Purpose of the Report

As requested at the last meeting of the Board, this report details the current position in respect of community food and growing hubs across Oldham and the potential of these to deliver the ambition of ‘fair access to healthy food for all’ including a focus on minimising food waste through redistribution and education.

There has been engagement and consultation with a number of elected members and representatives from both the Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition Partnership (GO: FA), including Oldham Food Network, who are leading on the development of these hubs alongside related areas of activity.

Recommendations

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Council the following:

   The issue of the Community Shop model has been considered and explored in consultation with a range of partners, including the Overview and Scrutiny Board. Following this engagement and the review of the opportunities for Oldham, it recommends that:
   
   i). No further work be undertaken in relation to the Community Shop model as this is not the most appropriate solution for Oldham due in part to limitations on access for all residents and the changing capacity, interest and ambition in Oldham maturing through the community-led Oldham Food Network.
   
   ii). The refocussing on a locally-led model, investing in building new and existing community food and growing hubs as part of sustainable and co-operative approach is taken forward by the Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition Partnership.
   
   iii). Updates from Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition Partnership are reported back to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
1 Background

1.1 This item was initially referred to Overview and Scrutiny for a detailed review and for an initial feasibility study to be undertaken.

The initial role of Overview and Scrutiny was to:
- Gain an understanding of the Community Shop model
- Understand how Community Shop operates in other localities
- Understand what key issues we should consider if we consider a Community Shop being opened in the Borough

1.2 At its last meeting the Overview and Scrutiny Board considered an update on;

i). The developing partnership between Community Shop and the Trussell Trust
ii). The revised ‘Community Food Hub’ model outlined by the Community Shop and the Trussell Trust partnership
iii). The offer of the ‘Community Food Hub’ model to users in Oldham
iv). The discussion with and visit from representatives from Community Shop and the Trussell Trust

1.3 The Board resolved that:

1. The new Community Food Hub be considered further in consultation with local partners and elected members in the context of existing activity in Oldham and the findings be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny.
2. A meeting be convened with Councillor McLaren, Councillor Ball and relevant officers on the communication of the number of strands of activity.

1.3 Following this meeting, an update was provided to the Chair at the Overview and Scrutiny Link meeting on 27 June 2017 on;

i). A workshop taking place with members of Oldham Food Network (including the Chair, Nikki Davies and Andrew Barr from Oldham Food Bank), Cllr Cath Ball and Cllr Shaid Mushtaq and representatives from Community Shop to;
   - understand the different partners involved
   - explore the opportunity for collaborating in Oldham
   - consider possible premises that might be suitable

The workshop included a visit to Manchester Chambers (next to the Food Bank) to see whether this space would be suitable for a combined food hub, specifically the size, location and accessibility

ii). Both Elected Members and members of Oldham Food Network raised points around access for all residents, the changing capacity, interest and ambition in Oldham maturing through the community-led Oldham Food Network and its members and the view that a locally-led model, investing in building new and existing community hubs, could be a more sustainable and co-operative approach.
iii). The Chair suggested that this updated focus be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Board to review and recommend the next steps around;

Consider what a locally-led community hub model might look like as part of Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition and the links to existing hubs in Oldham

1.4 This report details existing mapping work undertaken to plot the increasing number of food and growing hubs across the Borough and work in progress to promote these electronically so that communities can easily see where opportunities exist in their areas, how they can get involved or where to get help if they want to establish a hub.

The growing number of these hubs and the ambitions and opportunities for some to scale up as community hubs offering food, cooking, social activity and employment is under consideration by members of the Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition Partnership and the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Board will fed in directly to inform their work.

The opportunity of this networked approach is that it delivers on the ambition of ‘fair access to healthy food for all’, helping tackle challenges around food poverty and with a focus on reducing food waste in a way which is rooted in communities and open to all. This is further strengthened and supported through the work of Oldham Real Junk Food who have been building relationships with supermarkets and local traders to divert food from landfill and use that to make food with and for communities. https://twitter.com/TRJFPOldham

2 Community and Food Growing Hubs

There are a wide range of community food and growing hubs in Oldham. Importantly each hub has its own aims, roles and ambitions around growing and food depending on the mix of neighbourhoods, communities and interests involved. The approach will be different for each area and with unique and locally appropriate priorities.

