

ShefFood's LOCAL FOOD ACTION PLAN FOR SHEFFIELD



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ShefFood is the local food partnership for Sheffield. It 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. ShefFood is part of Sustainable Food Places. For more information, please visit: www.sheffood.org.uk/

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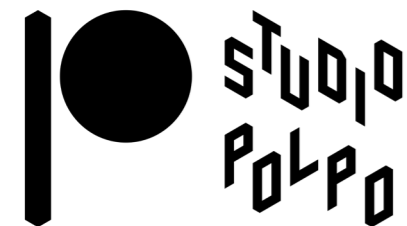
The authors are grateful to Food Works, Regather, Eat Smart Sheffield, Our Cow Molly, UNICUS, PJ Taste, Holiday Activities and Food Sheffield, and Green City Action for providing photos of Sheffield food initiatives to illustrate this document. All photographs are the property of these respective organisations and cannot be reproduced without permission.



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Introduction

We are incredibly excited to launch ShefFood's Local Food Action Plan for Sheffield 2023-2030. This plan recognises and celebrates Sheffield's current and future actions toward a fairer, more sustainable, and more resilient food system. Almost one hundred organisations were involved in the co-creation of the plan. Our collective aim is to celebrate the incredible food initiatives, organisations, and networks that exist across the city and to better understand how we can change Sheffield's food system together.

We are writing in the context of the climate emergency and a cost-of-living crisis that shape and are shaped by our food systems. These crises demand a significant response from every element of society. In this document, however, we focus on those clear opportunities and concrete actions for delivering change in Sheffield by 2030. We recognise the urgent need to develop more connected, collaborative, and systemic approaches to transform Sheffield's food system, which reaches from farm to fork and beyond.

What is a local food action plan?

A local food action plan is a collective vision for food systems transformation that is rooted in current and future commitments to action. Through the co-creation of this document, we have drawn together and shared knowledge and expertise between organisations, institutions, departments, businesses, residents, producers, and service providers, amongst many others. In doing so, we hope this process has contributed to building the relationships, networks, and commitment necessary to make Sheffield's food system fairer and more sustainable.



This plan should be read as a *living document* - not a finished product but a snapshot in time, reflecting emerging and ongoing connections, relationships, and activities. Equally, the plan is incomplete - we recognise the significant efforts of individuals and organisations in driving food systems change in Sheffield over many years. But it is only possible to give a partial account of them here. Instead, we focus on the visions, connections, and actions that emerged through workshops held from January-May 2023, detailed below.

This plan builds upon the vision set out in "*Fairer, Healthier, Greener*", the Food Strategy prepared by Sheffield City Council in March 2023. We aim to support embedding this vision within Sheffield's food organisations and networks. First and foremost, this plan sets out specific commitments to action: what have diverse organisations actually committed to doing in the next seven years to make Sheffield's food system fairer and more sustainable? We present these actions within five strategies:

- Strengthen food networks by developing skills and learning together
- Build collective capacity to share and use data on Sheffield's food system
- Participate in making and delivering ambitious local food policy
- Build an inclusive food movement
- Leverage spaces for food initiatives

We are incredibly grateful to every individual and organisation that contributed invaluable insights to this plan. Above all, this document is for them. But it is also an invitation: come and be part of transforming Sheffield's food system. We look forward to continuing to work in solidarity with you all.

Challenges and Opportunities

in Sheffield's Food System

Sheffield is home to numerous organisations and initiatives working to make the food system fairer and more sustainable.

But often, these organisations lack the capacity to work together in more joined-up ways.

Many organisations want to make better decisions about accessing and using food.

But often, they lack the data and resources needed to inform these decisions and develop impactful food policies.

Food systems cut across every element of society, including public health and wellbeing, the economy, and the environment.

But food policy is not sufficiently embedded across all public sector departments and institutions.

Sheffield has vibrant networks of food enterprises, food providers, and food producers.

But they are not always visible or well-represented at the city level.

Sheffield has a diversity of food initiatives that require space.






But many organisations struggle to access space in the city: producers face barriers to accessing land, while social eating spaces struggle to secure appropriate and accessible venues.



