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The Greater London Authority, London Food Board and Boroughs Food Group – COVID-19 response and insights

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- New London Food Board re-appointed early 2017 – new members spanning breadth of food system.
- GLA and London Food Board awarded SFC Silver award in June 2017.
- Launched new London Food Strategy in December 2018, first Mayoral food strategy since 2006. Developed in conjunction with a suite of other strategies.
- Strategy's structure, six chapters and priorities reflect SFP's framework for action.
- “Local authorities...should form local food partnerships and join the Sustainable Food Cities network to share best practice with other UK cities on healthy, sustainable food priorities”.



Background and governance

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COVID-19 has:

- Exacerbated levels of food insecurity
- Disproportionately impacted specific groups
- Disrupted food supplies for vulnerable groups
- Placed unsustainable demands on the VCS
- Compromised schemes designed to safeguard children's health and food security
- Presented some new opportunities e.g. stronger cross-sector partnerships and more sustainable and diverse local food supply chains



COVID-19's impact on London's food system

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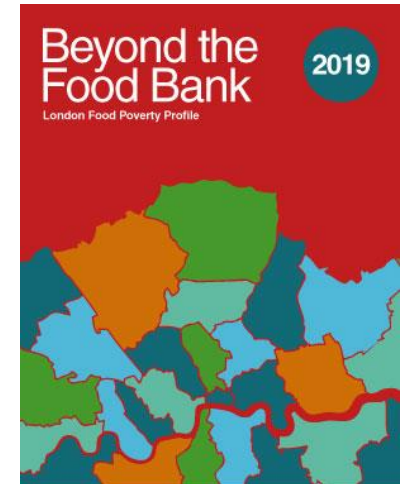
- The GLA, Local Authorities and VCS organisations worked in partnership and at pace to mitigate the pandemic's impact on food insecurity.
- London used new and existing governance structures to monitor impact, distribute funding, share intelligence and resources.
- A multi-partner approach oversaw establishment of critical food infrastructure - Community Food Hubs in every borough.
- Between March and August, London Food Alliance partners distributed 7,850 tonnes of food, equivalent to 18,692,953 meals.



The emergency food response

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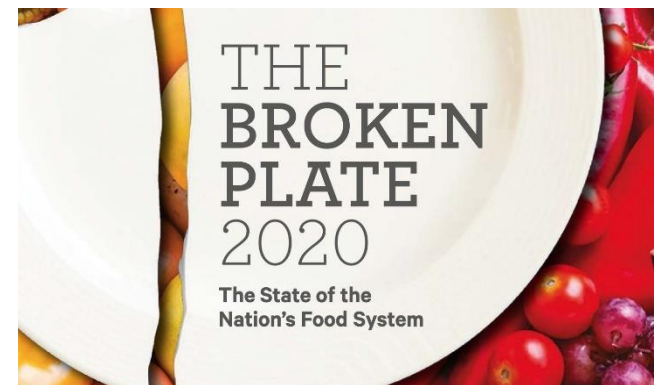
- Supporting all 33 Local Authorities to develop Food Transition Plans, setting out ongoing arrangements for food support during the transition from lockdown to recovery.
- Continuing to monitor food supplies, levels of need, onward distribution arrangements and escalating any issues.
- Adapting research and repurposing projects.
- Supporting external campaigns and advocated for change to Free School Meals eligibility.



The transition into recovery

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- The London Food Strategy – designed with resilience and recovery at its core.
- GLA Recovery Missions: A multidisciplinary, cross-cutting approach is key.
- Greater, systemic challenges lie ahead. Important to increase resilience to future shocks and stresses.
- Continuing to share intelligence on COVID-19, its ongoing impact on London's food system and the response at a national, regional and local level



Priorities for recovery

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Thank you!

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