

Joining up the food system: Food Policy Alliance Cymru

1. Purpose of the paper

This paper is produced by [Food Policy Alliance Cymru](#) (FPAC – see Annex A). The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate how a systems approach to food-related policies can create synergies across government departments to achieve policy targets relating to health and well-being, environmental sustainability, social justice and community resilience. The paper pays particular attention to the opportunity to make connections through the Foundational Economy Programme and forthcoming Agriculture Bill and suggests there are opportunities with the proposed Community Food Strategy (Programme for Government Commitment) to create the integration and Governance needed to create a diverse and resilient Food System for Wales. It demonstrates how we can amplify the positive impact of existing and emerging policies and work programmes through effectively connecting different parts of the food system in Wales. These include the Foundational Economy programme, forthcoming Agricultural Bill, Healthy Weight Healthy Wales, Food and Drink Strategy, Education curriculum, Public Procurement and Social Partnerships Bill, the Net Zero Wales Plan and Nature Recovery Targets. The paper demonstrates how community-scale food infrastructures and mechanisms can enable the delivery of objectives set out across government departments and policy agendas and suggests that a central food policy, such as the Community Food Strategy, could achieve these changes. Expanding the concept of payments for social and environmental benefits to develop policy applicable to wider food system stakeholders has already been recognised in the Agriculture White paper, where the importance of supporting the development of wider supply chains was noted as integral to supporting the farming sector.

2. Opportunities for Policy Integration

The general direction of travel as set out in the Agricultural (Wales) White Paper contains a number of elements that can potentially connect well with a food system policy including the need to support changes to farming practices that respond to the climate and nature emergencies. The recognition that farm businesses should improve the efficiency of their business model whilst operating within the natural capabilities of their land, reducing their reliance on external inputs and accessing the financial support that the Welsh Government provide for the delivery of environmental outcomes is key. This direction of travel resonates well with the [Maximum Sustainable Output](#) approach and the principles of agroecology (see Annex B). Note in the FPAC document “[Food System Fit for Future Generations](#)” (see Annex A) that we are calling for 100% agroecological production by 2030 on all farms in Wales in order to halt and reverse the loss of nature and increase climate resilience and recent UK-wide research from the [Food Farming and Countryside Commission and IDDRI show this is a viable and desirable](#) direction of travel.

There is a clear opportunity to link the Foundational Economy programme to the direction of travel set out in the Agricultural (Wales) White Paper. The White Paper outlines its support for agroecological/regenerative farming practices. The Foundational Economy programme could be utilised to help create the demand/markets for agroecological/regenerative food production. These approaches could be linked through a food system policy that targets support for agroecological farmers participating in community-scale supply chains, where money spent on food stays in the regional economy, supporting jobs and farmers. Developing food infrastructure is key to supporting community-scale supply chains and linking producers of agroecological food to consumers in more diverse ways with positive health outcomes, and thereby connecting with the Healthy Weight Healthy Wales Strategy. Under a food system policy, we would suggest the following initiatives, which all contribute to building resilient community-scale supply chains:

