

	<h2>Health and Wellbeing Board</h2> <h3>29<sup>th</sup> September 2022</h3>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Update on Draft Barnet Food Plan 2022-2027</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Director of Public Health and Prevention
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix I – Draft Barnet Food Plan: Summary Appendix II – Draft Barnet Food Plan: Engagement Plan
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Oliver Taylor – Health in All Policies Officer, <a href="mailto:food@barnet.gov.uk">food@barnet.gov.uk</a> Rachel Hodge – Public Health Strategist, <a href="mailto:food@barnet.gov.uk">food@barnet.gov.uk</a> Janet Djomba – Consultant in Public Health, <a href="mailto:Janet.Djomba@barnet.gov.uk">Janet.Djomba@barnet.gov.uk</a>

## Summary

The Barnet Food Plan 2022-2027 is currently in its final development stages and undergoing public consultation. The Plan brings together the vital opportunities and challenges presented by the multi-faceted role that food plays in our lives. It builds on experience and considers changes over the last few years and therefore expands on the scope of the previous Barnet Food Security Action Plan to address the key challenges such as the food system, health of the population, health of the planet and food insecurity.

This report provides an overview of the plan currently in development and the activities taken to develop the final plan expected to be completed by January 2023. Appendix I is a summary of the contents of the Draft Food Plan. Appendix II is the engagement plan associated with the draft plan's development.

## Officers Recommendations

1. That the Board note the update on the progress to develop the Barnet Food Plan.
2. That the Board provide any comments and feedback on the Draft Food Plan during the consultation period.

## **1. Why this report is needed**

- 1.1 The national food strategy advises that all local authorities should put in place a food strategy in partnership with the communities they serve. Given the COVID-19 recovery period and the growing challenges presented by the cost-of-living crisis, this is a critical time to develop and implement a Food Plan for Barnet.
- 1.2 The Barnet Food Plan 2022-2027 brings together the vital opportunities and challenges presented by the multi-faceted role that food plays in our lives. It expands on the scope of the previous Barnet Food Security Action Plan, to include affordability and sustainability aspects.
- 1.3 This report provides an update to the Board on the progress so far to develop the plan and gives an overview of the planned engagement activities and the emerging content of the draft plan. The actions of the plan are to address the three challenges of; health of the population, health of the planet and food insecurity and have been devised in to three themes.
- 1.4 The first theme is food for lifelong wellbeing. This theme includes actions such as supporting individuals to access services, tackling financial vulnerability, increasing uptake of Healthy Start and engaging with residents on healthy eating and weight management where support is needed. In our actions we will work to ensure nutritious & sustainable food is available across the life course with targeted support for those with excess weight or chronic conditions.
- 1.5 The second theme is food for our communities and public institutions. It focuses on how the council and its partners can demonstrate good practice and look outwards to support organisations within the borough. Actions within this theme will consider and use our existing community assets, such as key local organisations and young people, creating opportunities for others to champion behaviour change. This will build on the work already happening in our communities.
- 1.6 The third theme of the plan is food for our economy and our environment. This theme has a focus on supporting the food economy in Barnet and actions to make healthy and sustainable food affordable, convenient and prioritised in local neighbourhoods. This theme will also look at our natural environment, enabling food growing and biodiversity net gain and supporting a circular food economy to prevent food waste and encourage businesses to lower their food mileage.

## **2. Reasons for recommendations**

- 2.1 The Barnet Food Plan is a wide ranging and ambitious programme of work which utilises partnerships to achieve our vision on Barnet's food system. With the draft plan in its final development stages, it is crucial to engage with the community and stakeholders to create an impactful and achievable plan. This update to the Board provides an overview of the draft plan and provides an opportunity to feedback on its emerging contents to help shape the final version.

### **3. Alternative options considered and not recommended**

3.1 Not applicable

### **4. Post decision implementation**

- 4.1 Finalising of the food plan will continue over the next few months with feedback from stakeholders and public engagement continuing to be gathered during this time to be incorporated in the final version of the plan.
- 4.2 The final version of the Barnet Food Plan will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval in January 2023. This document will be accompanied by the report of engagement findings and the equalities impact assessment. Following approval, the actions of the Food Plan will be implemented as set out in its action plan.

### **5. Implications of decision**

#### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The implementation of a new Food Plan will support delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Primarily the actions in the food plan will link to the commitment to create a healthier environment within key area one of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 5.1.2 The Food Plan will primarily link to the Healthy workstream of the Barnet Plan. The Food Plan supports the action of addressing homelessness and the longer-term impacts of COVID-19. Actions within the Draft Food Plan include supporting residents to access food, relevant council services and to maximise incomes.

#### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 Implementation of the Barnet Food Plan once finalised and approved will be funded within existing budgets and staffing of the public health directorate, other council departments, partner agencies and Voluntary and Community sector organisations.

#### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 Article 7 of the council constitution sets out the functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board. These functions are:
- To jointly assess the health and social care needs of the population with NHS commissioners and use the findings of a Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to inform all relevant local strategies and policies across partnership.
  - To agree a Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS) for Barnet taking into account the findings of the JSNA and strategically oversee its implementation to ensure that improved population outcomes are being delivered.
  - To work together to ensure the best fit between available resources to meet the

health and social care needs of the whole population of Barnet, by both improving services for health and social care and helping people to move as close as possible to a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing. Specific resources to be overseen include money for social care being allocated through the NHS; dedicated public health budgets; the Better Care Fund; and Section 75 partnership agreements between the NHS and the Council.

- To provide collective leadership and enable shared decision making, ownership and accountability
- To promote partnership and, as appropriate, integration, across all necessary areas, including joined-up commissioning plans and joined-up approach to securing external funding across the NHS, social care, voluntary and community sector and public health.
- To explore partnership work across the North Central London area where appropriate.
- Specific responsibilities for:
  - Overseeing public health and promoting prevention agenda across the partnership
  - Developing further health and social care integration.

#### **5.4 Insight**

5.4.1 Development of the draft food plan has been guided and supported by research commissioned from University College London and a Needs Analysis produced by the Public Health Directorate. These documents provided insight into national, regional and local trends on food and food security which has been reflected in the draft plan and supported the design of its actions.

#### **5.5 Social Value**

5.5.1 We will work to ensure that the actions and ambitions of the plan deliver social value. This includes working as a partnership with the voluntary and community sector to deliver the food plan once it is approved. The planned actions of the food plan should bring benefits to the wider community and the partnership.

#### **5.6 Risk Management**

5.6.1 The development and subsequent implementation of the Barnet Food Plan 2022-2027 requires partnership working across the system to effectively deliver its aims and actions. If the council and partners do not engage with the plan and its development, it may lead to poor delivery of the final plan and the partnership-led actions. Poor engagement may lead to failure to agree the action plan.

5.6.2 The following controls and mitigations are in place:

5.6.2.1 The Barnet Food steering group were consulted throughout the development of the plan and have co-ownership of the plan and its actions.

5.6.2.2 A wide range of engagement activities have been and continue to be conducted to ensure partner's views and confirm actions they own in the developing plan.

5.6.2.3 The Steering Group continue to meet regularly to receive updates on the plan's development and to provide feedback on the draft action plan.

## 5.7 Equalities and Diversity

5.7.1 The plan in development takes a partnership-working approach to work across the system to deliver its vision. Actions have been included in the draft plan to focus on communities at higher risk of food insecurity. These include specific ethnic groups more at risk of food insecurity, those at risk of financial vulnerability, migrants and refugees, older adults and people with learning difficulties.

5.7.2 The equalities impact assessment for the Food Plan will be included with the final version for approval in January 2023.

## 5.8 Corporate Parenting

5.8.1 The Draft Food Plan will include actions that support all residents of Barnet including those in care and looked-after children. Actions within the plan linking to maximising income, accessing healthy and affordable food and supporting access to council services will support all residents including care leavers.

## 5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 Engagement activities have been conducted and future activities are planned during the development of the plan. Internal workshops with stakeholders were delivered in October 2021 to shape priorities and themes of the draft plan. During this time, University College London were commissioned to deliver focus groups with civil society organisations discussing food security. The findings of these groups have been reflected in the draft plan.

5.9.2 Engagement sessions with key community groups such as Age UK Barnet, the Barnet Food Bank Hub and Barnet Mencap were delivered in July 2022. Further engagement sessions with other groups are planned to take place during the engagement period.

5.9.3 Public engagement on the Draft Food Plan is currently in progress. This is being conducted via an online survey on Engage Barnet and is open till 7th October 2022. This survey is open to residents, businesses and community organisations based in Barnet and is available at <https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/draft-barnet-food-plan-2022-2027> . At this stage comments and feedback on the plan from stakeholders are also welcome via email to [food@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:food@barnet.gov.uk) .

5.9.4 A summary of the engagement activities for the plan's development is included as Appendix II.

## 5.10 Environmental Impact

5.10.1 Actions within the draft plan include those impacting on the environment such as supporting community food growing, tackling food waste and the circular economy. Once the plan is signed off and implemented it is expected to have a positive environmental impact through its actions.

## 6. Background papers

- 6.1 Food Security Action Plan 2019-2022. Available at:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s55445/Report%20Food%20Security%20Action%20Plan.pdf>