



The Implication of local planning and development policy for urban agriculture in Sheffield:

Growing a socially and environmentally just food system

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Produced in collaboration with the University of Sheffield, Regather and ShefFood



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Regather is a co-operative of local people working to improve food and build community in Sheffield. We run an organic farm, veg box scheme, and many other community projects.



ShefFood

ShefFood is a cross-sector partnership of organisations across the city formed of local public agencies, businesses, individuals, academic and community organisations committed to working together to create a more sustainable food system for Sheffield.



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Foreword

With food systems responsible for around one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions (Nature Food 2021) and with agriculture recognised as the biggest threat to the estimated 86% of plant and animal species at risk of extinction (Chatham House 2021), it is now clear that the way we produce our food urgently needs to change.

Despite this knowledge, government continues to fail at every level, from global to local, to establish the appropriate policy frameworks for food system transformation. For example, COP27 was billed as 'the food systems COP', but focused narrowly on supply side agriculture issues dominated by global agri-food corporations, and failed to adopt a holistic food systems approach to include issues such as food waste and loss, nutrition, sustainable diets and resilient supply chains. The UK Government's dismal response to Dimpleby's National Food Strategy report represents another missed opportunity, greeted with dismay and disappointment, failing to give the challenges of food security and sustainability the urgent response that is required if we are to provide affordable, safe and nutritious food for all while living within planetary limits.

The many examples of government failure, at home and abroad, reinforce the importance of local action and innovation if we are to make our food systems sustainable and fair. To achieve food security, "when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" (FAO 2009), we all urgently need to reflect on what we can do as individuals and communities to lessen the impact of the food that we eat on the natural world, to allow us to exist within the constraints defined by our Planet's limited resources. The COVID-19 crisis revealed the vulnerability of our food system, plunging people who never imagined that it would affect them into food insecurity, almost overnight. The global supply chains on which our current food system is based are fragile and this realisation has highlighted the need to develop our local and regional food production capacity to help mitigate these risks.

In 2022, Regather teamed up with the University of Sheffield's Institute for Sustainable Food to create a 'Local Food Systems Policy Accelerator' to develop evidence-based food system policy change in Sheffield. As part of the project, eight students were recruited to conduct original research into food system issues affecting Sheffield. The student researchers were asked to identify the mechanisms or 'levers for change' that can hasten the development of more sustainable food systems and infrastructure throughout Sheffield. They were given access to the assessment frameworks created



by Sustainable Food Places (SFP), to provide them with an insight into the multi-faceted world of food systems. SFP has previously granted Sheffield a Bronze Award, recognising the standards already achieved with the city. The work to achieve a Silver Award is underway, supported by the creation of Working Groups on specific subject areas within ShefFood, Sheffield's food partnership, and the creation of a Food Action Plan for Sheffield. This important work has in various ways been informed by the research undertaken and the evidence collected by the 'Local Food System Policy Accelerator' team.

We hope you find this report interesting and informative, and that you will join us in commending the student researchers responsible for making their time and effort available, and for contributing their skills and intellectual resources to tackling the critically important challenge of food system transformation.

Gareth Roberts, Co-Founder & Director of Regather

Professor Peter Jackson, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Food at the University of Sheffield



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1.0 Executive Summary

The following report has been commissioned by the Institute for Sustainable Food at the University of Sheffield in partnership with Regather. It is a combination of three reports, conducted by student researchers, which investigate the role of local planning and development policy with regards to urban and peri-urban agriculture (UA) and community greenspace (CGS) in Sheffield. The Moss Valley cluster is used as a localised case study to explore the potential for shorter, closed-loop food production chains immediately outside the urban setting. This report advocates for a food-sovereignty, or Community Wealth Building, approach with the aim of establishing and strengthening national, regional and local food networks that provide healthy, affordable, ecologically sound, and culturally diverse foods.

The first section explores the role of national and regional policies in guiding land-use planning and development in Sheffield to outline the current situation and highlight notable gaps. The subsequent review of key literature highlights several opportunities for the growth and development of UA in the study area. This is followed by a review of some examples of best practice in which cities and local authorities have successfully used policy as a tool to achieve positive social and environmental outcomes.

An in-depth case study focuses on an area of Sheffield called The Moss Valley, which has seen a recent growth in agroecological farming initiatives. The background and development of the region is outlined, followed by an appraisal of the key challenges faced by growers. The viability of replicating such a scheme in other areas of Sheffield is then considered.

The 'levers for change' section of this report suggests practical ways in which learnings and opportunities gained from the case studies and literature review could be acted upon to create a more successful and local sustainable food system. This includes an exploration of the importance of mapping and the potential role of GIS in creating an easily accessible record of land suitable for urban and peri-urban agriculture.

The following 'discussion and debate' section explores how real potential lies in making better connections between UA and activities such as waste and water management, environmental risk, public health and education, and viewing community greenspace as a tool to address the multiple challenges faced by the city. It argues that although CGS is not a prerequisite for UA (Mougeot, 2006), the development and protection of CGS is an important part of making our cities and food systems more resilient to different types of shocks that threaten the health and livelihoods of urban residents.

This report concludes that although Sheffield's existing public planning policies and frameworks go some way to recognising the benefits of UA, the majority do not make explicit connections between developments in UA and other policy goals. The lack of acknowledgement of UA as an official land use can be attributed to ingrained beliefs that characterise agriculture as something which happens in rural areas outside the boundaries of the city region. As such, many potential projects face the barrier of lack of secure tenure and limited financial support.

Issues surrounding land ownership and access are key questions for UA practitioners and arguably a main determinant of success for any scheme. It is therefore vital that any move to strengthen the potential of UA in Sheffield is supported by a robust and comprehensive policy framework. To grow a local food system that is socially and environmentally just, Sheffield must address the lack of clear land management policy and near complete omission of increasing land availability for urban and peri-urban agriculture in current planning policy. It is imperative that Local Authorities in the region do more to actively recognise the potential of UA and integrate a supportive UA development framework into future planning strategies, allowing Sheffield's residents to experience the full range of benefits that such activity can provide to both people and the planet.

2.0 Introduction

In January 2021 2.51% of the adult population in Sheffield were classed as hungry, with 8.1% struggling to access sufficient food and a further 11.43% experiencing worry around access to food (The Institute for Sustainable Food, 2021). This figure has doubtless increased in recent months with the sharp rise in fuel and food prices hitting those on tight budgets the hardest, a phenomenon reflected in the increased demand for food bank services in the city. Concurrently the number of people who are overweight and obese is also increasing, a stark indicator of health and social inequality (Rogers, 2020).

Over the past few decades it has become increasingly clear that reliance on conventional agriculture is destroying not only the environment, but also society's control over and connection to the food it consumes. In 2019 Sheffield City Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' and has recently set the ambitious target of achieving 'zero-carbon' by 2030. This goal will require a cumulative CO₂ emissions budget for the city of just 16 metric tonnes for the period of 2020 to 2100 (Arup, 2022). Given that the global food production contributes about 17.3 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year (Xu et al., 2021), there has never been a more important time to rethink the dominance of the current system and make room for a radically just and sustainable alternative.

Urban agriculture in Sheffield has a long history, with the first evidence of allotments dating back to 1712 when these spaces provided a crucial food source, as well as a place to escape from the harsh realities of life in the industrial city (Boulton, 2018). Over the course of the two World Wars urban agriculture was promoted as an important part of the war effort, and every family was encouraged to 'Dig for Victory', with many public parks being turned over to vegetable plots. In 1941 there were a total of 11,472 allotment plots in Sheffield, the highest at any one time (ibid. p. 116)

Although the popularity of gardening as a leisure activity declined in the late 20th century, it has experienced a resurgence in popularity in recent years which has been accelerated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and a growing public awareness of environmental issues (Evans and Davies, 2020). Many prominent urban development theorists and scientists advocate for urban agriculture as a sustainable solution to the problems faced by cities around the world and their inhabitants, and demand for allotments is now outstripping supply nationwide (Fletcher and Collins, 2020).

Several private and public organisations in Sheffield are highly active within the food, sustainability and environmental sectors, contributing to a dynamic and emergent local foodscape. A key network in the city is ShefFood, a cross-sector partnership of local public agencies, businesses, academic and community organisations. The city of Sheffield achieved a Bronze Sustainable Food Places award in 2021 in recognition of the work already being done within the city. ShefFood is now spearheading the Silver Award Campaign across six key areas:

1. Promoting healthy and sustainable food to the public
2. Tackling food poverty, diet-related ill health and access to affordable healthy food
3. Building community food knowledge, skills, resources and projects
4. Promoting a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy
5. Transforming catering and food procurement
6. Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system

2.1 Why does this subject matter?

The benefits of urban agriculture to city residents has been comprehensively reviewed by Duchemin et al. (2008) and Lovell et al. (2014), who underline numerous improvements in community and individual wellbeing amongst participants. Recent research by the University of Sussex has shown the value of urban agriculture for both increasing the food supply and improving the overall wellbeing of the population within an urban area (Nicholls et al., 2020). Dr Beth Nicholls, who lead the study, stated that:

*“In a world of increasing urbanisation in both the developing and developed worlds, producing food in and around cities has the potential to improve both nutritional and health outcomes, alleviate poverty and simultaneously provide habitat for wildlife and create sustainable cities.”
(Good To Grow, 2021)*

Currently only 1% of urban green spaces in the UK are used for food production, yet if we made better use of these spaces the UK could grow up to 8 times more fruit and vegetables, making up 38% of the produce eaten each year (Walsh et al, 2022). This would increase a city’s resilience to price shocks on the global market or other events that disrupt their fragile supply chains (Gulyas and Edmondson, 2021) while decreasing carbon emissions from the food transport industry.

The Climate Crisis is arguably the most pressing problem facing humanity in the 21st century, putting further pressure on global and local food systems (Nelson et al, 2016). The industrial food system requires expenditure of 10-15 calories to produce one calorie of food, contributing 22 percent of greenhouse gas emissions (McMichael et al. 2007). More than 1 in 10 of over 8,000 species assessed in the 2019 State of Nature Report are at risk of extinction - with 1 in 4 UK mammal species at threat of being lost (Hayhow et al., 2019).

