

Food Strategy Motion

Motion 1 (November) – dated 7 October 2021

Food Strategy Motion

Access to high quality, affordable, nutritious food should be a right for all residents of South Tyneside, but is not currently the case. For example:

- South Tyneside is one of the 20% most deprived districts/unitary authorities in England.
- Data relating to 2020/21 shows 29% of South Tyneside's 0-15 year-olds live *inrelative* low income, compared to 19% across the UK and 25% of South Tyneside's 0-15 year-olds live in *absolute* low income compared to 16% across the UK.
- We also know that life expectancy for both men and women is significantly lower than the average for England.
- Figures for 2019/20 show that in South Tyneside, 27% of Year 6 (10-11 years children are classified as obese, significantly higher than the average for England (21%)

A 'Food Strategy' is a document that identifies actions to help enhance our current food system and prepare for the future. Key elements include environmental sustainability, healthy eating, economic and community growth and social justice.

More specific topics within the Food Strategy may include growing, rearing or foraging for food, processing food, preparing food for consumption for households and the food service industry, eating food and composting the remains.

By creating a collaborative Food Strategy, as other councils have done, South Tyneside will become a borough with a vibrant food culture, renowned for high quality, sustainable food and offering a rich variety of local produce accessible to everyone. South Tyneside will become a borough where a wide range of local food businesses achieve high standards of sustainability, generate employment and contribute to economic prosperity.

The Council resolves to:

1. Create a Food Strategy to address the causes of food inequality in South Tyneside for implementation during the 2021/2022 municipal year. In order for this to happen, the council will:
2. Identify 'food champions' within the council to lead the project
3. Identify a lead partnership organisation and apply for funding to develop the strategy, action plans and projects
4. Create a network of food partnership organisations and consult residents to contribute to the creation of a 'Food Action Plan'
5. Prioritise those with least access to healthy food.
6. Encourage the production of food locally and support the sale of such produce.

Cllr David Francis (Proposer)

Cllr Peter Bristow (Seconder)

Supported by:

Cllr Glenn Thompson

Cllr Paul Milburn

Cllr David Kennedy

Cllr Keith Roberts

Cllr Ian Forster

Cllr Stan Wildhirt