

Consultation and Engagement



**A One City
Food Equality
Strategy
for Bristol**

2022 – 2032

**BRISTOL
ONE CITY**

Food Equality Strategy 2022 – 2032

Note – this report contains final wording but final formatting and design is ongoing.

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Introduction

The One City Food Equality Strategy for Bristol 2022-32 is designed to address the inequalities in the food system in Bristol, including food insecurity. A draft has been developed through a process of involvement and consultation with stakeholders and residents throughout 2021. This draft strategy aims to align and work alongside other initiatives that seek to tackle poverty and inequality in the city. This strategy is intended to provide the framework for an action plan which will be developed in early 2022, which will set out the plan for how to achieve the aims laid out in this strategy.

A public consultation on the draft One City Food Equality Strategy for Bristol 2022-32 was open between the 11th November 2021 to the 23rd December 2021. This report

presents the methodology and findings of this consultation. It does not contain any assessment of the feasibility of any of the suggestions received.

The findings from this report will be presented to the Food Equality Consultation Task group as well as to a development session of the Health and Wellbeing Board of Bristol City council in January 2021. From this, amendments will be agreed and changes made to the final strategy to reflect the findings of the public consultation. This consultation report will be published on the Bristol City Council website, alongside any changes made to the final strategy.

The final strategy draft will be reviewed by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 27th February 2022 for recommendation and sign off.

Consultation outline and scope

Public consultation of the draft One City Food Equality Strategy took place between the 11th November and the 23rd December 2021. The draft strategy presents five priority themes and one additional cross cutting theme for action to tackle food inequality. The consultation sought feedback on these six areas:

- **Fair, equitable access**
Everyone in the city is able to access food that is appropriate for their dietary needs, is culturally appropriate, and affordable.
- **Choice and security**
Everyone can make decisions about their relationship with food and are free from the anxiety and stress of food insecurity
- **Skills and resources**
People and communities are equipped with knowledge, skills and facilities
- **Sustainable local food system**
A resilient and environmentally sustainable local food system.
- **Food at the heart of decision-making**
Food at the heart of community, economy, and city planning.
- **Cross-cutting strategic aims**
Strategic aims that sit across all the priority themes

The consultation aimed to gather perspectives from the residents of Bristol on the draft strategy, to ensure it meets the needs and desires of the population and use these to inform changes to the strategy. It also aimed to gather opinions that will feed into the development and implementation of the subsequent action plan.

The consultation consisted of both an online survey and face-to-face consultations. Respondents were asked to complete a Likert scale multiple choice question of how much they agreed with each priority theme, and also had an open question to provide any additional thoughts on each area in a free-text response box. Finally, respondents were asked to provide any actions they wished to see in a free-text box.

Summary of key findings

A total of 64 people completed the online survey. All respondents were resident within Bristol. An average of 88% of the responses were 'agree' or 'strongly agree', 8% were 'neither agree nor disagree, and 5% were 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree'. Free text responses provided specific feedback on wording, and in particular areas where the wording could be clarified. There were also a number of recurring themes which were evident throughout the responses. Finally, a number of proposed actions have been made which will be taken forward into development of the action plan.

Consultation methodology

A Food Equality Strategy Task group was created oversee the development and implementation of the public consultation, and to review the results. This included representation from Feeding Bristol, various departments in Bristol City Council, and VCSE organisations working on food equality in the city.

The public consultation consisted of two approaches:

1. An online survey hosted on the Bristol City Council website
2. Targeted face-to-face consultations with people directly affected by the food inequality.

The questions used in both of these approaches were identical. There were two methods of questioning:

- A Likert scale multiple choice question asking how much the participant agreed with each of the six priority themes, rating them from strongly agree to strongly disagree
- An open question asking for participant's opinion on each section, with a free text response.

Online Survey

An online survey was developed with the Bristol City Council consultation team. It was hosted on the 'smartsurvey' platform, and was accessed via a link on the Bristol 'Citizenspace' website of Bristol City Council between 11th November and the 23rd December 2021¹. Paper copies of the survey were available on request.

The survey contained the following information as context for the survey questions:

- An overview and rationale behind the draft Food Equality Strategy detailing how it has been developed
- Details of what food inequality is and how it affects people in Bristol
- A link to an online version of the Draft Food Equality Strategy for Bristol 2022-2032²
- A link to the Equality Impact Assessment - Food Equality Strategy for Bristol 2022-2032³
- Details of the next steps, including development of a Food Equality Action Plan in early 2022
- A short summary of each priority theme, along with a full list of strategic aims that fall under that priority.

¹ Hosted at <https://bristol.citizenspace.com/public-health/one-city-food-equality-strategy-for-bristol/>

² Available at https://bristol.citizenspace.com/public-health/one-city-food-equality-strategy-for-bristol/supporting_documents/BD13463a%20Food%20Strategy%20Action%20Plan%20FINAL%20REV.pdf

³ Available at https://bristol.citizenspace.com/public-health/one-city-food-equality-strategy-for-bristol/supporting_documents/Equality%20Impact%20Assessment%20%20Food%20Equality%20Strategy%20%20Action%20Plan%20FINAL%20%20signed%20off.pdf

The online survey had two sections:

Part A

A multiple-choice question asking respondents how much they agree with each priority theme, with responses on a Likert scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'. For each priority theme this was followed by a free-text box with an open question to add any further comments.

Part B

A free text box asking respondents for ideas for specific actions that want to see/would be important to see included in the Action Plan.

The final part of the online survey was an 'About you' section. This requested information which helps the council to check if the respondents were representative of people across the city who may have different needs. Respondents were asked to provide the following:

- Home postcode – this identifies if any parts of the city are under-represented in responding to the consultation and it can show if people from more deprived areas of the city have different views compared to people living in less deprived areas.
- Equalities monitoring information – this enables the council to check if we receive responses from people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.
- Other information about respondents; for example, whether they are a council employee, a councillor, or represent a local business.
- How respondents found out about the consultation – to help the council publicise future consultations effectively. Respondents could choose to answer some or all of the questions in any order and save and return to the survey later.

Analysis of results

The responses to the Likert scale multiple choice questions were analysed with simple presentation of the results of how many people responded in each category. Graphs were created in Microsoft Excel to present these results.

The free text responses were reviewed in the 'Smart Survey, Text analysis' tool. Each response was coded by what the subject of the response referred to. One code was applied for every subject within a response, and multiple codes could be applied to one response. The number of each response referring to each subject is presented in narrative form for each priority theme. Simple thematic analysis was applied to these codes to establish any overarching themes present across the responses, which are presented in a separate section.

Targeted face-to-face consultation

It was recognised that some of the people most affected by food inequality may also be less likely or able to complete an online survey.

To address this, a series of face-to-face consultations were planned with people directly impacted by issues of food equality at venues where people were congregating, for example at food banks, good clubs, or groups representing communities of interest (e.g. people experiencing homelessness). To extend the reach of this face-to-face consultation, the food equality stakeholder network was asked to support this element through directly facilitating consultations. A facilitation pack (available on request) was created in order to help support the stakeholder network in facilitating these conversations independently. This was discussed and distributed at a food equality stakeholder event.

Unfortunately, due to the Omicron wave of COVID-19 and the plan-B control measures that were put in to place, only one face-to-face consultation session was conducted. This took place in Stockwood Children's centre (food club) on Tuesday 8th December.

Alternative formats

Paper copies of the draft strategy were provided to all (open) libraries in Bristol – 25 in total. These were provided alongside a poster advertising the consultation and a link to the online survey, as well as paper copies of the survey which could be completed and returned to the library staff.

