

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD1384

Title: Mayoral Signature of Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, October 2015

Executive Summary:

To help mark the end of Expo Milan 2015, the City of Milan government has developed an urban food policy pact to be signed by city Mayors from around the world, confirming that their cities will work to help improve the food system in their cities. London is already doing this work.

Becoming a signatory to the Pact will enable London to continue to learn best practice from cities around the world and to continue to be an exemplar city in its own right.

The commitments made by cities signing the Pact, and the Framework for Action which accompanies those commitments, are not legally binding, are voluntary and are entirely consistent with work that London is already doing on food and health. This means that London signing the Pact does not have any additional cost or resource implication. One of the aims of the Pact is to act as an inspiration to cities which have not yet addressed food in a holistic way; London is ahead of most cities in the world on this agenda and as such London already undertakes 34 of the 37 recommended actions set out in the framework for Action, which forms part of the Pact.

Decision:

The Executive Director approves the GLA becoming a signatory to the Urban Food Policy Pact which is being signed by the mayors of more than 40 cities around the world and launched in Milan on 16 October 2015.

AUTHORISING DIRECTOR

I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities. It has my approval.

Name: Fiona Fletcher-Smith

Position: Executive Director - DEE

Signature:



Date: 25.9.15

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 Since the launch of the London Food Strategy in 2006 London has come to be regarded as one of the world's leading practitioners of implementing complex food policy in an urban setting, principally through the GLA's food programme and the breadth of partnerships built by the London Food Board.
- 1.2 London is far ahead of most other cities around the world in terms of strategic food policy implementation. As such London has been one of the key city partners in the development of the Pact, along with other world-leading exponents of urban food policy, such as New York City and Toronto. The Pact aims to inspire cities around the world which may not have developed a food policy to be able to consider doing so.
- 1.3 The voluntary commitments (numbered 1-7) are listed on the second page of Appendix 1. As London is well ahead of most other cities in formulation and implementation of a city food strategy, all of these commitments are already being met by the GLA through the work which its food team delivers.
- 1.4 London already undertakes 34 of the 37 recommended actions set out in the framework for Action, which forms part of the Pact. The framework is voluntary. The actions not currently undertaken are:
 - 6: develop a disaster risk reduction strategy - this is more applicable to cities in developing countries. In a London context our work includes highlighting the role that local food production could play in London's resilience.
 - 13: universal access to safe drinking water. This intended for developing countries and does not apply to London
 - 26: improve waste water management in agriculture. We have not promoted this explicitly as this practice is widespread (and increasing) amongst producers in the UK.

For the reasons given in each bullet here, these are not considered an issue. Any work we may do in these areas in future would not incur any cost, nor incur any additional resource implication, to the GLA.

- 1.5 The commitment to sign the Pact is brought forward as a DD upon the advice of the Executive Director, Resources. There is no financial commitment.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 Becoming a signatory to the Pact will help to confirm London's position as a world leader in urban food policy implementation and will enable us to be part of a network to continue to learn from best practice .
- 2.2 Prior engagements mean the Mayor is unable to accept an invitation from Mayor Pisapia of Milan to travel to Milan to launch the Pact in person, and therefore Rosie Boycott will attend the launch on his behalf. The Mayor will sign the Pact in London and his signature will be sent (or taken) to Milan to be incorporated into the Pact.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 All Londoners will be able to benefit from London continuing to learn from best practice from cities around the world.

4. Financial comments

- 4.1 The GLA will meet its commitments under the Pact from within existing resources.

5. Legal comments

- 5.1 Under section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (the 'Act') the GLA, after appropriate consultation, is entitled to do anything that will further the promotion, within Greater London, of economic development and wealth creation, social development and the improvement of the environment.
- 5.2 Furthermore, section 34 of the Act allows the GLA, to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of any functions of the GLA. In this case, the GLA proposes to enter into the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (the "Pact"). As set out at 2.1 above, the GLA's entry into the Pact along with other major world cities will enable it to continue to learn the best practices in urban food policy. To this end, the GLA's entry into the Pact may be viewed as being calculated to facilitate and conducive and incidental to social development in Greater London.
- 5.3 As the officers have indicated, the Pact is non-binding and voluntary. This notwithstanding, as the mayor will be signing the Pact, the officers should ensure that future GLA urban food policy be consistent with the GLA's commitments under the Pact.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 6.1 Provided this DD is approved, the next step will be for the EBPU to arrange with the Mayor's Private Office for the Mayor to sign a document which can be sent or taken to Milan to be included in the Pact when it is launched in October 2015.

