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Press release

A bold and ambitious food policy

The current health crisis has changed our approach towards many social issues. “Healthy eating” is an important public health issue and it has become a daily preoccupation, which has been intensified by the lockdown. The City has actively encouraged reverting to short supply chains, as well as the rise of “eat local” movements, through its [plan for healthier eating](#) and reducing waste. Mayor of Bordeaux, Nicolas Florian, has given renewed impetus to Bordeaux’s food policy.

Pioneering new initiatives in low income neighbourhoods

Thanks to support from the EDF Group Foundation, the Chamber of Agriculture and Bordeaux Agricultural Sciences, a new trial has been launched that provides support to members from a dozen social grocery stores which have a presence in each district (Intercultural House of Food at the North Bordeaux Community Centre, Grand Park IntenCité Social and Cultural Centre, Foyer Fraternel Community Centre, Tauzin Community Centre, The Carrot and the Rabbit, Bastide Secular Family Association and the Vrac Association, to name but a few). Fruit and vegetables are sold at cost price to the members of these organisations, with the difference being paid by the City.

This initiative complements the municipal support for the Food Bank and various other social organisations, enabling those in need to access good quality food for free.

Additional measures to support in the food emergency

Special funding has been made available by various organisations to distribute food (€110,000 from the City of Bordeaux, €82,000 from Bordeaux Métropole, €74,500 from the Bordeaux Mécènes Solidaires (united benefactors) Foundation, and €26,000 via the website [KissKissBankBank](#), totalling almost €300,000).

The public sector catering service, SIVU, has also been drafted in to provide meals for people staying at the Barbey Youth Hostel and the Emmaüs hostel on Rue Dupas. As of 30 April, nearly 10,800 meals had been delivered, at a cost of €58,500.

Since the beginning of the lockdown, the mayor of Bordeaux and his CCAS (municipal social support centre) have also taken action to ensure students in vulnerable situations have continuous access to food. This scheme was introduced both on the Bordeaux Talence campus and in Bordeaux city centre, in partnership with the Food Bank and the Gironde Chamber of Agriculture.

Reverting to short supply chains

Several other initiatives have also been set up to support “eat local” schemes:

- support for the Chamber of Agriculture’s drive-through farm box collection scheme at Place des Quinconces.
- collection on foot from food markets in Bordeaux, with supervised reopening.
- expansion of new communal garden and allotment plots.
- implementation of subsidised pricing for school canteens at 105 state-funded nurseries and primary schools.
- delivering meals and groceries to the elderly.
- delivering meals to homes: adapting the service based on the needs generated by the crisis.

Press officers

Nicolas Corne / Anna Beaubatie - Press service

n.corne@mairie-bordeaux.fr ; a.beaubatie@mairie-bordeaux.fr +33 (0)5 56 10 20 46

presse@mairie-bordeaux.fr - twitter.com/bordeauxpresse - bordeaux.fr