Alternative formats such as translated copies of the draft strategy and survey were available on request.

Other correspondence

Some emails providing feedback were also received in response to the consultation. These have been included in the report alongside the other findings.

Publicity and Promotion

The draft Food Equality Strategy consultation was promoted and distributed in the following ways:

- Emailed to the Food Equality Strategy stakeholder group (70 + organisations) and asked to distribute amongst their networks.
- Email to the Bristol City Council consultation mailing list
- Email to the Bristol City Council Health and Wellbeing Board distribution list
- Email to all elected members (councillors) of Bristol City Council
- Promoted in a blog post about food inequality on the Bristol Food Network website
- Promoted in a blog post about food inequality on Bristol City Council's 'Mayor's blog'
- Promoted on Feeding Bristol's social media (Twitter and Facebook)
- Promoted in posts on all Bristol City Council social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, Next Door and Instagram) every week in December with increased posts at launch, 'two weeks left' and in the final days.

- Shared via social media platforms of members of the stakeholder group
- Paper copy of the draft strategy and survey in 25 libraries in Bristol

Response rate and respondent characteristic analysis

Response rate to the survey

The online survey received 64 responses. All respondents completed the consultation between 11th November and 23rd December 2021. No responses were received by paper copies. Five people were surveyed in face-to-face consultation, the results of which are presented after the online survey responses.

Survey Results – Respondent characteristics

All comparators have been taken from the *Equalities statistics* briefing note from Bristol City Council in July 2021⁴. Notably, this is largely based off the ONS census data from 2011 (with some additional mid-year estimated where available).

Geographic distribution of responses

57 respondents (90%) provided their home address postcode. The respondents lived in multiple wards across the city, as presented in the table one. The wards with the largest number of respondents were central, Ashley, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze, St George West, and Redland.

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<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/33904/Equalities+Statistics+for+Bristol+what+is+available+and+where+to+get+it+20+Oct+2020.pdf/32e0a0c7-5338-0e9d-96fd-6f906c8286b2>

Table one – ward of residence of respondents, based on their home postcode

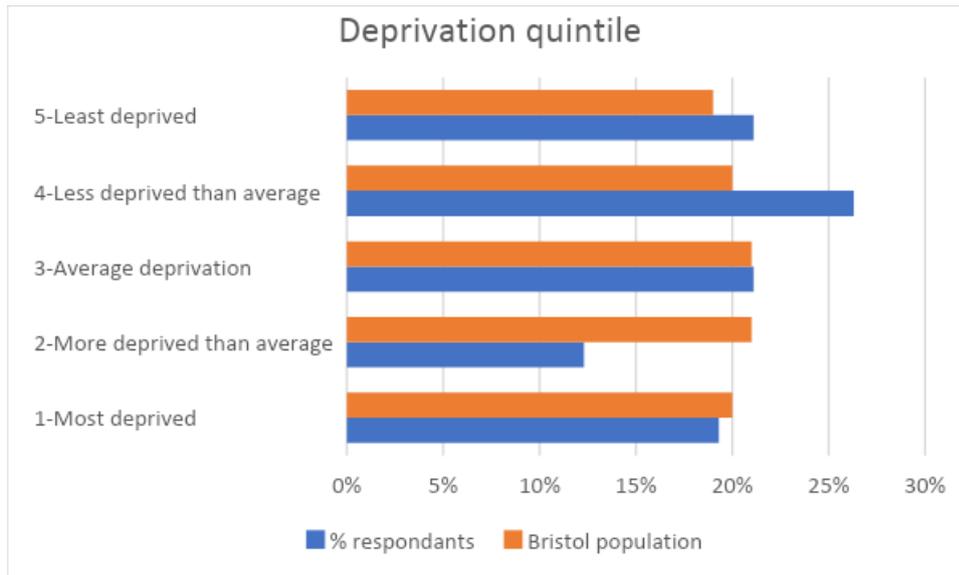
Ward of residence	Number of Respondents
Ashley	5
Bedminster	1
Bishopston and Ashley Down	1
Bishopsworth	1
Brislington East	1
Brislington West	1
Central	6
Clifton Down	1
Cotham	1
Easton	1
Eastville	1
Filton	1
Filwood	1
Frome Vale	1
Hartcliffe and Withywood	2
Henbury and Brentry	1
Hengrove and Whitchurch Park	3
Horfield	1
Hotwells and Harbourside	1

Response rate from areas of high and low deprivation

The home postcodes of respondents were matched to the index of multiple deprivation for their Lower-Super output area (LSOA). This provides an estimation of the deprivation of the location (based on national criteria), which is divided into five groups from most deprived to least deprived (deprivation quintiles).⁵ Figure One presents the number of respondents whose home postcode is in each deprivation quintile.

⁵ The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes information about deprivation for 32,844 small areas - known as 'Lower Super Output Areas' (LSOAs) - throughout England. For each of these areas, a measure of deprivation is published called 'Indices of Multiple Deprivation' (IMD), which takes into account 37 aspects of each area that cover income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment. The postcodes provided by respondents to the consultation enabled each respondent to be matched to one of the 263 Lower Super Output Areas that cover the Bristol City Council area and thus to one of the deprivation deciles. Note that postcodes provide approximate locations; they are not used to identify individuals or specific addresses.

Figure One – comparison of response rates from each deprivation quintile, based on respondent home postcode matched to the Index of Multiple deprivation at that location.



Overall, there was a good spread of respondents from different wards in the city. There were respondents from all deprivation quintiles, but with slightly more respondents from less deprived areas of the city.

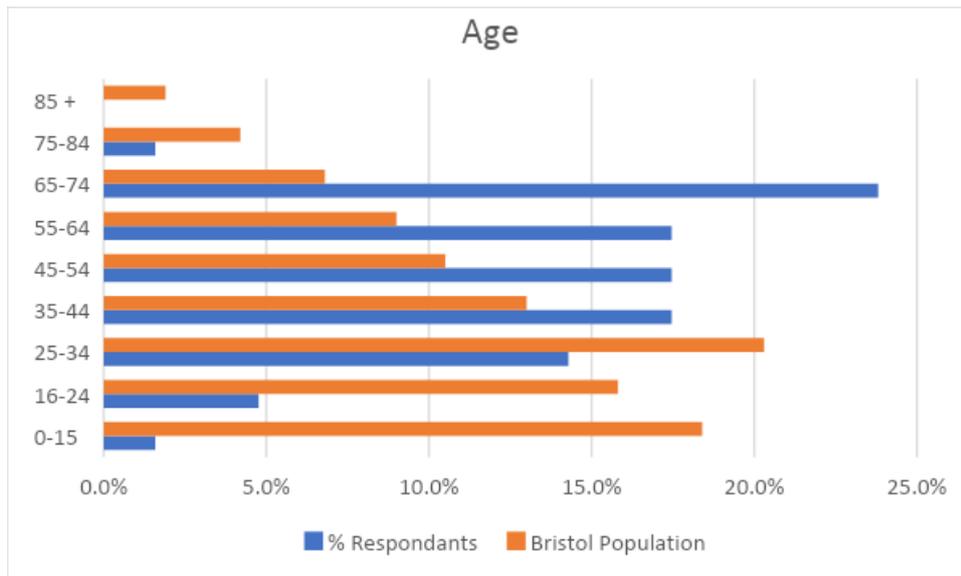
Characteristics of respondents

62 respondents (98%) answered one or more of the equalities monitoring questions. Respondent characteristics are summarised below.

Age

62 respondents (98%) provided an answer for age. Figure Two presents the age of respondents compared to the population of Bristol.

