



**City of Kingston
Information Report to Council
Report Number 15-395**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Cheryl Hitchen, Manager, Social Policy and Strategic
Community Development
Date of Meeting: October 20, 2015
Subject: KFL&A Good Food Community Consultation Report

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide a short background and introduction to the KFL&A Good Food Community Consultation Report. The Consultation Report is the result of a community consultation initiative across the region by the local non-profit agency Loving Spoonful to provide local residents' perspective on the barriers to food, community assets and gaps, and make recommendations on addressing food security needs in the region.

Recommendation:

This report is for information purposes only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Cynthia Beach, Corporate & Strategic Initiatives	Not required
Denis Leger, Transportation, Facilities & Emergency Services	
Jim Keech, President and CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desiree Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

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Options/Discussion:**Background**

In October 2009, City Council directed staff to “develop a sustainable food strategy” (Report Number AP-09-020). Following that direction, staff began meeting with Public Health and a range of community stakeholders as the “Healthy Eating Working Group” (HEWG). This group conducted some research and carried out consultation before drafting the “Food Charter for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington”. The Food Charter was endorsed by Kingston City Council, Frontenac County Council, Board of Health and Sustainable Kingston in 2012. The Food Charter can be seen as the first step toward the development of a food strategy.

Following the endorsement of the Food Charter, the HEWG was reconstituted and the Food Policy Council for Kingston, Frontenac Lennox and Addington (FPC) was formed. The FPC has been involved in community awareness activities and has been compiling and reviewing available data with respect to the local food system, including food security.

In 2015, the current City Council set its strategic priorities for 2015-2018 and identified “responding proactively to homelessness and food security needs in the City” among its priorities.

In the fall of 2014, Loving Spoonful applied for, and received, a Community Investment Fund grant through the City and the United Way, to carry out consultations across KFL&A to hear directly from residents of KFL&A regarding food security. Loving Spoonful focused particularly on residents who have experienced food insecurity and the food providers and social workers who work to increase food availability and security. It is important to note that because the consultation was much broader than the City of Kingston, some of the comments do not apply to residents within the City.

KFL&A Good Food Community Consultation Report

Under separate cover, Council will be receiving a copy of the “KFL&A Good Food Community Consultation Report”. This report is the result of the consultations done by Loving Spoonful with more than 300 individuals across the region through an online survey or in person consultations.

The report identifies seven primary barriers to food access in KFL&A: poverty/lack of money; physical/mental health and social anxieties; attitudes and stigma; transportation; access/distance to outlets; housing (equipment/storage); and knowledge and skills.

Based on the consultations, the report makes some broad recommendations on how to address these barriers. The information contained in the report will be vital to moving forward with a plan to address food security in the City of Kingston.

There was mention in the report of concerns by some individuals consulted about access to Kingston Transit. Kingston Transit provides all of its drivers with ongoing training on customer service; recognizing that drivers are in daily contact with some of the most vulnerable members of our community. By policy, the only time a passenger with a stroller would be denied a ride is when both of the accessible spaces are occupied by passengers with disabilities. More

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investigation will be done into the specific concerns raised in this report and Kingston Transit will provide input into the action plan with respect to transportation barriers.

To provide further information on food security, the Food Policy Council, of which both the City of Kingston and Loving Spoonful are members, will develop a short backgrounder report which will be available later this fall as a reference document for Council and the community. The Food Policy Council will also work on next steps to put together a detailed action plan for all its members, including the City, to implement collaboratively. This will also be brought to City Council.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

Not applicable

Notice Provisions:

Not applicable

Accessibility Considerations:

The information contained in the Good Food Consultation Report can be made available in alternate formats by contacting Loving Spoonful, the authors of the report, at executivedirector@loving Spoonful.org

Financial Considerations:

Not applicable

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Sheila Kidd, Director, Transportation Services Department

Jeremy DaCosta, Manager, Transit, Transportation Services Department

Exhibits Attached:

Not applicable