

Agenda Item	5
Report No	RDB-06-26

# The Highland Council

**Committee:** Redesign Board

**Date:** 04 June 2026

**Report Title:** Food in Schools Project - Progress report

**Report By:** Assistant Chief Executive – Corporate

## 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

Work continues in progressing the 10-point Action Plan as agreed at Redesign Board on 20 November 2025 with this report providing an update on activity to date.

- 1.1 Work is progressing on schedule across five priority areas, including menu review, enhanced collaboration, parental engagement, supplier contracts, and waste tracking, with strengthened links to the Good Food Nation agenda and further activity planned in line with project timelines.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is invited to:-

- i. Note the progress to date
- ii. Agree to nominate a second Board member for the Working Group

## 3. Implications

3.1 **Resource:** There are no resource implications arising as a direct consequence of this report.

3.2 **Legal:** There are no legal implications arising as a direct consequence of this report.

3.3 **Risk:** There are no risks arising as a direct result of this report. Project/Programme risks are identified via the council risk management process and monitored through the Portfolio Boards and are reported by exception only.

3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people):** There are no immediate health and safety implications arising from this report.

3.5 **Gaelic:** There are no implications arising as a direct result of this report.

#### 4. Impacts

- 4.1 This is an update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required. As actions are progressed these will be assessed for impacts accordingly.

#### 5. Food in Schools – Delivering Sustainability

- 5.1 The project has a RAG status of Green with activity on track.



- 5.2 The Working Group membership previously consisted of Councillor B Jarvie, Commercialisation colleagues, and CCFM Officers. It has now been updated to ensure more effective cross-service working for the delivery of the Action Plan with subject-matter experts added to the Group.

Consistent with the Working Group structure for Redesign interventions, the Group requires a second Redesign Board Member.

- 5.3 Action Plan

Work is progressing in accordance with the timescales indicated in the Food in Schools Action Plan across five of the ten areas of action. These areas are:

- **Undertake a menu review** – the initial focus of this action is on secondary school menus, with a first review session with school colleagues was held at Inverness High School. From this meeting, the next activity will be to develop a process to widen and accelerate this process and engage with a diverse range of schools to reflect the Highland context, with both urban/rural, small/large schools as part of the review process.
- **Further strengthen integration/collaboration between CCFM and Education services** – initial meetings have taken place, and the Working Group is expanding the membership to better reflect the cross-service activity, and to further strengthen collaboration to enable pace to gather on shared outcomes.
- **Develop a “Food in Schools” parental engagement strategy** – a draft strategy has been developed, and this is to be shared at the next Working Group (May 2026) with a view to adoption /roll-out.

As well as this draft strategy, CCFM is in the process of procuring a new Cashless Catering system. Among the features of the software is the potential for parents to have more insight to the activity of their child with regards to catering choices. This joined-up approach helps to respond to feedback received during our stakeholder engagement survey.

- **Review supplier contracts** - principal areas of activity continue to be linked to local venison procurement with CCFM colleagues progressing this with local providers.
- **Establish a waste tracking process for school meals** – a pilot project has been agreed and started, and the impact of this will be overseen by the Working Group, and will feature in a future report to the Redesign Board.

## **6. Good Food Nation**

- 6.1 A separate report on The Good Food Nation initiative is on the Board's agenda, however, to maintain strong strategic alignment and cohesion between programmes, the Food in Schools Working Group includes the Good Food Nation Lead Officer within its membership. The Action Plan will also be reviewed to ensure that Good Food Nation is referenced appropriately across any relevant actions.

## **7. Next Steps**

- 7.1 Work will continue in the above five areas with additional activity due to begin during the coming months on the remaining Action Plan items in accordance with the project timelines stated in the Action Plan.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Corporate

Date: 14 May 2026

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