

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 3 June 2014

Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City Plan

Item number	7.12
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

This report seeks the Council's endorsement of the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan (Appendix 1) and a commitment from the Council to play a key role in its implementation and progress.

The Edible Edinburgh initiative aims to lead the way in transforming Edinburgh's food system to a more sustainable model through a strategic approach, working in partnership across all sectors as part of the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 action plan.

Edible Edinburgh is led by a cross-sector steering group and is a sub group of the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership, one of seven cross-cutting partnerships under the Edinburgh Partnership.

The Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan is ambitious and challenging. It sets out a range of actions for 2014/15 which will help build the foundations for longer term and larger scale actions for a sustainable food city in 2020.

Links

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

Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City Plan

Recommendations

- 1.1 To endorse the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan.
- 1.2 To commit to playing a key role in implementing and progressing the plan.
- 1.3 To agree to work with Edible Edinburgh to progress actions which require direct Council involvement as outlined at 3.5 below.

Background

- 2.1 Public consultation on the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 framework in 2011 identified food as a key focus area for sustainable development in the city.
- 2.2 Working with partners, the Council's Corporate Policy and Strategy team subsequently delivered a series of seminars to examine issues and establish support for work on sustainable food in the city. As a result the Edible Edinburgh initiative was launched in January 2013.
- 2.3 Edible Edinburgh is driven by a cross-sector steering group involving approximately fifteen partners from the public, private and third sectors in the city. It aims to transform Edinburgh into a sustainable food city.
- 2.4 Edible Edinburgh defines sustainable food as "food which is healthy, tasty and affordable, which is good for nature, good for animal welfare and good for local business and communities".
- 2.5 During the course of 2013, Edible Edinburgh engaged with experts and examined food issues under six themes: health, land use, procurement, economy, environment and culture. Some key issues identified include the impact of poor diet on health (e.g. cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and obesity), and rising food poverty impacted by a 30% rise in food costs over the past six years and evidenced by a five fold increase in the number of food banks over the past year alone. Economic challenges and opportunities include the need to develop more localised and resilient food supply chains, to address the underused asset of peri-urban land and to improve the opportunities for skills, training and employment linked to local food production and the wider food sector. The environmental impact of modern agriculture is significant; our systems of growing, transporting, producing, storing, cooking and disposing of food produce huge quantities of waste including one-third of all household waste in Edinburgh and, at UK level, 30% of all greenhouse gas emissions.

- 2.6 In the autumn of 2013, Edible Edinburgh held a city-wide consultation on how Edinburgh could best develop as a sustainable food city, with the focal point a major engagement event in the city centre. Feed the 5,000 drew in approximately 5,000 people and provided information, workshops and activities highlighting issues of sustainable food. A range of consultations were also held on the day to inform the development of the sustainable food city plan, including, face-to-face surveys, café conversations, interviews and informal discussions. Feedback from the engagement and consultation activities has been used to inform and develop the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City plan.

Main report

- 3.1 The Edible Edinburgh initiative recognises that food is a cross cutting issue which can address social, economic and environmental challenges and can be used as a driver for sustainable development.
- 3.2 The Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan outlines a strategic framework for Edinburgh to develop as a sustainable food city towards 2020. It details a set of actions for 2014/15 to help build the foundations for the longer term and larger scale actions required for this.
- 3.3 The Edible Edinburgh vision is that Edinburgh will become “a city where good food is available for all, making for healthy people, thriving communities and a sustainable environment.”
- 3.4 The Plan will deliver five key outcomes:
- 3.4.1 more fresh, healthy and sustainable food eaten;
 - 3.4.2 fewer people living in food poverty;
 - 3.4.3 our natural environment and resources are protected and conserved with fewer emissions;
 - 3.4.4 a thriving economy with greater diversity in local food production and distribution; and
 - 3.4.5 a transformed food culture with greater awareness and skills.
- 3.5 The Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan details a range of actions for 2014/15 which require direct Council involvement. These include:
- 3.5.1 reviewing concessionary lets policy for community food growing initiatives;
 - 3.5.2 continuing to reduce unavoidable food waste going to landfill;
 - 3.5.3 supporting the ongoing delivery of the Edinburgh Food for Life Partnership project;
 - 3.5.4 investigating opportunities for the public sector in Edinburgh to develop a city-wide sustainable food procurement strategy under the Procurement Reform Bill;
 - 3.5.5 working with the Council’s Economic Development service to develop a strategy for food skills and jobs, and