Figure Two – ages of respondents compared to Bristol population.

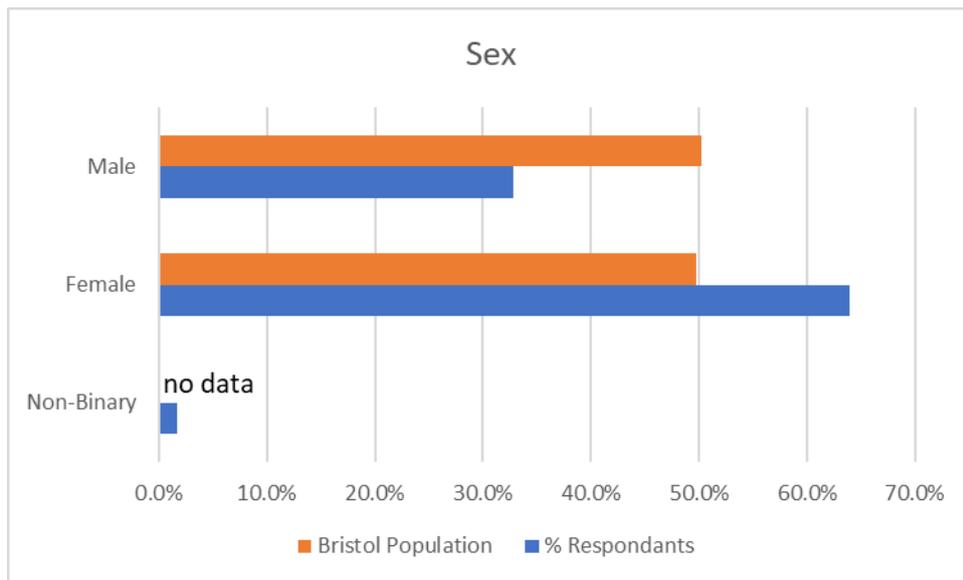


This graph shows that our respondents were mainly working age adults and early retirement age. There was low representation from people aged under 25 or over 74.

Sex

60 respondents (95%) provided an answer for Sex. Figure three presents the sex of respondents compared to the population of Bristol. The comparison data for this comes from the national ONS census which does not collect data on trans or gender non-conforming gender identities. A reliable comparator of the proportion of these other genders in Bristol does not exist at this time.

Figure Three – sex of respondents compared to Bristol population.

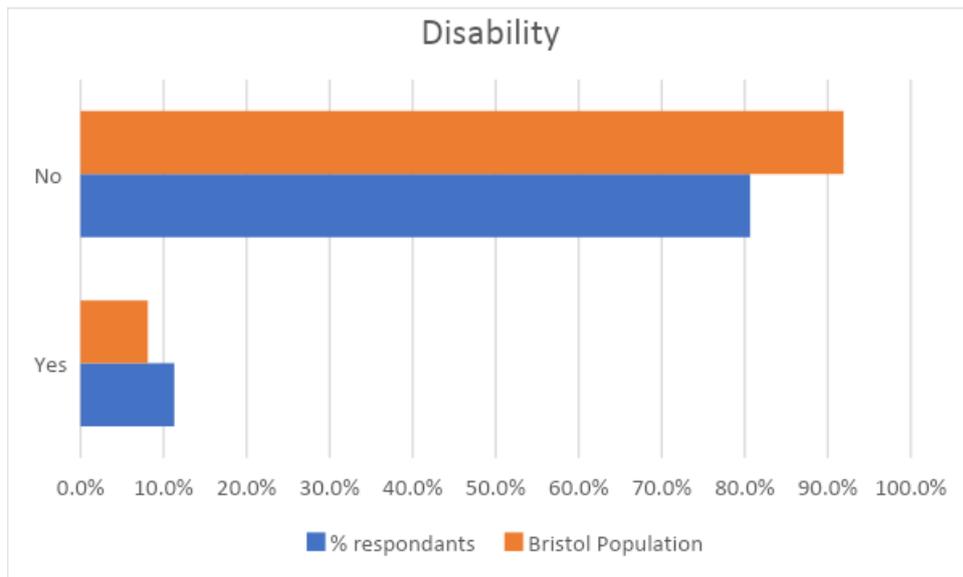


This graph shows that we had a higher proportion of female respondents than the Bristol population. There was little representation from trans or non-binary genders.

Disability

57 respondents (90%) provided an answer for if they considered themselves disabled. For comparison purposes against the population data, the census data does not ask people if they consider themselves to be disabled, but rather 'Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? Include problems related to old age?'. The choice for responses in the census are: Yes, limited a lot / Yes, limited a little / No . As per Bristol City Council standard, we have used the proportion of people who responded as 'Limited a lot' as the proxy comparator measure for Disability data. Figure Four presents the number of respondents who are disabled.

Figure Four – respondents who are disabled compared to Bristol population.

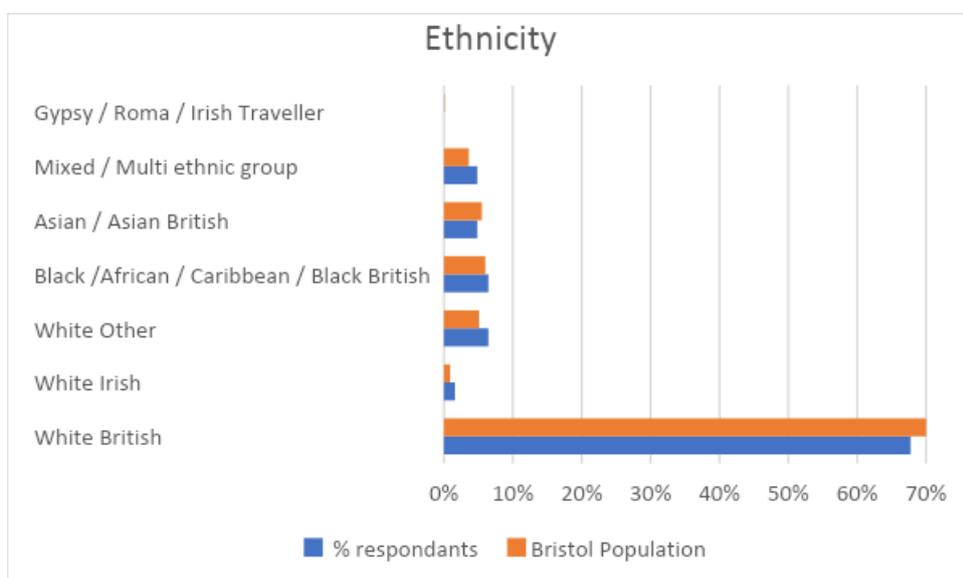


Overall, this shows a reasonable number of disabled people who responded to the survey. However, the numbers are overall small.

Ethnicity

57 respondents (90%) provided an answer for their ethnicity. Figure Five presents the ethnicity of respondents compared to the Bristol population.

Figure Five – ethnicity of respondents compared to Bristol population.

