

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 25 February 2020

## Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food Cities Co-ordinator

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Committee is asked to approve the allocation of £32,370 from the Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 budget to fund the employment of Edible Edinburgh partnership's Sustainable Food Cities Co-ordinator for a two year period from April 2020 to March 2022, moving from a part to full time post.
- 1.2 Committee is further asked to note the discussions underway with NHS Lothian and Edinburgh Community Food on contributing funding towards this post.

**Andrew Kerr**

Chief Executive

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## Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food Cities Co-ordinator

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 Edible Edinburgh's part-time (0.6 FTE) Sustainable Food Cities (SFC) Co-ordinator has been in post since September 2018 funded through grants awarded from the Sustainable Food Cities (SFC) network with match funding provided by the Council. The SFC Co-ordinator post is hosted by Edinburgh Community Food.
- 2.2 It is proposed to make the Co-ordinator post full-time to cover the time period until March 2022. This will require additional funding from the Council. Council funding for this post comes from the remainder of a historic sustainability budget fund that was agreed as part of the Council's budgetary process in February 2012. This is possible due to an underspend in the amount allocated to the establishment of the Saughton micro hydro scheme; this has arisen due to the Council securing external grant funding for part of the hydro scheme project.
- 2.3 The funding already provided by the Council and the additional funding that would be required are detailed in the main part of this report.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 In May 2019 the Council set the ambitious target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Food plays a crucial role in helping us achieve this as well as helping to tackle other key issues, in relation to sustainability, poverty alleviation and health.
- 3.2 Edible Edinburgh is a cross-sectoral partnership established in 2013 that includes representatives from the Council and NHS health services, further and higher education, community food and sustainability sector, national food and waste reduction organisations, business and greenspace sectors. The partnership is chaired by the Council's Sustainability Champion, Councillor George Gordon.
- 3.3 The partnership's main focus is on poverty alleviation, healthy eating and well-being, local and sustainable food production, supply chains and markets, reduction of food waste, climate change and biodiversity, and raising public and business awareness and participation.
- 3.4 Edinburgh was one of the founding members of the SFC network, which now has over 57 network members across the UK. SFC is a partnership programme run by

the Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain. The SFC approach involves establishing an effective cross-sector food partnership, embedding healthy sustainable food in policy and developing and delivering a food strategy and action plan. SFC have proposed a new regional approach with new resources and an office in Scotland. This presents opportunities for Edinburgh to benefit from additional SFC resources and capacity, and possible funding opportunities. Edible Edinburgh has also benefited from SFC campaign funding and will aim to do so going forward.

- 3.5 In September 2018, through an SFC grant match-funded by the Council, a Sustainable Food Cities Co-ordinator for Edible Edinburgh was appointed for one year followed by a six-month extension to this post, funded solely by the Council.
- 3.6 Since the appointment of the Sustainable Food Co-ordinator, the Edible Edinburgh partnership:
  - 3.6.1 Achieved SFC Bronze accreditation – the second city in Scotland to do so. This has helped increase the partnership’s membership, profile and recognition of its work across the city.
  - 3.6.2 Established working groups to take forward specific areas of the sustainable food agenda in relation to health and wellbeing, land use, food economy, food waste and cultural change. The partnership’s health and wellbeing sub group has been working to reduce food insecurity, poverty and holiday hunger in the city and promoting access to affordable sustainable food. This includes overseeing participation in Veg Cities and Veg Power campaigns and helping deliver Edinburgh’s Holiday Hunger programme.
  - 3.6.3 Held its first citywide Food Summit and hosted the partnership’s first Business Breakfast, held in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. This event opened up dialogue on how food and related businesses can contribute to making Edinburgh a sustainable food city. A new Good Food Business Charter was also launched at the breakfast.
  - 3.6.4 Held a number of community and partnership events feeding into the development of Edinburgh’s first Food Growing Strategy.

## **4. Main report**

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- 4.1 Edible Edinburgh’s SFC Co-ordinator has been in post since September 2018. Funding for this post ends on 29 February 2020. In this 18 month period, the Council’s financial contribution has been £20,000 with £10,000 provided through grant funding from the SFC network and a £3,000 contribution from Edinburgh Community Food, who host the SFC Co-ordinator post.
- 4.2 Going forward, the Council has committed a further £10,000 towards funding the SFC Co-ordinator post for a further year from April 2020 to March 2021, with £20,000 provided by grant funding from the SFC network to cover a two year period from April 2020 to March 2022.

- 4.3 £1,830 would be required to fund the Co-ordinator post for March as funding for this post ends in February 2020.
- 4.4 It is proposed to make the Co-ordinator post full-time from April 2020. If full-time, the Co-ordinator salary would rise to £26,000 per annum. If national insurance and pension costs are added, costs would be around £29,170 per annum.
- 4.5 Edinburgh Community Food (ECF), who are hosting the Co-ordinator post, are contributing £1,500 per year towards hosting, which they have estimated as costing £2,600 per year. They therefore need our support for the remaining £1,100 hosting cost per year. This would bring total costs for the Co-ordinator post from March 2020 to March 2020 to £32,370.
- 4.6 An additional £10,270 in 2020/21 and £20,270 in 2021/22 would therefore be required to augment the funding in place from SFC and ECF to cover these costs. This cost can be met from funding previously agreed by the Council to support sustainability projects.
- 4.7 Making this post full-time would help Edinburgh achieve SFC Silver Award accreditation and free up Council officer capacity and resources.
- 4.8 Discussion is underway with Edible Edinburgh partners on contributing financially to the Co-ordinator post. An important strand of the Co-ordinator role going forward will be on financing of the partnership and the co-ordinator post, as well as research into other food partnership models that Edible Edinburgh could replicate to become self-financing in the future.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 If the additional monies are approved by Committee for the employment of Edible Edinburgh's Sustainable Food Co-ordinator on a full-time basis, then next steps include:
  - 5.1.1 Continuing dialogue with Edible Edinburgh partners on contributing financially to the Edible Edinburgh partnership to remove reliance on the Council as sole partnership match funder for the SFC grant allocation
  - 5.1.2 Ensuring a core part of the Co-ordinator's work going forward will be to look at viable alternative models for how Edible Edinburgh is constructed and to source grant and other types of funding to ensure that partnership continues to be financially viable.
  - 5.1.3 Working with SFC on their proposed Scottish regional approach to ensure that Edinburgh benefits from these plans and any funding that may arise from this.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 A total of £32,370 is required to cover the salary and employment costs of Edible Edinburgh's Sustainable Food Cities Co-ordinator for a two year period from March 2020 to March 2022. As detailed in 4.6 above, this can be resourced by re-profiling sustainability funds previously agreed by Council, with no financial impact on current budgets.
- 6.2 Research will be undertaken into alternative models of financing the Edible Edinburgh partnership and co-ordinator role going forward.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 A number of meetings have been held with Edible Edinburgh partners on options for financing the Sustainable Food Cities Co-ordinator going forward. These will continue.
- 7.2 Equalities, rights and sustainability are key components of Edible Edinburgh and the Edinburgh Sustainable City Food Plan, which is underpinned by principles of being inclusive, engaging and sustainable. The Sustainable Food Cities Co-ordinator post has a positive impact on equalities, rights and sustainability in relation to delivering these principles.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 [Edible Edinburgh: A Sustainable Food City Plan](#)
- 8.2 [Edible Edinburgh – A Sustainable Food City – Progress Report: Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 7 August 2018](#)

## **9. Appendices**

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None.