Some of these Hubs have been enabled through the Get Oldham Growing and Green Dividend programmes, each supported by the Environmental Services, community groups/organisations and sustained and grown through social action.

Below are more details about the programme and the hubs now in place:

2.1 Get Oldham Growing – a Public Health programme set up in 2014 to:

- Encourage more residents to grow, cook and eat local food and engage in food related businesses and community projects
- Increase the number of sites in the borough used for food growing projects
- Develop a growing hub in each of the districts
- Support training and education in food subjects
- Support and encourage the sharing of skills and resources across Oldham and beyond
- Support new job opportunities and community businesses
Working with Environmental Services and local communities there are five anchor community food and growing hubs in place (Alexandra Park, Waterhead Park, Failsworth, Dunwood Park, Lees Park – with another two in development) alongside many smaller hubs. Work is on-going to engage with groups and develop an interactive map of growing sites across Oldham with details of locations, addresses, contact numbers and social media accounts for sites including:

- Allotments
- Bees
- Chatty Cafes
- Community Cafes
- Community Growing Sites
- Growing Hubs

The map can be found here: https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/100009/leisure_and_culture/1743/get_oldham_growing/6. There will be a display of this information at the Board meeting and the latest list of food and growing sites is contained in Appendix 1.

2.2 **Green Dividend** – a co-operative initiative delivered during 2016/17 and 2017/18, working with Environmental Services to support 48 projects (with the final round to be announced) to green communities by establishing growing spaces and schemes. During 2017/18 the funding has been focused in Selective Landlord Licensing areas

The projects have been varied and include:

- alleyways
- pavements and walkways
- parks and playing fields
- community gardens
- allotments
- green roofs and walls

Many of the projects funded have had additional social impact, providing spaces for community events and offering a natural meeting point for the local population. This contributes to community cohesion and social integration, and supports an increased sense of belonging to an area as well as closer neighbourhood ties.

A map and more detailed information on these projects will be displayed at the Board. A full list of Green Dividend sites is outlined in Appendix 2.

3 **Oldham’s Food and Growing Hub Model**

3.1 The commitment to ‘fair access to healthy food for all’, in tackling challenges of food poverty and the reduction of food waste remain priorities (the Oldham Food Network adopted eradicating food waste as a target in its recent review of priorities, reflecting this importance). To realise this co-operatively, sustainably and with maximised social value and impact, it can be achieved through the continued strengthening of the Community Food and Growing Network; the scaling of activity, supply and enterprise and supporting the development of distribution and routes to market.
This model would be inclusive and work across the borough seeing increased food production and distribution within and between communities and central to enterprise around the food economy. It works with and complements other initiatives and opportunities, e.g. Get Oldham Working and Well North, and is central to achieving improved outcomes around health and the opportunities of communities growing, sharing and cooking together to support thriving communities.

The development and delivery of these ambitions and opportunities are being driven by the Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition Partnership which includes representatives from a broad spectrum of partners and local organisations.

3.2 The challenge is to support and network all Oldham’s Community Growing and Food hubs and communities together. Seeking to scale and increase both local food supply, access to healthy food and enterprise linked to the food economy.

Some areas of activity happening or planned are:

- **Food Markets** – creating opportunities for selling produce focused around provenance and ‘Made in Oldham’ led by Get Oldham Growing
- **Fresh, local produce used by shops/restaurants** – fruit/vegetables harvested by Failsworth growing group and used in the Failsworth Library Café
- **On-site availability of fresh produce at the hubs** – Veg in the Park offering fresh local produce on-site
- **Raising awareness and cooking for and with communities** – school holiday cooking sessions in Stoneleigh Park
- **Food enterprise** – produce from Veg in the Park sold locally to the Salt Cellar
- **Skills and employment** – launch of horticultural apprenticeship scheme with Oldham College and Environmental Services

3.3 The delivery of ambitions around fair access to food is ongoing whilst specific proposals are under review. Below is a list of actions and developments since Overview and Scrutiny considered the item on Community Shop in 2015.

