

The People's Plan for Sustainable Food - discussion notes.

This is a collection of all of the great ideas and suggestions that came out of our Feeding Manchester #20 event that took place at the end of 2016. The event involved sustainable food groups from all over Greater Manchester, working together in order to inform the food section of the People's Plan for devolution in Greater Manchester. A draft copy of this Sustainable Food Strategy is available on our feeding manchester website and has been passed on to the People's Plan, who will be publically releasing their agenda shortly after the election of the Mayor in Greater Manchester this May.

As promised at the event although not all of the ideas discussed could be listed in the strategy they haven't been forgotten, and are here in full below. A range of them have been incorporated into the Sustainable Food Strategy to reflect the priorities and objectives for creating a sustainable food city in Greater Manchester.

We greatly appreciate all of the input from everyone involved in shaping the Sustainable Food Strategy and will keep you updated with how the strategy progresses and is used by the People's Plan, and ultimately how it is being used to influence sustainable change in Greater Manchester. Equally the idea is for all of us to use it to help us create change in our own areas and boroughs and to work towards a more sustainable food system - so please keep in touch with us about how you use it too!

FM#20

Stage 1 Update exercise

Group 1

Examples	Out of date	What's missing
Bolton at home developing food growing groups to make use of spaces in the B@H estates and improve people's access to fresh veg & fruit	Compartmentalisation of food issues is a problem – holistic approach more efficient	Council (Bolton) need to help with setting up new healthy food outlets – help with rent etc.
Bolton's Gathering of Organic Growers a network of local groups providing spaces for people to engage in growing in a supportive local environment	GM section needs revitalising and representing	Look at food issues as issues of commons – land, air, water, green spaces (Bolton Digger example)
The Real Junk Food Project (Bolton) is running a commonwealth café at the salvation army's building and is feeding healthier food than they might otherwise eat	Public engagement (should this be in this column?)	Food enterprise

Incredible Edible Salford at Moss Lane Farm supply produce to the Mustard Tree Foodbank	Provided over 50 allotments as food outlets (should this be in this column?)	Co-op movement as more active partner
Engagement of Salford University		Food waste – the real junk food cafes promoted and supported so more groups are formed
The Kitchen Café encourages healthy affordable eating		Developing GM free GM Working with local businesses to move away from GM fed meat and oil
		Empower parents and governors to make decisions about sustainable food
		A Greater Mcr wide survey of school growing needs to be commissioned

Stage 1 - UPDATE

Group 2

Examples	Out of date	What's missing
Piggy Back Existing National Campaigns e.e Sustain better hospital food not new campaigns where possible.	School curriculums have evolved to incorporate local issues and matters	Sugar Tax and obesity strategies
Community shops/pantry model (as per Stockport Homes/Real Food Wyth/Anson Community Shop)	Don't call it a strategy - needs to be clear idea of how strategy will be implemented	Private sector involvement
Social Movement for Food and Health (Stockport NHS)		Expand use of online harvest omeeter (free to use system for measuring meals grown by community food growing groups)
Sow the City funded project next year in North MCR General Hospital for Therapeutic Horticulture. Prescribed food growing after leaving hospital.		Add a how column to strategy to ensure a clear action of how we achieve.
Fareshare has expanded to over 200 groups across GM receiving regular food deliveries/ collectors.		CCG's (what is this?) should feature widely as a way to support and implement actions.

Kindling - Campaign to finance a model farm that incorporates actions.		Evidence Base for benefit of adopting given strategy.
Heaton Park Community Garden EAT Pennines works with nurses and apprentices linking cafe and garden.		Link to 'foundational' or 'mundane' economy as driver of problems rather than city centre offices/apartments ect.
Healthy food shop Unicorn.		Strategy for implementation is necessary in relation to the rest of the People's Plan
Sow the city awards for school and communities food growing in 2017 'urban food growing awards'		Each LA to lead a local food poverty strategy within a GM poverty/inequality infrastructure.
		More contribution from big players in food industry to distribution of surplus food.