- 3.5.6 including a food strand in the work of the Cooperative Capital programme.
- 3.6 By endorsing and participating with this plan, the Council has the opportunity to progress its wider commitment to sustainable development.
- 3.7 The progress of the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan will be reported annually via the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 annual report.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Delivery of the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City action plan for 2014/15.
- 4.2 Development and launch an Edible Edinburgh Food City Charter by autumn 2014.
- 4.3 Delivery of a major community engagement event on the issue of local food growing in autumn 2014.
- 4.4 Establishing sustainable food within the Cooperative Capital programme by the end of 2014.
- 4.5 Delivery of the first phase of the Food for Life (FFL) roll out plan with all Council schools achieving the Bronze FFL Catering Mark standard by January 2015.
- 4.6 Development and publication of a clear policy and guidelines for letting Council land to community growing initiatives by March 2015.
- 4.7 Development of a robust baseline by March 2015 which will provide a measure for 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.

Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 By endorsing the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City plan, the Council is mitigating the risks associated with 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 to work in partnership to deliver better services and improve the lives of local people.

Equalities impact

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

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.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Development of a strategic approach to sustainable food was initiated as a result of interest identified from the city wide public consultation on the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Framework in 2011. Following a series of city seminars, the Edible Edinburgh cross-sector steering group was formed at a stakeholders meeting in December 2012.
- 9.2 Over the course of 2013, the Edible Edinburgh group held a series of evidence gathering workshops where experts were invited to share and exchange knowledge with group members on the six themes of the Sustainable Food City Plan (Health, Environment, Land Use, Economy, Procurement and Culture).
- 9.3 In September 2013 a survey monkey consultation was opened to all Edinburgh residents and stakeholders and, linked to this, extensive consultation was undertaken during the Feed the 5,000 event in October 2013. Over 400 responses were received and used to inform the development of the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan.

Background reading/external references

- [Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City Plan](http://www.edible-edinburgh.org/) - <http://www.edible-edinburgh.org/>
- Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 – <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/sustainableedinburgh>

Alastair D Maclean

Director Corporate Governance

Links

Coalition pledges	<p>P16 – Examine ways to source new funding to support small businesses</p> <p>P17 - Continue efforts to develop the city’s gap sites and encourage regeneration.</p> <p>P24 - Maintain and embrace support for our world-famous festivals and events.</p> <p>P27 – Seek to work in full partnership with Council staff and their representatives</p> <p>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.</p> <p>P43 - Invest in healthy living and fitness advice for those most in need.</p> <p>P48 - Use Green Flag and other strategies to preserve our green spaces.</p> <p>P49 - Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill.</p> <p>P50 - Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of 42% by 2020.</p>
Council outcomes	<p>CO4 - Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy</p> <p>CO8 – Edinburgh’s economy creates and sustains job opportunities</p> <p>CO10 – Improved health and reduced inequalities</p> <p>CO18 – Green - We reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production</p> <p>CO23 – Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community</p> <p>CO26 – The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives</p>
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>SO1 – Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all</p> <p>SO2 – Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health</p> <p>SO3 – Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential</p>

Appendices

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

Appendix 1 - Edible Edinburgh – Sustainable Food City Plan

Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City Plan



<http://www.edible-edinburgh.org/>

**Edible
Edinburgh**
Our food. Our city.

FOOD

More fresh, healthy &
*sustainable food eaten

PEOPLE

Fewer people living in
food poverty

ECONOMY

A thriving food economy
with greater diversity in
local food production and
distribution

Edible Edinburgh

Our food. Our city.