- i. **Investment in community-scale processing facilities** could help Welsh agricultural produce be turned into higher value products. A lack of processing capacity in the Welsh food system makes the system less adaptable and resilient, whilst adding unnecessary food miles to Welsh products. See, for example Felin Ganol Watermill (facebook.com/FelinGanolWatermill).
- ii. **Investment in food markets, community retailers, food cooperatives and a network of food hubs** across the whole of Wales that aggregate and distribute sustainably produced local food. This will help provide more local jobs in the food sector, retain greater spend locally and help to diversify and strengthen our local economies. Indeed, [a recent report](#) highlights that a 10% shift in the UK food retail market towards more sustainable local food systems could yield up to 200,000 more jobs, support a green economic recovery and restore nature. Food hubs should be located close to processing facilities focused on agroecological principles, fair trading and high welfare values. Food hubs would bring producers together to supply quality and quantity at the right scale for public sector procurement and the hospitality sector.¹
- iii. **Build real value into procurement processes by making local and regional public procurement of food produced in environmentally friendly ways (identified via certification and [farm metrics](#) and linked to healthy eating nutritional standards) a key aspect of Public Service Board well-being plans.** This could be further aided by the development of robust Government Buying standards aligned to agroecological/regenerative farming practices in Wales and deforestation free supply chains (as outlined in the '[Wales and Global Responsibility](#)' report). Public services boards could aggregate their procurement spend to create more viable public markets for local suppliers to serve. This could be underpinned by a "Wales Foundational Economy Food Network" comprised of producers, food suppliers, service providers and procurement - all working together to overcome challenges and build on opportunities for public sector and community food provision. See Annex C for more information on a potential way forward for procurement following experiences captured by the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund project focusing on food procurement in Carmarthenshire.
- iv. **Link food producers to consumers in more diverse ways, including streamlining access to local produce by households and the hospitality sector.** Support for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) schemes is important here as a partnership between farmers and consumers. Ongoing research (TGRAINS) shows the health and environmental sustainability benefits of CSA diets: CSA participants consume more vegetables and legumes and less meat, sugar and fats compared to control group participants, with an average of 28% lower CO2 emissions. The combination of partnership between CSA schemes, food aid charities and local councils, solidarity models and LA funding can generate opportunities to provide subsidised vegetables for food insecure households, supporting healthy eating, social justice, zero emission and biodiversity policy targets.
- v. **Work with the emerging network of Sustainable Food Partnerships in Wales facilitated through Sustainable Food Places and Food Sense Wales to develop local Food System Governance and action.** Support to secure a food partnership in every LA was recognised as

¹ An FPAC member has applied for funding to pilot this approach through an RDP supply chain efficiency scheme.

a priority by the Green Recovery Task Force and the merging network in Wales now covers over a third of the local authority areas. Cross-sector sustainable food partnerships and plans provide the platform for local food system governance, as shown in Brighton and Hove, the first city to be awarded the Gold Sustainable Food City award. Cardiff Council has committed to developing commercial food growing and production opportunities in the city as part of a broader Council food plan and as part of [Food Cardiff's Good Food Strategy 2021-21](#) towards achieving Gold sustainable Food place status. These partnerships are playing an important role in making food more accessible for those living in food insecurity, through integration with Wellbeing plans for example. A similar approach to ensure policy integration and Governance could be mirrored at a National Level through a mechanism such as a Food System Commission (see Annex D).

- vi. **Building skills needed to inspire a new Generation of Future food producers and food citizens** from developing cross-curricula food system modules in the new curriculum all the way through to developing new and building on existing schemes to support the skills needed to sustainably procure, produce and supply healthy and sustainable food. Particular skills such as procurement could be developed through the foundational economy programme linked to production standards and training schemes proposed in the Agriculture White Paper, which should be available to both existing and new entrant farmers.

The initiatives above cannot be seen in isolation. Different parts of the food system are interconnected: activities in one part of the system have consequences for other parts, with impacts rippling across the system. A **food system policy** can explicitly recognise these relationships and build a vision for integrating different parts of the food system in Wales, as demonstrated above, so that we can think strategically about what we invest in as a result of that vision.

3. Examples of “Joining up”

There are good examples in Wales ([and across the UK](#)) of demonstrating how to link agroecological/regenerative farming practices with community-scale food supply chains (see the Slade Farm case study below). There are also good examples in the UK of the potential of food hubs to drive food distribution in community-scale supply chains (see the Open Food Network case study below). Supporting food infrastructures such as local processing facilities and food hubs, as well as mechanisms such as procurement, supported by sustainable food partnerships, would help Wales to upscale such initiatives like Slade Farm to truly enshrine a joined-up approach to our food system in Wales.

Case Study: Slade Farm

Slade Farm, a Mixed Organic Farm in South Wales, provides a good example of how to demonstrate the value of community-scale food supply chain based on higher quality, more nutritious, sustainably produced food.

