

## Appendix A – Options Appraisal Food Hub

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>1. Retain the existing food service up until 30 September 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The food hub has provided an excellent service since it has opened.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reason the food hub was set up was to provide emergency support for vulnerable residents either shielding or self-isolating. The numbers of referrals have reduced dramatically over the past 4 weeks, making full time delivery of the service for this cohort alone unsustainable.</li> <li>Requires employee resources to manage the facility who may be needed in the reset of the service areas they work in.</li> <li>Security costs of £3k per week would still be required.</li> </ul>
<p>2. Transfer food hub service to existing food banks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transitioning of demand into the voluntary and community sector</li> <li>Transferred stock will help to replenish food stocks of food bank</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transitioning the food hub service to be delivered by the food banks will not provide a delivery service to vulnerable residents who cannot travel to the food bank.</li> <li>Parcel deliveries have primarily been to locations which are not near a local food bank.</li> <li>Food banks are managed by volunteers and they may not be able to deal with the increased demand this would place on them.</li> <li>The council may be required to provide continued funding for a period to support the increased demand for food stocks.</li> <li>This option may cause an increased reliance from residents on food banks, which will be difficult to sustain.</li> </ul>

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<p>3. Develop a community food offer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community food offer could provide an easily accessible, local solution utilising community assets.</li> <li>• This would be more of a long-term sustainable solution</li> <li>• Would support a wider group of residents going forward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This could be a medium to long-term option but would not deliver a short-term solution.</li> <li>• This will take time to set up and be fully functioning and would not meet the immediate need for when the food hub may need to close.</li> <li>• There are still in the region of 300 vulnerable residents receiving food parcels and we would need to ensure that referral pathways are clear and developed.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Close food hub entirely from 30 July 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandwell Leisure Trust have indicated that they will allow us to continue to the food hub from Tipton Sports Academy up until this point.</li> <li>• The government shielding programme will end on the 30 July 2020.</li> <li>• Numbers of practical support referrals are reducing to under 40 a day which demonstrates demand has reduced.</li> <li>• The taxi firms being used to support the delivery of parcels will not be available from the 17 July 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication with residents will be required over the next 6 weeks to ensure they are aware of alternative options.</li> <li>• As services start to reset the staff redeployed at the food hub will be required to go back to their substantive posts which may impact on the ability to deliver the service.</li> </ul>
<p>5. Reduce scale of food hub until 30 July 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These 3 days are currently the busiest days for referrals from the practical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The turn round time from receipt of phone call from resident to delivery of parcel will be</li> </ul>

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	<p>support unit and are the days when food parcels are delivered to children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referral numbers would be continually monitored, and further days could be lessened as demand reduces.</li> <li>• Less employees will be required to manage the reduced service and make deliveries.</li> </ul>	<p>impacted and residents will potentially have a longer wait time for their delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dietary needs are more difficult to account for.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Only provide to vulnerable children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would reduce numbers to approximately 500 per week and would require a smaller selection of food supplies and a smaller team of employees to pack and deliver parcels.</li> <li>• This could run on a smaller scale until the end of the school summer holidays in September 2020.</li> <li>• Tipton Sports Academy can be used on a smaller scale until the end of September 2020.</li> <li>• The 296 children not currently on the school roll would be able to access this support as they would not be covered by the government’s funding proposals for free school meals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will still require a staff presence to manage the food hub.</li> <li>• Costs of £7.5k per week</li> </ul>

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<p>7. Close food hub on or before 30 July 2020 and use supplier to purchase and deliver all food parcels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sandwell Leisure Trust can start to use the full facility again as a leisure centre</li><li>• Redeployed employees can revert to substantive roles</li><li>• Less management intervention &amp; resource</li><li>• The cost of a parcel containing similar contents to the existing food parcel is £15, in comparison to the current cost of £24 supplied by the food hub. Delivery costs at this stage would be £7 per parcel</li><li>• Food parcels could be delivered directly to homes or schools by the supplier at less cost than the existing food parcel.</li><li>• The coordination with supplier can be undertaken by a small resource working from home.</li><li>• This option is now being utilised by other local authorities including Birmingham and Wolverhampton Council.</li><li>• The costs of purchasing parcels from a supplier would be covered under the covid-19 grant from the government.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivery times would be impacted from an average of 2 hours to next day delivery</li><li>• Delivery of emergency parcels would cost additional, although this could be facilitated by volunteer shoppers via community offer</li></ul>
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