How we made the Local Food Action Plan for Sheffield

Following the publication of Sheffield City Council’s draft food strategy, *'Fairer, Healthier, Greener'*, in August 2022, ShefFood began a collaboration with the FixOurFood research programme to facilitate the co-creation of a local food action plan that would connect the vision set out in the council strategy to food initiatives, organisations, and networks across the city.

Twelve public workshops were hosted across five working groups between January and April 2023. These working groups brought together organisations from across the food system. Each working group had a co-convenor that worked with ShefFood and FixOurFood to develop the workshops. ShefFood and FixOurFood drew out emerging themes to share progress between the working groups as they happened and to identify links and opportunities for action.

WORKING GROUP	AUTUMN 2022	JANUARY 2023	FEBRUARY 2023	MARCH 2023	APRIL 2023	JUNE 2023
 GOOD FOOD MOVEMENT	✓	✓			✓	Launch of ShefFood’s Local Food Action Plan for Sheffield
 FOOD, HEALTH AND OBESITY BOARD			✓	✓		
 GOOD FOOD ECONOMY AND PROCUREMENT		✓			✓	
 FOOD LADDERS	✓	✓	✓	✓		
 GROWING AND COMPOSTING		✓	✓	✓		

Introducing our five Working Groups



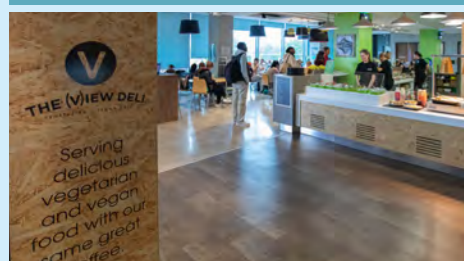
Success in Sheffield so far...

This plan represents one step in a long trajectory of food systems change in Sheffield. Before thinking about future actions, we want to celebrate some of the past and current successes identified by participants in the Working Groups and to recognise *just some* of the incredible work of individuals and collectives towards a fairer and more sustainable food system in Sheffield.

○ UNICUS, Sheffield Hallam University, and The Sheffield College are pioneering local food procurement and working to ensure that sustainability is a central concern.

◇ Sheffield City Council passed the *Food Access Plan* in July 2022, which included investment for a food community development role at Voluntary Action Sheffield to provide advice and support in community food spaces.

□ The *Eat Smart* programme supports schools in thinking about food across the school day, encouraging healthy eating and healthier attitudes.



◇ Various organisations are working hard to embed growing in our educational institutions by helping local schools to create and care for nature-friendly food-growing spaces.

◇ Nature-friendly urban and peri-urban farms and market gardens are recognised by Sustain's '*Fringe Farming*' programme as leading the way in increasing local food production, building food security and tackling the climate crisis.



○ Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and Taylor Shaw are increasing the number of vegetarian meals available in hospitals and schools, responsibly sourcing fish and using less but higher-quality meat.

◇ Food Works is collaborating with over 25 partner hubs to distribute frozen ready meals across the city.

△ Pioneering organisations, including: Regather, Food Works, The Sheffield Wheat Experiment, and S2 Food Bank, are leading the way in public food education and activism.

○ Caterers in hospitals, universities, colleges and schools in the city are working together to develop procurement strategies to support local food with the help of ShefFood.

△ ShefFood achieved the *Bronze Sustainable Food Places Award* in 2021 and is working towards a bid for Silver in July 2023.

◇ Sheffield City Council has formally recognised the role of land use change in achieving net zero and the need to make more space available for food growing. Meanwhile, many landowners are successfully partnering with communities to make space for growing.



□ Sheffield City Council's *Free School Meals Auto-enrollment Scheme* with schools and caterers ensures families receive their FSM entitlement.

○ ShefFood's Good Food Economy and Procurement Working Group has expanded to include passionate catering managers, collectively responsible for over 120,000 meals a week, and key business leaders in Sheffield.



◇ Locals consume more local produce thanks to collaborations between growing projects and shops, restaurants, veg box schemes, social eating spaces, food banks, and pay-as-you-feel marketplaces across the city.