Slade Farm is a good example of how to farm using agroecological principles in order to enhance biodiversity, tackle climate change and produce nutritious food. Spelt grown on the farm is milled at Felin Ganol Watermill, packaged and sold to customers in the farm shop. Livestock reared on the farm is slaughtered locally, butchered at Slade Farm and sold in monthly meat boxes and through the farm shop. Feed for livestock is all produced on the farm. Slade Farm also runs a Community Supported Agriculture scheme which connects people to primary products through

local supply of meat and vegetables. This brings the local community together, creating social capital, reconnecting people to the land and helping to shape behavioural patterns which can have positive consequences for health and nutrition. In 2021, Slade Farm partnered with Splice Child and Family Project to build a solidarity model for funding veg bags for food insecure households in Bridgend county council. CSA members had the opportunity to fund additional veg boxes, which are supplied to ten food insecure households, who were provided with the same full membership of the CSA. CSA members directed the planning and execution of a Fun on the Farm Day at Slade farm, which raised £1300. Splice and Slade Farm were also successful in gaining WG funding to further help cover the cost of veg boxes.

Case Study: Open Food Network

The Open Food Network (OFN) is a platform co-operative supporting the development of hubs for local food distribution. Members include food producers and food hubs and shops. Via the online platform, producers can sell to other shops and hubs as well as direct to consumers; wholesalers can manage buying groups and supply food hubs; communities can set up food hubs enabling trade and distribution within the local community.

Examples of dynamic hubs in England include [the Cambridge Food Hub](#) and the [Tamar Valley](#) grow local food hub. Across the UK there are 1,697 food producers using OFN. There are 786 shop fronts/hubs, and 10,105 individual shoppers using the platform. The turnover of shop fronts/hubs began to increase rapidly during the first lockdown period as people accessed food in different ways.

In Wales, we have just over 120 commercial horticulture producers and only 19 shop fronts/hubs. This [new funding](#), that was recently granted under the [ENRaW](#) programme, will make a big difference to the Welsh food hub infrastructure. Five new innovative food hubs will be up and running in Wales by June 2023 and the experience of setting up these hubs will contribute to learning materials that will be made available to all Welsh communities interested in setting up food hubs in the future. Furthermore additional Welsh Government funding will support the Open Food Network to work with 2 existing food hubs and local public services to explore how OFN can be adapted to facilitate public procurement of local Welsh food by public sector buyers.

Final Thoughts - True Cost Accounting

Rebuilding a more resilient and sustainable food system must be a key component in our pathway towards a collective “resilient and just” transition. Integrating policy could help to address multiple emergencies (climate, nature, public health) and has the potential to both create new markets and support green jobs as part of a green transition.

Whilst investment in food related projects, for example from **the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund**, is welcome, investment must be considered through the lens of [True Cost Accounting](#) so that the cost of externalities such as diet-related ill health, climate change and nature loss are built into new funding models that create a source of long-term and secure funding for community growers, suppliers, distributors, and other organisations involved in local food provision services that result in improved environmental sustainability as well as positive public health outcomes. This policy approach can support a more diverse range of actors engaging in community-scale supply chains,

generating more resilient consumption patterns that align with health, biodiversity, and zero-emission policy targets.

Annex A

[Food Policy Alliance Cymru](#) (FPAC) is a coalition of organisations and stakeholders building and promoting a collective vision for the Welsh food system. Through collaboration, engagement and research the Alliance aims to:

- Co-produce a vision for a food system in Wales that connects production, supply and consumption and gives equal consideration to the health and wellbeing of people and nature.
- Advocate for policy change to address climate and ecological emergencies, the public health crisis and the rise in food insecurity.
- Ensure Wales is linked to UK policy, research opportunities and the broader global system.

Prior to the 2021 Senedd Elections, Food Policy Alliance Cymru developed a set of asks in its paper, 'Priorities for a food system fit for Future Generations.' The full document can be [seen here](#).