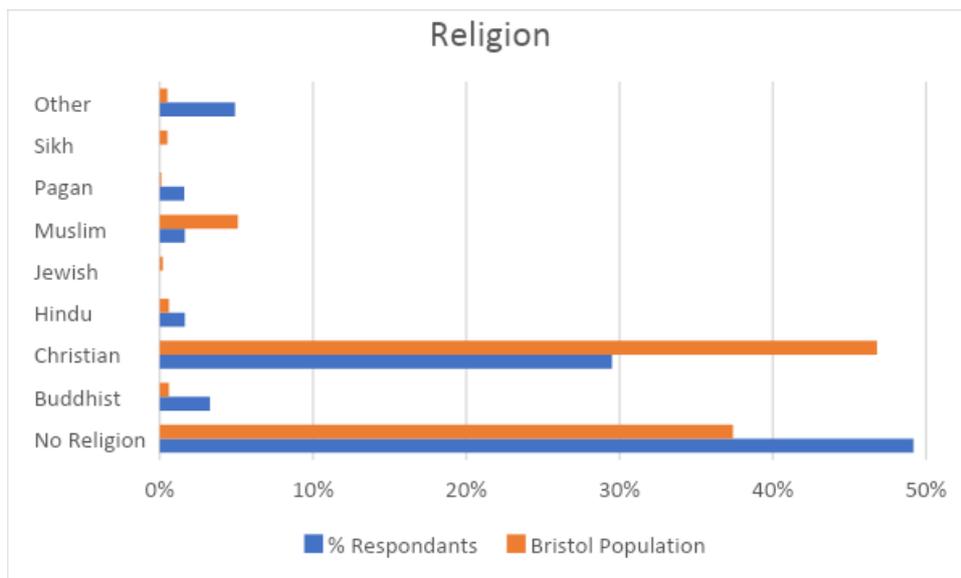


Overall, there was reasonable representation of ethnicities in Bristol compared to the baseline population. There were no respondents were from Gypsy, Roma, or Traveller groups. The overall numbers were small for each non White-British ethnicity.

Religion

55 respondents (87%) provided an answer for their religion. Figure Six presents the religion of respondents compared to the Bristol population.

Figure Six – religion of respondents compared to Bristol population.



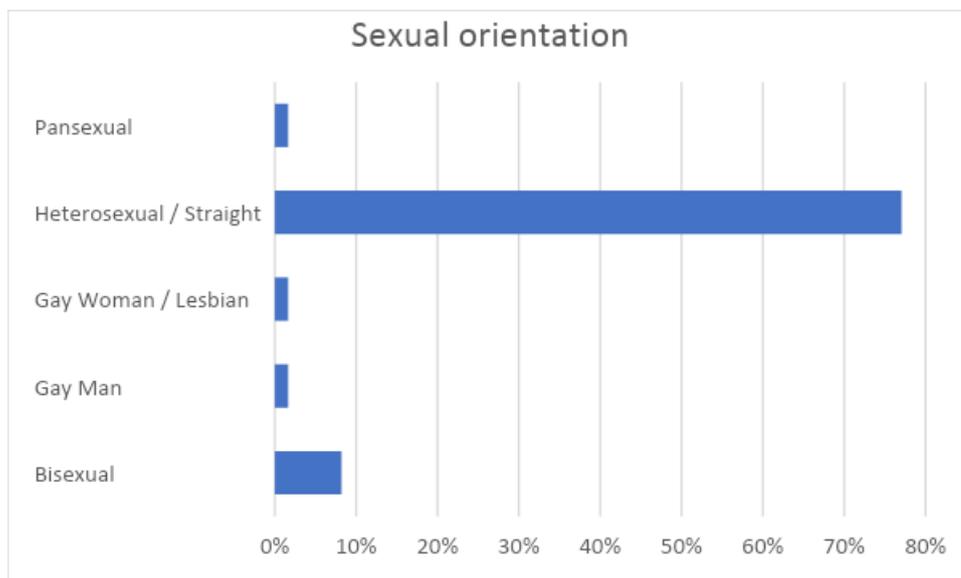
Overall this question received a low response rate compared to other questions in the survey. There was a higher proportion of people of no religion who responded to the survey. There was a lower proportion of Muslim respondents than would be expected compared to the Bristol population. There were no respondents from Jewish or Sikh religion.

Sexual Orientation

55 respondents (87%) provided an answer for their Sexual Orientation. Data on sexual orientation is not collected by the national census and therefore we do not have this for a comparator. The Bristol Quality of Life survey asks respondents if they identify as 'lesbian, gay, or bisexual'. Based on an average of the responses from the 2018, 2019 and 2020 survey Bristol City Council estimate that 9.1% of the

population in Bristol identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. No data is collected on other sexual identities. Figure seven presents the sexual orientation of the respondents of the survey.

Figure Seven – sexual orientation of survey respondents. No comparators are available.



Overall this question received a low response rate compared to other questions in the survey. There was reasonable representation of LGBTQ+ sexualities overall, but low numbers for specific sexual orientations.

Gender Reassignment

54 respondents (85%) provided an answer for if they had gone through part of a gender reassignment process or intend to. Of these, all 54 responded no that they have not been through any part of the gender re-assignment. No data on transgender or gender non-conforming identities is available from the national census data. The Bristol Quality of life survey asks 'do you think of yourself as a transgender person' but the respondent numbers are too small to provide an accurate estimate of the number of transgender or gender non-conforming persons in Bristol.

Maternity and Pregnancy

58 respondents (92%) provided an answer for if they were pregnant or had given birth in the past 26 weeks. Of these, 57/58 (95%) answered no and 1/58 (1.7%) answered yes. No comparison data is available.

Refugee or asylum seeker

58 respondents (91%) provided an answer for if they a refugee or asylum seeker. 0% responded that they were a refugee or asylum seeker. There is no comparison data available for the number of refugee or asylum seekers in Bristol.

Other respondent characteristics

The survey asked people to choose the best description of their situation from the options seen in table two. 62 respondents (98%) responded. Figure Eight presents the proportion of responded per category. Respondents could choose more than one category.

Table Two – respondent characteristics categories and proportion of respondents who chose this.

Characteristic	% Respondents
Member of the public	80.6%
Business owner/representative	4.8%
Food industry representative or group	3.2%
Interest group	4.8%
Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise organisation	9.7%
MP	0.0%
Councillor	3.2%
BCC staff	8.1%
Volunteer in a charity	1.6%
Alderman	1.6%

Online survey analysis

This section presents the responses to the online survey for each priority theme. It also considers the overall themes that were seen in responses throughout the survey. These overall results are considered first.

Overall themes

In general, people tended to either uniformly agree or uniformly disagree with the questions across all priority areas – i.e., few respondents agreed with some priorities but disagreed with others.

In the free-text answers, a number of recurring themes were present across answers to all priorities. These were:

- Respondents emphasised the need to ensure this work takes a participative and inclusive approach. Specifically, that the strategy and subsequent action plan is developed and delivered in collaboration with individuals experiencing food inequality, with communities, and with a diverse range of sectors including the VCSE sector, anchor organisations and corporates.
- Education was a significant theme in respondents' feedback - with particular emphasis placed on the role of school education and other targeted cooking and growing sessions for adults.
- Schools were raised as important in setting an example of food culture and learning and considered gatekeepers to communities.
- A common theme throughout the survey responses referred to concerns around land use - in particular, the pressure placed on using land for housing vs food growing.
- Food growing was brought up across the themes, highlighting the positive impact that access to community sites for growing can have on access, and health and wellbeing.
- Significantly, respondents emphasised the need to consider this strategy and subsequent actions in relation to a whole system approach - in particular in accordance with other initiatives on poverty.

- There were notable concerns about how this strategy would be funded.

Priority One: Fair, equitable access

94% of respondents agreed that the Food Equality strategy should include priority one: fair access, with 4 out of every 5 respondents agreeing strongly. 3% did not agree or disagree and 3% strongly disagreed.

Table Three – responses to question ‘Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 1?’

Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 1?			
Answer Choice		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	82.5%	52
2	Agree	11.1%	7
3	Neither agree nor disagree	3.2%	2
4	Disagree	0.0%	0
5	Strongly disagree	3.2%	2
		answered	63
		skipped	1

These percentages were reflected in the responses to the specific strategic aims, with the notable exception that whilst there were only 2 people who disagreed with the overall inclusion of this as a priority, there were 3 or 4 people who disagreed with each priority aim.

Figure Eight – responses to individual aims of priority 1



Key	
1	Actively investigate and take stock of the specific issues and barriers to accessing nutritious, appropriate food in the most deprived wards and for at-risk communities of interest
2	Take time and use a participatory approach to understand barriers and needs.
3	Recognise and understand that the definition of 'good access' to food may differ for different communities, and take action in working to address this.
4	Support diversity of shops that increase access to fresh food.

Free-text responses

23 (36%) respondents provided additional free-text comments under this priority area. These provided a scope of priorities respondents wish to see represented in this area. Comments in favour of the priority are presented first, followed by those which disagree.

In favour of this priority:

- Five respondents talked about the priority of directly engaging and actively researching local needs as a key facilitator for this work to be successful.
- Five respondents commented on the importance of education and schools in providing people knowledge about the right types of foods to be buying and also about food growing. One of these highlighted the potential important role school meals could play in providing and demonstrating good food to students.
- Three respondents highlighted improving opportunities and space for growing food as a priority.
- Two outlined the important of considering specific dietary requirements under this priority theme: including religious and cultural requirements as well as medical/allergy needs.
- One respondent provided specific comments on how to improve access for disabled people by ensure blue badge parking spaces outside local food selling businesses.
- One respondent wishes to see more fresh and nutritious options at food banks, not just canned goods.
- One respondent commented on the importance of restricting 'the proliferation' of fast-food outlets.
- One respondent talked about their perceived 'gentrification of good food' in Bristol, and said efforts need to be made to de-gentrify the good food efforts to open up to all.

Demonstrative quotes:

"I live fairly central. It's not a deprived area but access (by foot) to good fresh food at a reasonable price is limited because all we have are metro shops with limited range and higher prices. As lots of people will be moving here and into affordable housing this lack of local access to a big supermarket(s) will be worse."

"I think it is really important to provide culturally appropriate food. Whilst working with destitute asylum seekers during the pandemic, one of the issues that we had in providing food for our members was getting culturally appropriate food. They require

halal meat and do not have vegetables such as cabbage, swede, turnips, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, pumpkin etc. The issue is that fundamentally they don't eat it and they do not know how to cook it and don't like the taste of the food.

This means that firstly it is not addressing their need but secondly that food is being wasted. It is very important that adequate research is undertaken in understanding the needs of our communities and providing workable solutions as opposed to what we think they require.”

Disagree with this priority:

- One response outlined that especially during this time of economic difficulty, this should not be a priority for the local authority, and that people's benefits should cover the costs of buying good food.

Summary of responses for priority one

This priority has the most positive responses across the board for the priority aims. The comments have provided examples which demonstrate specific issues needed to address expanding access.

Priority Two: Choice and security

87.5% of respondents agreed that the Food Equality strategy should include priority two: choice, empowerment, and a feeling of security. Nearly 2 out of every 3 respondents strongly agreed with this. 1 out of every 10 respondents neither agreed nor disagreed, and one respondent (1.6%) disagreed strongly.

Table Four – responses to question ‘Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 2?’

Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 2?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Strongly agree	64.1%	41
2 Agree	23.4%	15
3 Neither agree nor disagree	10.9%	7
4 Disagree	0.0%	0
5 Strongly disagree	1.6%	1
answered		64
skipped		0

The responses to the specific strategic aims similarly showed mainly ‘agree’ or ‘strongly agree’ in a similar ratio to the overall response to this priority. There was some variation in response to the specific strategic aims, with three of the aims receiving 80% or less of the respondents in agreement: (build resilience through prevention, expand the use of food as a tool to access other support and services, increase choice and empowerment in food offers).

Figure Nine – responses to individual aims of priority 2



Key	
1	Listen and respond to the needs of the communities.
2	Empower communities to have a platform to make change.
3	Build resilience through prevention
4	Expand the use of food as a tool to access other support and services.
5	Increase choice and empowerment in food offers
6	Reduce the risk of stigma in programmes that address food inequality.
7	Maximise income for residents.

Free-text responses

15 (24%) respondents provided additional free-text comments under this priority area. There was a wide range of comments that did not neatly fit into analysis groups. A summary of the main points is presented below.

In favour of this priority:

- Four respondents talked about the importance of education for this priority, in particular how to cook with a range of nutritious and affordable meals. One talked about linking up with courses offering horticultural studies.
- Two talked about the priority providing housing for the city, and that without addressing this it's difficult to make a true impact on food equality.
- One respondent highlighted how food could be used to link to other services and benefits, employment or debt advice.
- One mentioned the importance of strong communications with the community, that can inspire joint working schemes and pay-it-forward initiatives.
- One highlighted the need to reduce some of the jargon in this section of the strategy

Disagree with this priority:

- One respondent disagreed that this should be within the council's remit.

Demonstrative quote:

"Again, this is well-intentioned but unrealistic. It is not for the Council to "expand the use of food as a tool to access other support and services" (indeed, what does that even mean?). It is not for the Council to "maximise income for residents". It is a wholly inappropriate use of Council resources and taxpayers' money."

Summary of responses for priority two

87.5% of respondents agreed with the inclusion of this priority, but there was a lower proportion of these who 'strongly agreed' with this priority area than some other priorities. There was also some variation to the extent people agreed with the individual priority aims. The free-text comments provided some useful ideas for inclusion in the strategy. Some of the free-text responses were not relevant to this section and have been included in the overall analysis section.

Priority Three: Skills and resources

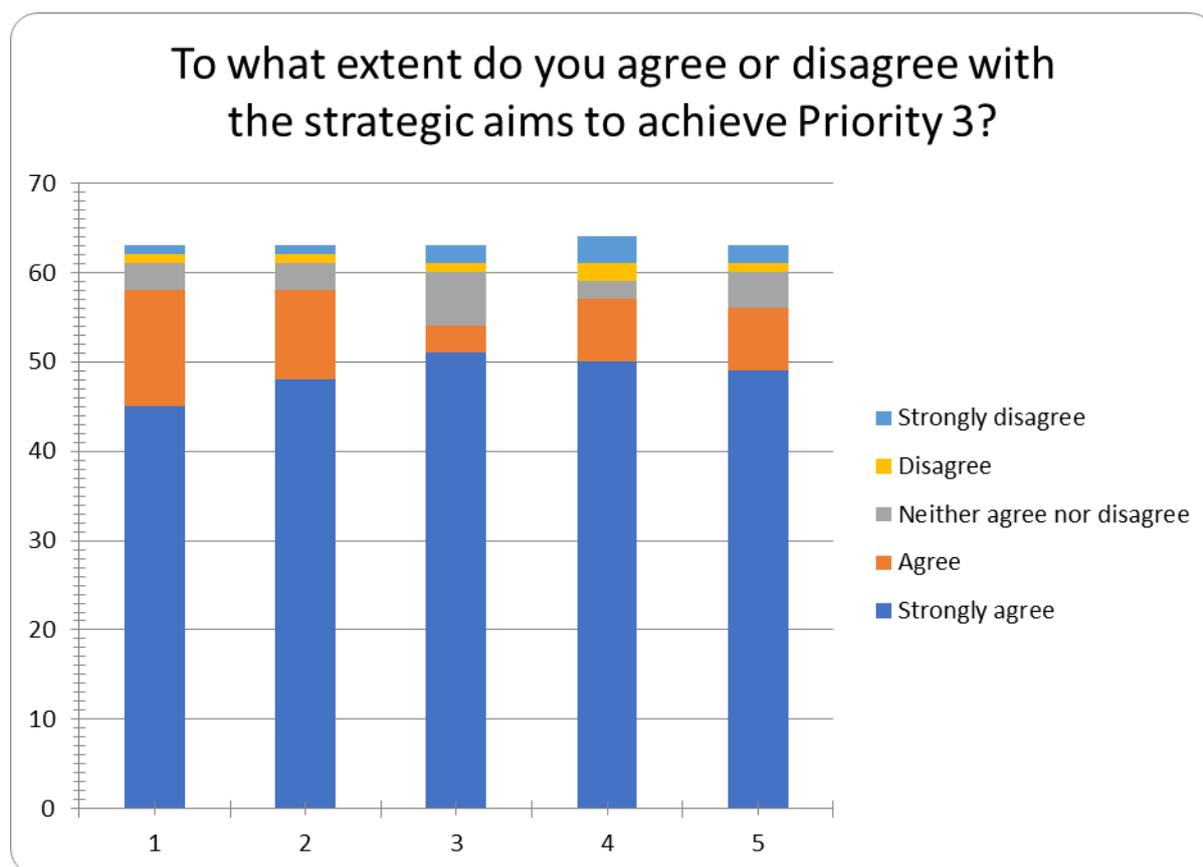
90% of respondents agreed that the Food Equality strategy should include priority three: People and communities are equipped with knowledge, skills and facilities. 8% neither agreed nor disagreed and one person strongly disagreed.