△ ShefFood and its partners have been working with Sheffield City Council to develop a cross-sector food policy for the city.

□ Sheffield became the first standalone local authority in the UK to achieve the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative Gold Award.

◇ The *Food Ladders Report (2022)* mapped food provision in Sheffield and outlined recommendations to build and develop current projects. In addition, a comprehensive, interactive map of food providers in the city is now available through Voluntary Action Sheffield.

□ Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes deliver nutritious food across Sheffield and support nutritional education. 11,400 children in Sheffield attended a HAF activity in Summer 2022.

◇ Nature-friendly food production in South Yorkshire employs nearly 100 people, and work is ongoing to expand this by supporting new entrants into farming and horticulture.

◇ The *Food Ladders Network*, comprising community food organisations, meets regularly for support and to share resources.

□ *Live Lighter* runs 12-week groups for adults in Sheffield that focus on education, community, empowerment and small sustainable changes.



△ ShefFood continues collaborating on food systems research with The University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University.

□ SHINE Health Academy Sheffield has implemented grassroots child weight management schemes across the city for 20 years.

◇ The Growing and Composting Working Group meets regularly, bringing people together to share ideas and knowledge, support each other, and work together on campaigns for nature-friendly growing.

△ Over 60 partners have signed up to the *ShefFood Charter*, acknowledging their commitment towards a sustainable food system for Sheffield.

◇ Researchers and innovators, such as The University of Sheffield's Institute for Sustainable Food, are working hard to secure the future of Sheffield's nature-friendly, low-carbon food production, from mapping suitable growing land to experimenting with innovative food-growing methods.

○ Sheffield has an abundance of independent cafes, restaurants and food businesses, many of whom have been nationally recognised for their outstanding food and sustainability principles.

□ Hot Food Takeaways planning policy proposed in draft local plan: no new takeaways within 800m of schools in Sheffield.

△ Sheffield hosted two major food conferences in 2022: the Nutrition Society and UKRI Transforming UK Food Systems.



◇ The *Food Ladders Network* responded quickly to Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis. Successful collective food stores, organised through Sheffield City Council via S6 Foodbank, ensured supplies for community food organisations during winter 2023/24.

Our collective vision ...

...for Sheffield's Food System:
Everyone in Sheffield
has access to healthy and
sustainable food



Access to suitable land

Businesses and communities can
access suitable land and resources
for agroecological and low-impact
food production.



Public health, social
and support services are
people-centred and
compassionate.



Local food pantries

Food networks and organisations
support access to healthy and
sustainable food across all
wards of Sheffield.



Sheffield's
communities feel empowered to
shape local food systems and participate in food
policy development.



Growing & composting

Local low-carbon food
producers are supported to supply
food to anchor institutions,
including universities
and hospitals.



Local food producers

Businesses and community-based
organisations collectively
procure and distribute
sustainable food.

Robust and resilient food
networks connect organisations
across sectors to tackle
shared problems.



Social spaces for cooking & eating together

Food education (i.e. growing,
cooking, buying, eating) is
available to everyone
in Sheffield.



Local low-carbon food producers supply anchor institutions



Food education

Communities can
access social spaces
for cooking and eating
together.



SheffFood represents diverse
groups, identities, and
areas of the city.



Diverse groups across the city

Communities and organisations of
all sizes can reduce, reuse and
recycle food, green waste, and
other organic wastes.



Five Strategies

to Transform Sheffield's Food System...

We organise the actions into five strategies. These strategies cut across the current and planned work of the five Working Groups. While the Working Groups remain as vital spaces for sharing, collaborating, and ultimately delivering these actions, our aim is to show that these are not silos, and that strategic actions to transform Sheffield's food system can build upon each other to enhance impact across the city.



1

Strengthen food networks by developing skills and learning together

Extending and deepening collaborations across Sheffield's diverse food networks by sharing knowledge and skills and co-developing training resources to transform Sheffield's food system.

2

Build collective capacity to share and use data on Sheffield's food system

Learning together how to access, use and share information such as maps to support on-the-ground decision-making in Sheffield.