ENVIRONMENT

Our natural environment
and resources are
protected and conserved
with fewer emissions

CULTURE

A transformed food culture
with greater awareness
and skills

***Sustainable food is tasty, healthy and affordable.
It is good for nature, for animal welfare, for local
businesses and good for people and communities.**

Our food our city

The way we eat affects the city we live in. The food we grow, the way we produce and distribute it, the distance it travels and the people and businesses we buy it from all have a profound effect on the place we call home. Food can change the landscape of our city, the strength of our local economy, the health and wellbeing of our population and the opportunities open to our young people.

At Edible Edinburgh we believe the future of local food is in our hands. Together we can radically transform our food and our city to build a thriving, resilient, greener, fairer and healthier Edinburgh.

Our vision is of a community that can fairly access and enjoy the everyday pleasure that good food offers and which celebrates the food knowledge, skills and traditions that make our city what it is.

Every day, we each have the opportunity to make Edinburgh an even better city to live in through the food choices we make. It's our city – let's celebrate our food and work together to make it better for our health, our environment and our community.

VISION... a city where *good food is available for all, making for healthy people, thriving communities and a sustainable environment.*



Edible Edinburgh

WHAT IS IT?

An initiative which aims to inspire and motivate everyone across Edinburgh to work together in developing new approaches to food, making positive choices that are healthier and tastier and which bring social, economic and environmental benefits to the whole community.

WHY?

In 2011, the City of Edinburgh Council published a framework for a 'Sustainable Edinburgh 2020' and consulted on priority issues for action. A keen interest in food issues was identified and a series of seminars were then held to explore issues ranging from community access to land for growing to concerns about food and health, food waste and food poverty.

From this, a cross sector steering group was established and Edible Edinburgh was formed. In the autumn of 2013, a public consultation was launched to ask people across the city their opinion of Edible Edinburgh's vision. Over four hundred people and organisations responded with their feedback and thoughts.

This Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan has been developed based on this feedback.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

The Edible Edinburgh Steering Group involves of fourteen representatives from the public, private and third sectors (see page 16).



We all have a part to play

There is lots of food related activity already happening in Edinburgh and this plan is inspired by the many people and organisations who are leading the way in delivering positive change on the ground by tackling health inequalities, food waste and food poverty.

The Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan is designed to be used as a tool to help strengthen and expand this activity, to identify and address gaps and to engage a city wide audience in developing Edinburgh as a sustainable food city.

It sets out some clear aims and objectives but we are well aware of the challenges that such an ambitious plan involves.

The changes we want to see to our food and our city involve nothing less than a cultural shift and can only happen if everyone – individuals, families, groups, organisations and businesses – works together to make our food systems more

sustainable. No single organization or agency can deliver such change on its own. A key purpose of this plan is to help engage and enable everyone who lives and works in the city to examine how they can positively influence our food system and support them in taking action to make the changes. It means building strong foundations for the future and we have focused on developing these foundations in Edible Edinburgh's first year action plan.

We believe the reward – ***a city where good food is available for all, making for healthy people, thriving communities and a sustainable environment*** – is worth it!



Edible Edinburgh is an initiative for engaging all individuals, groups and businesses in identifying action they can take to transform Edinburgh into a sustainable food city. Supported by a cross-sector steering group, it advocates for change in our food systems and provides a framework for action, funding and investment to realise the vision. This first plan aims to make significant progress by 2020 in line with the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 framework.

Edible Edinburgh
A Sustainable Food City Plan
2014-2020
 part of the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan

“Sustainable Food” is a vital to the quality of people's lives. Is is tasty, healthy and affordable. Is is good for nature, for animal welfare, for local businesses and good for people.

