

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY FOOD ENVIRONMENT  
PRIORITY****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to obtain Health and Wellbeing Board approval and agreement on the actions that the Board can deliver under the Food Environment Priority of the 2018-2022 Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

**Information and Advice****Health Wellbeing Strategy context**

2. The Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed the second Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy on the 6th December 2017. This strategy contains 4 strategic ambitions including Healthy & Sustainable Places. This strategic ambition has 13 priorities for action including to develop a new approach for improving the food environment for health and wellbeing.
3. By the local food environment we mean any opportunity to obtain food (including drink) where we live. It influences the accessibility, availability, affordability and adequacy of food and therefore what we eat and our health and wellbeing.
4. The evidence set out in the Food Environment briefing paper from the Nottinghamshire JSNA tells us that improving the local food environment is important because of the influence on risk of obesity and other diet related diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease and certain cancers. The evidence is clear that focusing support on individuals is not sufficient to address these issues, and that improvements are needed at a variety of levels using "whole system approaches" in order to improve the obesity promoting/ obesogenic environment to develop more healthy and sustainable places.
5. The UK Government continues to recognise the important role of the food environment in its update of the national childhood obesity plan in June 2018. This plan has a range of national measures including to further reduce sugar in food, reduce calories in food products, and tackle food advertising marketed at children.
6. The Food Environment briefing paper recognises broader food issues, including the importance of improving access to healthy and affordable food for those who are most vulnerable to food poverty. Food waste is also an important issue as it can cost families an equivalent of £700 a year. In addition, developing a more locally sustainable food system can contribute positively to the local economy, which can be positive in terms of local jobs

and economic growth. Such as the example of local procurement of school food by Nottinghamshire County Council which had Food for Life Gold status due in part to procuring food ingredients from local food growers and suppliers.

7. In this report we set out proposals to drive improvement in the local food environment for health & wellbeing as part of developing Healthy and Sustainable Places. These proposals are based on the evidence on whole system approaches, learning from good practice; and are informed by discussions at the Health & Wellbeing Board workshop on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

### **A Food Charter for Nottinghamshire**

8. We propose that the Health & Wellbeing Board endorse the development of a Food Charter for Nottinghamshire which was a central part of the discussion at the workshop. Many areas of the country have found it beneficial to present their vision for improving the local food environment and food system in the form of a Food Charter. The advantage of having a Food Charter is that all stakeholders have a shared vision and set of outcomes to work towards to improve the food environment. Food Charters can be characterised as being:

- Broad in scope to allow for changing priorities further down the line
- Reflect the range of key issues identified locally
- Short and easy to communicate

9. We propose that the Food Charter is focused on the 6 topics advocated by the Sustainable Food Cities network which is helping improve the food environment in over 50 places (cities, towns, boroughs, districts and counties) across the country :

- Promoting healthy and sustainable food to the public
- Tackling food poverty, diet-related ill health and access to affordable healthy food
- Building community food knowledge, skills, resources and projects
- Promoting a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy
- Transforming catering and food procurement
- Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system

10. Workshop participants supported this, and agreed that a Food Charter for Nottinghamshire should:

- Set a vision for a positive Food Environment for Nottinghamshire
- Be tailored to Nottinghamshire and reflect local needs and identity
- Be a concise document with a small number of aims
- Be developed through the Healthy and Sustainable Places Coordination Group

11. It is proposed that the Healthy and Sustainable Places Coordination Group forms a task & finish group to develop the Food Charter. The Food Charter will then be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board in 2019 for agreement.

### **Develop a menu of approaches to address the food environment**

12. Appendix 1 lists examples of good practice initiatives and policies that the Board could develop to improve the local food environment. It is proposed that this be developed further into a more detailed menu of approaches for addressing the local food environment aligned with the Food Charter. This menu could then be used by Board members and Place-based Groups to help identify good practice and potential areas for development.

