

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board – For Information (Update report) Port Health & Environmental Services Committee – For Information	Date: 22 November 2019 26 November 2019
Subject: Annual progress review – Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food	Public
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Summary

This report provides an annual progress review of the City of London Corporation’s pledges within the Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.
- Support ongoing efforts to ensure the Square Mile is an environment that is conducive to healthier choices.

Main Report

Background

1. In October 2018 the City of London Corporation signed the Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food, following approval of the pledges by Summit Group.
2. In doing so, it committed to pledges against six key action areas, all aimed at ensuring that healthier food and drink choices are more available and accessible in the City of London, for its residents, workers, learners and visitors. The action areas and pledges can be found in Appendix 1.
3. This recognises the important role that the built environment plays in decision-making by individuals about the food and drink they consumer and how “obesogenic” environments have a significant influence on overweight and obesity among populations. This work is being conducted within the context of London-wide and national efforts to tackle the obesity epidemic currently being

experienced among adults and children in the UK, as outlined in the Mayor of London's Food Strategy and the Government's Green Paper on Prevention, for example.

4. The growing focus on behavioural science within Public Health to help inform and shape policies and initiatives, looks at how local government and its partners can “nudge” individuals towards making choices or adopting behaviours that have a positive influence on their health and wellbeing. Nudging individuals, through changing the default, incentivising and enhancing healthier options, can be more effective and viewed in a more positive manner than restricting choice and imposing restrictions.
5. The actions bring together and recognise efforts being made by departments and teams across the City Corporation, including Public Health, Environmental Health, Planning, Built Environment and Culture and Visitor Development, among others. This partnership approach aims to create a healthier environment in the City for its residents, workers, learners, rough sleepers and visitors, ensuring that “Health in All Policies” is business as usual for the City Corporation.

Current Position

6. Since the Declaration was signed in October 2018, nine of the 11 actions are either marked as Green (in progress) or completed. The detailed action plan can be found in Appendix 2.
7. Key achievements include the introduction and roll-out of the Healthier Catering Commitment in October 2019, led by the Environmental Health team in Markets and Consumer Protection, and the introduction of key performance indicators (KPIs) specifically relating to healthier catering in the City Corporation's corporate catering contract, covering staff and public sites, as well as schools.
8. Additional actions have also been taken, including supporting St Bartholomew's Hospital with its on-site food and drink offer and conducting a review of the accessibility of healthy food in the Portsoken area. Through 2019/20, work will continue against each of the pledges to help to build on and maintain efforts to make healthier options easier and more accessible to the City's different populations and corporate sponsorship guidance is currently in development to support this.
9. The City Corporation's progress in this area has also been recognised in Sustain's "[Good Food for London](#)" league table for 2019. The City Corporation has made significant strides and now ranks 14th out of all London local authorities, where in 2017 and 2018 it ranked 22nd. This is despite Sustain noting that the City Corporation is a smaller local government area, with a unique infrastructure that can mean it “faces less opportunity to take action on good food”.

Proposals

10. Members are asked to note the report and to support ongoing efforts to ensure the Square Mile is an environment that is conducive to healthier choices.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. Prevention of overweight and obesity is a focus of the City Corporation's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and also supports the Department of Community and Children's Services' Business Plan, which lists as a priority that "people of all ages enjoy good health and wellbeing".

12. The Declaration is supportive of the aims and outcomes set out in the Corporate Plan 2018-23, helping to 'contribute to a flourish society' by directly supporting the achievement of 'Outcome 2 – People enjoy good health and wellbeing'.

13. It also directly supports the City Corporation's Responsible Business Strategy, specifically Priority 1: "People's wellbeing" within Outcome 1: "Individuals and communities flourish". It also demonstrates how the City Corporation can embed responsible business practices into its works by using its convening power, 'to highlight and advocate for responsible practices across its networks and partnerships'.

14. Health features as a key area within the new Local Plan (City Plan 2036) currently in development.

Implications

15. There are no associated implications.

Conclusion

16. Good progress is being made against the actions committed to by the City of London Corporation against its Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food and opportunities to expand these efforts are being sought.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – The City of London Corporation's pledges against the Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food
- Appendix 2 - Healthy Eating and Sugar Reduction Action Plan, 2018-19 – October 2019 update

Background Papers

The Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food, 6 March 2018 (For Decision, Approved)

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