VISION: Edinburgh is a city where *good food is available for all, making for healthy people, thriving communities and a sustainable environment.*

OUTCOMES

More fresh, healthy and sustainable food eaten	Fewer people living in food poverty	Our natural environment and resources and protected and conserved with fewer emissions	A thriving economy with greater diversity in local food production and distribution	A transformed food culture with greater awareness and skills
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AIMS

HEALTH AND WELLBEING To create fair and affordable access to sustainable food, and ensure people can use it to provide a fresh, healthy and nutritious diet	LAND USE To grow, produce and distribute food more locally while conserving and protecting our natural resources and environment	ENVIRONMENT Use our natural resources more efficiently in order to minimise our ecological footprint and reduce levels of avoidable food waste	BUYING FOOD To develop a thriving local food economy based on public and private sector businesses procuring more sustainable food	ECONOMY To develop a diverse independent food sector which offers a variety of high quality skills, training, and employment opportunities	CULTURAL CHANGE To inspire, enable and support people to connect with food & the everyday pleasures and cultural traditions of eating, sharing and celebrating meals together
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MAJOR OBJECTIVES (to 2020)

Reduce levels of diet related ill health	Increase the amount of land available for local food production	Establish benchmarks to encourage reductions in food waste, water and energy use and carbon emissions throughout our food systems	Improve the amount & quality of sustainable food procured	Strengthen the wholesale, brokerage, retail and delivery infrastructure that supports the independent food sector	Transform our relationships with food by encouraging more people to cook from scratch, grow their own and eat seasonal, local and organically grown produce.
Increase consumption of nutritious fruit & vegetables	Introduce a food perspective into the city's local plan and SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SESPLAN)	Support national and local initiatives to minimise food waste	Establish better communication and links between producers, processors, retailers and customers	Develop a programme of support & skills training for new growers and those working in growing, processing and catering	Strengthen communities by engaging people in communal activities around food
Establish long term alternatives to food banks and emergency food aid					
Engage with existing community food initiatives to explore, research and pilot alternatives to food banks	Develop and consult on a local food growing strategy under Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill	Develop a baseline to measure Edinburgh's progress as a sustainable food city	Support ongoing delivery for the Edinburgh Food for Life Partnership project	Work with Scottish Enterprise and the Council's Economic Development service to develop a strategy for food skills and jobs	Map existing city food initiatives, develop networks and support relevant events and festivals to promote sustainable food and encourage wide participation
Develop effective working arrangements between Edible Edinburgh, NHS Lothian and the Health Inequalities Standing Group	City of Edinburgh Council to review concessionary lets policy for community food growing initiatives	Continue to reduce food waste and levels of unavoidable food waste going to landfill	Investigate the opportunities for the public sector in Edinburgh to develop a city-wide sustainable food procurement strategy under Procurement Reform Bill	City of Edinburgh Council to include a food strand in the work programme of the Co-operative Capital Programme	Develop a City Food Charter to highlight issues & stimulate actions Build and expand capacity in the community food sector

Introducing the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan 2014-2020

This plan identifies six distinct themes that need to be addressed in order to deliver its vision:

- Health and wellbeing
 - Land use
 - Environment
 - Buying food
 - Economy
 - Cultural change
- A thriving food economy with greater diversity in local food production and distribution
 - A transformed food culture with greater awareness and skills

It sets out proposed actions within each of these themes to engage and work with the public, private and third sectors in Edinburgh towards these five key outcomes:

- More fresh, healthy and sustainable food eaten
- Fewer people living in food poverty
- Our natural environment and resources are protected and conserved with fewer emissions

Actions for the first year of this plan will invest in the knowledge and skills of individuals, the capacities of organisations and the effectiveness of partnerships in order to lay the foundations for transforming our food and our city.

Note: Some of the actions set out below are already underway and/or are linked to existing plans or activities.



AIM 1

To create fair and affordable access to sustainable food, and ensure people can use it to provide a fresh, healthy and nutritious diet

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Scotland is blessed with an abundant natural larder and our national produce is renowned all over the world for its quality and taste – food and drink is one of our strongest commercial exports. But despite our international reputation as a ‘Land of Food and Drink’, Scotland has a chronic health problem and is notorious for its poor diet.

