

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM42310

Dyddiad / Date: 10th January 2020

Councillor Ramesh Patel
Chairperson
Environmental Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl/Dear Councillor Patel

Environmental Scrutiny Committee - 2nd July 2019

Thank you for letter of 10th September 2019. I sincerely apologise for the delay in responding. We would respond to your queries as follows:

Hydroponic project – We are pleased that Environmental Scrutiny Committee members are interested in this project. Officers will be in touch to organise a site visit once the pilot project in Bute Park is up and running.

Hydroponic hub – The consideration of a Food Park/Hydroponic hub is one of the longer term aspirations of the Strategy. This is in recognition of the complexity of identifying suitable sites and occupants and in getting the strategy and ambitions right. This pause for thought does allow a more considered analysis of some of the points you have raised for which we are grateful and we will ensure that these are integrated into the consideration of the longer term project.

Local food market – The action of developing a city centre food plan with the For Cardiff (Business Improvement District) partners will consider options for the city centre to increase its sustainable food options including the viability of these options.

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO :

Swyddfa Cymorth Y Cabinet / Cabinet Support Office, Ystafell / Room 518, Neuadd y Sir / County Hall
Glanfa'r Iwerydd / Atlantic Wharf, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF10 4UW
Ffon / Tel: (029) 2087

GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



New retailer enforcement – This matter is dealt with by Highways legislation under Part 7a of the Highways Act. The granting of licences is highly site specific and driven by the need to maintain accessible pavements and space for emergency vehicles etc. On that basis it is not possible for everyone who requests a licence to be granted one. We will pass on the enforcement comments to the enforcement team for their consideration.

Council food establishments – healthy eating options – The strategy seeks to develop a Sustainable Food Framework to define and integrate sustainable food goals, thresholds and targets across all Council operations. Healthy eating is part of sustainable food along with local sourcing, environmentally friendly and good animal welfare food options. We will be working with our partners in Public Health Wales to develop the Sustainable Food Framework. Council operations in scope are staff canteens, internal and external catering, schools catering and vending machines. As such, we will be working with the County Hall canteen to see where improvements can be made. In particular, we would like to arrange a site visit for the canteen staff to see the success of the Y Gegin restaurant at the Heath Hospital which was recently refurbished with a strong focus on healthy food.

Monitoring the Cardiff Food Strategy – Monitoring of the strategy is essential to ensure progress is made. We plan to establish a Board comprised of senior officers and representatives from Directorates to monitor progress. This Board will in turn report outcomes to the Cardiff PSB as part of the Council's partnership arrangements. Cabinet have highlighted the potential benefits of creating a Food Co-Ordinator post to assist in the delivery of the strategy and the directorate is currently preparing a funding bid in response.

Food for Life and Soil Association Award – Food Sense Wales has recently gained some funding from the Soil Association to help deliver Food for Life Get Togethers. The programme is an inter-generational one that uses good food to bring together people of different ages and backgrounds through growing, cooking and eating. Cardiff Council sits on the steering group of Food Sense Wales and it is planned that the Get Togethers will take place across Wales including Cardiff. Where Get Togethers are planned for Cardiff, we will also work with Food Cardiff, the local citywide food partnership (Food Cardiff sits underneath Food Sense Wales and the Council sits on the steering group of both organisations).

Local food quality mark – Local businesses and organisations have expressed interest in the development of a Sustainability Mark to promote local sustainable food businesses. The strategy includes developing such a Mark, which would be developed with partners and would include both process (ie how the business is run) and product (ie what is sold by the businesses).

Beef – The Sustainable Food Framework mentioned above will consider locality of food, health, environmental issues and good animal welfare. The Council has also recently declared a Climate Emergency and is working towards making the Council's operations carbon neutral by 2030. The scope of this declaration will include Council buildings, transport and procurement. We are currently working with Welsh Government to calculate the carbon footprint of our procurement which will include food procured by the Council for our canteens, schools and events. This will in turn inform the procurement actions identified in the food strategy.

Linking Council strategies – These points are noted and some of the actions of the Food Strategy, particularly around mapping food deserts and recording and supporting expressions of interest from community food interests, will help to provide an evidence base that will help inform other decision making activities. It is also recognised, however, that any strategy or action will need to balance a number of competing demands and that it will not be possible to retain a perfect balance in each and every case.

Southern Arc data – The life expectancy data for Cardiff is from the Cardiff What Matters Strategic Needs Assessment and the information around diet having an impact on life expectancy is from the NHS. For the latter, that is that obesity is influenced in part by diet (food options available and food consumed) and that obesity leads to a number of serious and potentially life threatening conditions such as type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, some types of cancer, stroke plus psychological problems.

Food deserts and swamps – The first step in this work is to map the food deserts and food swamps across the city. This has been started with regards to mapping of hot food takeaways and work is currently underway to map availability of fresh fruit and vegetables across the city. Once this data is gathered, we can utilise this to target interventions to areas of the city most in need. Examples of interventions include community pantries and growing projects either delivered direct by the Council or with our partners. We will also share this data with our partners to enable them to assist them in spatial targeting of their workstreams.

I trust the above is of assistance.

Yn gywir
Yours sincerely



Councillor / Y Cyngorydd Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
Aelod Cabinet dros Strydoedd Glân, Ailgylchu a'r Amgylchedd

