

MINUTES

Meeting: London Food Board
Date: Thursday 30 September 2021
Time: 14.00 pm
Place: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Agendas and minutes of the meetings of the London Food Board and its subordinate bodies are published at <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/business-and-economy/food/london-foodboard> (except in those cases where information may be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act). Meetings are not held in public and are only open to those invited to attend by the Chair.

Present:

Members:

Claire Pritchard (CP – Chair)
Angela Malik (AM)
Anna Taylor (AT)
Dee Woods (DW)
Jo Ralling (JR)
Kemi Atijosan (KA)
Sarah Williams (SW)
Stephanie Slater (SS)
Tim Lang (TL)
William White (WW)

GLA Officers:

Natan Doran (ND) – Head of Policy
Tom Rahilly (TR) – Assistant Director, Communities and Social Policy
Daniel Drillsma-Milgrom (DDM) – Senior Manager, Equality and Fairness
Liam Weeks (LW) – Senior Project and Policy Officer – Food (minutes)
Alison Pearce (AP) – Principal Policy Officer, Health and Wellbeing
Ciara Litchfield (CL) – Policy Officer, Health and Wellbeing
Michelle Cuomo-Boorer (MCB) – Assistant Director, Skills
Cameron Tait (CT) – Strategy and Relationships Manager, Skills

1. Introductions, apologies and declarations of interest (Item 1)

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kath Dalmeny (job share with Sarah Williams), James Lowman, Lindsay Boswell, Helen Evans, Kate Nicholls and Melanie Smith.
- 1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

2. Standing agenda items (Item 2)

(i) Chair's update

- 2.1 The Chair met the GLA's Head of Policy several times over the summer to discuss the Equality and Fairness team restructure and its implications for the GLA's work on food policy.
- 2.2 Board members proceeded to discuss the restructure proposals, their impact on the GLA's work on food policy and the London Food Board's future role.
- 2.3 TR stated the restructure process hasn't formally concluded but when the revised proposals are implemented, the GLA will be in a better position to clarify new roles and responsibilities. This will also coincide with plans to refresh the London Food Strategy's implementation plan.

2.4 DECISIONS:

(a) TR to provide update on the implementation of the restructure and clarify the new arrangements for food policy at the next Board meeting.

(ii) Members updates

- 2.5 SS invited members to attend the tenth anniversary of the [Young Marketeers](#) programme at Borough Market on 4th and 5th October, where the proceeds from all sales will be donated to the Felix Project.
- 2.6 SW signposted Sustain's new [Every Mouthful Counts](#) toolkit, which lists the actions local authorities can take to help achieve net-zero commitments by tackling their food footprints.
- 2.7 SW informed members that Sustain has sent the survey for this year's 'Good Food for All Londoners' report to local authorities to complete and return. Once again, this year's report will combine the 'Good Food for London' and 'Beyond the Food Bank' reports following the success of last year's combined '[Response, Resilience and Recovery](#)' report.
- 2.8 TL informed members this year's [UN Food Systems Summit](#) is adopting an omni-framework approach, which could also be used by the London Food Board to understand externalities resulting from regional interventions.

