



Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Paper:	A One City Food Equality Strategy for Bristol 2022-2032
Author (including organisation):	Bristol City Council Communities and Public Health team, Feeding Bristol.
Date of Board meeting:	24/02/2022
Purpose:	Decision

- Paper to be no more than two pages long; full reports or more information can be added as appendices
- Draft papers are reviewed by the Public Health team
- Final papers will be published on the [public website](#)
- Board correspondence: HWB@bristol.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

Feeding Bristol and the BCC Public Health Team have worked in collaboration to produce a *One City Food Equality Strategy for Bristol*. The strategy sets the ambitious aim to strive for food equality for all residents in the city of Bristol. The strategy has been developed over the past 16 months with input from a wide range of stakeholders (from over 70 organisations), a series of community conversations, and a public consultation. The final version of the strategy has now been prepared and is being brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval and sign-off. Once approved, this strategy will form the framework for the Food Equality Action Plan which will set out the actions and commitments needed from the council and partner organisations to achieve the vision set out in this strategy.

2. Purpose of the Paper

Developing a strategy and delivery plan for food equality was one of the Health and Wellbeing Board's three One City Plan 2021 goals. This paper is asking for a decision from the Health and Wellbeing Board to approve the One City Food Equality Strategy.

3. Background and evidence base

The *One City Food Equality Strategy* is designed to recognise and tackle the issues of rising food inequality in Bristol. National data from the Department of Work and Pensions, the Food Foundation, and the Trussel Trust indicates rising numbers of people experiencing food insecurity in England, exacerbated by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local data from the Bristol Quality of Life survey and a Health Needs Assessment of food inequality in Bristol found that prior to the pandemic, in the most deprived areas of the city up to 1 in 8 households experienced moderate to severe food insecurity (JSNA 2020/21: food poverty/insecurity). It also shows certain groups are more at-risk of experiencing food inequality, including disabled people, full-time carers, single parent households, and those renting from either the council or a housing association.

This both reflects and contributes to a broader range of inequalities experienced by these disadvantaged groups, including the gap in healthy life expectancy, inequalities in infrastructure, and inequalities in access to services and provisions. In this way, food inequality has serious impacts on the health and wellbeing outcomes of those affected, as well as wider ranging social, economic, and environmental impacts for Bristol.

This Strategy defines food equality as existing “*when all people, at all times, have access to nutritious, affordable and appropriate food according to their social, cultural and dietary needs. They are equipped with the resources, skills and knowledge to use and benefit from food, which is sourced from a resilient, fair and environmentally sustainable food system.*” It sets out the ambitious aim to strive for food equality for all residents in the city of Bristol. It builds on work and research that has been carried out over the last two decades, including the work undertaken for Bristol to be awarded a gold status Sustainable Food City. The strategy and a subsequent Food Equality Action Plan aligns with many city priorities and initiatives, including the One City plan 2050, the Bristol Corporate Strategy, Thrive Bristol, the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy, and the One Climate Strategy. Importantly, it will feed into the ongoing development of the Bristol Good Food 2030 Action Plan.

4. Community/stakeholder engagement

The strategy development process involved a series of stakeholder workshops, with representatives from >70 organisations working on food equality related matters across the city. There was also a series of 8 community conversations, involving 38 people from communities with the highest rates of food insecurity, and at-risk groups including disabled people, people experiencing homelessness, and refugee and asylum seekers. A draft Food Equality Strategy was put to public consultation in November/December 2021. In-depth results of this consultation can be found in the attached consultation report (see appendix two). The draft has been updated to include comments from the consultation to form the final strategy. There were four updates to Health and Wellbeing board throughout this process.

5. Recommendations

To approve the One City Food Equality Strategy, and to continue to support this work throughout development and implementation of the Food Equality Action Plan.

6. City Benefits

The purpose of this strategy is to provide the following benefits to Bristol: A more equitable city for all; Reduce hunger and food insecurity for residents, recognising and supporting the ‘right to adequate food’; Reduce health inequalities across the city; Reduce the anxiety and other mental health effects caused by food insecurity; Reduce the impacts on the NHS and social care system through these improved health outcomes; Contribute to city-wide efforts to reduce poverty in Bristol; Help develop a thriving and resilient local food economy; Build and strengthen connections and communities through food; Have a positive impact on our local environment and contribute to the city’s commitment to becoming a carbon-neutral and climate resilient city by 2030; Help achieve key aims and goals the city has already committed to under the *One City Plan*, the *Bristol City Council Corporate Strategy*, the *United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*, *The Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight*, and more.

7. Financial and Legal Implications

No legal implications identified. Funding details for the Action Plan will be overseen and approved through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

8. Appendices

Appendix One: One City Food Equality Strategy for Bristol 2022-2032. Please note, this contains the final wording of the strategy but is awaiting final design and formatting input.

Appendix Two: Consultation Report from the public consultation on the draft food equality strategy in November/December 2021.