3

Participate in making and delivering ambitious local food policy

Continuing to advocate for and deliver food systems change across public sector and anchor institutions while enhancing engagement with under-represented groups.

4

Build an inclusive food movement

Connecting Sheffield's vibrant food networks and ensuring the participation of all communities and areas of the city.

5

Leverage spaces for food initiatives






Supporting organisations and initiatives across Sheffield to access the physical spaces necessary to grow, process and distribute healthy and sustainable food.

Actions




to Transform Sheffield's Food System...










These actions were identified through workshops to develop this local food action plan. Some of the actions were already planned or underway; our aim here is to make them visible and enhance connections between initiatives by different organisations working in different sectors or areas of the city. Other actions reflect new initiatives that emerged or were given new energy through the development of this plan. In each case, we are incredibly pleased to be able to list the organisations that have committed to taking these actions forward.

Working Groups (WG) Key

-  Good Food Movement
-  Food, Health, and Obesity Board
-  Good Food Economy and Procurement
-  Food Ladders
-  Growing and Composting

1. Strengthen food networks by developing skills and learning together

Aim	#	Actions	Organisations Involved	WG
Enhance education about cooking and eating nutritious food for children through a whole school approach.	1	Draw on and develop existing school-based projects to ensure all children can learn about where their food comes from, what healthy food is, and how to cook healthy food, not only in lessons but through school meals and the whole school environment.	Eat Smart Sheffield (Learn Sheffield), Food Works, SHINE Health Academy	
Enhance education with Early Years Providers about healthy eating.	2	Draw on existing projects to continue running services with Early Years Providers in schools and community settings about what healthy eating looks like and how to reduce sugar intake.	Eat Smart Sheffield (Learn Sheffield), Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Children's Hospital, Sheffield's Sweet Enough	
Enhance education about food waste and uptake of composting in Sheffield.	3	Share knowledge and resources about good compost practices and food waste within Sheffield.	Composting in the Community Network, Food Works, Firth Park Community Allotments, Friends of Gleadless Valley Methodist Church Community Gardens, Heeley and District Allotments Protection Society, Leaf + Shoot, The University of Sheffield Allotment Society	
	4	Continue to learn from and participate in composting networks across the country.		
	5	Raise public awareness of the issue and extent of food waste and the potential of composting and other recycling and reuse methods through ShefFood and partners' communication channels.		

Aim	#	Actions	Organisations Involved	WG
Enhance food growing education for children, young people and adults in Sheffield and facilitate their participation in food growing activities, both at home and in community and educational settings.	6	Undertake research to understand Sheffield schools' assets and needs to enable the development of food-growing activities in schools.	Regather	
	7	Draw on existing food growing projects to create learning resources for schools and Alternative Provision Settings. Support the integration of food and growing topics into education in primary and secondary schools and Alternative Provision Settings in Sheffield, tying in with government emphasis on STEM subjects.	Eat Smart Sheffield (Learn Sheffield), Heeley City Farm, Regather, Schools' Climate Education South Yorkshire	 
	8	Identify schools that want to undertake food growing activities on site (or in partnership with nearby sites) and identify ways to support them, e.g. via in-school champions and exploring funding for School Gardeners across Sheffield.	Eat Smart Sheffield (Learn Sheffield), Heeley City Farm, Kids Plant Trees, Regather, Schools' Climate Education South Yorkshire	 
	9	Continue to develop extracurricular learning opportunities about food growing through collaborations between educational institutions (schools, colleges, universities) and local food growing projects.	Eat Smart (Learn Sheffield), Food Works, H3 (The University of Sheffield), Heeley and District Allotments Protection Society, Leaf + Shoot, MyHarvest (The University of Sheffield), Regather, The Sheffield College, The University of Sheffield Allotment Society, Urban Harvest (The University of Sheffield)	
	10	Support individuals and communities to access the information, tools, equipment and materials needed to engage in nature-friendly growing.	Friends of Firth Park Community Allotments, Friends of Gleadless Valley Methodist Church Community Gardens, Green City Action, Green Estate, Heeley and District Allotments Protection Society, Heeley City Farm, Kids Plant Trees, MyHarvest (The University of Sheffield), Percy Street Community Interest Company, Regather, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Sheffield Fruit Trees, The Sheffield Wheat Experiment, The University of Sheffield Allotment Society	
	11	Continue to provide opportunities for young people and adults to participate in food growing in growing projects and sites across the city.	Eat Smart Sheffield (Learn Sheffield), Friends of Firth Park Community Allotments, Friends of Gleadless Valley Methodist Church Community Gardens, Green City Action, Green Estate, Heeley and District Allotments Protection Society, Heeley City Farm, Kids Plant Trees, MyHarvest (University of Sheffield), Percy Street Community Interest Company, Regather, The University of Sheffield Allotment Society	 