Appendices and supporting papers:

- Appendix 1 – Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Note: This form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after approval or on the defer date.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? YES – the Pact should not be published until it is signed and launched in Milan on October 16th 2015

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form – NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to confirm the following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Mark Ainsbury has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Mark Kleinman has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Sponsoring Director for approval.

✓

Financial and Legal advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

Signature

M. J. Allen

Date

22.9.15

Appendix 1

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

16 October 2015

Acknowledging that cities which host over half the world's population have a strategic role to play in developing sustainable food systems and promoting healthy diets, and because while every city is different, they are all centres of economic, political and cultural innovation, and manage vast public resources, infrastructure, investments and expertise;

Noting current food systems are being challenged to provide permanent and reliable access to adequate, safe, local, diversified, fair, healthy and nutrient rich food for all; and that the task of feeding cities will face multiple constraints posed by inter alia, unbalanced distribution and access, environmental degradation, resource scarcity and climate change, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and food loss and waste;

Acknowledging that accelerated urbanisation is profoundly impacting our world – in economic, social and environmental dimensions – which therefore necessitates re-examination of the ways in which cities are provisioned with food and water as well as other essential goods and services;

Acknowledging that hunger and malnutrition in its various forms exist within all cities, posing great burdens on individual health and well-being and thus generating major social and economic costs at household, community, municipality and national levels;

Recognizing that family farmers and smallholder food producers, (notably women producers in many countries) play a key role in feeding cities and their territories, by helping to maintain resilient, equitable, culturally appropriate food systems; and that reorienting food systems and value chains for sustainable diets is a means to reconnect consumers with both rural and urban producers;

Acknowledging that urban and peri-urban agriculture offers opportunities to protect and integrate biodiversity into city region landscapes and food systems, thereby contributing to synergies across food and nutrition security, ecosystem services and human well-being;

Acknowledging that since food policies are closely related to many other urban challenges and policies, such as poverty, health and social protection, hygiene and sanitation, land use planning, transport and commerce, energy, education, and disaster preparedness, it is essential to adopt an approach that is comprehensive, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional;

Acknowledging that civil society and the private sector have major roles to play in feeding cities, bringing experience, innovation and campaigns for more sustainable food systems and mainstreaming the critical need for a socially inclusive and a rights-based approach in urban food policy;

Recalling that cities have made commitments to address climate change (for example in the Global Cities Covenant on Climate, in the Global Compact of Mayors and in regional agreements such as the Covenant of Mayors); to promote strategies and actions for mitigating GHG emissions and adapting cities to the impacts of climate change on urban food systems (for example in successive World Urban Fora and the upcoming Habitat III United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development); and to promote sustainable management of biodiversity through city biodiversity initiatives as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Acknowledging that cities and their neighbouring territories will be active in operationalising international processes such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets in the post-2015 Development Agenda; that they will be involved in the upcoming negotiations for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), as well as contribute to the Zero Hunger Challenge, address sustainable urban diets in the Second International Conference on Nutrition, and play important roles in the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

Gathering in Milano on the occasion of the Milan Expo *Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life*,
we hereby state:

BY SIGNING THE URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT,
WE, THE MAYORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS,
COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. We will work to develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, that minimise waste and conserve biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change;
2. We will encourage interdepartmental and cross-sector coordination at municipal and community levels, working to integrate urban food policy considerations into social, economic and environment policies, programmes and initiatives, such as, inter alia, food supply and distribution, social protection, nutrition, equity, food production, education, food safety and waste reduction;
3. We will seek coherence between municipal food-related policies and programmes and relevant subnational, national, regional and international policies and processes;
4. We will engage all sectors within the food system (including neighbouring authorities, technical and academic organizations, civil society, small scale producers, and the private sector) in the formulation, implementation and assessment of all food-related policies, programmes and initiatives;
5. We will review and amend existing urban policies, plans and regulations in order to encourage the establishment of equitable, resilient and sustainable food systems;
6. We will use the Framework for Action as a starting point for each city to address the development of their own urban food system and we will share developments with participating cities and our national governments and international agencies when appropriate;
7. We will encourage other cities to join our food policy actions.