Food System Commission
 Within its first year of office, the next Welsh Government should appoint an independent, cross sector Food System Commission. This commission should be tasked with developing a roadmap to deliver a 'Food System Fit for Future Generations', aligned with the principles of agroecology. The roadmap should consider the following six priorities:

- 1 Food for all**
 Wales becomes the first nation to eliminate the need for food banks by 2025. Everyone in Wales has access to the food they need in a dignified way, in order to live a healthy life.
- 2 Food for public health**
 75% of Eatwell's recommended vegetable consumption is produced sustainably in Wales for Wales by 2030.
- 3 Net zero food system**
 Develop a plan by 2022 to deliver a net zero food system to ensure swift assessment and implementation of actions for Wales. The target is for Wales to have a Net Zero Food System by 2035.
- 4 Farming for nature and climate**
 Create a roadmap by 2022 to adopt agro-ecological principles across the whole food system, including 100% agro-ecological production by 2030 on all farms in order to halt and reverse loss of nature and increase climate resilience.
- 5 Sustainable seafood**
 Setting catch limits (without further delay) which enable fish stocks to be restored and maintained above biomass levels that deliver the Maximum Sustainable Yield.
- 6 Sustainable food sector jobs and livelihoods**
 Everyone who earns their living within the food system receives, or is enabled to receive, at least the living wage or a fair return for their work. Work, whether on land or sea, is free from exploitative practices, and is varied, engaging and empowering.



Annex B

“Agroecology is based on applying ecological principles to optimize the relationships between plants, animals, humans and the environment, as well as strengthening the aspects of a sustainable and fair food system.

Through building these relationships, agroecology supports food production, food security and nutrition, while restoring the ecosystems and biodiversity that are essential for sustainable agriculture. Agroecology can play an important role in adapting to climate change.

Agroecology is grounded in place-specific design and organization, of crops, livestock, farms and landscapes, conserving cultural and knowledge diversity, with a focus on women’s and young people’s roles in agriculture.

To harness all the benefits from adopting agroecological approaches, the right conditions are required, adapting policies, public investments, institutions and research priorities. Agroecology is the basis for growing food systems that are equally strong in environmental, economic, social and agronomic dimensions.”

Adapted from UN FAO 2019

Annex C

Conclusions from the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund project focusing on food procurement in Carmarthenshire, suggests that the most successful approaches synthesise the following elements:

- A target driven approach that sets out short, medium and long term objectives for both the use of local food, sustainable produce and nutritional value.
- The setting of realistic but ambitious targets that will incentivise the local supply side to grow to meet demand commitments from the public sector
- Defining the meaning of words like “local”, “sustainable” and “nutritional value” in this context and find ways of measuring them so they can be incorporated in defining value for public procurement frameworks
- Strong partnerships with farmers, growers and secondary food producers to synchronise evolving demand with supply and to design stable framework of contracts and pricing to facilitate growth.
- Parallel development of routes to market in the wider economy using the cooperation and shared distribution systems primed by public sector demand to streamline access to local produce by households and the hospitality sector.

Understanding of the value of a more localised food supply based on higher quality, more nutritious, sustainably produced produce is now even more urgent driven by:

- Economic security - the need to revive and grow the rural economy through a foundational approach with much greater value staying within the area as a result of direct supply and a growth in secondary food production based on primary agriculture. The economic effects of

Covid 19 and Brexit have made this all the more vital in respect of economic activity and jobs.

- Environment - the need to drive change in agriculture to achieve net zero emissions and reverse biodiversity decline. A healthy environment underpins food production.
- Health - the scale and current trajectory of diet related disease and the opportunity to drive dietary change through the public plate especially in relation to schools and hospitals not just in terms of the quality of what is fed to people in those institutions but also in establishing long term eating habits through example and education.

Annex D

A Food Commission for Wales

Prior to the 2021 Senedd elections, [Food Policy Alliance Cymru](#) launched a paper that outlined its “[Priorities for a Food System Fit for Future Generations](#).” The key ‘ask’ was that the next Welsh Government should appoint an independent, cross sector Food System Commission, tasked with developing a roadmap to deliver a ‘Food System Fit for Future Generations’ aligned with the principles of agroecology and progressing healthy diets for all. The purpose of this paper is to provide some detail and expand on the idea and operational approach of a Food System Commission by considering the following:

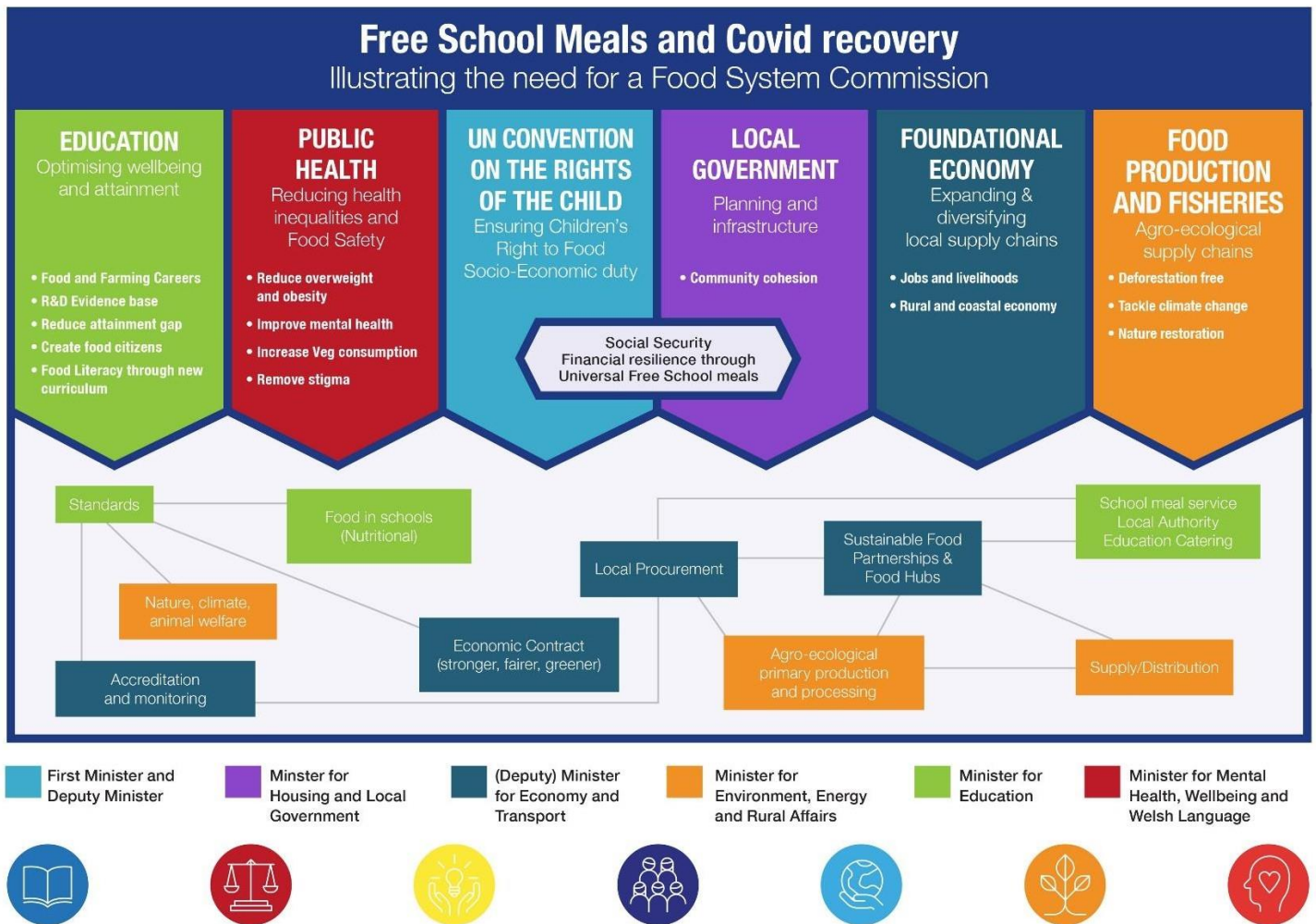
1. Why is a Food System commission (or similar structure) needed?
2. What should be the potential role of the Commission?
3. How might a Commission be structured?
4. How would the Commission operate and how would it ensure accountability and restoration of our food system?