Carbon sequestration is greater in urban agriculture plots compared to green spaces including parks and the carbon saving on food production adds to overall carbon reductions (Kulak et al., 2012). Further environmental benefits of local food production include improvements in soil health, biodiversity, flood protection and urban temperature control (Edmondson et al., 2020; Dennis et al., 2020).

Shorter food chains which are characterised by a reduction in distance between producer and consumer are more resilient to price shocks on the global market and are responsible for much lower emissions. Short food chains are more reactive to customer demand, leading to a reduction in waste, while keeping spending within a community is beneficial to the local economy generating more wealth and employment.

Mougeot (2006) also notes that community-based UA (such as increased allotment provision) is a method by which migrants assimilate their native culture with that of their host cities, allowing for the creation of meaningful connections amongst themselves and increasing the diversity to local culture. Different measures of immigration suggest that between 5,200 - 11,300 new long-term immigrants arrived in Sheffield in 2019, plus an additional 2,100 short-term migrants and 866 asylum-seekers (Migration Yorkshire, 2020). Projects to promote positive assimilation should therefore be high on the local agenda.

The development of UA has the potential to unite the two aims of achieving food justice and protecting the local environment by providing a source of nutritious fruit and vegetables in tandem with a host of ecological benefits. It is directly related to many of the United Nations SDGs, for example:

- Goal 2: Zero Hunger
- Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 15: Life on Land

Investment in UA therefore has the potential to promote the achievement of each goal listed and work in synergy with a range of other cross-disciplinary policy objectives.

3.0 Methods used in undertaking the review

This review relied primarily on Internet-based research, which was combined with personal knowledge and expert consultation. Google Maps was used to identify the location of existing green spaces, community organisations, and relevant businesses. Google Search engine then provided further information such as size, activities and contact details where possible.

The national-level policy frameworks were accessed through the central government's website (gov.uk), while local frameworks and strategies were accessed through the Sheffield council's website (sheffield.gov.uk).

StarPlus, The University of Sheffield's online database search engine, was used to find the academic papers and books reviewed and cited in this review. The search terms used were: 'community gardens', 'community greenspace', 'urban agriculture', 'urban food production' 'urban ecology' and 'sustainable cities'. Another online search tool called Connected Papers was then deployed to access related literature (connectedpapers.com).

4.0 Literature review

4.1 Policy planning frameworks

This part of the literature review summarises national and local level frameworks that guide development in Sheffield.

4.1.1 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021). National Policy Planning Framework.

Summary:

The Government requires that the National Planning Policy Framework is taken into account in the preparation of local plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The report states that the purpose of the planning system is to achieve sustainable development as delineated in the UN SDGs, therefore all plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development, with 3 overarching objectives:

1. Economic - to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy
2. Social - to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities
3. Environmental - to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment

This framework is divided into sections, each containing a set of guiding principles for planning policies and decisions in that target area. The chapters that are relevant to CGS and UA are outlined below:

Key points:

- 'Building a strong, competitive economy' is covered in paragraphs 81 - 85, with a recognition that 'Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt.' (p. 23)
 - a. 'Supporting a prosperous rural economy' is covered by paragraphs 84 and 85, with just one very brief mention of the need to enable 'the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses' and no mention of agriculture within urban areas.
- 'Promoting healthy and safe communities' is covered by paragraphs 92 to 103. This is particularly relevant to CGS provision as these spaces will help achieve the target of creating 'healthy, inclusive and safe places' which 'promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other'.
 - a. Paragraph 92 part c covers the need to 'enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs - for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.' (p 27)
- Paragraph 101 covers the designation of LGS and the ways it can be used to identify and protect natural areas of community importance.

- Paragraphs 119 - 125 cover the need to 'make effective use of land'. Paragraph 120 is particularly relevant to CGS, recognising the need to:
 - b. Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains - such as developments that would enable new habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside;
 - c. Recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production
 - d. Give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs, and support appropriate opportunities to remediate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land (p. 35)
- Paragraphs 153 - 169 contain recommendations with regards to mitigating and adapting to climate change and flood risk.
- Paragraphs 174 - 182 cover the need to conserve and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity. Part d of paragraph 180 states that: 'development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported' (p.52)

4.1.2 Sheffield City Council (2009). Sheffield Development Framework - Core Strategy

Summary:

The Core Strategy provides the overall spatial strategy for the City Council's Local Development Framework. It is intended to last until 2026 and sets out the overall spatial vision for the city and the relationships between areas within it, based around the recurring themes of transformation and sustainability. The Core Strategy contains policies that directly concern the amount of green and open space there is in the city, what it is used for and how accessible it is from where people live. Importantly, it provides the mechanism for protecting green and open space from built development.

The Core Strategy is developed around five areas:

1. Strong economy
2. Successful neighbourhoods
3. Inclusive, healthy communities
4. Great place to grow up
5. Environmental excellence

Part 1 of the strategy outlines the history of Sheffield's development, and lists 15 key challenges for the future. The spatial vision is detailed, with each goal comprising several objectives. Part 2 contains the spatial policies which set out how the vision will be enacted for the city as a whole and areas within.

UA is not explicitly mentioned in the framework, but many related issues surrounding sustainability and the development and management of CGS are covered. The most important policies are summarised below.

Key points:

- Policy CS45 - Quality and Accessibility of Open Space
 - This policy states that 'Safeguarding and improvement of open space will take priority over creation of new areas' and 'district parks and open spaces offer opportunities for a wide range of facilities without sacrificing too much accessibility and their facilities are more cost-effective than for a lot of small spaces'. This focus on developing existing large-scale green spaces may have implications for CGS creation which prioritises UA.

- Policy CS46 - Quantity of Open Space
 - This policy recognises that there may be circumstances for creating new open space in certain circumstances, such as:
 - » Where a quantitative shortage of open space per head of population is identified in the local area.
 - » Where it is required for extending the City's Green Network.
- Policy CS47 - Safeguarding Open Space
 - This policy acknowledges the importance of protecting the CGS already in existence, stating the intention to comply with national policies which presume against the building on open spaces unless the spaces are proved to be surplus to requirement.
- Policy CS48 - Open Spaces and Riversides in the City Centre
 - Point 9.27 is particularly important to CGS development. It recognises that 'There is a need to increase the amount of green space in the City Centre, reflecting the environmental objectives of the strategy, reinforcing the distinctive character of the city at its centre, encouraging wildlife and creating an agreeable place for the increased number of workers, visitors and residents to pause or relax. For City Centre living to be sustainable over the longer term, open space and a greener environment need to be created as an
 - integral part of new development'.

4.1.3 Sheffield City Council (2013). Sheffield Plan Consultation. City Policies and Sites - Pre-submission.

Summary:

The city's current Local Plan comprises the development plan documents drawn up under earlier regulations for the Sheffield Development Framework (2009) and saved policies from the Sheffield Unitary Development Plan (1998). The council is currently working towards the creation of a new plan for the City called the 'Sheffield Plan', which was promised by 2018 then subsequently delayed until 2023. The plan is now not expected to be in place until 2024. Without an up-to-date plan, the city is in a weaker position to defend unwanted development (Williams, 2021).

A local plan is the statutory development plan for the city which:

- Guides new development and helps protect the environment
- Provides basis for deciding planning applications
- Identifies and reserves land for development
- Supports economic growth and provides certainty for developers.

Key points:

- Chapter 2 of the Plan contains details of the Community Infrastructure Levy, which could represent an important source of funding CG projects.
- The policies in Chapter 4 (Attractive and Sustainable Neighbourhoods) relate towards the creation of 'Lifetime Neighbourhoods'. These are safe places which offer everyone the best possible chances of health, well-being and social, economic and community involvement, regardless of their age, gender, culture or disability.
- Chapter 7 (Global Environment and Natural Resources) recognises the need support initiatives which:
 - mitigate and adapt to climate change
 - design developments to reduce emissions and use resources sustainably
 - generate renewable or low-carbon energy.

- Chapter 8 (Green Environment) sets out the vision for Sheffield as a city which prizes, protects and enhances its natural environment. Conservation of the natural environment is seen as a significant part of the City's response to the challenges of climate change. The development management process is acknowledged as a key player in this. According to this chapter, specific policy guidance for the city is needed to apply the more general national policies and the objectives of the Core Strategy.

4.2 Reports and strategies

This section outlines some key reports produced by the local authority and other external stakeholders.

4.2.1 ARUP Pathways to Zero Carbon in Sheffield

Summary:

This report was developed in collaboration with the Council to act as a pragmatic 'route map' to net zero carbon emissions in Sheffield. It recognizes the role of the Council as both a facilitator and leader in achieving this goal, and the need to act with considerable urgency to prevent further irreparable damage to the environment and ecosystems.

Over 80 recommended actions are set out for the Council, city-wide stakeholders and central government. Ten clear prioritised actions are highlighted with the intention of engaging the city and catalysing a step-change in how Sheffield approaches its commitment to its zero carbon target.

In order to achieve 'zero carbon' status (classed as a 95% reduction in emissions from the 2017 benchmark) the report focuses on 5 key sectors/ areas, with a set of framework targets in each area.

