Every Mouthful Counts: Unlocking a local good food revolution

www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk
Every mouthful counts: Unlocking a good food revolution
Why did we do this?

- Food makes up over 1/3 GHGs and main driver of biodiversity destruction in the UK.
- Huge missed opportunity for councils to unlock co-benefits.
- Provide a clear and comprehensive roadmap for action.
What did we find?

• Six in ten councils are taking no meaningful action.

• Just 12% have more developed and measurable plans.

• Councils working with Sustainable Food Places food partnerships do better.
Thematic differences

- Councils scored best on food waste.
- Councils scored worse on average on farming and food growing.
- Procurement is a huge missed opportunity.
National differences

- Scottish councils performed best overall.

- Food waste and farming and food growing key indicators.

- No surprise: national policy is a crucial influencing factor.
Recommendations from high performing councils

• Establish a food partnership

• Get funding and accountability in place.

• Look for the co-benefits to drive the work.
Recommendations from Sustain

• Incorporate food plans into climate and nature strategies.

• Sign up to the Every mouthful counts toolkit.

• Develop a sustainable food procurement policy.
What next?

- Sign up to the Every mouthful counts toolkit.
- Apply for one of our grants.
- We'd love to help you develop your food strategies.
- If you haven't, set up a Sustainable Food Places food partnership.
- Reach out for a summary of your results at sam@sustainweb.org
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www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk
A central connecting network and hub for all food related matters in Middlesbrough

Making good quality, healthful, affordable and sustainable food available to all

www.goodfoodmbro.org.uk

Joe Dunne
Senior Projects Manager

www.menvcity.org.uk
School meal climate-friendly options

- Council initiative, support from Food Partnership.
- MBC revise and improve school food offer. More planet-based options (also supporting MBC Green Strategy).
- Food for the Planet campaign supported with expertise, advice, and ProVeg (SFP network).
- Created climate-friendly awareness training modules for new Public Health e-learning platform.
Exploring Dynamic Food Procurement

- Food Partnership led, with other regional food partnerships (NESFA) £10k external funding
- Engaging anchor institutions with DFP and exploring possibilities
- Can bring huge benefits to anchor institutions (money saving, climate targets) and also local food economy.
- Council procurement department integral to this.
Redistribution of good quality surplus food

- Community led initiatives, providing vital food provision post-COVID, now cost-of-living.
- 30+ Eco Shops and Community pantries.
- Resilience, not reliance approach.
- Non-stigmatising, dignity, empowerment, first step away from food aid.
- Ensuring surplus food is consumed, not wasted.
- Increasing availability of affordable good food, including fruit and veg in food swamp/desert areas.
Community growing and urban agriculture

- Mix of community and third sector led initiatives, linking with national schemes (UAC).
- Council making sites, land and resources available.
- FarmStart - exciting progressive urban agriculture initiative.
- Local urban agriculture network – sharing skills, knowledge, resources.
Learning

- Food Partnerships improve capacity, share knowledge and improve cross sector connections. Imperative all food related council departments involved.
- Holistic whole system approach.
- Things take time, but worth it as yields results.
- Embed into key strategies – more holistic.
- Opportunities to support and deliver council campaigns/ messages.
Top tips

- Have Food Partnership central to important food related decisions.
- Food is cross cutting issue - relevant council departments on board at earliest stage, including top level buy in.
- When working across council teams and the Food Partnership, important that there is proper ownership over the outcomes of work. Someone needs to be accountable to work on food for it to be properly handled.
Thank you

joe.dunne@menvcity.org.uk

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Jill Muirie
Public Health Programme Manager, GCPH & Chair, Glasgow Food Policy Partnership
Glasgow Food Policy Partnership

Nourishing the City: the urban food challenge
Kevin Mackintosh

The drivers
- Why food moved
  - food security is part of people’s daily lives
  - food chain accounts for emissions in the environment
  - burgeoning population
  - food is a planning profit for land, water, energy, transport and eco-system services
  - place, provenance and... pleasure
  - rapid pace of urbanisation

