

Towards a Birmingham Food Strategy

Based on [our response to the draft London Food Strategy](#), we suggest a Birmingham Food Strategy should:

- Have a **clear purpose** about keeping Birmingham's population fed, and fed well now and in the future
- Have **three over-arching aims** about the **sufficiency**, the **safety** and the **nutrition** of food supplies in the city
- Take account of the **scale of operations** required to deliver the purpose and aims
- Recognise the **wide group of stakeholders** involved in delivering the purpose and aims
- Set **measurable, prioritised objectives** to deliver on the purpose and the aims. We would recommend these include:

sufficiency

- Responses to price instabilities, and to shortages and scarcities in the food supply system:
 - Recovery plans arising after any 'blue-lights' scenarios of severe disruptions to supplies, including any as a result of a Brexit.
 - Collation of ward-level figures of households who currently cannot afford a healthy diet, with estimates of those affected by $n\%$ price rises in healthy foods.
- How Birmingham can lead the UK response to millions of people forcibly displaced through water and food scarcities, so in need of kindness and care, shelter and sustenance far from home.

safety

- The collation & publication of an annual report listing:
 - The number of (a) food premises, (b) new food businesses, (c) EHOs working in food hygiene and standards and (d) samples sent for examination and analysis.
 - BCC's annual food service plan for both hygiene and standards, and a review of the implementation and outcomes for the previous year.
 - Listing of nurseries, schools, hospitals, care homes and prisons with non-compliant Food Hygiene Ratings.

nutrition

- Immediate implementation of a requirement for every food premise in the city, including those listed above, to display their Food Hygiene Rating.
- Soil & air testing for pollutants and contaminants on food growing spaces in the city.
- A plan for tests on a representative sample of the city's pregnant woman and their infants for nutrient deficiencies.
 - If deficiencies are found, an assessment of the short, mid- and long term economic impact if interventions are or are not made.
- An audit of contracts the City Council, has, and those held by hospitals, education establishments, care homes, leisure centres, with food producers of standard-VAT rated products, including vending machines.
- A staged plan to limit the activities of producers of standard VAT-rated food and beverages with regard to product packaging and placement, corporate sponsorship, advertising of products and brands, and a Code of Practice for public sector contracts and university research with them.