- Domestic
- Commercial and industrial
- Transport
- Energy
- Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

This framework is divided into sections, each containing a set of guiding principles for planning policies and decisions in that target area. The chapters that are relevant to CGS and UA are outlined below:

Key points:

- The report contains no explicit consideration of the role of food production or farming in achieving carbon emission reduction targets.
- The LULUCF section states that 'the main ways in which LULUCF can contribute to achievement of Sheffield's target of zero carbon by 2030 are through extensive expansion of tree cover and restoration of peatlands'.
- Targets in this area are mainly focussed around ambitious reforestation with some attempt at habitat restoration with the goal of carbon sequestration. Private landowners are seen as holding the most responsibility for these actions.
- The report states that the contribution of LULUCF to achieving zero carbon by 2030 will be small, and concludes that 'The potential for practical accountable carbon emissions reductions from nature-based solutions... is relatively limited when compared to other solutions.' (p.79)
- Overall, technocentric approaches towards energy efficiency are prioritised

4.2.2 Sheffield City Council. The Sheffield Food Strategy 2014-2017

Summary:

The Sheffield Food Strategy is the second such strategy for the city, reflecting a significant change in the role of the council which has come about as the result of cuts to public spending since the publication of the original Sheffield Food Plan in 2011. The Sheffield City Council now defines its role as an 'enabler', developing networks and changing policy. This strategy outlines the ways in which Sheffield can address three core outcome with regards to food:

1. Environmental sustainability
2. Improved health and wellbeing
3. A strong economy

Key points:

- In the three-year goals section, Section D (to encourage more people to learn about and get involved in growing their own food) is particularly relevant to community greenspaces.
- Sheffield City Council recognises that 'there is the opportunity to do more' with regards to the provision of allotments, stating that:

'in some parts of the city it is difficult to let plots and in other parts of the city there are waiting lists. In addition Sheffield City Council has access to other parcels of land, around housing and schools or within parks that offer the potential for growing food and/or orchards.'

- The report then goes on to acknowledge that:

'There are a growing number of projects and enthusiasts in the city engaged in growing food locally and who share both their passion and skills with others. However, many such projects are reliant on external and often short-term funding which may impact on activity levels in the near future. The city council's objectives in relation to this will be to actively seek to develop programmes in a sustainable way that add value and maximise both health and other outcomes.'

- Possible areas for action such as 'bring neighbourhoods together around food', 'further develop local food systems' and 'influence local policy to maximise opportunities for urban growing' are disappointingly vague and without specificities, falling short of any concrete commitments.

4.2.3 Sheffield City Council Food and Wellbeing Strategy 2018

Summary:

This strategy was developed to tackle rising levels of dietary-related ill health and growing inequalities surrounding the issue of food justice within the city. The strategy advocates for a 'whole systems' approach to improving dietary behaviours, which considers a broad range of environmental drivers of poor diet. The themes running through the strategy are:

1. The need to transform the food environment
2. The need to provide services and support
3. Families as the focus of intervention
4. An emphasis on reducing inequalities
5. A focus on sugar

CGS provision and the transformation of food systems through UA will support improvements across all of these themes, and should therefore be considered an integral tool for achieving the project aims. Several of the action points proposed in this strategy offer great potential for CGS development, namely the commitment to support use of council owned green space for urban agriculture and to support community ventures that increase access to fresh food. This strategy also contains a pledge to influence national policy and strengthen local government place-shaping powers.

The main failing of this strategy is in the way that its impact will be measured. An extremely narrow set of indicators is proposed, namely:

- Levels of obesity in children living in the 20% most deprived areas of Sheffield
- Oral health of children living in the 20% most deprived areas of Sheffield.
- Levels of obesity in adults living in the 20% most deprived areas of Sheffield

This exclusive focus on weight and oral health, although important, completely misses the myriad of other aspects of mental and physical wellbeing that can be provided by fair and sustainable food systems. Failing to recognise these other aspects is a missed opportunity and considerably narrows the scope of the strategy.

Key points:

- National policy shapes local food systems, e.g. through the impact of austerity measures, welfare reform and Brexit. There is the need to consider the implications of national policy when designing local-level plans.
- For the strategy to be effective there will need to be a cross council call to action to
- ensure that food and obesity is considered within a wide range of strategies and service areas.
- The main actions that the council propose to take with regards to CGS provision are as follows:
 1. Develop healthy food and drink policy for the council and public sector
 - Support use of council owned green space for urban agriculture and vacant council owned premises for initiatives such as social supermarkets and community eating spaces.
 2. Create a better food environment by supporting businesses and organisations to improve their food offer.
 3. Deliver mass media and marketing campaigns to change dietary behaviours with a specific focus on sugar reduction.
 4. Develop and/or pilot initiatives to increase access to healthy food for those experiencing food poverty.
 - Support for community ventures that increase access to fresh food, for example social supermarkets and cafes, community meals and pantries and lunch clubs.
 5. Support individuals to improve their diet and achieve/maintain a healthy weight.
 6. Influence national policy where this could support us in meeting our targets
 - Strengthen local government place shaping powers to enable them to more effectively improve their local food environments.

4.2.4 Sheffield City Council. Sheffield’s Great Outdoors: Green and Open Space Strategy 2010-2030.

Summary:

This city-level strategy offers a great deal of potential for UA practitioners as CGS provision for the purpose of food production can be directly linked to a large number of policy objectives. It is one of the only reports to officially acknowledge allotments, community gardens and urban farms as legitimate land uses, but could do more to link CGS with food, employment and education policy.

The Sheffield Green and Open Space Strategy supports the Local Development Framework by providing a 20-year cross-sectoral framework for the planning, management and improvement of all different types of green and open spaces. Not just restricted to CGS, this strategy also covers privately-owned spaces. Allotments, community gardens and urban farms are explicitly classified as one of seven types of Green Spaces considered within the strategy. They are defined as ‘Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion’.

The aim of the strategy is strongly related to the concept of SD and focused on both the quality and equality of GS provision. The vision broadly translates into three main themes of ‘People’, ‘Places’, ‘Environment and Sustainability’ which are all related to the cross-cutting theme of ‘Quality Management’.

Key points:

- Principal long-term outcomes:
 - Improvements in the safety and quality of CGS
 - Increased community participation in the management of CGS
 - A city which contributes to the management of climate change and the conservation of biodiversity.
 - Establishing Sheffield as a centre of excellence for CGS management.
- The strategy sets out the main methods through which its objectives will be achieved.
 - Through the setting and implementation of quality standards
 - Collaborative working involving multiple stakeholders
 - By combining resources in a planned approach to projects and investment.
 - Identifying opportunities to manage sustainably, bringing in income and managing resources for the long term.
- The strategy acknowledges that its remit overlaps with other local and national strategies. The related policies and strategies listed include Environment Strategy, Culture Strategy, Carbon Reduction Strategy, and Physical Activity Strategy, however no direct links are drawn between GS management and food, agriculture or education policy.
- Policies which are directly related to the development of CGS for UA are listed:

PP H1	Promote the wider use of green and open spaces by all sectors for the benefit of physical and mental health.
PP E3	Provide environmental education, practical skills training and opportunities for maintenance of green spaces to young people and the wider community.
PP D1	Develop the type of green and open spaces that can become thriving centres for community activity in each area

PP C2	Develop volunteering as a significant element of the management, development and maintenance of green and open spaces.
PL E3	Encourage business and partnership opportunities with respect to sustainable and productive land-use - forestry, moorland estates, agriculture, waterways and renewable energy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piloting income generation opportunities within green and open space by 2020. • Developing productive land-use operations as pilot businesses by 2026.
ENV C3	Plan and manage the collective contribution of Sheffield's green and open space network, as part of the citywide strategic response to Climate Change.
ENV W2	Manage all public spaces, where appropriate, to protect and enhance their potential value for wildlife and habitats.

4.2.5 Shub, M. (2020) 'How Can Local Enterprise Partnerships put better food and farming at the heart of economic recovery?' Sustain.

Summary:

This report was written by researchers to increase the understanding of Sustain and Sustainable Food Places members on how Local Enterprise Partnerships operate, and how best to get better food and farming into their priorities.

LEPs are strategic bodies that were set up by the government in 2011 as a way of channelling infrastructure investment that could promote 'a business-led and more locally responsive agenda'. The role of these bodies has expanded in the wake of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic, with a £900m investment announced in July 2020 to go through LEPs.

At present the report claims that the ability of LEPs to harness the potential of local food systems as a lever for socio-economic and environmental change has not been realised. Food and farming get little specific focus except in cases where an LEP has set up specific Defra-led Food Enterprise Zones. Sustain argues that 'values led' food, farming and fishing should be recognised by LEPs as a key way of achieving multiple objectives.

Key points:

- By 'values led' the authors refer to:

'Infrastructure and enterprises that are low-carbon, nature-friendly, fair, inclusive, resilient and prosperous by design.' (p1)

- Characteristics of values-led food that specifically relate to community greenspace and UA include 'agro-ecological farming that restores, and does not deplete, natural resources and biodiversity' and 'production and distribution infrastructure... that support both local agro-ecological farmers and diverse local customers (including those on lower incomes), enabling more money and fresh, high-quality food to circulate in the local food economy' (p1-2).

- The report identifies several challenges facing LEPS. The implication of these challenges for community greenspace development has been highlighted.
 1. Lack of resources and staff
 - The necessary expertise needed to set up UA projects may not be readily available.
 2. Pressure to spend funding allocation within the year
 - This creates a risk that short-term projects are favoured over those which offer the longer-term benefits typically associated with UA.
 3. Lack of cooperation with the private sector.
 - This cooperation is needed to secure land and additional resources.
 4. No specific quantifiable objectives.
 - This will make it difficult to assess and measure the progress of community greenspace projects.
 5. Over emphasis on industrial development, transportation infrastructure and house building.
 - Food and farming get little specific focus, limiting the potential for community greenspace development.
- The report finishes with several recommendations for LEPS to support and harness the potential to deliver more sustainable, equitable economic growth and jobs through food and farming. These include:
 1. Invite local businesses leaders and local food partnerships to join LEPS.
 2. Raise awareness of the funding available.
 3. Provide start-up and training tools to support new initiatives.
 4. Plan for infrastructure that supports local trading systems.
 5. Increase transparency and accountability.
 6. Ensure the availability of grants for businesses and organisations.

4.2.6 Campaign to Protect Rural England (2022) Local Green Space Report. CPRE February 2022.

Summary:

This report outlines the role of the Local Green Space (LGS) designation, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), as a planning policy tool which can provide legal protection to CG thereby improving public access to nature in urban areas and maximising the potential impact of UA initiatives.

The LGS designation is a unique tool which has already protected 6,515 spaces across England since 2012. However there is the potential for thousands more to be included. The report argues that 'in order to maximise the role of the LGS designation in protecting people and nature's wellbeing and in fighting climate change, central government urgently needs to both clarify the criteria for LGS designation and target resources to encourage its use for levelling up' (p3).

Key points:

- To maximise the role of LGS designation, central government should:
 1. Retain, reinforce and further support neighbourhood planning, especially in the north of England and in urban areas where inequalities in greenspace access exist .
 2. Encourage local planning authorities to promote and maximise the use of the LGS designation as a means to support local strategic policy aims and to boost public participation in local development plan preparations.
 3. Introduce compulsory standards for access to nature into planning law and policy and add an indicator on access to nature to the Index of Multiple Deprivation to facilitate targeted support and level up access to nature for all people.
 4. Expand the list of possible reasons for local significance cited in the NPPF. Current criteria by which land is judged to be demonstrably special to a local community' are:
 - a. Beauty
 - b. Historical significance
 - c. Recreational value
 - d. Tranquillity
 - e. Wildlife
 - f. Other
 5. Clarify what evidence is needed for land to be designated as Local Green Space.
 6. Amend NPPF policies to ensure that the categories of development deemed appropriate on LGSs are more suitable to their scale than those defined in Green Belt management policies.

4.3 Academic literature

4.3.1 Gulyas, B. Z., & Edmondson, J. L. (2021). Increasing city resilience through urban agriculture: Challenges and solutions in the global north

Summary:

This recent article was authored by academics from the University of Sheffield, who are both prominent experts in the field of urban agriculture. Consequently the paper contains many useful insights and recommendations that are applicable to this project. Gulyas and Edmondson develop the concept of city resilience and examine the role of UA in building the capacity of cities to cope with environmental and socio-economic disturbance. They then go on to outline the key factors which determine the success of a UA project and the main challenges associated with each factor, before concluding with some directions for policy and practice.

Key points:

- The success of UA in achieving this objective is determined by five factors:
 1. Scale (not just the presence of physical space but its availability for potential growers)
 2. Efficiency of production
 3. Integration with other urban systems (such as waste management, health and education)
 4. Inclusivity (access to green space is often distributed unequally)
 5. Human and environmental safety (issues of contamination must be considered)

- These factors are dependent on:
 1. Institutional and public support for UA (support from authorities and local communities is key here)
 2. The presence of a sufficient knowledge base (lack of quantitative data to prove benefits of UA often proves a barrier to new projects)
 3. Communication and collaboration among different actors (including researchers, policy-makers, different municipal departments and local communities)
 4. Resourcefulness in finding alternative ways to use space and resources efficiently
- Directions for policy and practice
 1. Cities need to recognise UA as a valid and important land use category.
 2. There is a need for better integration among sectors and initiatives.
 3. Local governments should improve access to growing space and increase support for stakeholder-led innovation, community farming, and education projects.
 4. Each project should design locally appropriate measures based on a holistic consideration of the environmental, economic, and social setting.

4.3.2 Mougeot, L. (2006) Growing Better Cities.

Summary:

This short book, published by the IDRC, highlights the benefits of including UA as a fundamental part of urban development strategy. It then goes on to address some of the issues associated with UA and outline five key principles for future projects. Although it is primarily focused on cities in the Global South, the principles covered are universally applicable and some case studies in the Global North are also considered.

Key points:

- UA alone will not solve the destructive ecological footprint of cities, but has the potential to reduce the negative environmental impacts by:
 1. Making productive use of organic waste.
 2. Contributing to the greening of the city.
 3. Improving air quality and biodiversity.
 4. Increasing the availability of fresh produce.
- The issue of urban land quality and the possibility of land contamination must be considered, especially when brownfield sites are being used.
- Questions that need to be answered:
 - What policies and technology offer the best tools to increase food security?
 - What is the best balance of crops and livestock?
 - What is the influence of gender?
 - What is the best tenure arrangement to ensure equitable access to urban space and prevent the exclusion of minority/ disadvantaged groups?
 - » What is the role of biodiversity and GMOs?
- What innovative forms of credit can be made available to assist urban producers?. Need to determine the best tenure arrangements to ensure equitable access to urban space in a way that does not further marginalise disadvantaged groups. Policies surrounding urban land use should make a conscious attempt to distribute land fairly across all sectors of society.

- Land ownership, who can use it, who has access to it and how secure it is are key questions for practitioners, planners and policy makers alike.
 - Predictability is important as people are unlikely to invest time and resources if they are afraid that they will be evicted from the land before harvest time.
 - Security of tenure is seen as more important than land ownership.
- Space is more critical than land. A great deal of production can take place on roof tops, walls, fences, sheds and window boxes if the right production system is in place. This may require the revision of building codes and regulations by city planners. It is important to build bridges which enable urban farmers to be heard in official and policy circles and gain better access to resources. The most robust policies are developed through the participation of a diverse range of stakeholders and multidisciplinary experts.
- When forming policies local councils should start with the question 'what can UA do for my city?' (as opposed to 'what can my city do for UA?'). The real potential lies in making better connections between UA and activities such as waste and water management, environmental risk, public health and education, and viewing community greenspace as a tool to address the multiple challenges faced by the city.
- UA should be integrated into urban management systems which support and value UA as an integral part of urban development.

4.3.3 Lutz, J. and Schachinger, J. (2013) 'Do local food networks foster socio-ecological transitions towards food sovereignty? Learning from real place experiences'

Summary:

This paper starts with the acknowledgement that traditional agriculture and food production systems are both environmentally and socially harmful. It then goes on to claim that organic production alone is not enough to make the food system sustainable. Food should not only be environmentally-friendly but also locally and fairly produced, sourced, distributed, and consumed. Local food networks initially form and develop in local niches within a given food regime. They induce socio-ecological changes on the local level and as they become more clustered and abundant they have the potential to foster wider transformations of the dominant food regime.

In recent times the local food movement has been co-opted by supermarkets creating a shift towards "green capitalism". In response to this, social movements such as Via Campesina have begun to introduce the concept of food sovereignty - "the right of nations and peoples to control their own food system, including their own markets, production modes, food cultures and environments" (Wittman et al., 2010). Food sovereignty focuses on the people who produce, distribute, and consume food. The idea is to establish and strengthen national, regional and local food networks that provide healthy, affordable, ecologically sound, and culturally diverse foods.

The paper then goes on to describe a detailed case study of the SpeiseLokal food hub, an Austrian local food network. Their research allowed the authors to uncover a number of critical points of intersection between local food networks as niche-innovations, the dominant food regime and the wider socio-economic landscape. These intersections impact negatively on local food networks, making them struggle to perform in accordance with the principles and aims of food sovereignty. Despite recognising these difficulties the authors conclude that "local food networks such as SpeiseLokal do in many way induce discursive and behavioural changes at the micro level as they open up new (local) pathways for consumers, producers, and retailers" (p.4792) and that these changes in discourse serve the goals of environmental sustainability and food sovereignty in numerous ways.

Key points:

Barriers to the development and up-scaling of local food networks:

1. Lack of control over labour costs and the volatility of food, energy and land prices.
2. Regime inherent and landscape-induced market dynamics and legal structures.
3. Lack of incentives and training for existing farmers to join local food networks and set up new forms of relationships with each other and with consumers.
4. A focus on large-scale and resource-intensive methods which hinders the development of small-scale technologies and production processes.
5. Lack of education combined with the hegemony of supermarkets and culturally-dominant shopping and cooking practices make it difficult for local food to reach 'normal' consumers.
6. Dominant labour-structures which make it difficult for people to comply with the aims and requirements of local food networks.

5.0 National and International case studies

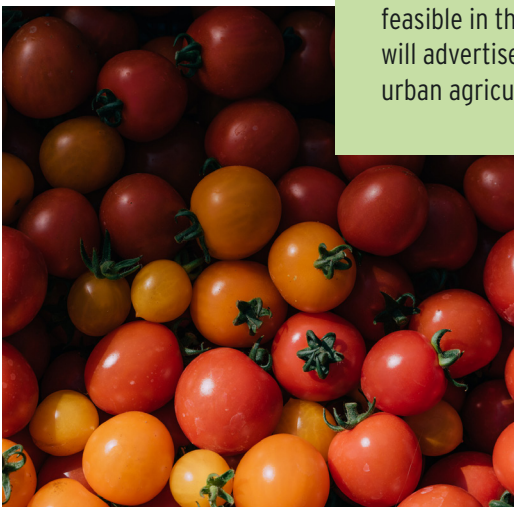
5.1 Brighton

Brighton, a leader on prioritising urban agriculture into planning and policy, produced a planning advisory note (PAN) advising on integration and requirements of new developments including suggestions of plants that may be used to contribute towards UA. It places sustainability at the centre of its policy, stipulating that the council promotes and supports access to healthier lifestyles including access to healthy food and that planning will contribute to this city-wide objective by recognising, safeguarding and encouraging the role of allotments; garden plots within developments; small scale agriculture and farmers markets in providing access to healthy, affordable locally produced food options.

Brighton and Hove Food Strategy

Running from 2018 to 2023, this plan focuses on the alliance of 50+ collaborators to create a city where the inhabitants can eat healthy food from sustainable sources. Key points from the strategy include a commitment to 'Ensure access to community gardening and other food growing opportunities' (p.33) and to 'Take a holistic approach to improve sustainability and security in food production across the urban, rural and marine environments' (p.35) and 'Encourage urban food production' (p.36).

Brighton has been awarded the gold standard in Sustainable Food Places awards and details on making grade 1 and 2 land available are less focused on mapping and instead reliant on community garden expansion. This alternative interpretation of the criteria in part enabled gold standard and could also be used in the Sheffield bid for silver if mapping the land is not feasible in the time given. The silver application does, however, state that community farms will advertise short and mid term lets of council owned land for sustainable urban and peri-urban agricultural use - something that could be replicated in Sheffield.



5.2 Glasgow

Glasgow City Food Plan 2021-2031

The **Glasgow City Food Plan**, made in conjunction with the “Let’s Grow Together” campaign by the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership is a long term 10-year plan with the aim to provide “tasty, healthy and affordable food for everyone and to make a resilient food system”. The partnership has also signed the **Milan Urban food policy pact**, a set of 44 aims “to develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, that minimise waste and conserve biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change”.

In this report, a number of short and medium term plans are prioritised in an implementation plan with the aim of improving food security in Glasgow. The focus community food specifically is suited to improving land access for growing, stipulating that efforts should be underpinned by agroecological principles. In this, working with the city council through the City Councils Food Growing Strategy to ensure community growing space is prioritised, whilst the potential of peri-urban, vertical and urban agriculture is encouraged.

Let’s Grow Together Campaign

The Glasgow Food Policy Partnership has also produced the food growing strategy: ‘**Let’s Grow Together**’ in collaboration with private, public and third sectors who share a common interest in food systems within Glasgow. The programme has been developed to provide affordable food through creating a resilient food system and is aimed at community members rather than policy from an LA. It does mention the potential for collaborations with local councils but is primarily targeted at empowering the local city dwellers and supporting current community growing provision. It is also written to meet the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Community consultations such as Glasgow’s “Glasgow Allotments Say” were used to understand public opinion and demand on proceedings, giving structure to priorities. Focuses included:

- access to land
- identifying growing space
- providing access to community support
- access to growing advice
- access to funding
- advice on **gaining planning permissions**

This model provides a Glaswegian-centric action guide on how to access land and begin accruing funding and permissions to use the land. It also sets out priorities for the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership to progress through its aims, with a review every 5 years.



5.3 Lambeth Plots

The Lambeth local community worked with ARUP (a British multinational professional services firm) to create a **map of available suitable land** for community growing projects named the 'Lambeth Plots' (figure 2). This is an open source map of potential growing spaces and in-practice gardens. Accompanied by advice on creating food growing projects on LA land, it further qualifies the land condition and, in some cases, accompanying pictures.

This data has been collated in collaboration with ARUP and Incredible Edible Lambeth with food growing expertise given by members of the community attached to location data. Crucially, this is also open to community contributions so the project can continue to develop as land may be discovered as well as places it in the hands of the public.



5.4 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. 2018.

Milan is an example of a modern metropolis that has foregrounded sustainable food production and consumption through the Milan Food Policy, an innovative planning strategy integrating and implementing a food system throughout the city. Through various innovative tools and methods, including the establishment of the Metropolitan Food Council and monitoring framework, the policy aims to provide permanent and reliable access to adequate, safe, local diversified, fair, healthy and nutrient-rich food for all citizens.

The City of Milan developed The Milan Food Policy in partnership with the Cariplo Foundation after signing a Memorandum of Understanding in 2014 to implement and promote the initiative. The first Vice Mayor of Milan established an office dedicated to the implementation of the initiative and a set of indicators from the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) tool were used to start the evaluation of impacts on the Milan food system. The initiative is based on an integrated cross-sectoral approach between public agencies, social organisations, and the private sector, and is the result of growing awareness among relevant actors and civil society of the challenges presented by climate change and the need for responsible management of resources.

In 2015 the Milan City Council voted to adopt the “Milan Food Policy Guidelines” which established 5 priorities of the municipal food strategy:

1. provision of healthy food and water for all citizens;
2. promote the sustainability of the food system;
3. promote food education;
4. fight against food waste;
5. support scientific research in the agri-food sector.

The project is growing and has approximately 40 ongoing initiatives including:

- A reduction on waste tax for businesses who donate food waste to charities.
- Connection between the school canteens public procurement system and the supply chain of rice produced by farmers of the Agricultural District of Milan. The result of this experience has increased scalability by including a further 19 horticultural farms in the school canteens public procurement system.
- The establishment of an international pact on urban food policies - Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP). MUFPP involves 175 cities around the world and an advisory group of international institutions and foundations. MUFPP cities believe that urban food systems are at the core of sustainable development and that the Pact and its framework for action represent a unique platform to support coordinated food policies and foster urban-rural linkages.



5.5 Toronto Food Policy Council

The Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) is a citizen body of food activists and experts that was formed in 1991 as a sub-committee of the city's board of health. The 30-member council is responsible for generating food policy for the City of Toronto government, acting as a lobbyist for the people on food and related issues (Friedmann, 2007).

Widely regarded as one of the most effective food policy councils in North America (Morgan, 2014), the council has a broad remit that covers issues including:

- Environmental health
- Food justice
- Nutrition
- Land-use planning
- Community gardening

The TFPC brings together diverse people from different sectors with the aim of promoting food system innovation and facilitating food policy development.

TFPC were instrumental in the development of the food strategy for Toronto. Published in 2010 and titled: *Cultivating Food Connections: Toward a Healthy and Sustainable Food System for Toronto*, the strategy proposes a new vision for Toronto, one that unites health and city building. The report lays out numerous opportunities for Toronto to champion food systems renewal, calling for food system initiatives to be embedded in the policies and programmes of all City Divisions, Agencies, Board and Commissions.

One organisation supported by the council is **Greenest City**, a project that has set up several community gardens around the Parkdale neighbourhood. One such garden is the Milky Way Garden which was established on a plot of unused land behind the public library. In late August 2017 the Milky Way Garden land was purchased, representing the first time in the city of Toronto that land had been purchased for community good. A purpose-built growing space and community hub was designed which expanded Greenest City's capacity to support urban agriculture development in existing and new developments in the neighbourhood (Greenest City)

Another initiative supported by the TFPC are weekly **Good Food Markets** selling high-quality, seasonal, local produce in neighbourhoods where it might not otherwise be available or accessible to residents. The markets are logistically supported by an organisation called FoodShare, who partner with local communities and producers (FoodShare).

The Carrot Green Rooftop Garden is a CGS in Toronto, located above The Big Carrot Community Market to the east of downtown. The rooftop is an 8000 square foot area that incorporates vegetable production, garden exhibits and a place for meeting and socialising. It is an example of the many UA projects that utilise unconventional growing spaces around the city, benefitting from the support of the TFPC and local planners.



6.0 Localised case study: The Moss Valley Cluster

6.1 Introduction

The Moss Valley is a 10km² area in the South of Sheffield which represents a localised example of the development of a landscape-scale approach to building climate and food resilience.

The patchwork landscape that surrounds the Moss River encompasses a large number of habitat types and supports a richness of biodiversity. Multiple locations in the Moss Valley have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest by English Nature. At the end of the 2000's there were 11 farms identified in a 7km² area between the ring road, the Moss Brook and the village of Ford. The enterprises that will be discussed in this case study exist on fields that were previously part of Hazelhurst Farm. These enterprises are located on land currently owned by Sheffield Organic Growers (SOGS) and by Friend's Field Ltd. rented by Regather Farm.

With more land in the valley likely to become available in the future, there is great potential here to build on the existing cluster of agroecological activity. This case study also provides the opportunity to transfer learning to other parts of the city, allowing replication of resultant environmental, ecological, social and economic benefits through the development of similar clusters in areas surrounding Sheffield.

6.2 History of the site

Hazelhurst Farm

The use of intensive farming practices on this mixed pasture and horticulture site post-WW2 resulted in considerable soil degradation and damage to surrounding habitats. As they approached retirement with an increasing desire to rehabilitant the landscape, owners John and Aubrey Rose established relationships with community groups from the Sheffield area who were promoting plans to transition part of the farm to agroecological agriculture and horticulture.

Hazelhurst Fruitery

The first new enterprise to exist on this land was the Hazelhurst Fruitery set up by Huw Evans. In 2010 Huw bought a three acre plot with the aim of establishing an orchard and another nine acre field to be divided into four plots and rented to other growers. Initial planting focused on soil remediation and improving drainage, and in the winter 2010/11 350 fruit trees were planted, including some pears and plums, although mostly apples. Polytunnels, a borehole, a barn, and two ponds were constructed on the land.

Hazelhurst Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

The Hazelhurst CSA arose from the Heeley and Meersbrook branch of the Transition Towns movement, formed in 2007, with the aim to:

“...reconnect people with where their food comes from, by growing organic fruit and vegetables... [Running] a veg box scheme, selling to local people to provide a direct link between the production and consumption of food, and create a mutually supportive relationship between local growers and local communities.”

Another important catalyst in the development of Hazelhurst CSA was the Making Local Food Work (MLFW) programme, which began in 2007 and ran for five years. This programme successfully delivered and supported a wide range of capacity building initiatives in Sheffield including a series of community development workshops. These workshops enabled a large number of community food activists to meet, share ambitions and access specialist training and resources to support the development of community food enterprises.

When the Hazelhurst CSA began looking for growing sites Huw offered to lease them a plot on his land, along with the use of a polytunnel. The remaining plots went on to be occupied by Huw himself, alongside other enterprises. The first veg-share was produced in the summer of 2012. The CSA offered three sizes of shares on a weekly basis in a veg-bag. At its height there were 40 vegetable-share subscribers within the CSA, however the venture was ultimately financially unsustainable. In 2017 the Hazelhurst CSA as a co-op came to an end and reformed as a worker-led CSA.

6.3 Present site usage

Sheffield Organic Growers

Sheffield Organic Growers (SOGs) is the umbrella name for the whole site and the four independent businesses that are currently found here. The site comprises three fields, the first being the nine-acre market garden, the second being the orchard, and the final site being a seven-acre 'new field' currently undergoing organic conversion.

The market garden plots are allocated as follows:

1. Cultivated by Nick Johnson trading as SOGS
2. Cultivated by Matt West, growing food primarily for Beanies Cooperative
3. Cultivated by Martin Bradshaw trading under Moss Valley Market Garden
4. Cultivated by the social care facility Sheffield Growing Experience

The Regather Farm

When John and Aubrey were ready to sell the 15 acre plot immediately to the east of Newfield Spring Wood, and on the opposite side of Hazlehurst Lane to SOGS, it was purchased by Friends Field Ltd. What was originally known as The Jack Field became Friend's Field and the initial plan was to repeat the SOGS model.

In 2018 Friend's Field was leased to Regather Limited on a 20 year business tenancy agreement. Regather could take advantage of this land opportunity because it had its own route to market via the Regather Box scheme, which started operating in 2012. The Farm now sits at the heart of Regather's mission to improve food for Sheffield and contribute to a better, sustainable, shared future globally. It provides a source of year-round fresh produce for the box scheme and has helped to build a strong community network of local customers and volunteers.

The main focus is on improving soil health and sustainable land-management practices such as the use of green manures and no-dig beds. The Farm is yet to break even in terms of veg production but is still in the investment and building phase. Alongside the market garden Regather has recently invested in four large poly-tunnels, an orchard, 1km of new hedgerow, beehives, a new pond, an agroforestry project with an onsite woodland, trackway to get around, and new facilities to start hosting events and gatherings.

In 2021 a new initiative was introduced which involved the cultivation of cut flowers on the site. This scheme has proved popular with customers looking to purchase locally grown and chemical-free flowers, and has also helped to boost biodiversity and attract pollinating insects for adjacent food crops. Production expanded in 2022 and 50m of annual beds have been sown, with perennial flower beds now underway. This is a great example of using the land to its full potential by diversifying production in a way that is complementary to existing activity. There is also a plan underway to introduce chickens to the land to provide a source of fertiliser and another income stream from egg sales.

Regather Farm employs 1.4 FTE in the winter (November 1st to February 28th) and 1.8FTE March - October. This is likely to reach 2.0 FTE in June, July, August when factoring in cover and extra harvest shifts.

6.4 Discussion

Infrastructure development

Growing more crops on a larger area likely means mechanising the process with small horticulture appropriate tractor machinery. This extra equipment has a cost, including learning how to use it, and storage implications. These crops also need to be able to be stored on the farm in some way. A barn is necessary for food and equipment storage, and will be erected on site as soon as is possible alongside the expansion into a new field area to increase potential productivity and facilitate expansion. At present the site is poorly served by transport networks, with just one vehicle route into the valley and a 3km walk to the nearest tram stop. As the Moss Valley lies in an important conservation area, some of which is designated a SSSI, the need for infrastructure development to support peri-urban agriculture must be balanced with the need to protect the existing natural environment from resultant damage.

Achieving food justice

The popularity of veg box programmes show a clear demand for such activity from the local population, but at present the necessarily-high price of such schemes works to exclude large sections of the population from accessing the produce, something that would need to be addressed in future

development strategy to ensure that the scheme is socially-just. Another key aspect of food justice is access to culturally-appropriate food. Therefore any future plans to develop local agriculture in the region must consider the dietary preferences of Sheffield's multinational and multicultural population and diversify crop choice accordingly.

Closed-loop food systems

The development of a similar peri-urban agriculture scheme in Sheffield should explore potential synergy with the Sheffield City Council municipal green-waste composting programme which would help to create a closed-loop food system within the city by effectively recycling nutrients. This programme has the potential to significantly expand if the City Council were to consider composting residual food waste when new legislation comes into force in 2023.

6.5 Conclusion

This case study has shown that the process of regenerating industrially farmed land is a long one, with successes and failures along the way. Yet the experience of SOGS and Regather indicate the potential of organic agriculture to restore depleted soils and enhance ecosystem services while providing concurrent social and economic benefit in the form of supported work programmes and other employment opportunities. The expansion of such schemes has not only the potential to provide improvements to human health through the increased consumption of locally-grown organic vegetables, but would also increase Sheffield's food security by reducing reliance on imported produce. These examples demonstrate the importance of maximising land productivity and diversifying income streams to achieve long-term viability.

7.0 Levers for change

7.1 Lobbying for policy amendment

The literature review reinforced the idea that space is more critical than land. A great deal of production can take place on roof tops, walls, fences, sheds and window boxes if the right production system is in place. A potential lever for change is therefore the revision of building codes and regulations by city planners to remove any restrictions around UA activities.

A recent report by Sustain (2022) highlights several key amendments that could be made to the National Policy Planning Framework to ease an increase in urban and peri-urban farming. These include:

- Removing the 5ha eligibility criteria for farm support which currently inhibits access for peri-urban agro ecological growers who produce multiple public goods.
- Implementing planning policy to prioritise safeguarding of grade 1 and 2 soils for agroecological peri-urban and urban farming rather than development.
- A series of local policy recommendations describing what good-practice looks like for a council for increasing and supporting peri-urban farming
- A model of progressing land for peri-urban farming that can be replicated in other cities.
- An overall analysis/policy briefing on land availability and specific issues with a clear socio-economic case for increasing peri-urban farming as part of a green economic recovery

Sheffield has several environmentally-focused community groups and regional networks such as ShefFood, Nature Recovery Sheffield, South Yorkshire Climate Alliance and The Green Party which could contribute towards lobbying the government for such changes to the Policy Framework.

7.2 Community Wealth Building

Community wealth building is a new people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people. Developed initially by the Democracy Collaborative in the United States, and championed in the UK by the progressive economics think tank Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), CWB aims to ensure the economic system builds wealth and prosperity for everyone.

The five core principles are as follows:

1. Progressive procurement - developing local supply chains of businesses likely to support local employment and keep wealth within communities.
2. Fair employment and just labour markets - Using anchor institutions to improve prospects of local people.
3. Shared ownership of the local economy - supporting and growing business models that are more financially generative for the local economy.
4. Socially just use of land and property - developing the function and ownership of local assets held by anchor organisations, so local communities benefit from financial and social gain.
5. Making financial power work for local places - increase flows of investment within local economies by harnessing and recirculating the wealth that exists.

(CLES)

The application of the CWB model to the realm of UA and food production offers great potential to affect positive change within the sector.

7.3 Community Right to Buy (or Assets of Community Value)

For when a community may wish to purchase an area of land suitable for UA, the Community Right to Buy can be used in circumstances when an asset has been nominated as an asset of community value. If the owner of this land then wishes to sell the registered property, the council must be informed. At this point, if a community group wishes to purchase the asset, they can trigger a 6 month moratorium in which to prepare a bid - this stops the seller from putting the property up on the open market.

A building or piece of land is deemed to have community value if:

- the use of the land or building currently, or in the recent past, furthers the social well-being or cultural, recreational or sporting interests of the local community
- this use (as described above) of the building will continue to further the social well-being or interests of the local community
- the use of the building or land must not be deemed 'ancillary', i.e. of secondary purpose. This means that the use of the land or building to further social well-being or interests of the community must be its principal use.

All these specifications can be deemed relevant to UA due to the wide range of community and environmental benefits described earlier in this report. Consequently there is significant scope to use the Community Right to Buy in securing land for local food production.

7.4 Local Green Space Designation

The literature review revealed the potential of LGS designation as a policy tool for protecting CGS and providing the security of tenure that is so vital for the success of UA projects. Research by the CPRE reveals that Yorkshire and the Humber currently has amongst the lowest concentration of LGSs, with just 402 in total. Although allotment sites and spaces used to grow food are not explicitly included in the value criteria, there have been many successful applications in other UK regions to recognise these spaces within the LGS designation. Up until now, LGS has been described as ‘a weirdly well-kept secret of the planning system’ (Gohin, 2022), with no national register and a lack of acknowledgement within local authority planning documents. Consequently there is a great deal of potential to be explored within this framework.

7.5 The designation of an ‘agroecological region’ in Sheffield

Further to this, the development of UA could be facilitated in Sheffield through an announcement of the city as an ‘agroecological region’ which may then prioritise land for urban farming rather than planning developments. The concept of agroecology promotes farming practice which mitigates climate change, works with wildlife, and gives power to farmers and communities to adapt farming practices to best suit local conditions and requirements ([The Soil Association, n.d.](#)). Unlocking land for urban and peri-urban agriculture also fits well with many of Sheffield’s pledges framed in the Development Core Strategy and The Green and Open Space Strategy 2010-2030. This would allow the example of the Moss Valley Cluster to be replicated in other parts of the city.

7.6 Improving local land access through mapping

Sheffield is lacking a clear and easily accessible record of suitable land that is available for urban and peri-urban horticulture. Whilst a map of council owned land is publicly available, this includes all LA owned land including parks, school and housing. To make a map that serves a clear function, resources should be clearly mapped and described, enabling individuals to begin utilising the land for sustainable agro ecological purposes.

Sheffield could adopt a similar strategy to Glasgow, working both with the council assisted plan and in producing a community focus DIY manual on accessing land. This would increase accessibility and alter the sustainability narrative within the council, which may then inform policy, potentially achieved by adopting the mentality of Brighton and Hove’s steps towards sustainability but focus on making the land available directly from the council and LA.

Sheffield’s work thus far with ARUP has focused on achieving net zero but sustainability work has not extended into making land accessible. A further development could be to map out possible growing spaces using ARUP, similar to that of the Lambeth Plots either with Incredible Edible or an alternative partner within Sheffield (ie Regather, ShefFood or workshops within Foodhall). The potential of GIS technology and crowd-sourcing could also be utilised to create an interactive map containing a data layer specifically for identifying land suitable for growing food. In addition, information from the Carter Jonas report on land availability and quality across Sheffield could be pivotal in creating a feasible strategy with the resources Sheffield has.

7.7 Strengthening demand and access

It is important to strengthen local demand for the products of UA initiatives through partnerships with businesses. One idea would be to increase the frequency of farmers' markets or to partner with local shops to provide residents with direct access to locally grown food in a way that bypasses exploitative supermarket supply chains. There is also potential for a new veg box scheme to be developed (or current veg box schemes to be expanded) which delivers food to subscribers on a weekly basis.

City Council food procurement opportunities, such as school meals and canteens, could also be used to support agroecological food production and enterprise. Taylor Shaw, the current School Food provider, already claims to source as much produce locally and sustainably as possible. Partnering with Taylor Shaw to supply Sheffield-grown fruits and vegetables to local schools and nurseries would help to strengthen both demand and equity of access.

7.8 Education and employment

To ensure the success and scalability of CGS initiatives it is important to provide training opportunities and employment for local people. UA is a highly-skilled activity and therefore requires highly-skilled workers who are fairly remunerated. UA can not be solely reliant on volunteers as this risks excluding certain groups who cannot afford to give their time for free. Volunteer labour tends to be unpredictable and therefore projects which rely on volunteers are unlikely to be commercially successful. Sheffield City College currently offer Horticulture Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications, so there is potential to partner with them to develop some UA-specific training programmes or apprenticeships. There is also potential to work with existing organisations such as The Potting Shed to expand their educational activities.

7.9 Sources of funding

For CGS and UA to be developed and maintained a reliable source of funding is critical. The potential for financial support from LEPs should be explored as these multi-stakeholder partnerships are responsible for increasingly large amounts of government money.

If an UA project was designed to involve the input of local people, sources of funding to be investigated include the Community Infrastructure Levy, Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and Green Prescribing. These two funding opportunities are briefly outlined below:

7.9.1 PIP

Those who are eligible to receive council-funded care are allocated a 'personal budget' for each 12-month period. This money can be spent on any care and support services to meet an individual's assessed needs, enabling them to live an active life and participate in society (Disability Rights UK). The evidence-base for the mental and physical health and social benefits of CGS is already strong, therefore if a therapeutic horticulture programme was developed in the area then there would be significant scope for accessing funding via PIP.

7.9.2 Green social prescribing

Social prescribing and community-based support is a programme developed by the NHS which gives GPs the ability to refer patients to a link worker to help assess and meet their health needs through non-medical interventions. For some people this will be green social prescribing, which links them to nature-based interventions and activities. A £4 million investment in green social prescribing was announced in July 2020, and this fund has since been increased with additional contributions from NHS England and NHS Improvement, Sport England and the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), taking the total to £5.77 million.

South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System was one of seven sites announced at the end of 2020 as a 'test and learn' site for embedding green social prescribing into the community, and has been awarded a share of the central funding. This money and future funds could be diverted towards CGS provision and the establishment of UA projects in the area.

7.9.3 Community Infrastructure Levy

This is a method of funding infrastructure improvement in the city from private developer contributions. The following definitions are used to describe projects which will benefit from this funding:

'Infrastructure' - includes physical, social and environmental facilities and networks needed to serve development such as transport, telecommunications, energy, water supply, sewerage and drainage, schools, hospitals, health centres and open space, consistent with the definition set out in the Planning Act 2008.

'Green Infrastructure' - A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality-of-life benefits for local communities. It may include playing fields, play areas and informal open space such as parks, natural or semi-natural open spaces, landscaped areas, etc.

7.9.4 Local Enterprise Partnerships

LEPs were set up in England in 2011 as a vehicle to support local growth, replacing some of the functions of Regional Development Agencies. LEPs typically focus on delivering better infrastructure to stimulate economic growth, through investment in roads, housing, innovation, skills training and job creation in local areas. These partnerships will play a key role in the UK Government's Coronavirus recovery plans, with a £900m investment announced in July 2020 to go through LEPs, including

food enterprises intended to stimulate a green recovery. According to a recent report by Sustain there is huge potential to combine the knowledge and expertise of existing food partnerships, such as the Sustainable Food Places network, with the investment capacity and economic reach of the LEPs to support initiatives working towards a more sustainable food system (Shrub, 2020).

8.0 Discussion and Debate

A review of both academic and 'grey' literature revealed near-unanimity in its recommendation of enhanced CGS provision in urban development and the benefits of developing sustainable local food systems in and around our cities. However this was not without awareness of the potential pitfalls and barriers that this strategy will present. Analysis of national and local level frameworks, reports and strategies showed that policy-makers hold many laudable objectives, but whether these will be translated into tangible action is, in many cases, yet to be seen. The sheer number of local strategies that incorporate some aspects of CGS and UA (not all of which were able to be reviewed within the scope of this project) means that potential synergies and opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration may be missed.

For example, a glaring omission in the Sheffield City Council Food and Wellbeing Strategy can be found in the selection of impact evaluation criteria. The exclusive focus on weight and oral health, although important, completely misses the myriad of other aspects of mental and physical wellbeing that can be provided by fair and sustainable food systems. Failing to recognise these other aspects is a missed opportunity and considerably narrows the scope of the strategy. It can be argued that including other qualitative and quantitative indicators (although they may be harder to measure) would greatly improve the strategy's effectiveness.

In today's modern society, consumers have lost control over food production and food supply chains which are dominated by big retailers. Organic production alone is not enough to make the food system sustainable. Food should not only be environmentally-friendly but also locally and fairly produced, sourced, distributed, and consumed. One way this can be achieved is through the development of local food networks. Local food networks initially form and develop in local niches within a given food regime. They induce socio-ecological changes on the local level and as they become more clustered and abundant they have the potential to foster wider transformations of the dominant food regime. However the presence of local food networks does not guarantee a fair food system. This is where the concept of food sovereignty must be incorporated. At the core of this concept lies the question of how to create an agro-food system that, (i) allows for democratic participation and civic engagement in food production, and (ii) sets up new relationships that avoid social inequity and the exploitation of both humans and nature (Lutz and Schachinger, 2013).

In both the Milan and Toronto examples outlined in the case study section of this report a holistic governance model has been crucial to the success of urban food policy. In Milan, the city adopted a holistic approach instead of the traditional silo model to engage the relevant stakeholders (horizontal integration) and connect with Metropolitan and Regional authorities (vertical integration). In Toronto, the success of this council's activities comes from a judicious mix of 'top-down' support from key institutions of the city government and 'bottom-up' actions carried out by individuals and

grassroots organisations (Morgan, 2014). These approaches have allowed a variety of food-based initiatives to flourish in the cities. Using Brighton and Hove as an example, Sheffield City Council could adopt a strategy of UA promotion which would facilitate improvements in existing health, economic and environmental targets.

Despite the benefits that CGS and UA can provide to local residents, it is ultimately unrealistic to expect that a significant proportion of urban food requirements can be grown within the city itself. This is where peri-urban farms have an important role to play. As demonstrated by the Moss Valley Cluster case study, such schemes provide considerable social and ecological benefits but often face financial and structural challenges. As recommended by the Fringe Farming report (Sustain, 2021), the 5-hectare eligibility criteria for farm support needs to be removed to enable access for peri-urban agroecological growers who produce numerous public goods. There should be no size, or other limit to peri-urban farm eligibility in any schemes.

There is also a need to determine the best tenure arrangements to ensure equitable access to urban and peri-urban space in a way that does not further marginalise disadvantaged groups such as members of the BAME community, the economically deprived, and those with disabilities. Policies surrounding urban land use should make a conscious attempt to distribute land fairly across all sectors of society. Another important dimension of a socially-just food system is the provision of culturally-appropriate food. Therefore UA schemes must consider the nutritional needs of all cultural groups when planning what to produce and distributing crops.

9.0 Conclusion

This report offers an insight into the local and national policy frameworks that advance or constrain the potential of UA and the development of a socially and environmentally-just local food system in Sheffield. Alongside the identification of key stakeholders this report summarises key literature from a variety of sources and provides examples of best-practice from other cities. A local case-study of the Moss Valley Cluster is examined in detail to explore the role of regenerative peri-urban agriculture in feeding Sheffield and establishing a socially and environmentally 'just' supply chain. This report concluded by outlining a number of potential levers for change and topics for ongoing debate.

Overall it is evident that issues surrounding the politics of land ownership and access are key questions for UA practitioners and a major determinant of success for any local food-growing project. Land ownership, who can use it, who has access to it and how secure it is are key questions for practitioners, planners and policy makers alike. Predictability is important as people are unlikely to invest time and resources if they are afraid that they will be evicted from the land before harvest time. Therefore it can be argued that security of tenure is seen as more important than land ownership, and policies should reflect this

It is therefore vital that any move to strengthen the potential of CGS and UA in Sheffield is supported by a robust and comprehensive policy framework. UA should be integrated into urban management systems which support and value UA as an integral part of urban development. The recently-published ARUP Pathways to Zero Carbon in Sheffield fails to adequately recognise the role of sustainable food production and farming in reducing emissions and contributing to the city's overall resilience to climate change, instead focusing on the limited potential for reforestation activities. It is clear that policy makers need to take further steps in recognising UA as a legitimate and valuable land-use category, and provide greater financial and institutional support for fledgling projects and upskilling the community. Better connections between CGS and wider food, health and wellbeing, economic and environmental policy to enable a holistic approach towards urban development.

Sheffield does have routes to access council owned land but these are often time consuming and fallible. To successfully unlock LA land, a strategy is required that recognises both the elevated growing potential of Grade 1 and 2 land, and the likelihood of positive gains from regeneratively farming 3a land (the predominant grade around Sheffield), so urban agriculture is not seen as a devaluation of the plot compared to using it for housing. This can be done through changing planning policy and by a potential announcement of the city as an 'agroecological region' thereby placing greater stake on land for growing rather than building.

As demonstrated by the case studies, the most robust policies are developed through the input of a diverse range of stakeholders and multidisciplinary experts. The Brighton and Hove Food Strategy is a key example of how getting the LA involved is a crucial part of any project, enabling transformative results across the food system and wider city. It is important to build bridges which enable urban farmers to be heard in official and policy circles and gain better access to resources. When forming policies local councils should start with the question 'what can UA do for my city?' (as opposed to 'what can my city do for UA?').

At present there is a lack of trained professionals in the UA field, and many existing projects are reliant on amateur volunteers. Lutz and Schachinger (2013) also found that “the current food regime does not train farmers in how to set up new forms of relationships and collaboration with each other and consumers, but rather encourages growth, competition, and the subjugation to and cooperation with food-corporations” (p.4791). This underlines the need for education programmes at every level of the food supply chain to support UA projects that are commercially viable and promote food sovereignty.

