



Sustainable Food Places Gold Award

Report of Portfolio Holder of Environment & Place

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To formalise the authority's support to LESS and Food Futures Partnership in their endeavours to gain Sustainable Food Places Gold Award for the district.				
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date of notice of forthcoming key decision				

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Cabinet chooses in accordance with paragraph 2.1 (a) of this report to offer its formal support to the North Lancashire Sustainable Food Places Award application;
- (2) Cabinet approves the steps/measures supporting sustainable food places as outlined at paragraphs 2.1 (b) to (e) of this report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Sustainable Food Places Award is a national, evidence-based recognition and celebration of places taking a joined-up, holistic approach to sustainable and healthy food. Awardees have to demonstrate activity and impact across their food system by the food partnership and wider stakeholders to create a local 'Good Food Movement'.
- 1.2 The level of activity expected increases from Bronze, to Silver and then Gold, with the expectation that Gold awardees are innovating and supporting food system-wide transformations in their place at a level that is pioneering and of interest to an international audience
- 1.3 The North Lancashire region gained the Silver accreditation in autumn 2023 and highlights the Food Futures strategic ambitions.
- 1.4 Following a partnership-wide decision in Spring 2024, the Food Justice Partnership, which consists of partner organisations including food clubs, foodbanks, Citizen's Advice, Lancaster CVS, NHS and Lancaster City Council, agreed to facilitate a two-year process to support North Lancashire in

working towards a Gold Sustainable Food Places Award, with the aim to submit a Gold application in 2026

2.0 Proposal Details

2.1 It is proposed that the Council:

a. officially and publicly supports the North Lancashire Sustainable Food Places Gold Award application. That this is supported officially through communications that highlight both how existing projects and work support the gold award and the Council Plan and values

b. continues supporting the Food Futures partnership through attending key strategy and working group meetings and feeding into key strategic projects that are aligned with the Council's priorities e.g. community composting approaches, Lancaster District's food ladders approach, taking forward allotment review recommendations.

c. Continues to support use of the White Lund Depot Nursery, with the potential to extend provision where possible, so that the partnership can continue to build its resilience and ability to host the Lancaster Districts FarmStart scheme. This initiative supports training in organic horticulture, supports new entrants into growing, will be hosting "Growing food and community training" in partnership with other local food projects over the next two years, and is supporting the set of other agroecological sites around the District, including a new community farm. Its strategically aligned with a number of the Council's own priority areas.

d. Feeds into District Food Justice Partnership strategies, which is aimed at tackling food poverty, diet related ill health and access to affordable healthy food, to build resilience post Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) funding.

e. Reviews council procurement practices in light of the Food Futures community food strategy and the Good Food Manifesto and work to increase procurement of sustainable local produce and reduce food waste from council outlets. As part of this it could consider procuring through Gather: Lancaster District's pilot local food hub that brings together a range of local sustainable food producers and makes it easier for individuals and retailers to source local produce. For example, could the Printroom feature a seasonal Gather? salad throughout the year?

f. Support meaningful engagement from Anchor Bay Institutions, with movement towards adopting more sustainable food procurement policies and practices and increasing community land use for sustainable food production.

3.0 Cost

- 3.1 There is no expectation of monetary contribution in regard to this accreditation

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

	Option 1: Accept all the above proposals	Option 2: Reject the above proposals	Option 3:
Advantages	Promotes work by communities and other organisations that help meet council objectives and priorities. See relationship to policy framework.		
Disadvantages		Unlikely to receive the Sustainable Food Place Gold award without council backing and works against corporate priorities	
Risks			

5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

- 5.1 Option 1 is the officers preferred option.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Working Group activities and their strategic alignment with Lancaster City Council.

Lancaster District Food Justice Partnership (LDFJP)

A partnership working to create joined-up pathways of support for Lancaster District residents experiencing or at risk of food poverty.

Council Priority Policies: 1.1, 1.5, 2.3, 3.5, 3.6, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5.

Community Food Skills Working Group

This working group is developing the Where the Wildlings Are! education project as part of the Morecambe Bay Curriculum.

Council Priority Policies: 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 4.2,

Healthy Food and Environment Working Group.

Supports the development of the Closing Loops project with the aim of working towards creating a Zero Waste district. Facilitates the community compost network, gleaning network, REconomy work, waste stream mapping and the set up of a ref/use lab and don't ditch it directory.

Council Priority Policies: 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 4.2,

Food Procurement and Economy

Supporting pathways for sustainable food production locally, including developing Lancaster Districts Farmstart scheme and relevant accredited training.

Council Priority Policies: 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 3.4, 4.2,

Communication and Engagement

Facilitates weekly food columns in Lancaster Guardian and Morecambe Visitor, Quarterly THRIVE magazine and citizen journalism training and network.

Council Priority Policies: 2.3, 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4,

The Our Food Futures Strategy and the work above is also aligned with a number of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, especially: 1,2,3,4,8,9,10,11,12,13,15 and 17.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Reviewing the Council's procurement practices in light of the Food Futures community food strategy and the Good Food Manifesto and work to increase procurement of sustainable local produce and reduce food waste from council outlets will require advice and assistance from the Council's procurement team. It is imperative that the Council procures its goods and services in accordance its procurement law obligations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial cost from supporting the application for this award.

The report contains details of current levels of support provided by the Council within this area:-

- Officer support - this can be managed from within existing budgets
- Nursery space at the depot – providing this space is currently is of no cost to the Council however it should be noted that whilst it is contributing to delivering corporate priorities, any opportunity cost is forgone whilst earmarked for this provision

Should any future implications arise, they will need to be considered at the time and reported as appropriate.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**Human Resources:**

None directly arising from this report

Information Services:

None directly arising from this report

Property:

None directly arising from this report

Open Spaces:

None directly arising from this report

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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