Stage 1 - UPDATE

Group 3

Examples	Out of date	What's missing
Section 4 Example - South Manchester Food Assembly (relates to robust local food sector) but attention must be given to disadvantaged areas of GM	Language should not be negative action but positive actions - particularly in relation to section 1	Needs to be more inclusive of all GM, community can inhibit scale and larger areas. Language and strategy needs to be more inclusive of all Manchester rather than the focus on the level of community.
Conerstone Food Bank - take waste food		Section 5 - In a post-Brexit world ensure that Gtr Manchester opts into Eu policies which protect the region's food safety standards.
Fareshare work with Fairfield on New Smithfield Market to capture surplus fresh food from market traders.		Section 3 & 3 - Food Hygiene and Safety: Standardised training delivered to organisations which would liek to enable their service users to learn how to cook/ provide cooked food.
Section 3 - Helping People Blossom encourages the creation of community orchards (urban orchard funding running out)		Opportunities for eating together social eating opportunities community meals

Food outlets and MCC and Stockport doing planning document about takeaways.		Get friends of parks to be more involved with growing food. Put in parks strategy to support community groups.
Section 3 - Food Sharing Projects i.e. not just growing that sharing surplus food supplies such as Fareshare GM		Less emphasis on food banks - lots of groups not just community orgs are involved in food sharing network and activities - change of language here.
MCC Sustainable Food motion passed at full council in 2014 - Section 1		Prioritisation
Section 3 - Link to the work of GM Poverty Action Group and their food poverty group		Protecting existing allotment sites from development - co-operatives and community allotments offer a supportive environment to help people manage the space.
Section 1 - Priestnall School Stockport school food menu		
Manchester University Progressive Food Policy		
Manchester Veg People Supply Chain Co-op		
Cracking Good Food example for training to cook/knowledge on food safety.		
Oldham Council School Meals service holds the Food for Life Gold Catering Mark Award.		
Food for Life Catering Mark in settings such as schools, early years, universities.		

Stage 1 - UPDATE

Group 4

Examples	Out of date	What's missing
Farm Start	Use of social media	Massive increase in use of food banks need to be recognised and dealt with. Growing food locally for food banks needs to be tracked and supported.

Landshare (councils able to add land)	Climate change	Training new farmer incubation, growing for food banks
Preston Council's drive to use co-ops for economic development	Sharing economy	We support food banks to establish links between austerity policies and benefit changes and food bank use.
Salford Social enterprise city	Huge increase in critical malnutrition and general lowering of nutrition needs recognising	Healthy vending machines in hospitals
Intergenerational work (squash nutrition in Liverpool) intercultural (Mami Cash)		GM awareness still not high
More waste food/pay as you can type initiatives e.g. real food project, Wigan has something similar also Ziferblat pay for your time.		Applications! (Apps) So much potential to facilitate these goals e.g. spare land/shops, finding sustainable food, volunteer time to different parts of the food process.
		Every school child eats breakfast - funded by supermarkets
		Prisons - growing, education, eating, training - important for mental and physical health.
		Hospital food nutritional, cooking on site from fresh ingredients.
		Provision of meals for elderly people - services have been badly cut.

STAGE 2- New Themes

Transforming Catering and Procurement (Group 1)

Priority Outcomes	Actions
All school canteen menu's are gold	Health in all policies - food threads through all the policies and strategies
All public service procurement CFL menu gold	Enabling approaches for caterers to engage in sustainable food
Meat free Mondays	Engagement of policy makers in sustainable food

Procurement tender going to smaller/local/grower/suppliers	Engagement of health leaders in the role of food and sustainability and transformation of health and care systems.
Procurement standards for sustainable food in place for public sector catering like Brighton and Hove	Awareness raising for caterers, policy makers, council's, procurement teams etc.
Free breakfast for all	Food as a priority for Greater Manchester
School holiday meal programme	Food Supply Strategy for Gtr Manchester
	Food Production Strategy for Gtr Manchester
	Soil strategy for Gtr Manchester

Transforming Catering: Food Procurement: Group 2

Priority Outcomes	Actions
Promoting local and sustainable sources of food	More linking of food buyers and food suppliers with composting food waste.
The cost of recycling to small businesses	Promoting communal recycling for businesses to cut the costs of recycling
Education awareness of businesses buying ethically/sustainably	Wastage/small businesses and voluntary groups
Greater Manchester control of food standards can we keep EU standards.	Limit choices by changing choices of food supply
Reducing waste from procurement - less packaging, more recycling	Creating a broader list of the ethics behind a supplier (localising, workforce treatment, finances ect)
Shifting the perspective on cost benefit from cheapest bidder to local benefits/ more ethical suppliers	Adding surcharges on certain products like water bottles.

Prioritising sustainable transportation of food.	Changing water suppliers - More fountains, more bottle filling stations, locations of water sources.
Supporting voluntary groups taking over public sector roles and using them to promote healthy food.	Working through a school's standards so that ethics of food procurement become part of the system.
Post Brexit - EU procurement rules may no longer be relevant - GMCA should be thinking ahead about how this can free up procurement practice.	Standards
Relate outcomes to their role in the strategy - principles, practice, engagement, awareness. Consider how changes are embedded.	
Transforming catering - consider impact of changes e.g. changing procurement practices can have a huge impact on population groups.	

Exercise 2: Reducing Waste: The Ecological Footprint of the Food System

Group 3 -

Priority Outcomes	Actions
Less waste in farming crop planning for markets	Ecological footprint charter people sign up to it.
Getting public bodies not to buy food from really far away	Soil association food safety - categorise, allow people to make informed choices about where they eat 'greenest meal'
Awareness/mindful behaviour towards becoming ethical consumers	

1) Reduce reliance on fossil fuels in transport, refrigeration, fertilisers, pesticides.	a.Promotion of seasonal and local diets - Increase supply and demand of local food.
	b.Policies around seasonal menus/diets
	c. Encourage businesses across Manc to bring in meat free Mondays
2) Tackling commercial food waste and encourage composting.	a.Businesses offer doggy bags, and encourage smaller portion sizes of food.
	b. Campaign to reduce food waste in business
	c. Encourage widespread knowledge of food waste hierarchy
	d. Businesses encouraged to dispose of waste properly
	e. Lobbying government to increase landfill tax. f. Wonky veg section in supermarkets g. Using less packaging on fresh products creating a long life for veg
3) Knowledgeable consumers can make informed choices - mindful behavior	a.Promote educational campaigns around ethical consumption - relates to cooking and volumes of food created
	b. Encourage seasonality in schools and also comprehensive food education i.e. where your food comes from/ what goes into it.
	c.Increase legislation on food labelling i.e. origin, grown, packed feature the ecological footprint value, how many people employed to get this food here.
	d. Learning to cook - fresh foods, how to manage frozen foods to avoid waste. Target children in this in schools.

	e. Encourage businesses to reduce their ecological footprint. Use rating system like food hygiene certificates.
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Exercise 2: Reducing Waste: The Ecological footprint of the food system

Group 2

Priority Outcomes	Actions
Local authority regulations business/organisations waste policies should be included in 5* Hygiene rating.	
Research and evidence of Food waste from people that see it without ruining relationships	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Commission someone to get a snapshot or analysis of big data 2) Comparison of waste of companies/organisations 'name and shame policy' 3) Similar waste products have a waste profile 4) 4) Get an organisation or charity to document the food waste they pick up - this could lead to further research funding and benefits to identify what supermarkets are good at.
Connection/Communication between supply & retail & demand	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Create a hub/ virtual for buying & selling 2) Local market - producer swap
Align wildlife & Agriculture (permaculture) needs- compliment the LA regulations about hygiene rating	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) concentrate on species bees/butterflies ect 2) 3) Develop GM biodiversity plan

Input from Groups Emily spoke with

Priority Outcomes	Actions	Update
		Focus on more independent contracts for public sector for catering contracts i.e. hospitals, schools.
		265 food provision expands the principle of free school meals - do these provisions work properly, breakfast clubs, holiday provisions ect.
Move beyond food bank integration - more than food, people can't afford fuel, welfare advice.	measure household food insecurity - no data mechanism to collate and document.	Strategy need to address austerity specifically, the fact that budgets are much less and work is more with services being streamlined. Funding is not available to replace them.
Cut through the bureaucracy that could inhibit market access for growers/farmers i.e. excessive Health and Safety is a huge put off for sustainable enterprises.		Not enough emphasis in existing strategy on commercial sector and waste - i.e. supermarkets. How do they deal with waste? How much waste do they generate?
Combat social exclusion and access to healthy food, make the sustainable food movement more inclusive.	Fight the stigma of organic - instead use natural processes no herbicides/pesticides avoid using the word Organic. Huge turnoff for many people - without Organic there is no preconception.	Raise awareness of the env impact of food waste not just a focus on the economic implications.
In tackling food waste there should always be short term and long term aims in order to acknowledge the reality of the existing system but the long term goal should be to change the system.	Tax breaks for not for profits - sustainable foods operate as a social enterprise.	Anyone providing vulnerable people food should be made local - with smaller business contracts.
	Food businesses should be forced to report and record their waste and this should be externally audited.	Need to emphasise engaging with children to target a lot of these issues concerning food - food journeys education from farm to fork.

Promote greater autonomy in the public sector over their own procurement contracts	Schools to support local sustainable businesses by supplying food for school dinners.	Need to emphasise using social media to a greater extent - Olio redistributing otherwise wasted food.
Need to emphasise cooking and training in combating a multitude of issues of food - teach people how to set up cooking clubs, train people how to combat waste.		Emphasise the need to support co-ops to be better established and advocate an alternative business model - use a financial incentive to achieve a financial objective.