The current Sheffield Local Plan and NPPF are geared towards development proposals which support sustainable improvements to the economic, social and environmental conditions. CGS and UA arguably fits into all these categories, yet it is not recognised as a land use category. As UA is not explicitly recognised in the majority existing council and government policy frameworks and strategies, advocates for CGS development will need to emphasise the connection between UA and other areas of development policy. For example, synergy between the development of a municipal composting scheme and UA, which relies on a large supply of organic matter, should be explored. When this cross-sectoral thinking is utilised, it is possible to identify several opportunities through policy to expand UA at the community level.

Potential growing land in Sheffield needs to be publicly documented, ideally through a map. This will increase accessibility and provide the material with which to create a strategy as well as identify safe areas to cultivate. The Carter Jonas report may be a sufficient source but in its absence this could either be done by the LA or food partnership and could utilise citizen science to continue the work. A strategy will then prioritise actions to make known land accessible for community use and kick-start sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture on plots.

Creating guides to access land for the common lay person would further facilitate public engagement and should be created alongside developing a strategy, whilst agricultural (specifically urban) training opportunities should be explored to fill the gap in education. Ideally, this would eventually replicate the French model by AFAUP, unifying urban growers across the UK in a knowledge and skills exchange with potential for a stable urban agricultural infrastructure to then develop beyond land into vertical and rooftop farming.

To conclude, the strengthening and development of UA and CGS should be viewed as a key component of Sheffield’s aim to achieve ‘net zero’ by 2030 and comply with the objectives laid out in the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Goals, 2016 Sheffield Green City Strategy and 2009 Sheffield Development Framework. This can best be achieved through a holistic approach underpinned by ecological and social principles known as agroecological farming. Under this approach, food is produced by working with nature rather than against it. The concept of Community Wealth Building has a significant role to play here. Although the example of Sheffield’s Moss Valley agricultural cluster is still in a relatively early stage of development, initiatives such as this hold considerable potential and could be replicated in different areas surrounding the city.

Now more than ever it is vitally important that Sheffield takes radical action to combat climate change and unlock the potential social and environmental benefits of a sustainable local food system. We have seen how a viable increase in urban food production can only be achieved through a combination of progressive policy change, cross-sectoral collaboration and proactive support for community-based initiatives. By ensuring that peri-urban agroecology is integrated into economic strategy, we can build community wealth and a greener, fairer, resilient economy in Sheffield.

10.0 List of key organisations

Organisation/ stakeholder	Description
National level bodies and networks	
<u>Sustain</u>	An alliance of multiple organisations and communities across the UK working together for improvements in the food, farming and fishing industries.
<u>Sustainable Food Places</u>	A partnership programme led by the Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain. SFP brings together pioneering food partnerships from towns, cities, boroughs, districts and counties across the UK that are driving innovation and best practice on all aspects of healthy and sustainable food. SFP runs an award scheme, with Sheffield having recently achieved Bronze.
<u>Good to Grow</u>	An online platform, run by Sustain, designed to get people involved in their local community garden. The Regather Club Garden Road Community Greenspace is a registered part of this network.
<u>The University of Sheffield Institute for Sustainable Food</u>	A cross-disciplinary body of academics, researchers, industry experts and policy-makers aiming to achieve transformative and translational research across the entire agri-food system. 'Farm to fork' approach.
Local level networks	
<u>ShefFood</u>	A hub of local food partnership activity comprising key stakeholders at the city level, with a shared vision and strategic commitment to developing the environmental and economic benefits of a more resilient and sustainable food system for the Sheffield City Region.
<u>Nature Recovery Sheffield</u>	A group of organisations who have declared an ecological emergency in Sheffield and are working for wildlife's recovery.
<u>South Yorkshire Climate Alliance</u>	An organisation aiming to facilitate growth in the climate change movement, and provide a platform for organisations in South Yorkshire to collaborate on campaigns which increase understanding of the causes and effects of climate change and the just solutions to it, and take action to mitigate, adapt and build resilience to climate change on both an individual and system scale.

<p><u>Green New Deal South Yorkshire</u></p>	<p>The regional branch of Green New Deal UK - a non-profit organisation formed in 2019 by organisers who are committed to social, economic and climate justice.</p>
<p><u>Sheffield Organic Growers</u></p>	<p>A group of four independent growers located in the Moss Valley who supply food to the city through grocers and veg bag schemes. SOGs also provide opportunities for young people and adults with learning disabilities to gain experience through the Growing Experience project.</p>
<p>Social enterprises and charities</p>	
<p><u>Regather Cooperative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Garden Road Aquaponics Mini Farm 	<p>A community business aiming to grow the economy of Sheffield by developing a more productive landscape, with particular focus on urban food production, and to transform the resilience and sustainability of the wider local food system of Sheffield.</p> <p>Regather’s headquarters are located in Sharrow from which it operates a local fruit and veg box scheme with produce from its farm in the Moss Valley.</p> <p>Regather have also partnered with the University of Sheffield to establish a small-scale prototype aquaponics farm on their site on Club Garden Road.</p>
<p><u>Food Works</u></p>	<p>An organisation which collects and shares surplus food from retailers and local producers. The Sharrow hub consists of a community cafe and social space where local residents can access low-cost meals and groceries. Food Works has several other locations across the city including a farm on Green Estate’s Manor Oaks site.</p>
<p><u>The Potting Shed</u></p>	<p>A micro plant nursery based at 27 Montgomery Road, Netheredge, Sheffield, which grows a range of plants from seed, cuttings and by dividing established plants. These plants are then sold to retail customers and other nurseries.</p> <p>The Potting Shed is a part of the charity Grow, a youth development charity based in Sheffield with the mission to Inspire Hope and Unlock Potential in Young People Through Nature. All of the plants are selected, grown and nurtured by Grow Gardeners. The gardeners are young people who are developing skills and boosting their wellbeing by being a part of Grow’s programmes.</p>

Community organisations and resident's associations

<u>Common Ground</u>	Common Ground is a charity set up by local volunteers to use St Peter's Hall as an active community space. It has a community allotment on its grounds which is managed by a group of volunteers.
<u>Sharrow Community Forum</u> • Old Junior School Garden	Sharrow Community Forum is a community development trust established in 1997, which works to strengthen communities by improving services, bringing people together, building the community's voice, and helping to make the local community a better place to live. The main office is located at the Old Junior School on South View Road, where a small volunteer-run community garden is located.
<u>Lansdowne Estate Project</u> (Regather)	This community growing initiative was established in 2021 by Regather (in partnership with the National Lottery fund and the Landworkers Alliance) who hosted a gardening club for local residents every Sunday from the beginning of May to the end of September. At the end of each session, participants shared a plant-based meal which offered opportunities for cross-cultural social interaction and learning. The project is located across two primary sites: Regather's community garden at Club Garden Road and adjacent Lansdowne & Leverton Estates. There are plans to build on the success of the project in 2022 with a focus on planting the residential streets around Club Garden Road.
<u>Kenwood Community Growers</u> (part of NESST)	This volunteer-led organic growing project was established in spring 2019 in the grounds of Kenwood Hall Hotel. The group produced fruit and vegetables which were supplied to the Food Works kitchen in Sharrow and taught organic growing skills to people in the local community. Unfortunately the Growers were forced to leave their site in December 2021 due to plans submitted by developers to construct housing on the land. As of yet the group have been unable to secure an alternative plot.

<u>Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NESST developed out of SNET (Save Nether Edge Trees), a group that came together as a community to protect street trees from felling. The NESST vision is to continue to harness the energy and the ideas mobilised in the tree preservation campaign, with the aim of:• Maintaining and improving the suburban environment in Nether Edge and Sharrow;• Maintaining and increasing the volume and variety of wildlife habitat in the area;• Increasing awareness of the special wildlife in the area• Creating opportunities for like-minded members of the community to come together, both working together to achieve aspects of the vision, and to socialise/network;• Doing our best locally to contribute to combatting the current climate emergency• Thinking globally, acting locally.
<u>Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group</u>	<p>NENG was founded in 1973 to improve the conditions of life of those living or working in the areas of Brincliffe, Nether Edge and Sharrow in Sheffield, working with local authorities, voluntary organisations and residents in a common effort to advance education, to improve the environment and to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation and leisure time activities.</p> <p>NENG runs a farmers' market four times per year and a community festival every September.</p>
Sheffield Allotments and Home Gardens Federation	An umbrella group which is concerned with protecting the interests of allotment holders in Sheffield. Meetings are attended by representatives from tenants' groups. Membership also offers horticultural and legal advice, insurance, meetings and shows providing talks and sharing experiences, seed purchases at reduced costs.
Wild Sharow	A group of local residents who volunteer to enhance local parks through the planting of wildflowers.

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12.0 Appendices

12.1 Acronyms

UA	Urban agriculture
CGS	Community greenspace
CG	Community gardening
LGS	Local Green Space
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
LA	Local Authority
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

12.2 Key terms

Agroecology	Farming that centres on food production that makes the best use of nature's goods and services while not damaging these resources. (The Soil Association)
Urban agriculture	The growing, processing and distribution of food and non-food plant and tree crops and the raising of livestock, directly for the urban market, both within and on the fringe of an urban area (Mougeot, 2006: 4).
Community gardening	A subset of UA characterised by its communal nature. The size and form of these projects can vary greatly, but the aims of the garden typically focus on providing opportunities for local residents, improving local environments and/or on producing fruit and vegetables for food. The gardens can be located on public or private land and may be managed by an external organisation or by the gardeners themselves (Lovell et al., 2014)
Local food system	A food system in which foods are produced, processed and retailed within a defined geographical area (within a 20 to 100 km radius approximately) (Kneafsey et al., 2013).

Food sovereignty	The right of nations and peoples to control their own food system, including their own markets, production modes, food cultures and environments (Wittman et al., 2010).
Community greenspace	Any publicly-accessible vegetated land within an urban area. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• parks, gardens, playing fields, children’s play areas, woods and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries and allotments• green corridors like paths, disused railway lines, rivers and canals• derelict, vacant and contaminated land which has the potential to be transformed.
Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UN, 1987).