Table Five – responses to question ‘Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 3?’

Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 3?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Strongly agree	79.0%	49
2 Agree	11.3%	7
3 Neither agree nor disagree	8.1%	5
4 Disagree	0.0%	0
5 Strongly disagree	1.6%	1
	answered	62
	skipped	2

There was strong support for the individual strategic aims in this area, with all aims having over 85% of respondents saying they agree or strongly agree. The exception to this was for aim three: Take specific focussed action to reduce food inequality for children and young people. This aim had the highest proportion of people responding ‘strongly agree’ (80%) but also had the largest proportion of people who neither agreed nor disagreed (9%).

Figure Ten – responses to individual aims of priority 3



Key	
1	Address barriers posed by lack of facilities or equipment.
2	Build and strengthen facilities and assets already in the community.
3	Take specific focussed action to reduce food inequality for children and young people.
4	Promote food related topics and skills education in schools, colleges and early years settings.
5	Expand food related education beyond school age.

Free-text responses

18 people provided additional free-text comments under this priority area.

In favour of this priority:

- Seven respondents talked about the importance of education in schools to include practical skills in the growing and use of food. This also included the importance of not only knowing how to use food, but of having a deeper connection and understanding of where it comes from.
- Four additionally commented on the value of adult learning in this area.

- Two also talked about the importance of school meals to provide a strong example of good food and to limit unhealthy options in this environment.
- Two mentioned the overlap with the broader work to counter poverty in the city, and in particular fuel poverty.
- Two mentioned that starting consideration of education needs to start at the antenatal stage as important.

Demonstrative quote:

“I am a comfortably off, informed person who has the time, domestic space and facilities, knowledge and garden space to shop for bargains, grow a large proportion of what I eat and be able to preserve or keep immediately surplus food; I am constantly amazed by how little it costs for me to eat a good, wholesome and healthy diet. I would like to see others, less fortunate than myself, have the tools to do as I am able to.”

Disagree with this priority:

- One respondent disagreed that this should be within the council’s remit.

Demonstrative quote:

“I agree that skills such as cooking should be taught in school (it was when I was at school) and that children and young people should also be taught about food and nutrition. Beyond that I consider it beyond the Council's remit to do such things as "take specific focused action to reduce food inequality" - again, what does that even mean?”

Summary of responses for priority three

Overall, there was a larger proportion of support across the responses for priority three than other priority themes. Education comes up as a core theme across free-text responses throughout the survey, and respondents clearly value this as a tool to reduce food inequality. The strategic aim to take specific action to focus on children and young people was the most divisive aim, with the highest proportion of people strongly agreeing with this aim, but the lowest overall agreement compared to the

other aims in this priority. The small number of responses prevents statistical conclusions on the significance of this to be drawn.

Priority Four: Sustainable local food system

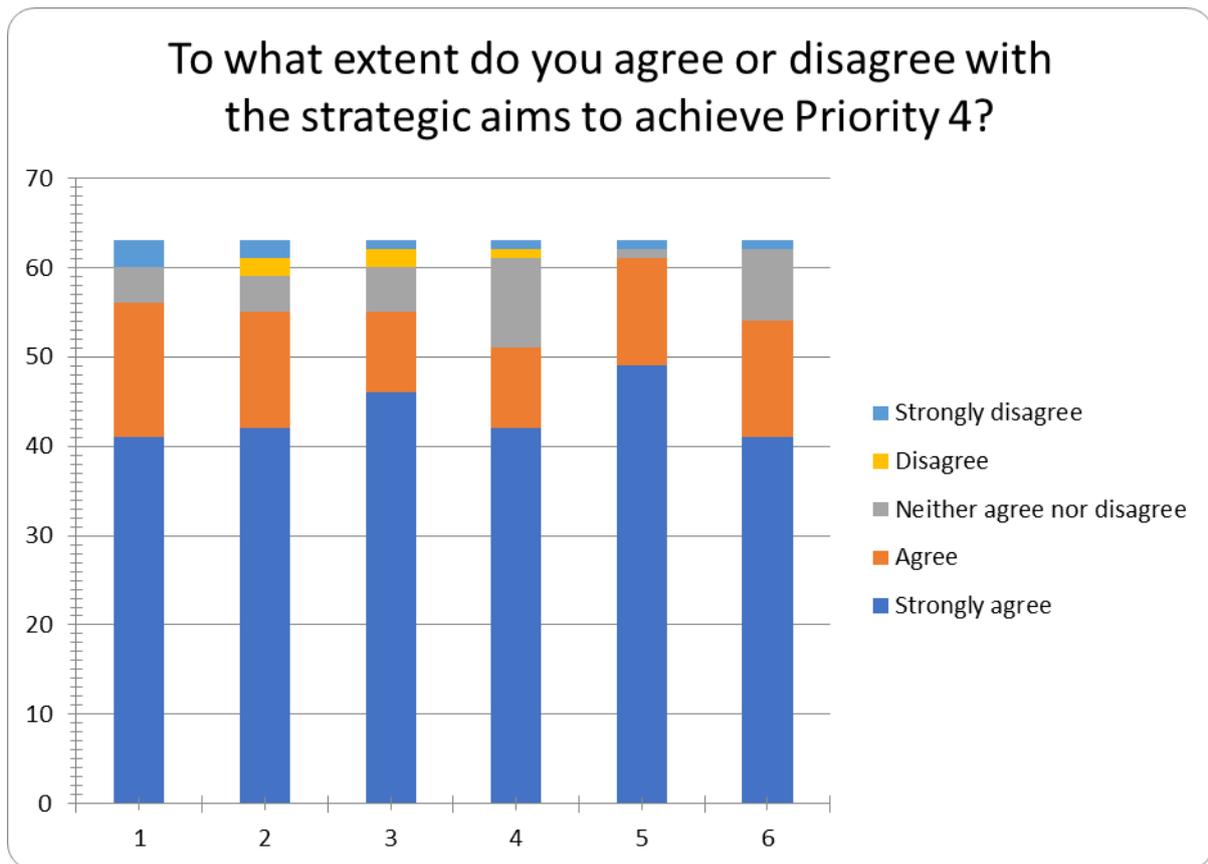
95% of respondents agreed that the Food Equality strategy should include priority four: A resilient and sustainable local food system. Two respondents neither agreed nor disagreed, and one strongly disagreed.

