

Sustainable Food Policy Statement

Introduction

Cambridge City Council (the council) in its community leadership role wants, alongside its partners, to promote sustainable food in Cambridge and understands the key role food can play in dealing with some of the most pressing problems in our city, such as food poverty, diet related ill-health, food waste, climate change and biodiversity loss.

This *Sustainable Food Policy Statement* looks out beyond the council's own statutory responsibilities surrounding food hygiene and food safety into this wider role food can play.

The council recognises that there are many valuable food initiatives already taking place in the city across the public, private and voluntary and community sectors. The Council values the work of the umbrella organisation Cambridge Sustainable Food, which is seeking to bring these initiatives together as a part of the framework provided by the national Sustainable Food Cities Network and their award scheme, to achieve recognition for what is currently being done and to help “unlock” potential in the city to do more.

The council has adopted a number of policies set out in its Anti-Poverty Strategy and Climate Change Strategy that make a contribution to food health and sustainability issues. The Council is supporting evidence based projects that will make a difference through the funding streams attached to these strategies and its community grants programme.

The Council through its mainstream activities promotes public health, for instance through encouraging healthy lifestyles and providing opportunities to bring its diverse communities together through events involving food.

The Council recognises that it cannot cover all the requirements of the national award scheme for sustainable food – some aspects fall within the remit of other agencies or are beyond the current powers or resources available to the Council.

The following policy aims show what the council wants to achieve, with its partners, and through its own practice.

Policy aims for council and partners

- To continue to support the ambitions set out in the Food Charter for Cambridge, which sets out a broad vision of the issues that should be addressed to help create the conditions for a Sustainable Food City in the future
- To recognise the role of Cambridge Sustainable Food in acting as an umbrella organisation in Cambridge that brings together a range of organisations with an interest in promoting sustainable food within the National Sustainable Food Cities Network

Policy aims for the council

- To increase awareness of the council's support for Cambridge as a Sustainable Food City
- To explore the potential to incorporate, where possible, sustainable food principles in council catering contracts and food procurement
- To develop and promote a water bottle Refill scheme in the city
- To encourage providers at events in Cambridge, where we have an influence, to use sustainable food practice, where appropriate.
- To promote sustainable food practice to local food businesses
- To work low with low income households to help reduce food poverty and promote sustainable food practice through the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy
- To promote food sustainability through our Climate Change Strategy

- To bring our diverse local communities together to share good food, as appropriate
- To encourage local food employers to adopt the national Living Wage and become a part of the accreditation scheme of the National Living Wage Foundation
- To explore other opportunities to promote sustainable food principles within the Council and with partners, as they arise.

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