

REPORT TO: POLICY COMMITTEE 5 MARCH 2008

**SUBJECT: MORAY COUNCIL DRAFT FOOD POLICY AND ACTION PLAN
2007-10**

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Committee to seek approval of the Moray Council Food Policy and Action Plan, and to seek delegated authority to implement the policy across council services.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section A(44) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the statutory power of the Council to advance well-being under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 This report recommends that the Committee approve the Draft Food Policy and Action Plan and their implementation across council services (Appendices 1 and 2)**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A national Food Policy is in development for Scotland and is one of the first policy priorities for the Scottish Government. As part of the consultation process a national discussion is taking place and the discussion paper *Choosing the Right Ingredients: The Future for Food in Scotland* has been launched by The Scottish Government to support the policy's development. This will be the first time there has been a national food policy for Scotland. It is an opportunity to set a common vision that meets the needs of Government, businesses and consumers everywhere in Scotland.
- 3.2 The national food policy discussion paper suggests that Local Government needs to:
- Encourage Scottish suppliers to tender for public contracts
 - Share best practice with other public bodies
 - Champion a greener, healthier approach to food
 - Ensure that all schoolchildren of all ages are taught about food, e.g. initiatives such as Eco-Schools
 - Take responsibility for good nutrition in schools and other institutions
 - Promote local food networks and farmer's markets to encourage food tourism
 - Increase the collection of food waste from households for composting

The Moray Council Food Policy will directly support the council to take forward these actions.

3.3 The development of The Moray Council Food Policy will support the council's delivery, performance and reporting in accordance with the Concordat between central and local government in Scotland. In delivering the Moray Single Outcome Agreement, the Council Food Policy will support the delivery of the following national outcomes and indicators:

5. Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.

22. Reduce morbidity due to obesity levels among children

27. Numbers of children taking up nutritious school meals

6. We live longer, healthier lives.

14. Reduce the rate of increase in the proportion of children with their Body Mass Index outwith a healthy range by 2018.

16. Increase healthy life expectancy at birth in the most deprived areas

21. Reduce mortality from coronary heart disease among the under 75s in deprived areas

3.2 The policy aims and actions will address health inequalities, including diet, healthy weight and obesity which are national and local health priorities.

Overweight and obesity is rapidly increasing in children and adults in Scotland. Obesity has increased in Scotland over the past two decades, reaching 22% in men and 24% in women in 2003. About 60% of the population aged 16 and over are overweight or obese.

There is continued concern over the levels of obesity among Scottish children. Around 35% of boys and 30% of girls aged 2-15 years can be classified as overweight or obese in Grampian. Obesity can reduce life expectancy by between 3-13 years. Being overweight or obese carries a high risk of many chronic conditions, including diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke and coronary heart disease.

Source: Scottish Health Survey 2003, NHS Grampian Annual Report of Public Health 2005/06.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The Food Policy supports the priorities and actions within the Moray Joint Health Improvement Plan 2007-10, which is the strategic plan for the Community Planning Theme Group, Health & Caring Community Theme Group and which is directed by the Moray Community Plan.

It will be essential to raise political and strategic awareness of national and local issues surrounding the Food Policy. A high level event is being arranged for March 2008 in Moray to raise awareness of these issues.

(b) Policy and Legal

Council services that provide food will be expected to continue to improve their practices and develop service action plans that adhere to nutritional and food safety standards, legislation and guidelines:

The Food Safety Act 1990
Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations 2006
Food Labelling (Scotland) Regulations 1996 (as amended)
Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007
The Breastfeeding etc (Scotland) Act 2005
Health Promoting Schools
Hungry for Success

In implementing the policy, Moray Council will be committed to the following outcomes as indicated in Appendix 1. Moray Council Draft Food Policy

- Ensuring all food services provided by the Council have been planned based on healthy eating guidelines, nutritional standards and the nutritional needs and requirements of the population.
- Ensuring all food provided or served is produced in compliance with food safety legislation.
- Ensuring the special nutritional needs of groups of the population (e.g. elderly, under 5s, ethnic minorities etc.) are considered when planning services for these sub groups of the population.
- Promoting and supporting the implementation of all relevant food and health guidance and recommendations e.g. Hungry for Success, Nut Guidance for Early Years.
- Providing staff with the training required to ensure an understanding of food and health issues commensurate with their duties.
- Supporting local food economies by supporting local procurement policies where feasible.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The implementation of the Council Food Policy through the Moray Single Outcome Agreement will have financial implications:

A training and awareness raising programme for Council staff and a financial plan will be developed as part of the policy implementation, as indicated in the Food Policy Draft Action Plan.

The Committee is asked to approve spend of £2000 from existing Hungry for Success funding to provide four workshop events for school staff to be made aware of recent legislation and guidelines, (Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007), and the implementation of these nutritional standards in schools from August 2008. Costs will cover trainers/dieticians, staffing expenses and cover, room hire etc.

The implementation of the Excel contract (procurement agreement) will have financial implications for food procurement across Council

services. It is anticipated that the contract will have a positive financial outcome.

Council staff who provide food as part of their service will be expected to implement the food policy in line with legislation and nutritional guidelines and standards.

Compliance with Food Safety Legislation and Standards as detailed in the Food Policy Action Plan will reduce health and safety risks to Council premises and staff that provide food.

(d) Consultations

The following staff have been consulted and agree with the content of the report: Corporate Policy Unit Manager, Educational Resources Manager, Quality Improvement Officer (Education), Head of Personnel Services, Procurement Officer, Senior Employee Development Advisor, Environmental Protection Manager, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Head of Community Care, Dietetic Manager (NHS), Nutrition Advisor (NHS), Dietician, Educational Services Officer(QA/CD), Health Improvement Officer (Schools), Public Health & Service Planning Lead (NHS), Public Health Co-ordinator (NHS), Operational Support Officer

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Committee is asked to consider and approve the implementation of the Moray Council Food Policy and Action Plan 2007-2010.

Author of Report: Carol Kirkwood
Background Papers: Held on file by C Kirkwood
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