

Creating a Sustainable Food System in Brighton and Hove

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Brighton and Hove

- Falls in the 25% most deprived LAs
- Health generally worse than the national average
- A quarter of all children live in low income households
- Population is more likely than average to experience mental health problems
- Wage level below the national average
- 8 million visitors a year
- 400 cafes and restaurants
- Positioned between the sea and the downs – constraint on land



Making food visible in the City

- History of community food work
- In 2003 mapping exercise to see what was happening – *The Brighton and Hove Food Shed*
- First ‘spade to spoon’ conference
- Vision, aims and establishment of food partnership
- ‘Spade to Spoon: making the connections’ food strategy and action plan
- Service level agreement with the PCT
- Harvest B & H
- Strategic policy work
- Review of spade to spoon – digging deeper



Ingredients for success

- PCT that recognised the wider determinants of health – supported development of FP/Strategy
- ‘champions’ within local authority – elected member and officer(s)
- Rooted in the community – residents and groups
- Secure funding base from service level agreement
- NGO organisation to offer expertise, support and facilitation
- Lobbying for policy change to support food work – being a ‘thorn in the side’
- Isn’t enough to just deliver – need more root and branch policy



Where are we now?

- 14 staff delivering food and health work across the city
- FP has annual budget of £750,000
- Membership of over 740 individuals and organisations
- Food referred to in all strategic policy documents in City – local plan, corporate plan, community strategy
- FP recognised as part of the City’s ‘family’ of partnerships – representation on strategic boards e.g. Sustainability Commission, Healthy Urban Design Partnership, Open Market Community Interest Company
- Recently asked to give evidence to Env. Audit Committee enquiry into Sustainable Food at House of Commons
- Planning Advisory Note
- Over 100 community food projects supported through grants and advice



Digging Deeper

- Review of strategy – new tranche of focused work
- Time to make a real impact
- Focus on local food economy – supporting more community owned enterprises, micro food businesses, training and skills
- ‘How to feed a City’ – ecological ‘food’ printing of the city and organisational food procurement
- Behaviour change to more sustainable diet
- Involved in variety of large scale investment projects e.g. Million pound project to convert a farm into a micro processing unit, retail outlet and visitors centre focusing on the south downs



Winning factors

- A strategic approach.....

Linking agendas to achieve goals





Winning factors

- A **strategic** approach
- The need for a **place** for food – the Food Partnership – independent but brings together all stakeholders and manages diverse interests
- **Sustainable funding** base – service level agreement – capacity to draw in new diverse funding
- Capacity to be a ‘thorn in the side’ – a **food bore** – to influence policy and real change (both local and nationally) as well as deliver projects

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Thank you