Aim	#	Actions	Organisations Involved	WG
	12	Provide garden design services to households, community groups and anchor institutions, promoting the value of wildlife-friendly planting and homegrown vegetables.	Regather	
Build training and career pathways in the sustainable food sector.	13	Collaborate to develop pathways and infrastructure in Sheffield for education, skills, training and careers in sustainable urban horticulture, agriculture, food production, catering, manufacturing and related sectors. Explore together ways to increase diversity in the sustainable food sector.	Green City Action, Green Estate, Grow UK, Heeley City Farm, Leaf + Shoot, Learn Sheffield, Moss Valley Market Garden, Percy Street Community Interest Company, Regather, Schools' Climate Education South Yorkshire, See It, Be It, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Sheffield Fruit Trees, Sheffield Organic Growers, ShefFood, The Sheffield College	
Build knowledge of Sheffield's community food provision services and organisations amongst NHS and social care frontline staff.	14	Develop and disseminate resources about available food provision services and organisations to frontline organisations via the Food Ladders Network and via NHS networks through the Food Health and Obesity Board.	Citizens Advice Sheffield, Sheffield City Council, Voluntary Action Sheffield	
Build knowledge of local services that can support individuals in relation to nutrition and wellbeing amongst frontline staff in health, social care and voluntary sectors.	15	Continue to develop resources and deliver training for staff in frontline services to ensure that they are confident in having supportive and compassionate conversations about nutrition, healthy eating and wellbeing in a respectful and understanding way which guides people towards appropriate support where needed.	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, SHINE Health Academy, South Yorkshire Eating Disorders Association, Zest	
Build partnerships to identify and reduce food waste across all food-based sectors in Sheffield.	16	Maximise the reuse and redirection of food that may have gone to waste to ensure minimum environmental impact and maximum social impact.	Abundance, Co-Op - Caboodle, Foodworks, ShefFood	
	17	Work in partnership with schools, school food contract holders, and food surplus organisations to tackle food waste in schools.	Food Works, Taylor Shaw	
Increasing uptake and knowledge of Healthy Start Vouchers.	18	Develop methods to promote and communicate about Healthy Start Vouchers across the city to increase uptake.	Sheffield City Council	
	19	Continue to run the Start Well Sheffield parenting programme, working more closely with local services for families to increase uptake, especially amongst underserved communities.		
	20	Expand the number of settings in Sheffield that have Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) accreditation, including Sheffield Children's Hospital.		

