	Reviewing concessionary lets policy for community food growing initiatives.	Interim Community Asset Transfer Policy agreed in November 2015. To be updated by the Council once the relevant guidelines on the Community Empowerment Act are issued by the Scottish Government in 2016.
2	Continuing to reduce unavoidable food waste going to landfill.	In the year to date (April-December 2015) CEC has collected 2100 tonnes more food waste (kerbside and communal) than was collected for the same period last year – an increase of 49%.
3	Supporting the ongoing delivery of the Edinburgh Food for Life Partnership project.	The Edinburgh Food for Life Partnership pilot project successfully concluded in 2015 with the Council attaining FFL accreditation for all Council schools and several care homes and day centres (see table above – ‘Buying Food’).
4	Investigating opportunities for the public sector in Edinburgh to develop a city-wide sustainable food procurement strategy under the Procurement Reform Act.	Opportunities for further work by the Edinburgh Food for Life Partnership will be investigated at a meeting in early 2016.
5	Working with the Council’s Economic Development service to develop a strategy for food skills and jobs.	Recently established Edible Edinburgh Economy sub-group to progress this action.
6	Including a food strand in the work of the Cooperative Capital programme.	The Cooperative Capital Work Plan for year three includes an aspiration for a minimum of 4 new food growing/ distribution cooperative initiatives.