1. Why do we need a Food Commission?

An independent Food System Commission (FSC) is urgently needed to re-invigorate and re-direct energy into connecting what are currently separated policy spheres: Agriculture, nutrition, health, environment, education, and the economy. The Commission is needed to harness and build integrated policies that transcend political cycles and generate and promote capacities to create a sustainable food system fit for all. Current departmental approaches to food system-related policies miss opportunities to generate synergies with other policies; these synergies are necessary in order to generate the transformation of the food system required to deliver equitable food access - including Children’s right to food, healthy diets and biodiversity and carbon emission targets

To illustrate the complexity of the food policy landscape and the need for a Commission, we have mapped the issue of free school meals—as one critical area. The diagram below clearly shows that in order to integrate policy making around free school meals no less than six Ministerial portfolios would need to be considered; Education, Public Health, Economy, Local Government, Food/Environment and Social Security. The issue of free school meals is pressing - many children living in poverty aren’t currently eligible, children’s right to food is not being upheld, and educational and health inequalities are deepening. Meanwhile there is an untapped opportunity for our farmers, producers, supply chain and caterers to help supply local healthy food and prosper. And an opportunity is being wasted to develop world leading standards that protect our environment, our children’s health and provide a fair return to the whole supply chain; a need Welsh Government

rightly highlights in the Agricultural White Paper. In addition, there is an opportunity to inspire a new generation of food citizens, farmers, producers and restaurateurs.



There are many other untapped opportunities to re-gear our food policies such that they all go in the same direction - farm policies, rural development, horticultural development, trade and marketing.

As a result, The Food System Commission is urgently needed to respond to three interrelated challenges which need addressing **together**.

- a. **Covid and Brexit** have both combined to further expose what were already serious public health vulnerabilities in Wales. Diet-related non-communicable diseases and inequalities are a critical element of these. Currently (2021) we face conditions where these issues are likely to become worse rather than better unless we act in concert.
- b. **Wales' foundational food and farming economy** needs to be redirected to food and hospitality SMEs and farming businesses to provide economic, social and environmental benefits as they emerge from Covid disruptions and continue to respond to the changing context Brexit presents.
- c. **How does Wales deliver healthy, nutritious food for all** in the face of shrinking resources and uneven food provision, whilst addressing climate change and continued biodiversity loss.

These challenges cannot be addressed via individual departments working in silos, but need overarching vision and coordination. The Commission should be established to address these strategic questions, and find ways of collectively resolving them in an inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach consistent with its systems thinking.

2. What would be the role of the Commission?

Support Integrated Policy making:

An independent commission would allow for better and more concerted collaboration across the food sector, thereby supporting integrated policy making. It would enable better joining up of the different elements of the food system, enabling us to recognise the interdependencies of the system and allow cross sector delivery. It would also have the explicit aim of creating scale and infrastructure which could build upon current examples of good practice.

Scale up and out:

Cross sector delivery would help to address some of the early lessons from the Foundational Economy projects in needing to make sure different parts of the jigsaw of the food system connect so that practices can be effectively scaled out. One missing piece can mean a failure in delivery, perhaps providing the answer as to why success in this area has eluded Government to date.

Hold system to account:

The Commission would hold different parts of the system to account to make sure there is a progress against specific time-related targets and specific objectives (as outlined, for example, in the Food Policy Alliance manifesto² and the 'A Welsh Food System Fit For Future Generations' report³). Holding parts of the system to account would mean looking right across the food supply chain to make sure every part of the supply chain is pulling its weight. It would ensure we get the right behaviours throughout the system, from farmer level to procurement level through development of appropriate standards and ensuring sufficient resources are in place to regulate effectively. It would mean making sure that we have agroecological farming standards and practices across the whole of Wales, making sure that we have the right national infrastructure along-side local piloting to make sure projects can be scaled up. For example, this would mean local processing facilities that add value to Welsh agricultural produce are supporting a network of procurement-scale food hubs underpinned by sustainable food partnerships across the whole of Wales that aggregate and distribute sustainably produced local food. Ensuring procurement processes across Wales build in actualised environmental, social and economic value is key (further encouraging agroecological farming practices in Wales), and ensuring that we have support for a diverse and innovative supply chain that embraces new approaches such as Controlled Environment and Community Supported Agriculture.