- 2.9 DW informed members of her appointment to the coordinating committee of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), through which she will represent Western Europe and raise concerns relating to the UN Food Systems Summit.
- 2.10 TL provided an update on his work to develop sustainable dietary guidelines. Progress has stalled following meetings with the Chair and GLA Environment team to discuss terms of reference for a working group and funding for its secretariat under the London Recovery Board's Green New Deal mission. The Chair recommended a separate meeting with the GLA's Head of Policy to find a way of securing the GLA's involvement.
- 2.11 **DECISIONS:**
- (b) ND, TL and CP to arrange meeting to discuss sustainable dietary guidelines working party.
- (iii) *Boroughs Food Group update*
- 2.12 LW provided a summary of the most recent Boroughs Food Group meeting on 22 September, which SW guest chaired. The meeting was attended by 90 members and began with a short Jamboard exercise asking attendees to provide feedback and intelligence on levels of need for food support and financial assistance. These findings supplemented responses to the Food Aid sub-group's local authority food insecurity survey in September, to which 14 local authorities responded.
- 2.13 A series of presentations and updates followed this exercise. The Food Foundation encouraged attendees to support and promote the [#WriteNow campaign](#), which represents the second phase of Marcus Rashford's End Child Food Poverty campaign. GLA colleagues also updated attendees on the progress of the London Recovery Board's Robust Safety Net and Healthy Food, Healthy Weight missions.
- 2.14 The meeting concluded with a series of project updates. The Enfield Food Alliance outlined its work and its experience as one of ten food partnerships involved in the [Food Roots Incubator](#) programme. Be Enriched updated on the progress of the [Wandsworth Food Bus](#), which received support through the Mayor's Good Growth Fund. Finally, ReLondon outlined the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's [Food Flagship Initiative](#), of which London is one of three Strategic Partner Cities working to accelerate the transition to a circular food economy.
- 3. Supporting good work and skills in the hospitality sector (Item 3)**
- 3.1 MCB outlined the Mayor's £6 million investment in re-opening London's economy and supporting the hospitality sector, including the new [Let's Do London](#) campaign to drive consumer spend and footfall across London's tourism, retail, hospitality and cultural sectors.
- 3.2 As part of the London Recovery Board's [Helping Londoners into Good Work](#) mission, the GLA Skills team is prioritising supporting Londoners into good jobs with a focus

on sectors that are key to London's recovery. This includes the hospitality sector, which faced difficulties recruiting and retaining staff before the pandemic.

- 3.3 The Centre for London's [Kitchen Talent](#) report evidenced the disproportionate impact of new immigration rules for the hospitality sector in London, where 85% of chefs and the majority of the wider hospitality workforce were born outside the UK compared to 50% of chefs and 30% of the wider workforce across the UK as a whole.
- 3.4 The Kitchen Talent report also highlighted that the demand for skilled chefs was not being met in London before the pandemic and this has been compounded by the fact culinary and catering courses have high drop-out rates, learners do not obtain the range of skills they require for a career in hospitality and very few catering apprenticeships are being undertaken in London.
- 3.5 MCB and CT provided an overview of the levers at the GLA's disposal to tackle these issues, including the Adult Education Budget (AEB), Mayor's Academies Programme and 'No Wrong Door' initiatives.
- 3.6 London's AEB allocation represents 25% of national funding and is the GLA's single largest revenue budget at approximately £330m including the National Skills Fund. Approximately £2.6m was spend on Hospitality and Catering courses in 2019/20 despite the pandemic's impact, which is likely to rise to over £3m and 5,000 learning aims in 2020/21. From 2021/22, providers will be expected to align their delivery plans to the London Recovery Board's missions.
- 3.7 The [Mayor's Academies Programme](#) aims to support Londoners hardest hit by the pandemic into good work in sectors key to London's recovery. It will target the Green, Creative, Health & Social care, Digital and Hospitality sectors which face some similar challenges including high vacancy rates, skills shortages, inconsistent and inaccessible provision and barriers to entry for specific groups.
- 3.8 MCB explained the programme will deliver several strands of activity. These range from an Academies Quality Mark to 19 new hubs, which can consist of partnerships between employers, training providers, employer groups, and other organisations working together to improve provision, coordination and collaboration in the target sectors.
- 3.9 The programme will provide bespoke support for excluded by building on the [Workforce Integration Network](#), which was established to address the structural barriers that prevent underrepresented groups from accessing high quality work opportunities across the different sectors in London.
- 3.10 The 'No Wrong Door' (NWD) model will help remove barriers to skills, careers and employment support for all Londoners and provide a secure route out of poverty. Proposed project activities include a pan-London strategic partnership that will secure a commitment from partners and organisations to the NWD agenda and its principles.
- 3.11 The [London Progression Collaboration](#) (LPC) is an initiative delivered in partnership by the GLA and Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) to address skills gaps in London's key business sectors by testing ways of adapting the apprenticeship levy

system by coordinating the transfer of unspent levy to create new apprenticeship opportunities in key sectors, including hospitality. The Mayor has committed £350,000 to the pilot that will run until 30th March 2022 and to date, the LPC has received pledges of over £8.4m of unspent levy from large levy paying employers which is in the process of being drawn down by smaller employers to fully fund apprenticeship opportunities.

3.12 The [Skills for Londoners Board](#) and [Skills for Londoners Business Partnership](#) oversee the team's work to support skills and employment whilst the team also reports into the London Recovery Board and its London Recovery skills and employment taskforce.