Our diet and food choices are not only costing us our health but putting a heavy fiscal burden on the NHS and wider society. Although we know what we should be eating – more cereals, seasonal fruits and vegetables and less refined sugar, meat and highly processed food – access to affordable fresh and healthy food is becoming a pressing social issue.

Food prices have risen more than 30% in the last five years and the demand for food aid has rocketed. More and more people across the city are now experiencing food poverty.

By re-inventing our food systems in Edinburgh we have the potential to revolutionise how our communities function and ensure that there is fair and equal access to affordable, nutritious food that has been sustainably produced. It can also ensure that everyone is supported to make healthier food choices benefiting us and our city.

Major Objectives

- Reduce levels of diet related ill health
- Increase consumption of nutritious fruit & vegetables
- Establish long term alternatives to food banks and emergency food aid

Year One Actions

- Engage with existing community food initiatives to explore, research and pilot alternatives to food banks
- Develop effective working arrangements between Edible Edinburgh, NHS Lothian and the Health Inequalities Standing Group

AIM 2

To grow, produce and distribute food more locally while conserving and protecting our natural resources and environment

LAND USE

To minimize our environmental impact and reduce the distance our food travels from farm to plate means Edinburgh will need to source more of its own food closer to home. This means supporting individuals and communities to grow food as well as supporting commercial opportunities for local businesses and social enterprises. We recognise that in order to meet increased demand for locally grown food there needs to be access to land.

Across the city an increasing number of growing projects are finding creative ways of growing food on vacant, derelict or under-used land e.g. tenement backyards and garden-sharing schemes. Projects like this are important for protecting our city's wildlife and biodiversity, tackling inequalities and promoting social inclusion as well as encouraging physical activity and promoting healthier eating.

There are many competing priorities for the use of land in Edinburgh and its vital our planning system can accommodate these; freeing up existing land for use as well as supporting the creation of innovative new spaces for growing.

Major Objectives

- Increase the amount of land available for local food production
- Introduce a food perspective into the city's local plan and South East Scotland strategic development plan (SESPLAN)

Year One Actions

- Develop and consult on a local food growing strategy under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill and in cooperation with the Grow Your Own Working Group
- City of Edinburgh Council to review concessionary lets policy for community food growing initiatives

AIM 3

Use our natural resources more efficiently in order to minimise our ecological footprint and reduce levels of avoidable food waste

ENVIRONMENT

Growing, producing, processing, transporting and disposing of the food we eat have an enormous impact on our environment. Food production consumes valuable natural resources and can have major impacts on biodiversity such as habitat loss and pollution.

Industrial farming methods of production draw on the natural capital of our soil and increase our reliance on chemical fertilisers which are a key contributory factor to global warming. Organic farming methods build soil fertility without the use of artificial fertilisers, prohibit use of the vast majority of pesticides and herbicides and offer high animal welfare standards. However, the scale of organic farming in the UK is significantly smaller than that of industrial agriculture.

Our modern food systems contribute around 30% of greenhouse emissions in the UK. And because so much of our food is imported our food choices place pressure on land and natural resources, like water, across the globe. Edinburgh should play its part in the stewardship of the planet's natural resources, to help ensure these are conserved and that our farming and fishing systems are sustainable.

Major Objectives

- Establish benchmarks to encourage reductions in food waste, water and energy use and carbon emissions throughout our food systems
- Support national and local initiatives to minimise food waste

Year One Actions

- Develop a baseline to measure Edinburgh's progress as a sustainable food city
- Continue to reduce food waste and levels of unavoidable food waste going to landfill

AIM 4

To develop a thriving local food economy based on public and private sector businesses procuring more sustainable food.