Table Six – responses to question ‘Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 4?’

Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 4?			
Answer Choice		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree	77.0%	47
2	Agree	18.0%	11
3	Neither agree nor disagree	3.3%	2
4	Disagree	0.0%	0
5	Strongly disagree	1.6%	1
		answered	61
		skipped	3

There was some variation in the responses for individual aims for priority four. All of the aims had greater than 80% respondents choosing agree or strongly agree. There was however a significant proportion of people who neither agreed or disagreed with aim four (champion inclusive procurement for public services in the city) and six (Support and continue to champion food equality in all work streams that allowed Bristol to become a Gold Sustainable Food city). At least 5% of respondents disagreed with aim one (Work with our neighbours to build a fair and equitable food system throughout the region), two (Expand the food growing capacity within the city), and three (Champion food equality when considering land use within the city).

Figure Eleven – responses to individual aims of priority 4



Key	
1	Work with our neighbours to build a fair and equitable food system throughout the region.
2	Expand the food growing capacity within the city.
3	Champion food equality when considering land use within the city.
4	Champion inclusive procurement for public services in the city.
5	Continue to reduce food waste.
6	Support and continue to champion food equality in all work streams that allowed Bristol to become a Gold Sustainable Food city.

Free-text responses

20 (31%) respondents provided additional free-text comments under this priority area.

In favour of this priority:

- Eight responses talked about the priority of increasing or facilitating access to growing space within the city. Three of these indicated that the

council should prioritise this over building developments. One suggested use of vertical farming in the Bristol area.

- Two talked about the importance of ensuring locally produced food can be conveniently accessed.
- Two talked about improving household food waste collection. One suggestion was to provide free food-waste bin liners to low-income households.
- Two responses talked of the importance to improve commercial food waste
- Two responses highlighted the important overlap with ensuring a good transport system.
- Two responses talked about the greenbelt in the city and the opportunity to use this as growing space.
- One comment mentioned that more research might be needed to understand the overlaps and impacts of Bristol's good system across the region.

Disagree with this priority:

- One respondent commented that Bristol having limited space available, needs to focus on housing as a priority before growing spaces.
- One respondent noted that this may not be a priority for all within the city, and the importance of recognising individual priorities in this area.

Summary of responses for priority four

This priority had one of the highest proportions of overall agreement (95% of respondents). However, individual priorities had more variety and had more disagreement than any other area of the strategy. 6% of respondents disagreed with increasing use of land for growing space in the city, with comments in the free text suggesting prioritising housing as a more important issue. It is notable in the demographics of responders that a number have involvement in working in housing within the council. This was the only priority area where none of the free-text responses contained a fundamental disagreement with the core concept of the priority.

Priority Five: Food at the heart of decision-making

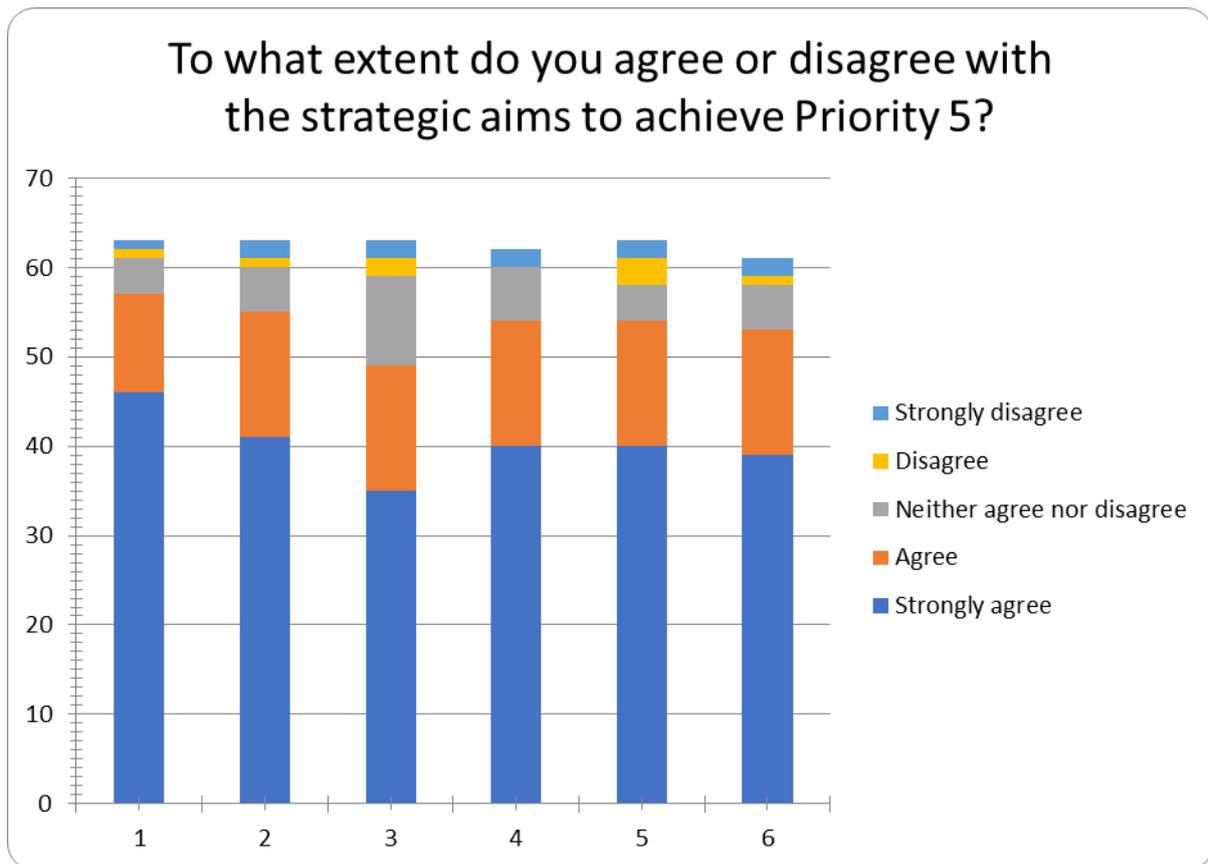
87% of respondents agreed that the Food Equality strategy should include priority five. 11% neither agreed nor disagreed. One respondent disagreed with this priority. No respondents strongly disagreed.

Table Seven – responses to question ‘Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 5?’

Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 5?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Strongly agree	66.1%	41
2 Agree	21.0%	13
3 Neither agree nor disagree	11.3%	7
4 Disagree	1.6%	1
5 Strongly disagree	0.0%	0
	answered	62
	skipped	2

There was some individual variation in the responses to the individual aims of this priority. Overall, there was a lower proportion of respondents who strongly agreed with the aims in this priority. Every aim in this priority had between 6% and 15% respondents who neither agreed or disagreed. There were also at least 2 respondents who disagreed with each aim. Aim three (Use the One City approach) had the lowest percentage of ‘strongly agree’ responses of any aim in the strategy (55%).

Figure Twelve – responses to individual aims of priority 5



Key	
1	Look at the big picture, and consider the interactions of food equality with the wider system.
2	Apply a 'health in all policies' approach to embed food equality.
3	Use the One City approach.
4	Incentivise investment in the local food economy.
5	Work across local authority borders.
6	Bristol will become a leading city in our approach to addressing food inequality.

Free-text responses

14 (22%) respondents provided additional free-text comments under this priority area.