- Community-led Oldham Food Network formed and developed, empowering communities to drive social action, leading successful campaigns such as the Community Kitchen crowd funder and encouraging organisations to work together
- Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition Partnership established to bring together the range of food and growing activity across Oldham and help better coordinate and drive further around fair access to food for all through a partnership approach
- Continued delivery of the Get Oldham Growing programme including two Health Ambassadors, hosting the Growing Conference, training programmes and supporting hubs across the Borough
- Green Dividend supporting 48 projects to green communities by establishing growing spaces and schemes
- Real Junk Food Oldham set up by communities in Oldham to help reduce food waste and encourage people to waste less, operating on a pay-as-you-feel-basis
4 Issues for the Board to discuss

The Overview and Scrutiny Board are asked to discuss and consider:

1. Views on developing the Community Food and Growing hub network as a means for supporting the ambition of ‘fair access to healthy food’, tackling the challenges of food poverty and reducing food waste?

2. Views on this proposed approach to establish a more inclusive and sustainable offer across the Borough compared to the Community Shop model?

3. Suggestions or issues to be fed back and considered by the Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition partnership in its work to bring these proposals forward.

5. Links to Corporate Outcomes

5.1 Local food and growing hubs is closely linked to the Council’s objective of Thriving Communities where everyone is empowered to do their bit. We will work proactively with residents and partners in promoting healthy, independent lifestyles to promote healthier communities where residents live well and eat healthily.

6. Consultation

6.1 The item is for discussion and further consultation will be considered by the Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition Partnership in consultation with its Membership and key partners including the Districts, Environmental Services, Get Oldham Growing, Oldham Food Network, existing food and growing hubs and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

7 Appendices

7.1 Appendix 1 – List of community and food hubs from Get Oldham Growing

7.2 Appendix 2 – List of green spaces from Green Dividend

7.3 Appendix 3 – Links to previous reports considered by Overview and Scrutiny
Appendix 1 – List of community and food hubs from Get Oldham Growing

**Allotments**
Bardsley Vale Avenue
Broadway, Failsworth
Cartmel Crescent, Chadderton
Cobden St, Waterhead Park
Constantine Street, Greenacres
Huddersfield Road, Diggle
Fernhurst Street
Wildbrook Crescent, Fitton Hill
Eve Street, Fitton Hill
Fraser Street, Rushcroft
Frederick St, Werneth Park
Granby St, South Chadderton
Grassroots Community Allotment on the Rochdale Cana
Heyside Off Blackshaw Lane, Royton
Hope Street
Laurel Ave, Oakbank
Medlock Way Little Oak Close, Lees
Phillimore Street, Lees
Snipe Clough
Stotts Lane

**Bees**
Gallery Oldham Bees

**Chatty Cafes** - have a special table where people who don’t know each other can meet for a chat
Oldham Foodbank (Chatty Café)
Coles Cake & Coffee House (Chatty Café)
Reclamation Room (Chatty Café)
Relish Sandwich Bar
Costa Coffee
Costa Coffee
The Pavilion Café
Costa Coffee
Molino Lounge
Café Mandels
MAHDLO Youth Zone
Sainsbury’s Cafe

**Community Cafes**
St. Barnabas Community Project Community Cafe
NEON
The Salt Cellar Cafe
Community Growing Sites
Friends of Stoneleigh Park

**Growing Hubs**
Failsworth Growing Hub
Veg in the park
Appendix 2 – list of Green Dividend project sites

Green Dividend project sites

The Green Dividend Fund is a one-off fund to support community action right across the borough making it a greener place to live, through gardening and/or landscaping projects that benefit streets and neighbourhoods for both residents and visitors.