2. Build collective capacity to share and use data on Sheffield's food system.

Aim	#	Actions	Organisations Involved	WG
Produce and make publicly available maps of food assets in Sheffield, including assets beyond emergency food provision.	21	Initiate a public process of food asset mapping in Sheffield including social eating spaces, community gardens, veg box schemes and sustainable cafes. This will be done using OpenStreetMap through a series of events and projects in partnership with The University of Sheffield to support the development of a Directory of Sustainable Food in Sheffield.	ShefFood, The University of Sheffield	
	22	Disseminate the food assets map to show, raise awareness of, and support access to Sheffield's good food infrastructure, including the distribution of food services, access to healthy and affordable food, and other social services across the City.		
Enhance existing maps of community food provision.	23	Continue to maintain and update an open access and up-to-date map of community food provision (social eating spaces, food banks and food pantries) in Sheffield.	ShefFood, The University of Sheffield, Voluntary Action Sheffield	
Assess local food suppliers in South Yorkshire.	24	Continue to map current and potential local and regional (South Yorkshire) suppliers using OpenStreetMap for large-scale caterers in Sheffield and South Yorkshire including NHS Trusts, Universities, Colleges and Councils.	PJ Taste, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, ShefFood, The Sheffield College, UNICUS	
Build knowledge of local healthy eating and weight services and organisations amongst NHS and social care frontline staff.	25	Gather and share information about local healthy eating and weight services amongst NHS and social care frontline staff.	Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, SHINE Health Academy, Zest	
	26	Collect and report data on who is accessing healthy eating and weight services, identify gaps and take steps to reach underserved populations.		
Celebrate, acknowledge and promote Sheffield's vibrant food scene.	27	Map and promote fair and sustainable food businesses in the city; promote and support them through ShefFood and other partners' communication channels and Sheffield-based media channels.	Business Sheffield (Sheffield City Council), Marketing Sheffield, Sheffield MADE, Sheffield Social Enterprise Network (SSEN), ShefFood	
Understand the potential of Food Hubs in regional-level procurement policies.	28	Conduct a viability study on Food Hubs as a suitable method for collective nature-friendly local food procurement and distribution in the city and the infrastructure and resources required for this.	PJ Taste, Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, The Sheffield College, UNICUS	

3. Participate in making and delivering ambitious local food policy.

Aim	#	Actions	Organisations Involved	WG
Support delivery of existing food policy commitments around communal food sourcing.	29	Develop approaches for more communal food sourcing for community food groups in Sheffield which maximise use of key resources such as forklifts, warehouse space, HGVs and vans in the city.	Food Works, Sheffield City Council, Sheffield S6 Foodbank, ShefFood	
Support delivery of existing food policy commitments in public health.	30	Pursue Hot Food Takeaways Planning Policy as proposed in draft Sheffield Local Plan - no new takeaways within 800m of schools in Sheffield.	Sheffield City Council	
Support delivery of existing food policy commitments as part of Sheffield City Council's Net Zero Agenda.	31	Support food growing as part of a broader pathway to decarbonisation in the city.	Sheffield City Council, South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre	
	32	Build on the climate impact assessment for policies and projects established through Sheffield City Council and other anchor institutions to ensure a consistent approach to incorporating climate impacts (including through food provision) into contracts.	Sheffield City Council, ShefFood	
Support the development of sustainable food policies in anchor institutions organisations in Sheffield.	33	Develop ambitious food strategies for anchor organisations in Sheffield and facilitate knowledge exchange between organisations as food strategies develop.	Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust, ShefFood, The Sheffield College, UNICUS	
Widen access to free school meals.	34	Endorse and support Bite Back 2030's campaign for the national government to fund the extension of eligibility for free school meals to all children from households in receipt of universal credit. Alongside the national campaign, work with key partners in Sheffield to extend support to children experiencing food insecurity.	Bite Back 2030, Eat Smart Sheffield (Learn Sheffield)	
Enhance participation in local food policy making.	35	Enhance grassroots and local organisations' involvement in local food policy through meetings, promotion of opportunities, and facilitating links to policymakers in the city.	Food Works, Sheffield City Council, ShefFood, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA)	
	36	Undertake public consultation to gather perceptions and experiences regarding access to healthy and sustainable food, and identify local measures that Sheffield residents would support and prioritise.	Sheffield City Council, ShefFood	
	37	Support young people to influence their food environment, through increasing participation in the School Food and Community Food Champions programmes, and collaboration between the Bite Back 2030 Youth Board and Sheffield City Council.	Bite Back 2030, Bite Back 2030 Youth Board, Sheffield City Council	

