



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Briefing Paper

Subject: Working Groups update

Assistant Director/Corporate Director:

Food Insecurity - Nicola Riley, Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing

Food Insecurity Working Group

The group met on 22 February and the agenda included an item with Hannah Fenton from Good Food Oxfordshire discussing the set-up of the Food Action Working Group (FAWG).

The FAWG is being formed in response to the [Oxfordshire Food Strategy](#), a multi-stakeholder strategy endorsed by Cherwell District Council in summer 2022. The food strategy identifies the need for district-wide working groups to lead the development of a local Food Action Plan.

The FAWG group will consist of producers, suppliers, supermarkets and voluntary groups, alongside officers from the wellbeing, climate, business development and planning departments of the council. Councillor Phil Chapman will chair the group in his capacity as Food Champion, and Councillor Rebecca Biegel will also attend as chair of the Food Insecurity Working Group.

The FAWG group will engage with wider stakeholders to ensure that a broad range of views are gathered and appropriate actions are included in the plan.

As well as details about the FAWG, the Food Insecurity Group also received an update on statistics relating to food voucher redemptions, warm spaces and winter warmers:

- 3511 food vouchers produced, 3056 redeemed – 87%
- 38 warm spaces across the district
- 1350 portions of soup distributed via winter warmers

A detailed update on progress reducing food insecurity across the district is due to be considered by [Executive on 6 March 2023](#) (agenda item 7 relates). A verbal update on the outcome of that discussion will be given at Overview and Scrutiny on 14 March.

Regarding the other two working groups, Climate Action and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, progress updates have been covered by other items on today's agenda.

Completed by: Emma Faulkner, Principal Officer – Scrutiny & Democratic Lead

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