

Record of Decisions

Torbay Food Strategy and Partnership

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 27 September 2022.

Decision

1. That the longer-term commitment by the Council to the food workstream to 2028, as requested by the Torbay Food Partnership, be approved, namely to host and champion the Partnership, rather than a long term financial commitment.
2. That the Director of Adult Social Services be requested to work with the Torbay Food Partnership to undertake the following actions over the next year:
 - i. Co-produce a Food Strategy for Torbay for 2023 – 2028;
 - ii. Scoping of the creation of a CIC similar to Food Plymouth, which would facilitate and resource the Torbay Food Partnership long-term.
3. That the Vision and Charter and identity “Food for Good Torbay”, which has been co-produced by the multi-sector Partnership, be supported and approved.

Reason for the Decision

The development of a 5-year Food Strategy for Torbay, and commitment to the Vision and Charter would help to ensure that the future resilience of our communities and local food system is maximised. The food workstream was also fundamental to delivering priorities within Public Health, Climate, Turning the Tide on Poverty, Family Hubs, and Economic Development.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 10 October 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Since original intentions were set for the Food Partnership, a series of global events have made the need for systemic change even more important. We are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in decades which has impacted the poorest disproportionately; and has the potential to push many people beyond poverty into destitution.

Issues with global food and fuel supplies have also highlighted the need to reconsider how we get and use our food. These issues are likely to worsen in the long term as the impact of climate change is felt more keenly. Torbay needs to make best use of its assets and resources to mitigate these effects, creating an environment that better supports local food production. Therefore, whilst the Council acts to address the immediate cost of living crisis, it is vital that a longer-term, strategic view was taken to address where possible the significant challenges

ahead. The development of a 5-year Food Strategy for Torbay, and commitment to the Vision and Charter, would help to ensure that the future resilience of Torbay's communities and local food system was maximised.

At the meeting Councillor Cowell proposed and Councillor Law seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The options considered were to:

- (i) Continue to operate the Partnership on a year-to-year basis with no long-term strategic planning; or
- (ii) Discontinue the Partnership and assume that food-related issues would be adequately addressed within individual programmes/priorities

Neither of these options were deemed to be a sustainable or suitable option and were discounted. The scale and complexity of challenges within the local and national food system were significant, and therefore required a more strategic, joined-up approach to address them in any meaningful way.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

Published

30 September 2022

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Deputy Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet