

POLICY BRIEFING: SECURING HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE FOOD IN EVERY COMMUNITY

WE HAVE THE SOLUTIONS



Introduction

Food partnerships bring together stakeholders from across the food system. From local authorities to community and voluntary sector organisations, to farmers and local businesses, they develop a shared vision for a more sustainable food future and coordinate the action necessary to make this vision a reality. By taking a whole system approach to food, food partnerships connect issues such as food poverty, ill-health, agriculture, food security, and climate change to develop cross-sector solutions that are transforming food and farming. Food partnerships can have multiple benefits ranging from:

- Building local resilience, prosperous food businesses, strong communities
- Improving public health and wellbeing
- Helping to tackle our climate and nature emergency
- Attracting investment, ensuring funds have impact and deliver on multiple policy goals

Current landscape

In the context of a recovering economy, alongside a persisting cost of living crisis and climate and nature emergency, innovative, replicable and locally relevant approaches to securing a healthy and sustainable food supply are critical. Food partnerships play a key role in delivering long-term solutions on food supply and access, ensuring collaboration and impactful action on food, while retaining a long-term focus on food system transformation. Enhanced support for and championing of food partnerships in Wales and Scotland is not matched in the other nations. We need a food partnership in every local authority.

Government calls to action:

- A funded and resourced food partnership in every local authority, alongside a food strategy endorsed by the council.
- A Good Food Bill in every nation (already in place in Scotland), underpinned by an independent body to champion action and scrutinise progress.

MP calls to action:

- Champion the cause of your food partnership and local food organisations in Parliament, including at debates, select committee hearings and elsewhere.
- Visit local food projects and enterprises to better understand the challenges faced by their constituents in accessing and providing healthy and sustainable food.
- Consult your food partnership as experts on locally powered solutions to challenges facing the UK.

About us

The Sustainable Food Places network is one of the fastest social movements in the UK. We are a growing movement of 114 food partnerships in cities and other places across the country. Through these cross-sector food partnerships, local authorities and other public bodies are working together with third sector, business and academic organisations to transform their local food system with the aim of improving public health and wellbeing; fostering community connection and resilience; building prosperous and diverse local food economies; and helping to tackle the critical sustainability issues of waste and the climate and nature emergency.

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Sustainable Food Places is a partnership programme coordinated by six leading national food charities: [the Soil Association](#), [Food Matters](#), [Sustain](#), [Food Sense Wales](#), [Nourish Scotland](#), and [Nourish Northern Ireland](#).

The hosts of this event are:

Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming, advocates food and agriculture policies and practices that enhance the health and welfare of people and animals, tackle climate change and restore nature, improve the living and working environment, enrich society and culture, and promote greater equality. It represents around 100 national public interest organisations, and cultivates the movement for change, working with many others at local, regional, national and international level.

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The Network gathering this year in Birmingham. Credit: Leora Bermeister