BUYING FOOD

The capital's public and private sectors have a role to play in transforming Edinburgh into a thriving, sustainable food city. Using the buying power of Edinburgh's public institutions and key private sector businesses to source healthy and sustainable produce for Edinburgh could help stimulate our local economy and create new routes to market for local growers and produces.

Hospitals, schools, nurseries, care homes, workplaces, restaurants/cafes and visitor attractions are likely to provide food to all of us at some point in our lives. Serving fresh and healthy meals could contribute to the health and wellbeing of everyone in Edinburgh and bring a longer-term dividend of social, economic and environmental benefits to the city.

Scotland has a strong international reputation for its high quality produce and ingredients and it is now time to reflect this in the food choices available to everyone in our city. Our public, retail, hospitality and events sectors can all play a part in this and so can individual consumers by asking for local and sustainably sourced products and meals.

Major Objectives

- Improve the amount & quality of sustainable food procured
- Establish better communication and links between producers, processors, retailers and customers

Year One Actions

- Support ongoing delivery of the Edinburgh Food for Life Partnership project
- Investigate the opportunities for the public sector in Edinburgh to develop a city-wide sustainable food procurement strategy under Procurement Reform Bill

AIM 5

To develop a diverse independent food sector which offers a variety of high quality skills, training, and employment opportunities

ECONOMY

Edinburgh has a growing and vibrant population with a high number of economically active people of working age. It has a thriving local hospitality, events and food retail sector that could be developed to support more local producers (and more producers selling locally) as well as a more diverse retail sector where knowledgeable employees are enthusiastic ambassadors for healthy, sustainable and locally produced food, benefiting residents and tourists alike.

We need to ensure that food related businesses in Edinburgh offer a range of career opportunities and improve links between schools, colleges and the food industry to ensure we have a workforce suitably skilled to support the improvement and expansion of our sustainable food sectors.

As a sustainable food city we can encourage and support everyone across the city to have a connection to the food they eat, and the people who produce it, so we can all support local businesses and help our local economy to grow. It is also important that we build relationships and opportunities for collaboration between the people who produce, distribute and sell our food as well as supporting and encouraging a diverse retail sector with more independent food businesses, delivering broad economic and community benefits to the city.

Major Objectives

- Strengthen the wholesale, brokerage, retail and delivery infrastructure that supports the independent food sector
- Develop a programme of support & skills training for new growers and those working in growing, processing and catering

Year One Actions

- Initiate work with relevant key agencies and partners to develop a strategy for food skills and jobs
- City of Edinburgh Council to include a food strand in the Co-operative Capital Programme

AIM 6

To inspire, enable and support people to connect with food - the everyday pleasures and cultural traditions of eating, sharing and celebrating meals together.

CULTURE CHANGE

Our food culture has changed dramatically in recent years and reflects a food system which is geared towards delivering fast, cheap food within a highly complex, global food chain. We have increased our consumption of refined sugar and processed foods, become disconnected from how our food is produced and seen a dramatic increase in food poverty in Scotland. This has all contributed towards rising levels of adult and childhood obesity and food related diseases, such as diabetes, which reduce our quality of life and wellbeing as well as adversely affecting our economic growth.

If a city is its people and if we are what we eat, then sustainable food is key to becoming a sustainable city. We want everyone to reconnect with where our food comes from and encourage and support active participation in community food growing and

cooking projects. By sharing the everyday pleasures that producing, preparing, eating and sharing food can bring we can instigate a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits to our communities and our city; building a fairer food culture and a happier and healthier city to live in.

Major Objectives

- Transform our relationships with food by encouraging more people to cook from scratch, grow their own and eat seasonal, local and organically grown produce
- Strengthen communities by engaging people in communal activities around food

Year One Actions

- Work with key partners to map existing city food initiatives, develop networks and support relevant events and festivals that promote sustainable food and encourage wide participation
- Develop a City Food Charter to highlight issues and stimulate actions
- Protect, build and expand capacity in the community food sector

HEALTH & WELLBEING



5 a day

Over two-thirds of people across the Lothians eat less than the recommended five portions of fruit and vegetables a day and 8% of people eat none.

