

Cabinet Report – 21 September Southwark Council Food Strategy

APPENDIX 2 - Scrutiny Sub-Committee B Food Strategy Review Recommendations to Southwark's Executive March 2010

Recommendation

Southwark's approach

1. Southwark should seek to create a partnership steering group of interested parties to help develop, monitor and implement the food strategy.
2. Southwark should seek to identify a food champion to promote and drive forward the strategy.
3. The strategy should be accompanied by a clear, realistic and costed action plan that should be regularly reviewed.

Improving the health and reducing the health inequalities of people living and working in Southwark

4. It is essential that any food strategy should be jointly prepared by the PCT and Southwark Council as a factor in reducing health inequalities in the borough.
5. In order to give the required level of strategic leadership, the joint Council/PCT board should consider this report and agree a timetable for developing a strategy, we suggest within the next six months.

Reducing poverty and deprivation

6. Southwark should consider a programme of promotional materials and cookery demonstrations that can help address the lack of knowledge about cooking and nutrition. This could seek to make links with supermarkets, high street shopping centres and street markets across the borough.

Reducing the negative environmental impacts of Southwark's food system

7. Southwark should seek to work with 'Veolia' (The Council's waste sub contractors) to introduce food waste collection as early as possible and before the current target date of 2015.
8. There should be more promotion of home composting to increase the numbers of bins distributed and used.
9. Southwark should continue to make strides to widen the types of food packaging collected making particular efforts to provide facilities for tetrapaks/liquid board packaging.
10. Southwark should consider how it can positively encourage the collection of food waste from commercial premises.

Supporting a vibrant food economy

11. Southwark should promote and encourage street markets, seeking to expand the hours of operation of existing markets and introduce new food markets where possible.
12. Southwark should continue to use its planning policies to promote and enhance local shopping parades.

Celebrating and promoting Southwark's food culture

13. The Council should undertake a campaign of sustainable food awareness.
14. The council should seek to use its own purchasing power, particularly in the new Tooley street contract to ensure:
 - The provision of Fair trade food
 - The use of sustainable food supplies, minimisation of packaging and recycling
 - The use of local providers and supply chain
 - The provision of healthy food choices
 - The provision and promotion of vegetarian and vegan options
 - That food supplies reflect the diversity of Southwark

Enhancing Southwark's food security

15. Members felt very strongly that the council must continue to use its planning policies to ensure adequate provision of outdoor space is provided in both private and public areas.
16. Developments should seek to design outdoor space to be used flexibly, maximising the ability of the community and individuals to use outdoor space for growing food.
17. Council owned land, housing and parks land in particular present ample opportunity for more creative use of open space to provide allotments and orchards. A comprehensive programme to identify and encouraging the conversion of such land for active food use should be developed.

Encouraging healthy eating in schools

18. The use of the curriculum to understand food and encouraging gardening and growing food particularly in primary school
19. Southwark would need to get a better picture of precisely what is going on in its schools with a view to adopting an aspiration of achieving the provision of universal free school meals.