

 <p>Brent NHS West and North London</p>	<p>Brent Health and Wellbeing Board 16 April 2026</p>
	<p>Report from the Director of Public Health</p>
	<p>Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Leisure – Councillor Neil Nerva</p>
<p>Brent Food Strategy (2026-2029)</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Brent Food Strategy (2026-2029) Appendix 2 – Draft Food Action Plan (2026-2029) Appendix 3 – Introducing Brent’s Food Strategy Slide Deck
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Shadi Ambrosini Public Health Strategist shadi.ambrosini@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Public Health team and the Food Partnership Steering Groups are pleased to present to the Health and Wellbeing Board the first draft of a new Food Strategy for Brent, fulfilling commitment 1.1 from the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This paper provides an update on the development of the Food Strategy and its related Food Action Plan, highlights core themes, and outlines a proposed plan for action.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board will have strategic oversight of the new Food Strategy and Food Action Plan, and is requested to:
- 2.2 Note the timeliness of this strategy, which sees Brent joining a growing national movement to transform local food systems through a coordinated and evidence-based strategic approach across sectors.
- 2.3 Note the appendices for further information; review, and comment on the proposed strategic priorities outlined in the Food Strategy and the actions contained in the Draft Food Action Plan.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Brent's Food Strategy sets out a shared vision for creating a fair, sustainable, and healthy food system that benefits everyone in our borough. It outlines priorities for action across health, sustainability, and equity, ensuring that food policies and programmes are aligned and impactful.
- 3.2 It recognises that food is central to our lives, it shapes our health, culture, and environment, and it has the potential to radically transform our borough for the better.
- 3.3 The strategy was developed collaboratively around six core Food Missions, which address the most pressing food-related challenges in Brent. These are:
- **Mission 1:** We will improve access to healthy and affordable food, and tackle diet-related health inequalities
 - **Mission 2:** We will help reduce food insecurity and ensure everyone can access affordable and healthy food with dignity
 - **Mission 3:** We will support the development of food literacy and skills in schools and in communities
 - **Mission 4:** We will promote good food jobs, skills training, and opportunities within the local food economy
 - **Mission 5:** We will encourage growing food in the community and at home, and support access to resources
 - **Mission 6:** We will empower residents and institutions to reduce food waste, cut carbon emissions, and support more sustainable food choices

4.0 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 4.1. The new Food Strategy aligns with the strategic priorities of the Brent Borough Plan 2023-2027, and wider Brent strategies and priorities by focusing on improving health outcomes, advancing climate and sustainability goals, and enabling residents of all ages to live healthy and dignified lives.

5.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 5.1 The journey to developing a Food Strategy for Brent started in 2021, with the Right to Food campaign. This was followed by a rigorous and collaborative process led by the Public Health team, supported by a Food Partnership Steering Group, council colleagues, NHS partners, VCS organisations, and residents.
- 5.2 A Visioning Workshop was held in 2023 (55 people, 37 organisations), which informed initial priorities. In 2025 a Public Health Strategist was appointed to lead and coordinate the work further. In 2025 a Food Strategy Workshop was held (67 people, 28 organisations), which informed the establishment of six core Food Missions.
- 5.3 Throughout 2025 and 2026, the team engaged with organisations and residents in Brent. In 2026, the team convened 41 relevant colleagues and stakeholders to review and validate the draft Food Strategy and Action Plan.
- 5.4 We will continue to engage residents and organisations to define interventions.

6.0 Financial Considerations

6.1 Brent Public Health is committed to exploring resourcing options with relevant stakeholders to support the delivery on the proposed actions supported by the new Food Strategy.

6.2 An allocation from the Public Health Grant will be made as appropriate, with the Public Health Strategist exploring suitable additional funding streams with relevant partners.

7.0 Legal Considerations

7.1 None at this stage.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 The new Food Strategy centres dignity and equity in all its recommendations, and proposes solutions that focus on addressing health inequalities and supporting communities to thrive.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 The strategy is deeply connected to Brent's climate resilience and adaptation goals, explicitly linking sustainability with food system transformation to support climate goals.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 None at this stage.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 The Food Strategy will be published and shared with partners, stakeholders and the wider public, once approved.

11.0 Next Steps

11.1 With the appropriate governance, planning, and resource allocation, Brent can drive meaningful progress toward a food system that improves health outcomes, advances climate and sustainability goals, and enables resilience.

11.2 It is advised to begin by focusing on building strong foundations to ensure that Brent's good food movement has longevity and can support long-term impact.

11.3 In the first year of implementation, key priorities will include building an appropriate operational structure, further developing the action plan to include KPIs, engaging key stakeholders and partners, trialling interventions, supporting food policy advocacy, achieving Sustainable Food Places Bronze/Silver accreditation, and improving Brent's Good Food Local score in the London league table.

11.4 This should be done by strengthening partnerships with committed partners, leveraging existing assets, and prioritising actions that:

- Strengthen system-wide alignment
- Reduce duplication
- Build local capacity
- Shift power to communities
- Deliver tangible improvements in food security, health, and sustainability

Report sign-off:

Ruth du Plessis

Director of Public Health