Aim	#	Actions	Organisations Involved	WG
Enhance participation in local food research via The University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University.	38	Use ShefFood Good Food Movement and other Working Groups as levers to enable the involvement of Sheffield-based organisations in local food research through meetings, promotion of opportunities and links to policymakers in the city.	Sheffield Hallam University, South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre, The University of Sheffield	
Support council-led school food contract holders to ensure school food provision meets and, where possible, exceeds nutritional and sustainable standards.	39	Work with key partners to monitor school food contract holders' performance to ensure it meets the required standards on nutrition and environmental sustainability (including using local and seasonal produce, meat and dairy reduction and food waste reduction).	Eat Smart (Learn Sheffield), Sheffield City Council, Taylor Shaw	
	40	Support all schools to work towards the Bronze and Silver Food for Life Awards.		
Contribute to the development of adequate local, regional and national policy for sustainable farming and food systems.	41	Represent Sheffield in Sustain's national 'Fringe Farming' programme. Take all appropriate steps to ensure the adequacy of policies for the sustainable development of local food infrastructure in the draft Sheffield Local Plan. Accept invitations to produce written and spoken evidence for formal consultations, enquiries and All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs).	Regather, ShefFood	

4. Build an inclusive food movement

Aim	#	Actions	Organisations Involved	WG
Recognise and celebrate local, sustainable food businesses in Sheffield and South Yorkshire.	42	Celebrate, raise awareness, and promote local suppliers to customers in anchor institutions and the hospitality industry via campaigns.	PJ Taste, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, UNICUS, ShefFood, Taylor Shaw, The Sheffield College	
Increase signatories to the ShefFood Charter and improve connections between partners.	43	Expand ShefFood Charter signatories to celebrate and promote sustainable food in Sheffield by increasing the number of signatories to 200 by 2025.	ShefFood	
	44	Widen ShefFood Charter signatories to include organisations in food production, manufacturing, catering and related sectors that are already working sustainably or have decarbonisation ambitions.		
Increase opportunities to participate in ShefFood projects and initiatives.	45	Increase opportunities for individuals to become involved in the Good Food Movement in Sheffield via ShefFood Open Meetings. Increase volunteer and intern opportunities within ShefFood projects.	ShefFood	

Aim	#	Actions	Organisations Involved	WG
Proactively expand the Good Food Movement to include under-represented communities and areas of the city.	46	Ensure that the Good Food Movement in Sheffield celebrates differences in the city and successfully represents the city by reaching out to under-represented voices. Create spaces to listen to the lived experience of residents by hosting and organising meetings in conjunction with communities across Sheffield.	Food Works, ShefFood, Voluntary Action Sheffield	▲ ■ ● ◆ ⬢
	47	Develop partner connections to support work in under-represented areas in Sheffield with a focus on grassroots organising.	ShefFood, Voluntary Action Sheffield	
Develop transparent and resilient governance and finance structures within the ShefFood partnership.	48	Continue to host regular steering group meetings to ensure transparency and accountability.	ShefFood	▲ ■ ● ◆ ⬢
	49	Develop a work plan for ShefFood and Good Food Movement meetings to design processes that enable ShefFood to grow into a decentralised, representative and resilient city-wide network, where working groups can function independently of central structures.	ShefFood	▲
Continue to provide direct financial support for community food provision.	50	Support community food providers financially to deliver 'more than just food activities'.	Citizens Advice Sheffield, Co-op - Local Community Fund, Fareshare Yorkshire, Sheffield City Council, Sheffield S6 Foodbank, Voluntary Action Sheffield	◆
Enhance connections between local food producers and businesses, community-based organisations and social enterprises.	51	Connect growers and producers directly with procurers and caterers within anchor institutions and other businesses and organisations in the city, through organising speed networking events and supporting the development of the Groak food discovery app.	Groak food discovery app, ShefFood	● ⬢
Build a brand to celebrate good food practices in Sheffield.	52	Build a brand for good food businesses in Sheffield to increase connections and celebrate good food in the city via the Groak food discovery app.	Business Sheffield (Sheffield City Council), Groak food discovery app	●
Connect and enhance communication between food organisations working on different parts of the Sheffield food system.	53	Convene meetings and events on the theme of healthy and sustainable food that bring together food producers, food businesses, service providers, residents, and researchers to exchange knowledge and learning.	Business Sheffield (Sheffield City Council), CHEFS (Culture, Health, Environment, Food and Society research cluster - Sheffield Hallam University), Food Works, NCFE (National Centre for Excellence for Food Engineering - Sheffield Hallam University), ShefFood, South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre, The Sheffield Wheat Experiment, The University of Sheffield	▲ ■ ● ◆ ⬢

