

My M Phil dissertation Public Sector Food Procurement & Sustainability



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Tameside Council

Sustainable Procurement 2007-2010

- At Tameside Council from 2007 worked on local authority procurement policies
- How can public procurement benefit local economy?
- And minimize environmental impacts?
- Took early retirement Dec 2010
- And went back to university to write a dissertation about public procurement

Dissertation will examine

- How local authority food procurement policies are responding to the austerity era?
- What is happening with respect to
- **Environmental responsibility?**
- **Promoting local and regional jobs?**

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Speaking to local actors

- Local authorities – North West England Yorkshire North Wales
- Officers - catering, procurement, economic development
- Councillors
- Environmental NGOs
- Catering contractors
- Ingredient suppliers

Cold climate

Local authority catering services under pressure

- Budget cuts
- Devolving budgets to individual schools
- Academies
- Cost-cutting could lead to falling uptake and downward spiral
- Individual schools could be left to strike their own deals with contract caterers

EU procurement regulations

- Ensures a level playing field for suppliers from all over EU
- Cannot discriminate in favour of local suppliers



Why do local suppliers not tender?

- Oriented to higher-margin artisan food market - restaurants, delicatessens, supermarkets
- Food safety compliance
- Logistics - not being able to deliver to hundreds of schools within tight deadlines
- Scale - not being able to supply several hundred schools

How to offer opportunities for local suppliers

- Talk to suppliers before the tender
- Adjust specifications
- Break Up contracts
- Separate distribution from supply



Group presentations

- Gather possible local suppliers
- Tell them the content of forthcoming tenders
- General advice on how to complete tender documents



One to one discussions

- Can the supplier meet the specification?
- Does supplier need to upgrade systems eg H&S ingredient traceability?



Lack of ingredient traceability

- Your ground beef turns out to be



Division of big contracts into lots

- This is legal
- Offers opportunity to smaller suppliers
- More work for procurement staff
- Shropshire Lancashire
Staffordshire



Separate distribution from supply

- Helps small producers get their product to 500 schools by 8 am
- Lancashire, Cumbria, Bristol
- Distribution hubs



Borlange Food Distribution Hub

- Three Swedish towns
- All food for schools nurseries social care delivered via a distribution hub
- Assists small local producers

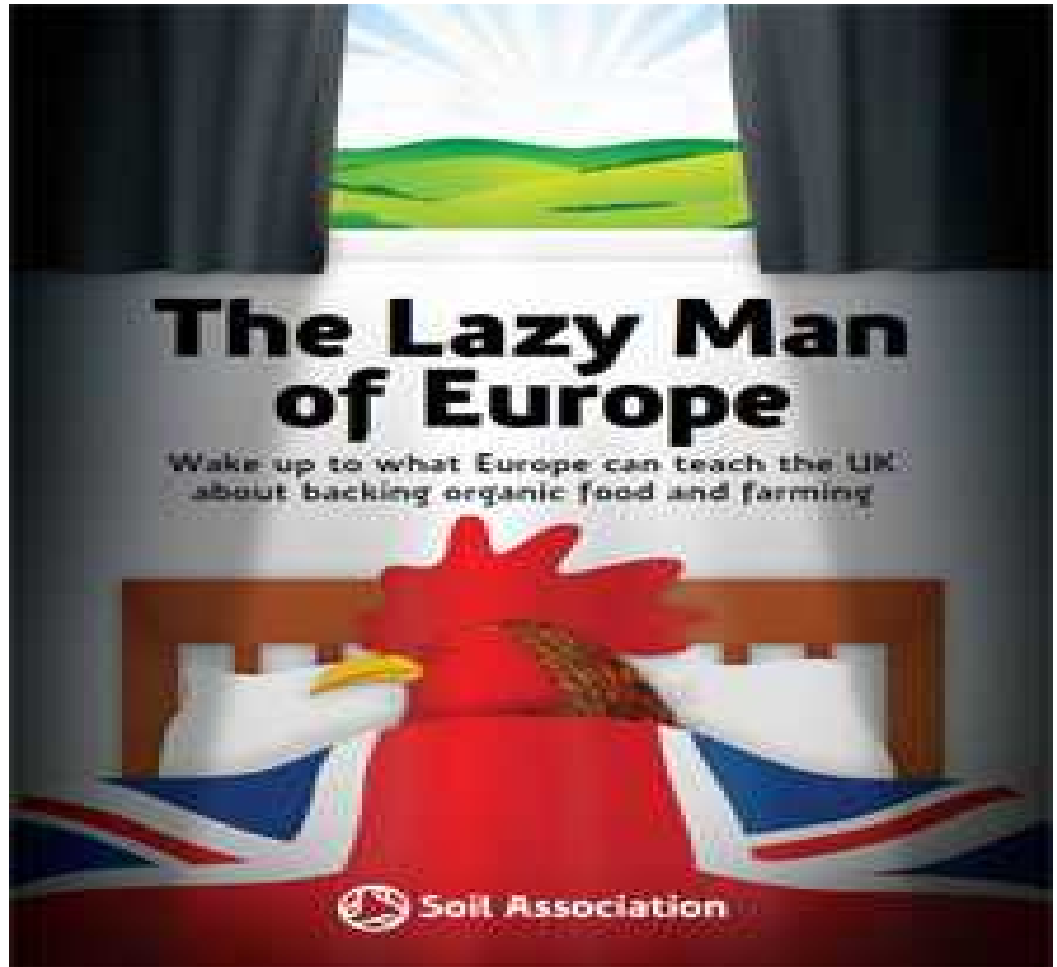


Environmental Responsibility

- Reducing carbon emissions
- Reducing meat and dairy
- Animal welfare eg free range eggs farm-assured meat
- Reduce packaging
- Reduce waste to landfill
- Sustainable Fish?
- Sustainable palm oil?

Organic food?

- UK growing support for local
- organic sales declining
- Seen as too expensive



Food for Life Gold Criteria

- At least 30% of ingredients are certified organic or MSC
- At least 50% of ingredients local
- Emphasis on animal welfare
- Increased vegetarian food

Organic can be profitable

- Better ingredients can mean better takeup and sales revenue

FFL Gold in North West

- Food for Thought *Liverpool*
- *Dolce Cumbria*



Any questions?

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