Signed by:

(Name of the authorised representative of the city or local government)

Representing (the city of ____)

Date:

Urban Food Policy Framework for Action

The nature of this Framework for Action is **voluntary**. Its purpose is to provide strategic options to those cities aiming **to achieve more sustainable food systems** by adopting the Urban Food Policy Pact launched by the Municipality of Milan on the occasion of the 2015 Expo “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”.

The Framework builds upon the direct experience of participating cities and takes into account relevant diverse commitments, goals and targets. While the options have been organized into thematic clusters, they should be seen as entry points towards achieving the common goal of sustainable food systems. Most interventions (such as school meals or community gardens) may fall under the jurisdiction of more than one municipal agency or department. Most interventions will have an impact on multiple dimensions (economic, social, health and environment) of sustainable development.

Cities can select, adapt and group options into guidelines as necessary to suit their particular situations. Links to related information material and samples of best practices are available as a complementary set of guidance materials.

Recommended actions: ensuring an enabling environment for effective action (governance)

1. **Facilitate collaboration across city agencies and departments** and seek alignment of policies and programmes that impact the food system across multiple sectors and administrative levels, adopting and mainstreaming a rights-based approach; options can include dedication of permanent city staff, review of tasks and procedures and reallocation of resources.
2. **Enhance stakeholder participation** at the city level through political dialogue, and if appropriate, appointment of a food policy advisor and/or development of a multi-stakeholder platform or food council, as well as through education and awareness raising.
3. **Identify, map and evaluate local initiatives** and civil society food movements in order to transform best practices into relevant programmes and policies, with the support of local research or academic institutions.
4. **Develop or revise urban food policies and plans** and ensure allocation of appropriate resources within city administration regarding food-related policies and programmes; review, harmonize and strengthen municipal regulations; build up strategic capacities for a more sustainable, healthy and equitable food system balancing urban and rural interests.
5. **Develop or improve multisectoral information systems** for policy development and accountability by enhancing the availability, quality, quantity, coverage and management and exchange of data related to urban food systems, including both formal data collection and data generated by civil society and other partners.

6. **Develop a disaster risk reduction strategy** to enhance the resilience of urban food systems, including those cities most affected by climate change, protracted crises and chronic food insecurity in urban and rural areas.

Recommended actions: sustainable diets and nutrition

7. **Promote sustainable diets** (healthy, safe, culturally appropriate, environmentally friendly and rights-based) through relevant education, health promotion and communication programmes, with special attention to schools, care centres, markets and the media.
8. **Address non-communicable diseases associated with poor diets and obesity**, giving specific attention where appropriate to reducing intake of sugar, salt, trans fats, meat and dairy products and increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables and non-processed foods.
9. **Develop sustainable dietary guidelines** to inform consumers, city planners (in particular for public food procurement), food service providers, retailers, producers and processors, and promote communication and training campaigns.
10. **Adapt standards and regulations to make sustainable diets and safe drinking water accessible** in public sector facilities such as hospitals, health and childcare facilities, workplaces, universities, schools, food and catering services, municipal offices and prisons, and to the extent possible, in private sector retail and wholesale food distribution and markets.
11. **Explore regulatory and voluntary instruments** to promote sustainable diets involving private and public companies as appropriate, using marketing, publicity and labelling policies; and economic incentives or disincentives; streamline regulations regarding the marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children in accordance with WHO recommendations.
12. **Encourage joint action by health and food sectors** to implement integrated people-centred strategies for healthy lifestyles and social inclusion.
13. **Invest in and commit to achieving universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation** with the participation of civil society and various partnerships, as appropriate.

Recommended actions: social and economic equity

14. **Use cash and food transfers**, and other forms of social protection systems (food banks, community food kitchens, emergency food pantries etc.) to provide vulnerable populations with access to healthy food, while taking into consideration the specific beliefs, culture, traditions, dietary habits and preferences of diverse communities, as a matter of human dignity and to avoid further marginalization.
15. **Reorient school feeding programmes** and other institutional food service to provide food that is healthy, local and regionally sourced, seasonal and sustainably produced.
16. **Promote decent employment for all**, including fair economic relations, fair wages and improved labour conditions within the food and agriculture sector, with the full inclusion of women.
17. **Encourage and support social and solidarity economy activities**, paying special attention to food-related activities that support sustainable livelihoods for marginalized populations at different levels of the food chain and facilitate access to safe and healthy foods in both urban and rural areas.