### **Mapping and sharing good practice**

13. The workshop identified that there is already a range of food policy and initiative “assets” operating in Nottinghamshire from the public, voluntary and community, and business sectors. There is a great opportunity to learn from and build upon these assets. It is proposed that Place-based Groups identify existing good practice in their area, and that this is shared via the Healthy and Sustainable Places Coordination Group to further develop good practice aligned with a Food Charter across the county.

### **Development, coordination and evaluation of approaches to improve the food environment**

14. The development of approaches to improve the food environment needs to include a mix of actions at a county level with place based solutions. This requires coordination, building and sharing of good practice, together with some new work. An example where this is already happening is the Healthy Options Takeaway (HOT) Scheme where over 150 food outlets across the county have made pledges to offer more healthy choices for customers through joint work between Environmental Health teams, Public Health, with support from the Public Health commissioned Obesity Prevention and Weight Management Service. Schools are an example identified in the workshop where there are a range of local services and interventions operating which touch on food and healthy eating. These could be better coordinated and linked to local action.
15. It is acknowledged that concerns were raised at the workshop in relation to resources and capacity within local areas to initiate new work across all aspects of the food environment. To address this it was suggested in the workshop that in the first year of the strategy each Place-based Group focuses on at least one aspect of the food environment that represent a key local issue. The focus of this work should be aligned with priorities in an emerging food charter and build on local assets and good practice. This can then be shared and disseminated through the Healthy and Sustainable Places Coordination Group.
16. Importantly the Coordination Group should review and develop approaches to evaluate the work and continue to develop the approaches learning from evidence including the current Public Health England Whole System Obesity Programme. To aid the sharing and development of good practice across the County, it is proposed that a Food Event is organised in 2019 to launch the food charter and engage wider stakeholders in the work.

### **Actions across the next year**

17. It is proposed that the following actions are taken forward to establish a work programme for the Food Environment Priority coordinated by the Healthy and Sustainable Places Coordination Group:
- a) A task and finish sub-group is formed to develop a Food Charter for Nottinghamshire learning from other areas of the country by May 2019. The Food Charter will then be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board for agreement.
  - b) A menu of approaches to improve the food environment is developed by reviewing evidence and good practice which is shared with Board members and the Healthy and Sustainable Places Coordination Group by October 2018.
  - c) Each Place-based Group undertakes mapping of local food policy and initiative “assets” which can be built upon, and shared at the Healthy and Sustainable Places Coordination Group by December 2018.
  - d) Each Place-based Group identifies at least one food environment topic to focus on by December 2018 and develop in their area in the first year of the strategy.

- e) Develop an evaluation approach for the work programme and learn from emerging evidence on whole system approaches to obesity.
- f) The development of a Food Event in June/July 2019 to launch the Food Charter and engage wider stakeholders in the work.

## **Other Options Considered**

18. These recommendations were developed from the proposed actions set out in the health & wellbeing strategy consultations. These were then developed by the Board at the workshop held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018. No other options were considered.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

19. To ensure that the Health & Wellbeing Board is able to effectively lead and develop work in Nottinghamshire to improve the food environment for health and wellbeing.

## **Financial Considerations**

20. The recommendations of this report will be financed through existing resources.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1. To agree that the Healthy and Sustainable Places Coordination Group should initiate and coordinate actions to deliver the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Food Environment priority which were informed by discussions at the July 2018 Board workshop.
2. That these actions will include the development of a County Food Charter; a menu of evidence based approaches to improve the food environment; mapping of local food environment assets; work around at least one food environment issue in each place based group; the development an approach to evaluate the work programme; a food event to engage wider stakeholders and share good practice.

## **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (LMcM 07.08.2018)**

3. The Health and Wellbeing Board is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report

#### **Financial Comments (DG 08/08/2018)**

4. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 20 of this report.

#### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

[Food Environment Briefing Paper July 2018.](#)

[Department of Health and Social Care \(2018\). Childhood obesity: a plan for action, chapter 2.](#)

#### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

#### **See also Chairs Report items:**

20. Children's excess sugar consumption
21. Childhood obesity: a plan for action: chapter 2
23. Trends in childhood obesity
29. Feeding in the first year of life.
51. Sugar Reduction: report on the first year of progress
52. Hospital vending machines: helping people make healthier choices

**Appendix 1: Menu of good practice examples of Food Environment initiatives for consideration by Board partners**

<u>SFC / Food Charter Principle/Area</u>	<u>Health &amp; Wellbeing Board partners (inc. NHS, PCC, Healthwatch)</u>	<u>Nottinghamshire County Council</u>	<u>District &amp; Borough councils, community &amp; voluntary sector</u>
Promoting healthy and sustainable food to the public	Supporting marketing of a local brand Implementing national healthy food Campaigns at local level Develop a policy to not endorse or accept sponsorship from companies whose main business is high fat/sugar/salt food products All food outlets to be part of the Healthy Options Takeaway Scheme	Develop and market a local brand Support schools to adopt food Standards Implementing national healthy food Campaigns at local level Develop a policy to not endorse or accept sponsorship from companies whose main business is high fat/sugar/salt food products All food outlets to be part of the Healthy Options Takeaway Scheme	Develop and market a local brand Implementing national healthy food Campaigns at local level Develop a policy to not endorse or accept sponsorship from companies whose main business is high fat/sugar/salt food products All food outlets to be part of the Healthy Options Takeaway Scheme Create opportunities for local people to try, taste and buy local food
Tackling food poverty, diet-related ill health and access to affordable healthy food	Supporting social eating which bring together people in local communities and or people from vulnerable groups to grown eat and prepare food together Provide healthy weight and healthy eating support	Supporting social eating which bring together people in local communities and or people from vulnerable groups to grown eat and prepare food together Provide healthy weight and healthy eating support	Conduct food access mapping Supporting social eating which bring together people in local communities and or people from vulnerable groups to grown eat and prepare food together Support or establish f, community food cooperatives, local fruit and vegetable distribution Provide healthy weight and healthy eating support Develop targeted fruit and vegetable schemes for scheme for at risk groups
Building community food knowledge, skills, resources and projects	Provide land for Community food growing	Prioritise healthy & sustainable food in community grant schemes Provide land for Community food growing Develop schemes that support & enable healthier & affordable cooking skills	Provide sufficient allotments to meet demand Prioritise healthy & sustainable food in community grant schemes Healthier & affordable cooking skills Provide land for Community food growing Incorporate local food growing in local Development Plans Develop schemes that support &

			enable healthier & affordable cooking skills Support and enable schools to develop Whole school approaches to food & nutrition
Promoting a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy		Support sustainable healthy food entrepreneurs Promote sustainable healthy food businesses	Support sustainable healthy food entrepreneurs Promote sustainable healthy food businesses Promote diversity of food outlets through Planning Policies to reduce the density of fast food outlets Use Business rates to incentivise businesses the sell healthier food options Incentivise and support local markets that use the local food system
Transforming catering and food procurement	Ensure that local healthy food procurement in a prioritised policy Facilitate local business and procurement links to develop the local food supply system Incorporate the principles of a food charter within contracts with external contractors that supply food contracts	Ensure that local healthy food procurement in a prioritised policy Facilitate local business and procurement links to develop the local food supply system Incorporate the principles of a food charter within contracts with external contractors that supply food contracts Support local commercial caterers to source local ingredients	Ensure that local healthy food procurement in a prioritised policy Facilitate local business and procurement links to develop the local food supply system Incorporate the principles of a food charter within contracts with external contractors that supply food contracts Support local commercial caterers to source local ingredients
Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system	Procurement from the local food economy to reduce transportation emissions & costs Reduce single use plastic Reducing food waste campaigns	Procurement from the local food economy to reduce transportation emissions & costs Reduce single use plastic Reducing food waste campaigns Promote food composting Business engagement to change food production and processing practices	Procurement from the local food economy to reduce transportation emissions & costs Reduce single use plastic Reducing food waste campaigns Promote food composting Food sharing and redistribution schemes