In favour of this priority:

- Two respondents commented on how Bristol could become a trailblazer nationally in taking this approach.
- Two talked about the need for wider system change at a national level.

- One talked about the need to ensure we do not rely on volunteers for service provision in this area
- One mentioned the importance of wider communication of the issue of food inequality in the city, particularly to areas of the city where this problem is less visible.
- One mentioned the perceived gentrification of good food in the city.

Demonstrative quote:

“Creativity and collaboration will be needed beyond the planning stage. Local government, local businesses and local communities should not try and make the delivery someone else's problem. This is not something to be delegated to citizens only.”

Disagree with this priority:

- One respondent disagreed with using a one city approach
- One respondent disagreed with this priority as it did not make sense and could not see how it would tangibly make a difference on the ground.

Demonstrative quote:

“The One City approach is not open nor scrutinised. It should not be used for such an important strategy.”

Summary of responses for priority five

Overall, this priority had less respondents strongly agreeing with the individual aims. There was specific disagreement with the use of the One City approach from one respondent. There was a larger proportion of people not agreeing or disagreeing, which may possibly relate to the comments seen that this section contains difficult wording and the difficulty of being able to perceive a tangible benefit from it.

Priority Six: Cross cutting strategic aims

61 (95%) respondents completed responses for priority six (lower than other priority areas). 86% of respondents agreed that the Food Equality strategy should include priority six. 8% neither agreed nor disagreed. 4% disagreed with this priority.

Table Eight – responses to question ‘Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 6?’

Do you agree or disagree the strategy should include Priority 6?		
Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
1 Strongly agree	54.1%	33
2 Agree	32.8%	20
3 Neither agree nor disagree	8.2%	5
4 Disagree	1.6%	1
5 Strongly disagree	3.3%	2
<i>answered</i>		61
<i>skipped</i>		3

There was relative consistency in the responses to the individual strategic aims. Overall there high agreement with the aims, with each receiving greater than 85% agree or strongly agree. However, there was a low percentage of respondents who strongly agreed with the aims compared to other priorities, with less than 60% strongly agreeing with aims 1-3. The exception to this is aim 4 (Take a strong stance on food equality and food justice issues at a regional and national level) which 73% respondents strongly agreed with. Each aim had between 5%-6% respondents who neither agreed or disagreed. Equally, between 5% and 6% of respondents disagreed with each aim.

Figure Thirteen – responses to individual aims of priority 6



Key	
1	Commit to investing in solutions
2	Create a system for monitoring food equality
3	Develop an accessible communications strategy
4	Take a strong stance on food equality and food justice issues at a regional and national level

Free-text responses

9 (14%) respondents provided additional free-text comments under this priority area.

In favour of this priority:

- One talked about the need for wider system change at a national level.
- One talked the potential of contacting a specific named MP as a champion for this cause.
- One commented on the overlap with the broader work to counter poverty in the city.

- One mentioned the potential for Bristol to become a trailblazer in this work nationally.
- One noted the importance of communications, and in particular to create a common platform for organisations and individuals working in this area through the council website

Disagree with this priority:

- Two respondents noted the challenges that will be present in trying to monitor the impact of this strategy
- One commented that this priority had a lot of Jargon and provided few solutions.

Demonstrative quote:

“We have found there is stigma around food insecurity/poverty and so any monitoring must not assume that people experiencing it will pro-actively engage in monitoring.”

Summary of responses for priority Six

Overall this priority had less respondents strongly agreeing with the individual aims. Comments noted the challenges of putting the aims of this strategy into action.

Face-to-face consultation analysis

One face-to-face consultation took place at a food club meeting at Stockwood Children’s centre on the 8th of December 2021. One member of the strategy task group was present on site and gathered feedback from five people attending the food club. A brief verbal summary of each priority area was given, before asking for feedback. Notes on the responses were recorded on paper. All COVID-19 guidelines were followed when conducting these interviews. No personal characteristics were taken during these interviews. The results are summarised below.

Priority One

5/5 (100%) face-to-face respondents strongly agreed with priority one: *Everyone in the city is able to access food that is appropriate for their dietary needs, is culturally appropriate and affordable.* Comments during discussion of this priority included:

- “Schools should provide breakfast for all children so that all children have a healthy and good start before they start the day and so it doesn’t single out those needy children”
- “There needs to a better promotion of the services so people know what there is available to them where they live... People just don’t know about things”
- “Food clubs are still too expensive and are not accessible for some people that really need it”
- “Transport and infrastructure for food is a massive issue and needs addressing across the city”
- “In some places there are just no shops or supermarkets available to people, that makes it really difficult for people to access food”

Priority Two

5/5 (100%) face-to-face respondents strongly agreed with *priority two: Everyone can make decisions about their relationships with food and are free from anxiety and the stress of food insecurity.* Comments during discussion of this priority included:

- “It is important to consider a really holistic support to people struggling with food, like managing debt and cooking skills for example”.
- “You have to create a community before you empower a community”
- “Without food clubs I don’t know what I would do, they are a life saver and means that I can give my children decent food which is really important to me.”

Priority Three

5/5 face-to-face respondents strongly agreed with *priority three: people and communities are equipped with knowledge, skills and facilities that allows them to*

foster a healthy food culture, have confidence in their ability to access and use food to meet their needs, as well as facilities and fuel to cook with. Comments during discussion of this priority included:

- “People who work are often excluded from accessing the classes or support as they are usually on at times when people work. I would really like to access cooking classes but can’t go the ones in my community.”
- “Supporting children in schools with cooking would be really good way of building skills in children for the future. When I was younger we learnt lots of skills like this at secondary school but children don’t do this now.”
- “If children are engaged with adults in making and preparing food they will enjoy it and appreciate it more and also build their confidence.”

Priority Four

5/5 face-to-face respondents strongly agreed with *priority four: the local food system prioritises resilience and sustainability in food production, food waste management, distribution, economy and environmental resilience.* Comments during discussion of this priority included:

- “No one has any understanding of being able to buy local. It is really important that we start to do this more.”
- “We need to use our local resources more rather than shipping everything in.”
- “Food waste is a massive issue and distribution of surplus food like food clubs are a great model for supporting this excessive waste.”

Priority Five

5/5 face-to-face respondents strongly agreed with *priority five: food needs and equality are considered in all decision making whether developing social support models, new businesses or planning housing developments.* Comments during discussion of this priority included:

- “Tackling market forces when it comes to food is very tricky.... Changing attitudes towards buying healthy needs to come from both ends”
- “Bristol should do more to support those experiencing poverty!”
- “We need a policy change from the government around Universal Credit”

Other correspondence

Email feedback was received during the public consultation period from a VCSE group supporting Black carers in the community. The feedback was that the images used throughout the draft strategy did not include diverse food representative of different cultures. They made some suggestions of images that could be included to expand the cultural competence of the report.

How will this report be used?

The consultation feedback in this presented to the Food Equality Strategy consultation task group and at a development session of the Bristol City Council Health and Wellbeing Board. This is then taken into account by the strategy developers (a partnership between Bristol City Council and Feeding Bristol) who incorporate the findings into the final strategy. The final strategy will contain a section referring to how these changes have been incorporated into the final product. This consultation report and the final strategy will be taken for sign off at the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 24th February 2022.

How can I keep track?

You can find the latest consultation and engagement surveys online at www.bristol.gov.uk/consultationhub where you can also sign up to receive automated email notifications about consultations and engagements. All decisions related to the proposals in this consultation will be made publicly at the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 24th February 2022. You can find forthcoming meetings and their agendas at democracy.bristol.gov.uk.