FOOD POLICY MAPPING

Explanation

Food Policy Mapping refers to the process of collating and analysing strategies, policies and plans that are relevant to the local food agenda. This enables you to see which local priorities can be supported by work on sustainable food systems. You may also identify where there are policy gaps, or opportunities to influence. Most strategies will be council or NHS strategies, but you could also include a focus on regional strategies such as those from the Combined Authority and national strategies.

Introduction

- Mapping local policies linked to the food agenda is an important early step to take in understanding the context that your food partnership is operating in.
- Having a good knowledge of local priorities and targets will be invaluable when it comes to positioning your food partnership with statutory agencies and seeking buy in from key stakeholders and senior leaders.

What to do

- Search local council, NHS and other statutory websites for strategies, policies and plans that relate to the sustainable food agenda.
- The sustainable food agenda is very wide and can link with most departments of a local authority.
- Start by looking in the areas listed below.

Area	Example Strategies
Health	Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Healthy Weight Strategy, Obesity Strategy, Diabetes Strategy, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Population Health Plan, Mental Health Strategy, Children and Young People's Health Plan, Food Poverty Action Plan.
Environment	Open Space Strategy, Climate Change Strategy, Zero Carbon Strategy, Green City Plan, Tree Strategy, Allotments Strategy, Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, Biodiversity Plan, Pollinator Action Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy.
Procurement	Catering and Procurement Policy, Sustainable Procurement Strategy Social Value Policy.
Waste	Waste Strategy, Waste and Resource Management Strategy.
Planning	Local Plan, Neighbourhood Plan, Neighbourhood Development Plan

Area	Example Strategies
Economy	Economic Strategy, Inclusive Economy Strategy, Visitor economy strategy, Tourism Strategy.
Whole Council	Corporate Strategy, Resilience Strategy
Place Based / multi-stakeholder	One City Plan, City Plan.

Analyse and record

- Once you have collated your strategies, now it's time to analyse them. You may find it useful to summarise each policy using a table with headings such as these:
  - Strategy Title
  - Dates
  - Lead Body
  - Overall Purpose / Vision
  - Framework
  - Top Tier Aims
  - Key Performance Indicators
  - Key Issues

- Look for priorities and targets that mention food, or that support your food agenda.
- This is also an opportunity to identify gaps in policies where food should feature but doesn't.

Tips

- Your council website may have a single page which collates all its policies, strategies and plans
- Speed things up by using your search function to look for key terms in documents e.g. 'food', 'food poverty', 'food access', 'obesity', 'healthy weight'.
- Don't forget strategies in Combined Authorities e.g. Spatial Framework, Resilience Strategies, Sustainable Urban Development, Housing.
- Ask yourself 'how can we help them to deliver on their priorities?' Are there Key Performance Indicators that your work contributes to?
- Searching for 'consultations' can be a good way to check whether policies listed on council websites are already in the process of being re-drafted.
- If you can't find the information needed on the website, contact key officers to find out the latest information.

Policy Mapping Examples

Strategy Title	Dates	Lead Body	Overall Purpose / Vision	Framework / Aims	Key Performance Indicators (KPI)	Key Issues
Draft Local Plan	2020-2035	Council	Plan for future development of local area.	Thematic Policy 13: Promoting the health and wellbeing of all who live in the city includes: Policy 25 – Promoting healthy communities: Encouraging food growing within the city and the protection of existing allotments. Policy 15 – Food Growing and Allotments: Existing allotments are accorded the highest level of protection in this plan.	None	Council will encourage food growing and community gardening.
Health and Wellbeing Strategy	2020-2025	Council	To improve health and reduce inequalities in health outcomes.	3 main aims: 1. Best start in life 2. Healthier Longer Happy Lives 3. Thriving maturity and protected community	None	Childhood obesity Food Poverty Includes focus on food growing.
Healthy Weight Action Plan	2020-2022	Health and Wellbeing Board	A joined-up partnership approach to healthy weight.	To provide an environment than enables residents to make healthy food choices, to stay physically active and to maintain a healthy weight.	Increased no. of school settings growing food.	School food growing
Social Value policy	2018	Council	Sets out how social value will be delivered through procurement and commissioning	Sets out social value principles, values and behaviours, policy context, and priority policy objectives. Sets out how they will achieve meaningful social value from the contracts they set in place. Social Value Framework and Measurement Toolkit.	Target of 40% of council's procurement budget to be spent with micro, small and medium size businesses.	Includes focus on: Fair and ethical trade Reducing waste and climate impacts