Build capacity - within Government and outside:

The Commission would provide the government with the evidence against which it can make evidence-based decisions. It would allow Ministers to speak with authority on cross sector actions that need to be taken and to build an enviable reputation for food system thinking within a UK context. It would also recognise that it is not only Welsh Government actions that enable system change. The commission would need to engage with organisations and citizens, helping to build up

² https://www.foodsensewales.org.uk/app/uploads/2021/10/FPAC_English2021.pdf - see the 6 specific asks on page 2

³ [WWF Full Report Food Final 3.pdf](#) - see the 10 key themes on page 7

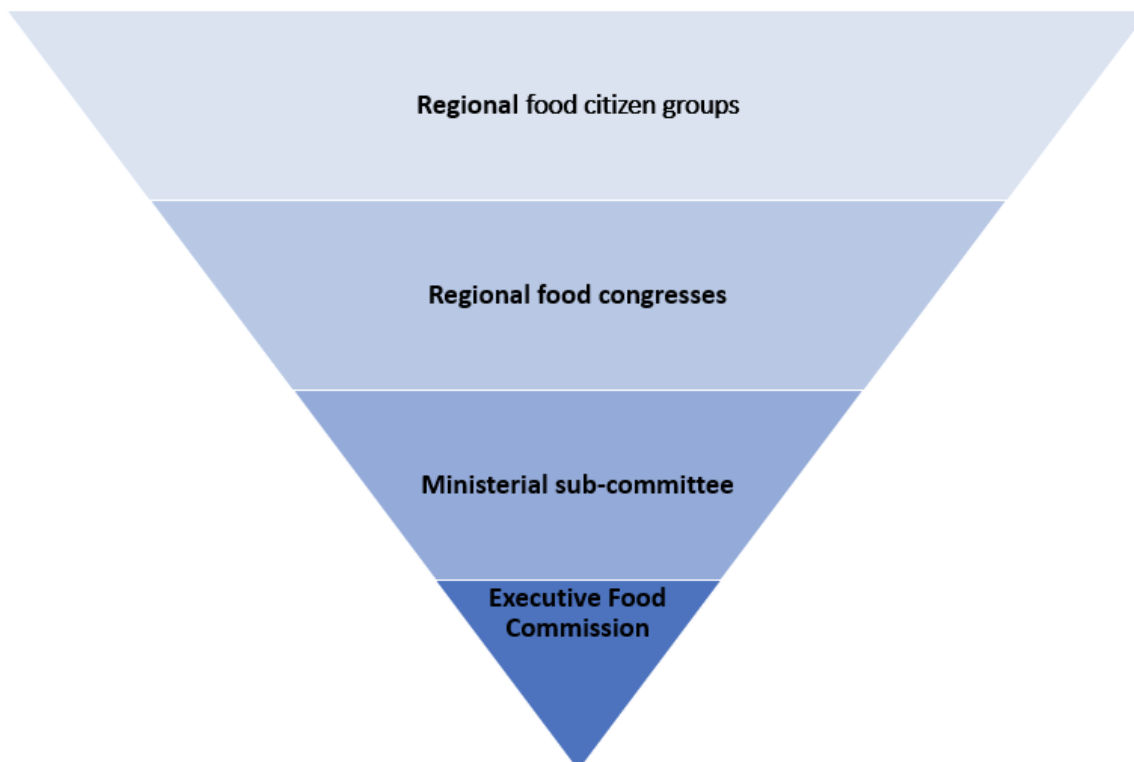
expertise and capacity across different food system actors to enable change. It would also need to operate within a UK context.

3. How might a Commission be structured?

In order to achieve a transformation in our food systems to deliver sustainable, healthy and accessible diets, it is critical to engage with all people living in Wales, initiating a journey from passive consumer to active food citizen. Such an approach embeds the five ways of working within the WCFG Act. To formally recognise this ambition, the structure of the Food Commission could be inverted, and rather than a traditional top-down approach to policy-making, it could follow a bottom-up approach. This would go much further than acting as a consultation process, and instead the Commission would extend its work regionally across Wales to food communities such as People's Food Assemblies, Sustainable Food Partnerships and cooperative organisations, producer and industry groups. These groups would be part of regional food policy congresses, to which the Food Commission is beholden: actions taken at the national-scale would first be approved by the regional food policy congresses. This is one way a commission could be structured:

a. Structure: an active 'four-way street' for Wales

- i. **Regional food citizen groups:** This is composed of citizen groups which may already be acting in this space and will form part of an ongoing process seeking to widen public engagement with local and national food policies and form the basis for building a national food system vision and action plan. One explicit aim for the citizen groups is to be inclusive by reaching out to those who are disengaged and/or represent disenfranchised or difficult to reach communities.
- ii. **Regional Food policy congresses:** made up of at least 20 representatives from the key food sectors: food businesses, farming (livestock, arable, horticulture), community and cooperatives, NGOs and local authorities/ health boards food industry reps). These would meet three times a year and would refine the input from the citizen juries by including mechanisms for delivering an action plan and corresponding vision. Membership would be renewed every two years and would be based on action plan targets.
- iii. **A Ministerial sub-committee** involving the key ministers, their senior officials and the Commission. The sub-committee must identify the key existing (including required amendments) and proposed new policies for delivering an agreed action plan.
- iv. **An Executive Commission** of members and a Commissioner reporting directly to Cabinet and the Welsh Parliament. Appointed and resourced by the Government. They are accountable to deliver on the action plan initiated by citizen juries and refined by regional food congresses and the Ministerial sub-committee.



4. How would the Commission operate and how would it ensure accountability in our food system?

Building an active National Food System Vision and corresponding Welsh food system strategies and policies from the ground up embodies the five ways of working and has the potential to deliver all seven of the Well-being goals of the WBFG Act. The Food Commission would be based upon innovation, democracy and getting things done in line with its explicit and transparent strategic priorities. As outlined above, it would have a structure and enabling architecture which empowers local and regional stakeholders to take a share in developing a National Food System Vision and strategic actions for realising the Vision. It seeks to build broad participation, integration of practice-based knowledge and priorities across regions, and collaboration across sectors.

a. How would it achieve these goals?

- i. **How it might operate:** Power within the structure for the Food Commission rests with all parties. The citizen juries have the power to build the vision for guiding food system policies. Regional food system stakeholders have the power to enable the vision by introducing mechanisms needed to realise the vision. The Food Commission sub-committee develops the policy to support those mechanisms and the Executive Food Commission has the power to enact the policy. However, they are accountable to the citizen juries and the regional congresses for enacting policy that delivers the action plan.
- ii. **Proposed principles for accountability:** Farm-to-fork accreditation mediated by a third-party organisation such as the Soil Association, similar to their Food for Life programme and further evaluated by the academic community. Accreditation will be based on a theory of change, with targets set by the Food System Action Plan.

Accreditation and evaluation will feedback progression towards Action Plan targets. If targets are not met, evaluation feedback will identify if changes are required in the action plan, the mechanisation of the action plan or the policies implemented (e.g. accreditation scheme with Soil Association, incorporating the role of the Future Generation Commissioner, given that the Food Commission is the embodiment of the WBFGEN Act). Accreditation of this kind would also provide the evidence base and platform needed for Government plans to develop “Brand Wales” through the Sustainable Brand Values work.

- iii. **Powers:** The Commission would need appropriate powers to hold individual actors and sections of the Welsh food system to account. In addition it would need appropriate powers to interact across the UK in collaborating and projecting Wales’ food policy to the wider (and currently changing UK polity, (e.g UK Trade and Farming Commission, DEFRA, FSA etc; in the context of the evolving Internal Market Bill and changing external trade arrangements) and report to Ministers and the Assembly on this. Appropriate powers are vital for success and this element of the Commission requires careful consideration
- iv. **Reporting:** The Food Commission would produce an independent (peer reviewed) annual reporting mechanism which would be delivered to WG and the Senedd. This would report on its achievements and future plans over a programmed 10 year period. It would be independent of electoral cycles, and it would connect directly to parallel processes like SoNNAr and the WBFGEN reviews.

5. Next steps

- a. Expert stakeholder interviews on best practices for successful commissions

There is expertise in the wider policy community on dynamics of previous commissions that has worked well. It is important that we draw from those experiences to build a robust process that can achieve Commission objectives.

- b. Wider stakeholder input and sense-checking

Proposal for a Food Commission shared with the wider food system stakeholder community for any further input for consideration before finalising implementation plan.