18. **Promote networks and support grassroots activities** (such as community gardens, community food kitchens, social pantries, etc.) that create social inclusion and provide food to marginalized individuals.
19. **Promote participatory education, training and research** as key elements in strengthening local action to increase social and economic equity, promote rights-based approaches, alleviate poverty and facilitate access to adequate and nutritious foods.

Recommended actions: food production

20. **Promote and strengthen urban and peri-urban food production** and processing based on sustainable approaches and integrate urban and peri-urban agriculture into city resilience plans.
21. **Seek coherence between the city and nearby rural food production**, processing and distribution, focussing on smallholder producers and family farmers, paying particular attention to empowering women and youth.
22. **Apply an ecosystem approach to guide holistic and integrated land use planning and management** in collaboration with both urban and rural authorities and other natural resource managers by combining landscape features, for example with risk-minimizing strategies to enhance opportunities for agroecological production, conservation of biodiversity and farmland, climate change adaptation, tourism, leisure and other ecosystem services.
23. **Protect and enable secure access and tenure to land** for sustainable food production in urban and peri-urban areas, including land for community gardeners and smallholder producers, for example through land banks or community land trusts; provide access to municipal land for local agricultural production and promote integration with land use and city development plans and programmes.
24. **Help provide services to food producers in and around cities**, including technical training and financial assistance (credit, technology, food safety, market access, etc.) to build a multigenerational and economically viable food system with inputs such as compost from food waste, grey water from post-consumer use, and energy from waste etc. while ensuring that these do not compete with human consumption.
25. **Support short food chains**, producer organisations, producer-to-consumer networks and platforms, and other market systems that integrate the social and economic infrastructure of urban food system that links urban and rural areas. This could include civil society-led social and solidarity economy initiatives and alternative market systems.
26. **Improve (waste) water management and reuse** in agriculture and food production through policies and programmes using participatory approaches.

Recommended actions: food supply and distribution

27. **Assess the flows of food to and through cities** to ensure physical access to fresh, affordable foods in low-income or underserved neighbourhoods while addressing sustainable transportation and logistics planning to reduce carbon emissions with alternative fuels or means of transport.
28. **Support improved food storage, processing, transport and distribution** technologies and infrastructure linking peri-urban and near rural areas to ensure seasonal food consumption and reduce food insecurity as well as food and nutrient loss and waste with an emphasis on diversified small and medium scale food businesses along the value chain that may provide decent and stable

employment.

29. **Assess, review and/or strengthen food control systems** by implementing local food safety legislation and regulations that (1) ensure that food producers and suppliers throughout the food chain operate responsibly; (2) eliminate barriers to market access for family farmers and smallholder producers; and (3) integrate food safety, health and environmental dimensions.
30. **Review public procurement and trade policy** aimed at facilitating food supply from short chains linking cities to secure a supply of healthy food, while also facilitating job access, fair production conditions and sustainable production for the most vulnerable producers and consumers, thereby using the potential of public procurement to help realize the right to food for all.
31. **Provide policy and programme support for municipal public markets** including farmers markets, informal markets, retail and wholesale markets, restaurants, and other food distributors, recognizing different approaches by cities working with private and public components of market systems.
32. **Improve and expand support for infrastructure** related to market systems that link urban buyers to urban, peri-urban and rural sellers while also building social cohesion and trust, supporting cultural exchange and ensuring sustainable livelihood, especially for women and young entrepreneurs.
33. **Acknowledge the informal sector's contribution** to urban food systems (in terms of food supply, job creation, promotion of local diets and environment management) and provide appropriate support and training in areas such as food safety, sustainable diets, waste prevention and management.

Recommended actions: food waste

34. **Convene food system actors to assess and monitor food loss and waste reduction** at all stages of the city region food supply chain, (including production, processing, packaging, safe food preparation, presentation and handling, re-use and recycling) and ensure holistic planning and design, transparency, accountability and policy integration.
35. **Raise awareness of food loss and waste** through targeted events and campaigns; identify focal points such as educational institutions, community markets, company shops and other solidarity or circular economy initiatives.
36. **Collaborate with the private sector along with research, educational and community-based organisations** to develop and review, as appropriate, municipal policies and regulations (e.g. processes, cosmetic and grading standards, expiration dates, etc.) to prevent waste or safely recover food and packaging using a "food use-not-waste" hierarchy.
37. **Save food by facilitating recovery and redistribution for human consumption of safe and nutritious foods**, if applicable, that are at risk of being lost, discarded or wasted from production, manufacturing, retail, catering, wholesale and hospitality.