Glasgow 2019/20
- ~ 630,000 population
- ~1/3 children in poverty
- 11% people experienced food insecurity
- 1-2% food consumed is local
- 74% 5 year olds & ~35% of adults are a healthy weight
- Significant socioeconomic inequalities in health
  - 15 years difference in male life expectancy
- Declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019
• Established in 2014
• Meetings and networking events
• Research; food system, community food, food waste
• Advice on new policies; Food in Schools, Glasgow Food Pledge, Good Food Charter
• Establishment of Glasgow Community Food Network
• Council commitment for SFP development 2017
• Council Food Inequality Enquiry 2018
• Food Summit 2019
• Development of Glasgow City Food Plan 2019-2021
• Glasgow’s Emergency Food Response during COVID-19
Top Tips

• Coproduction
• Shared ownership, delivery and accountability
• Long term commitment and consistency (persistence, tenacity....)
Thank you

Jill.Muirie@glasgow.ac.uk

http://goodfoodforall.co.uk/
@GlasgowFPP
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East Ayrshire Council Food Journey

Mark Hunter
Strategic Lead (Food and Facilities Support)
Catering Services

- Using local suppliers since 2004
- GOLD Food for Life Award since 2008
- Rural and urban areas
- 16000 pupils attending East Ayrshire Schools
- 3000 Early Childhood places
- 40 Primary Schools and 7 Secondary Schools
- 17 Community Food Larders
- Hospitality and Community Events
Drivers for Change

• Social, educational and environment
• Supporting local suppliers and producers
• Engaging with the community and economic development
• Food education programmes within schools and the community
• Fresh local produce
• Freshly cooked food in Schools
• Building that sustainable model
• Reducing food waste and utilising surplus food
• Supplier engagement, locally and nationally
• Up skilling staff and training
Practicality

Staff and Establishments
- Start with a pilot
- Tailor menus and recipe development to get the optimum result
- Ensure staff and stakeholders understand and support
- Promote East Ayrshires food culture and Community Plan
- Develop food education and public information sessions.

Producers/suppliers/procurement
- Tender in suitable geographic and produce lots within a framework
- Public sector contracts offer suppliers secure payment and a predictable demand
- This can in turn increase employment opportunities locally
- Recognise SME’s can be disadvantaged by lack of tendering experience
- How to encourage SME’s to invest.
Practicality

Community
- Value that public food offers access to good food and nutrition for all – social, environment and educational
- Supports opportunities for learning about food.
- Reputation and public confidence in the local authority service that they are providing fresh, quality cooked meals in schools

Benefits
- Reduced food miles
- Making use of Supplier Community benefits
- Investment in local business
- Circular economy
- SMEs investing in their own staff and business
- Value the food we put on the plate as an investment
East Ayrshire Schools

"I was telling my grandson...he'll be getting the same milk as gran has. He was jumping up and down with excitement"
The Power of Procurement
UN Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier De Schutter

“Particularly in times of economic downturn ...costs are often seen as a major obstacle to making public [food] procurement schemes more consistent with right to food strategies…

‘However, certain [food] costs associated with public procurement should be treated as investments, rather than merely as expenses; and once their multiplier effects on the local economy and their positive social and environmental impacts are taken into account, they may in fact be seen as favourable to, rather than a liability for, healthy public budgets.’
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who are we, what are we doing?

• Represent 331 of 333 councils
• Policy, advocacy
• Improvement, development
Some of our offers…

• Climate change hub
• Cost of living hub
• Net Zero Innovation Programme
• Senior leadership training
• Pass the planet case studies
• Retrofit action learning sets
• Guides/advice – Green Finance; growing the green economy; delivering renewable energy; sustainable procurement
• Adaptation toolkit (Local Partnerships)
• Knowledge hub
• Climate Action Group
• Greenhouse gas accounting tool
• Cost of living Network webinar series
• ….
Observations on the report

Opportunities
• Co-benefits
• Market moves
• Public attitudes

Challenges
• Pressures on councils, finance and prevention
• Land use demands
• Public attitudes

(ps. we’re not keen on scoring/ranking methodology)
Thanks! ☺
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