50%

50% + of all Edinburgh adults are either overweight or obese



8%

8% the number of people in the Lothians who eat no fruit and vegetables



5 fold

the increase in foodbank use in the past year

LAND USE

Edinburgh has
1,434
allotment plots
across 21 sites



88%

of Edinburgh residents live within 400m of a green or open space



2700

number of people on allotment waiting lists.



234.93 hectares of land

in Edinburgh city is either vacant and/or derelict 48% of all sites are 1 hectare or less in size with 3% larger than 10 hectares.

vacant and/or derelict land

48%



1 hectare or less

3%



10 hectare or less



2014 > 2015 > 2016 > 2017 > 2018

5 years

average waiting time on allotment waiting list

ENVIRONMENT

30%



of greenhouse emissions in the UK are from our food system

One third



of all household waste in Edinburgh is food

238% increase



in the amount of food recycled in Edinburgh in past year



Approx 20% of all commercial waste collected by local authorities in Scotland is food and kitchen waste – rising to 45% for food businesses.

53,500 tonnes



food waste from Scottish hospitality sector - two-thirds of which (35,800 tonnes) could have been eaten. 150,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions could be saved by recycling and avoiding this food waste - the same as taking almost 50,000 cars off the road for one year.

BUYING FOOD

 £150 million

annual public sector expenditure on food and drink in Scotland of which 48% is estimated to be on products produced in Scotland (though not all products will use all Scottish ingredients).

416 metres



average distance Edinburgh residents live from a supermarket or convenience store, the lowest distance of any Scottish local authority

ECONOMY



30%

increase in food prices over past six years



Less than 10% of people in Edinburgh work in accommodation and food service

less than 5%

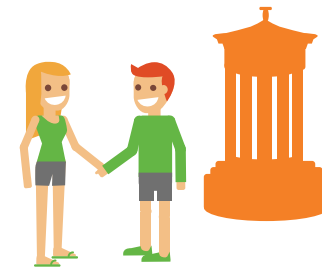


Less than 5% are employed in manufacturing and primary industries such as farming.



A study showed for every £1 invested in a Soil Association Food for Life menu, the social, economic and environmental return on investment for the local authority is £3

CULTURE CHANGE



Edinburgh ranked highest for well-being in a recent survey of the UK's top 10 cities



Every £1 invested in Local Food is shown to return between £6 and £8 to society in the form of social and economic outcomes including health and well-being, training and skills.

Edible Edinburgh Steering Group

Pat Abel, Transition Edinburgh

Shulah Allan, NHS Lothian

David Somervell - University of Edinburgh

Charlie Cornelius, Iglu Bar & Restaurant

Lesley Hinds & Marianne Paget, City of Edinburgh Council

Colin Murray, EVOC

Cesar Revoredo-Giha, Scotland's Rural College

Pete Ritchie & Tracey Reilly, Nourish Scotland

Fiona Richmond, Scotland Food & Drink

Andrew Stirling, Stirfresh

Laura Stewart & Angela Mitchell, Soil Association Scotland

Veronica Burke, Bread Matters

Principles

The principles underpinning this plan:

- **Inclusive** – this is about everyone, and about our diverse culture in the city
- **Additional** - we'll build on the good work people are doing already
- **Innovative** - We will use our wealth of knowledge and skills to support innovation and sustainability in our food system
- **Integrated** - We will integrate our plans with new and existing policies and plans in order to ensure effective and efficient working
- **Engaging**- we will work with people and invest in conversations, education, community development, co-operation and partnerships
- **Comprehensive** - we will seek to change the material environment and social context for decision-making and sustainable food choices
- **Ambitious** - we want to be the most sustainable food city in the UK
- **Sustainable** – we will strive to be sustainable in everything we do

For information on how Edible Edinburgh is progressing and how to get involved see the **Edible Edinburgh website**