

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 7 August 2018

Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City – Progress Report

Item number	7.15
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All
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Executive Summary

Edible Edinburgh contributes to a number of key city strategies and priorities in relation to food poverty, healthy eating, food education, food waste, food growing and community cohesion. It aims to promote the production and sale of local produce and to improve the health and well-being of Edinburgh citizens through education, affordable access and promotion of healthy eating and community growing initiatives.

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.

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 and work with the Edible Edinburgh initiative in driving the Plan.
- 1.3 To support the development of a Food Growing Strategy for the city as required by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.
- 1.4 To support the development of a regional food strategy which recognises the increasing importance of local producers, sustainable agriculture and regional food brands, as agreed by Full Council in June 2018, as part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal.

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 that includes representation from the Council, NHS, further and higher education, community food and sustainability sectors, national food and waste reduction organisations, business and greenspace sectors. Actions are delivered by collaborative partnership working across all sectors to harness and direct resources, support active citizenship and build community resilience. It is recognised within Community Planning structures as a sub-group of the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership. A Vision and Charter sets out the partnership's aims and objectives.
- 2.3 Edible Edinburgh contributes to a number of key city strategies and priorities including the Council's commitments on tackling food poverty, holiday hunger and enhancing nutrition in schools, and on supporting and expanding the network of community gardens and food growing initiatives in the city, Sustainable Edinburgh

2020, the Poverty and Inequality Framework and the Health Inequalities Framework.

- 2.4 The Edible Edinburgh initiative is a member of the UK Sustainable Food Cities Network which supports over 55 cities and towns in developing cross sector approaches to building healthy and sustainable communities by transforming food systems.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan provides a strategic framework for Edinburgh to develop as a sustainable food city and outlines actions for delivering this transformation.
- 3.2 Key achievements of the partnership include:
- 3.2.1 A strong partnership steering group lead with representation from many of the city's key food, healthy eating, health and sustainable food growing sectors;
 - 3.2.2 A Feeding the 5000 event organised by the partnership in its first year, in close collaboration with top chefs and Scottish food producers, raised awareness of food waste and was extremely well attended. People were consulted at the event on the then draft Sustainable Food City Plan. Over 300 responses were received;
 - 3.2.3 Embedding of sustainable food principles in city commitments, policies, strategies and practices;
 - 3.2.4 Multi-agency work on food poverty including a [joint statement on food poverty](#) by the leaders of Edinburgh and Glasgow Councils pledging to tackle food poverty in a joined up way. The Chair of Edible Edinburgh also sat on an independent working group on food poverty set up by the Scottish Government to consider the key issues and make recommendations and a final report was produced. The Scottish Government [responded to the report recommendations](#) and an Expert Reference and Delivery Group was established to oversee the Group's recommendation and take forward a three-year work plan;
 - 3.2.5 Dedicated work by a multitude of community groups to establish, run and expand the network of community gardens and food growing initiatives in the city. These initiatives deal not only with the growing of food but with issues surrounding food poverty, healthy eating, food education, social exclusion, isolation and building community cohesion;
 - 3.2.6 Work by Edinburgh Community Food, Edinburgh Larder and other agencies across the city to deliver a range of healthy eating programmes and initiatives targeting low income and hard to reach communities including cooking and nutrition sessions;

- 3.2.7 The Edinburgh Food for Life Partnership's work on public sector procurement leading to all Council schools, four care homes and a day centre in the city achieving the Soil Association's Food for Life Served Here award at Bronze level and two Council schools and one care home achieving Silver accreditation;
 - 3.2.8 A successful application under the Sustainable Food Cities Network Coordinator grant scheme for funding to appoint a part time Sustainable Food Cities Co-ordinator for one year to support the work of Edible Edinburgh. The Co-ordinator post will be based at Edinburgh Community Food, a key partner in Edible Edinburgh; and
 - 3.2.9 Initial planning and engagement on the development of a Food Growing Strategy for the city. This includes a very well attended stakeholders event organised by Transition Edinburgh's Food Group.
- 3.3 In early 2018, Councillor Gordon was appointed as the new Chair of the Group. Key work has been done since then on defining the key priorities for Edible Edinburgh going forward. These include:
- 3.3.1 Ensuring the delivery of Edible Edinburgh's Sustainable Food City Plan through implementation of a workplan for 2018-2020;
 - 3.3.2 Strengthening of the membership of the partnership including encouraging participation by sectors with weak representation;
 - 3.3.3 Development of Edinburgh's first Food Growing Strategy through a citywide inclusive and participatory engagement process in order to fulfil our obligations under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act;
 - 3.3.4 Work with partner local authorities and sustainable food initiatives involved in the East of Scotland City Deal (Edinburgh, Midlothian, West Lothian, East Lothian, Fife and Borders) to develop a sustainable food strategy for the region, as approved by Full Council on 28 June 2018;
 - 3.3.5 Participation in the Sustainable Food Cities Veg Cities campaign to encourage the uptake of more fruit and vegetables, especially amongst young people and in hard to reach communities;
 - 3.3.6 Work with the Edinburgh Food for Life Partnership (EFFLP) to consolidate its Food for Life Served here 'Bronze' accreditation in Council schools and care homes and look at the feasibility of going for 'Silver' accreditation;
 - 3.3.7 Developing a rolling public engagement programme around healthy and sustainable food with a key focus on community food engagement;
 - 3.3.8 Strengthening local business commitment and developing mechanisms for opening up market opportunities and ways for people to access affordable, healthy and sustainable food through business engagement, promotion of food markets, shops and restaurants, particularly in areas with no existing provision; and

- 3.3.9 Establishing a Scottish Forum of Sustainable Food Cities (SFC) to share knowledge, ideas and best practice, and stay connected and engaged with the wider UK SFC network.
- 3.4 By progressing the above the partnership hopes to achieve the Sustainable Food Cities Network Bronze standard accreditation in 2019-20.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Ongoing delivery of the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City action plan across all objectives.
- 4.2 Increased and strengthened cross-sector engagement with and collaboration under the Sustainable Food City Plan.
- 4.3 Contribution to the development of a local food growing strategy with reference to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act.
- 4.4 Contribution to the development of a regional food strategy as approved by Full Council in June 2018.
- 4.5 Edinburgh Food for Life partnership retention of 'Bronze' and 'Silver' standard for Council schools and care homes.
- 4.6 Achievement of the Sustainable Food Cities Network Bronze standard accreditation.

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 Development of a regional food strategy will need to be resourced as this is potentially a large and new area of work.

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 and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

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 This report has been assessed in respect of the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties. 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.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City Plan](#)
- 10.2 [Edible Edinburgh – A Sustainable Food City – Progress Report](#): Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 23 February 2016
- 10.3 [Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City](#): Transport and Environment Committee, 3 June 2014
- 10.4 [Food for Life Accreditation in Schools](#) – Update: Education Children and Families Committee Report, 6 October 2015

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11. Appendices

None.