

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES & LICENSING COMMITTEE

16 SEPTEMBER

Report Title	FOOD JUSTICE			
Purpose of Report	This report highlights initial learning from our local context and the new Feeding Gloucestershire partnership and recommends that Stroud District Council set up a new Food Justice Task and Finish Group to engage with the partnership and embed learning from their work into relevant council action plans.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to: a. Establish a Food Justice Task and Finish Group b. Nominate an officer to attend the new Feeding Gloucestershire Partnership			
Consultation and Feedback	Consultation has taken place with the previous Elected Members who put forward the Food Justice Motion, district and county food partners and Feeding Britain as a new national partner.			
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Options	Elected Members could be nominated as Food Justice Champions without adopting the recommendations in this report, but that may lead to a tokenistic approach and no real change.			
Background Papers	NA			
Appendices	Appendix A – Food Justice Research and Recommendations Appendix B – Stroud District Foodbank Vouchers for Ward August 2021 Appendix C – Stroud & Costwolds Citizens Advice - Stroud Data 2021-2021 Appendix D – Pathways from Poverty – Feeding Britain Report 2020 Appendix E – Affordable Food Networks Appendix F – Money Advice Leaflet – Independent Food Aid Network			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	Yes	No

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The COVID-19 pandemic has increased food crisis across the country. Demand for emergency food and money advice is high in Stroud District. The attached Food Justice

Report (Appendix A) highlights some initial learning from our local context and the new Feeding Gloucestershire partnership and recommends that Stroud District Council set up a new Food Justice Task and Finish Group to engage with the partnership and embed learnings from their work into relevant council action plans.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 The main reasons for food crisis in the Stroud District are currently low income, benefit delays and debt (Appendix B and Appendix C)
- 2.2 A new partnership has formed under the guidance of Feeding Britain (a national charity) called Feeding Gloucestershire.
- 2.3 Feeding Gloucestershire’s initial priorities are:
 - 2.3.1 Working with Feeding Britain to embed Advice Workers in local food hubs in response to the **Pathways from Poverty** pilot project. (Appendix D)
 - 2.3.2 Supporting the development of **Affordable Food Networks** (Appendix E)
 - 2.3.3 Promoting a **Cash First** approach with Money Advice Leaflet developed by the Independent Food Aid Network. (Appendix F)
- 2.2 Stroud District Council’s new Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy and 2030 Strategy are both well placed to hold actions around Food Justice. The Affordable Food Networks work would sit well within the Community Hub Development programme.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 A new Food Justice Task and Finish Group should be established to consider the recommendations in the Food Justice Report (Appendix A), comprising:

<p>Committee Members: Representing all parties where possible: Community Services and Licensing Housing Environment</p>	<p>Officers: Community Health & Wellbeing Community Safety Tenants Services Housing Advice Revenue & Benefits 2030 Strategy Team</p>
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The Food Justice Task and Finish Group should meet quarterly and send a written report to Community Services and Licensing, Housing and Environment committees for the 2021/2022 civic year.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

This report recommends setting up a Task and Finish Group with Committee Members and Officers and does not request any budget expenditure.

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4.2 Legal Implications

This report recommends setting up a Task and Finish Group with Committee Members and Officers which has no legal implications.

One Legal

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4.3 Equality Implications

An EqIA has been carried out by Officers in relation to the decision made in this report and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it

4.4 Environmental Implications

This report recommends setting up a Task and Finish Group with Committee Members and Officers which has no negative environmental implications. It is hoped that the Food Justice Task and Finish Group will work with a wider Stroud District network to enable projects that improve food waste.