

Title of Report: Sustainable Food Places and Growing Food and Growing Communities	Officer Presenting: Director of Environment and Regeneration Author: Natural Environment Regeneration Manager
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To update Members on Councils application to Sustainable Food Places (SFP) towards becoming a Sustainable Food Place and the Growing Food Growing Communities partnership.

2 Background

- 2.1 Members received a paper in March 2021, setting out the ambition of Sustainable Food Places. In short, SFP want to create a transition to a healthy, sustainable, and more equitable food system through a strong national policy between policy makers, businesses, and society at the local level. SFP promote a systems approach that involves and connects key actors at all levels and across all parts of the food system. Since 2013, SFP have helped places across the UK to establish multi-sector food partnerships, develop local food strategies, and implement positive action across a wide range of food issues.
- 2.2 Their long-term aim is to support the development of a critical mass of food partnerships working individually and collectively to transform the food system in each of the four nations. To achieve this, they will work closely with groups of food partnerships in each to co-design our programme, membership and award structure to ensure it is relevant and accessible.
- 2.3 Sustainable Food Places has largely been a network of cities in England. A key strand of their work going forward will focus on adapting and extending the model to new places and geographies across all four nations.

- 2.4 Council secured £5,000 for SFP supported by an additional £5,000 to appoint an Officer to drive forward the Sustainable Food Agenda within the City and District.
- 2.5 In addition, Council has partnered with Hollywood Transition Towns, Hollywood Shared Spaces and the Acorn Fund to develop a project called 'Growing Food, Growing Communities'. This partnership has secured £80,000 from the Community Foundation NI to engage with citizens and stakeholders in both Derry/Strabane and Hollywood on the sustainability or otherwise of the existing food system based on the SFP 6 key issues as follows:
- Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action
 - Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement
 - Tackling food poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food
 - Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy
 - Transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local supply chains
 - Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Allan Bogle has been appointed as the Sustainable Food Co-ordinator and will be leading on the SFP agenda. An update will be presented at a subsequent committee relating to this activity.
- 3.2 Council has tendered for the Growing Food, Growing Communities Facilitator on behalf of the partnership. Tenders are presently being appraised. A subsequent report will be brought back to Committee outlining the programme once the formal appointment is made. A budget of circa £20,000 has been set aside for this piece of work, which is 100% funded from CFNI.

4 Implications

Equality, Rural Needs, Climate Change and Data Protection

- 4.1 Council also adopted a Climate Adaptation Plan in July 2020. The aim of the Plan is to ensure Council is prepared for and resilient to the effects of climate change. The Plan includes a green infrastructure theme in order to maximise nature-based solutions such as trees to manage the risk from flooding, heat, poor air quality and species decline as a result of climate change.
- 4.2 In addition, Members will also recall that Council agreed to become signatories of the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration at June's ER Committee. This supports the Climate Emergency Declaration of July 2019 and subsequent pledge approved by Council in July 2020 committing to a shift to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 while also ensuring that the Derry City and Strabane District Council area is as far as practically possible is prepared for and resilient to the effects of climate change.

Financial, Legal, HR, Improvement and Other

- 4.3 A SFP Development Grants of £5,000 was secured, matched by Council by £5,000 to appoint an Officer for a short period of time through a competitive internal recruitment process.
- 4.4 The Growing Food Growing Communities project is 100% funded through CFNI supported by Officer/s time as a contribution in kind to support the project in particular the procurement of the external Facilitator.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Background Papers