Residents, community groups and third sector organisations can apply for funding between £500 and £5000 to help them deliver green ideas and projects that create improve or make a real difference to their neighbourhood.

**Church**
1. East Oldham Methodist Church Growing Group, St James (Church)

**Pop up cafe and Community Garden**
3. NeDI, Pop Up Cafe, Waterhead (Pop up cafe and Community Garden)

**Community Allotment and Sensory Gardens**
2. Hollins & Avenue 1AA, Avenue Community Garden, Hollins (Community Allotment and Sensory Garden)
4. Chadderton Together, Chadderton Together Community Gardens, Chadderton Central (Community Gardening Project)
5. Green Community Association, Green Cycled Garden, Waterhead (Community Gardening Project)
8. Oldham RUFC, Oldham RUFC Community Growing Space, Medlock Vale (Community Gardening Project)
9. Primrose Community Garden, Primrose Bank Community Centre, Werneth (Community Gardening Project)
10. Right opportunities, The Railway Garden Project, Shaw (Community Gardening Project)
11. Sandle Woman’s Group Community Garden Project, Medlock Vale (Community Gardening Project)
12. Shawer Millennium Green Trust, Shawer Millennium Green Shawer Community Centre Gateway to the Green, St James (Community Gardening Project)
14. Caken’Tapot (Local Residents), Royton North (Community Gardening Project)
16. Croxley Centre, Chadderton Central (Community Gardening Project)
18. Dalton Street, Failsworth West (Community Gardening Project)
19. Friends of Stonelake Park, St James (Community Gardening Project)
20. Mere in Shades, Failsworth West (Community Gardening Project)
21. Wooton and Barmford, Chadderton North (Community Gardening Project)
22. Diggle Community Association, Diggle Community Garden, Saddleworth North (Community Gardening Project)
23. Friends of Dogford Park, Royton North (Community Gardening Project)
24. Hill Top Growers, Medlock Vale (Community Gardening Project)
25. Walshe Street Garden Development, St Mary’s (Community Gardening Project)
26. Oldham Garden Suburbs Association, Garden Suburbs Pavilion Garden, Hollinswood (Community Gardening Project)
32. Reclamation Room Growing and Gardening Group, Saddleworth South (Community Gardening Project)

**Memorial Garden**
6. Nigginshaw Community Project, The Jimmy Marshal Memorial Project, St Mary’s (Memorial Garden)

**Nature Reserve**

**Community Allotment**
13. St Marks Centre, St Marks Allotment Project, St Mary’s (Community Allotment)
18. Fernhurst Allotment Association, Chadderton North (Community Allotment)

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**Schools and Colleges**
17. Delph Primary School, Saddleworth North (School)
23. Friends of Dobcross School (FOCS), Dobcross Green and Grow, Saddleworth North (School)
24. Coppice Primary Academy, Coppice Community Greenspace, Medlock Vale (School)
26. Fizland Primary School, Fizland Forest School, Saddleworth South (School)
27. Friends of Greenacres School, Our Community Growing Together, Waterhead (School)
33. Rushcroft PTA, Rushcroft PTA Green Living, Crompton (School)
30. Oldham College, Oldham College Community Garden, Goldhurst (College)

**Green Dividend Selective Licensing Schemes**
34. Little owl nature walk
35. Snipe Clough Allotments
36. St Gardonc Wildbrock Allotments
37. Cranbury Gardens
38. Hollinwood Medical Practice
39. Impact Community Garden
40. Oasis Community Farm (Oasis Academy)
41. RadRub Gardens
42. Our Foods Our Future St Margaret’s School
44. Hanging Gardens of Walsall Road
46. Beevor Buddo (Beevor Primary School)
46. Growing 4 Glewicks Streets
47. Pooling together for pond (St Hilda’s)
48. Filton Hill in Bloom
Appendix 3 – List of previous reports considered by Overview and Scrutiny

14 July 2015
http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=366&MId=5932&Ver=4

13 October 2015
http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=366&MId=6195&Ver=4

14 March 2017
http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=366&MId=6494&Ver=4