3.13 MCB encouraged members to consider applying to the Skills for Londoners Business Partnership.

(i) *Discussion: How do we embed a commitment to healthy and sustainable food for London through the GLA jobs and skills agenda?*

3.14 TL stated it is paramount for any strategies and initiatives supporting the hospitality sector to consider health inequalities and the climate and nature emergency in order to avoid creating jobs at the cost of health and environmental outcomes.

3.15 CP referenced the Good Food on the Public Plate and Good Food Training for London projects, which were funded by the GLA and delivered in partnership with the London Food Board. They helped produce NVQ Level 3 qualifications that embedded health and sustainability and were used by Westminster Kingsway College between 2007-2012.

3.16 SW highlighted the value in supporting small businesses, social enterprises and cooperative models. Sustain is working with Social Enterprise UK to assess sector needs in London and will share its findings with CT. SW also underlined the opportunity to support good work and skills provision through the wholesale markets relocation programme in Barking and Dagenham.

3.17 MCB confirmed the Skills team will use every lever at its disposal to embed sustainability in its work and acknowledged the challenge surrounding the good work agenda, especially the London Living Wage, even though anecdotal evidence suggests wages are beginning to increase as a direct result of labour shortages.

3.18 **DECISIONS:**

(c) LW to share details of application process for Skills for Londoners Business Partnership.

(d) LW to share discussion points with London Food Board members for further feedback.

4. Healthy Weight mission update (Item 4)

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- 4.1 CL shared an update on the London Recovery Board's [Healthy Weight mission](#) following a recent period of re-engagement and consultation, during which partners expressed strong support for refocusing the mission towards the healthy weight of children and families.
- 4.2 The overall ambition for the mission is “by 2025, London’s children and families face fewer barriers to healthy weight where they learn, play, shop and eat”. The mission approach will utilise place-based interventions that make local environments healthier as opposed to a focus on individual behavioural change.
- 4.3 A prioritisation exercise has resulted in five key activities that will form the first delivery phase: the expansion of School Superzones; Water-only schools; the extension of the Healthier Food Advertising Policy; support for infant feeding including breastfeeding; and promotion of community centred approaches.
- 4.4 In terms of governance, a mission steering group has been established to steer the mission’s direction and delivery whilst providing expert advice and input. Meanwhile, the Mayor’s Child Obesity Taskforce will form a new Advisory Group to the Mayor, meeting twice per year to advise on the mission’s focus, the Health Inequalities Strategy and other relevant policy areas.
- 4.5 CL explained next steps will include testing the development of an impact tracker for whole systems activities, building on the model of Sustain’s Good Food for London report. The mission team is also assessing the feasibility of a London delivery partner.
- 4.6 After presenting a final consultation report to the Mission Steering Group in October, the mission team will spend time developing evidence bases, indicators of success, timelines and stakeholder groups for each of the five priority activities.
- 4.7 CP thanked the mission team for their presentation and highlighted potential overlap with Nesta’s work and its [Healthy Life mission](#), which includes a focus on creating healthier food environments.
- 4.8 SW provided feedback regarding the mission title and the risk that a focus on healthy weight alone places too much emphasis on individual behaviour change as opposed to a whole food systems approach, which risks contradicting the mission’s overall approach.
- 4.9 SS signposted the work already underway in Southwark and Lambeth as part of the [Healthy Zones programme](#) in partnership with the Impact on Urban Health, which aligns closely with the Healthy Weight mission’s objectives.
- 4.10 As part of the work to develop a new impact tracker, CP suggested exploring the new [Civic Strength Index](#), which has been launched as part of the London Recovery Board’s Building Strong Communities mission. The index contains a shared definition of civic strength and a set of factors that contribute to this. It can be used by communities, civil society, policymakers, funders and commissioners to understand civic strength in their communities, the factors contributing to civic strength and the organisations responding to community needs.

4.11 **DECISIONS:**

(e) CP to introduce Healthy Weight mission team to Nesta's Healthy Life mission team to discuss synergies.

5. **AOB (Item 5)**

5.1 There was no other business.

6. **Date of next meeting**

6.1 The date of the next London Food Board meeting was to be confirmed.

7. **Close of meeting**

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