Aim	#	Actions	Organisations Involved	WG
Develop a regional food partnership.	54	Develop a regional food partnership in South Yorkshire to share knowledge and develop a regional-based food strategy.	Doncaster Food Network, Good Food Barnsley, Rotherham Food Network, ShefFood, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre, The University of Sheffield	▲
Create spaces for conversations about systemic barriers to accessing food.	55	Develop resources and spaces to promote and support the realisation of the Right to Food from grassroots upwards.	Voluntary Action Sheffield	◆
Inspire and engage the public about good food and food systems.	56	Run public events and workshops that engage, inspire and exchange knowledge amongst citizens about food systems.	Blend Kitchen, Chef's Counter, Food Works, Sheffield Food Festival, The Sheffield Wheat Experiment, Madame Zucchini	▲
Support and promote low-carbon, local, Sheffield-based food production.	57	Continue to produce and distribute nature-friendly food within the Sheffield City Region through existing peri-urban market garden enterprises and community growing organisations, while sharing horticultural skills and generating employment.	Beanies Wholefoods Co-operative, Moss Valley Market Garden, Regather, Sheffield Organic Growers	⬢
	58	Work towards the decarbonisation of the regional food system through local, values-based primary production (the production of food using low-carbon processes, embedded in Sheffield-based and regional communities, targeting economically marginalised groups) and the processing and sequestration of carbon dioxide using the food system.	South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre, Theme 2: Agri-Food Decarbonisation and Environmental Restoration team and partners	⬢
	59	Promote sustainable food and nature-friendly food growing as an important part of 'Living in Sheffield', via the Welcome to Sheffield website.	Marketing Sheffield	⬢

5. Leverage spaces for food initiatives.

Aim	#	Actions	Organisations Involved	WG
Assess the potential of existing properties and infrastructure for social kitchens.	60	Develop an up-to-date map of kitchens (and their specifications e.g. size, condition) where communities in the city could take ownership.	Food Cycle, Lunch Clubs, Open Kitchen, Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Community Land Trust, ShefFood, Voluntary Action Sheffield	▲ ◆
	61	Overlay potential community kitchens map with the Sheffield Food Provision Map of existing social eating spaces to identify gaps in provision.		
	62	Raise awareness to find those that want access to kitchens and support them with accessing kitchen spaces.		

Aim	#	Actions	Organisations Involved	WG
Assess the feasibility of utilising existing green spaces to increase nature-friendly food growing in and around Sheffield.	63	Map appropriate land/spaces in Sheffield to expand food production and community participation in growing.	Food Works, Green City Action, Green Estate, H3 (The University of Sheffield), Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Community Land Trust, ShefFood, Urban Agriculture Task Force (Regather)	🏠
	64	Increase allotment provision in the city by exploring new potential sites for allotments and tackling waiting lists by bringing derelict plots back into use, splitting existing plots and, on new sites, prioritising plot quantity over plot size.	Sheffield City Council	🏠
	65	Increase access to council-owned land, buildings and assets for community groups through developing draft (and negotiating actual) service agreements and meanwhile use. Plus, longer-term leasing that will enable organisations to create sustainable site uses.	Food Works, Sheffield City Council, ShefFood, Urban Agriculture Task Force (Regather)	🏠
Develop low-carbon food infrastructure in Sheffield.	66	Co-develop low-carbon community food infrastructure in the Gleadless Valley including a Community Food Hub and Community Orchard, enabling delivery of commitments set out in the Gleadless Valley Employment and Skills and Shared and Green Space strategies.	Gleadless Valley Masterplan Team (Sheffield City Council), Studio Polpo, Urban Agriculture Task Force (Regather)	🏠
Facilitate connections between landowners and community members searching for land.	67	Map which areas of the city and which communities have the greatest need for land for food growing.	Food Works, Green Estate, H3 (The University of Sheffield), Sheffield City Council, Urban Agriculture Task Force (Regather), Voluntary Action Sheffield	🏠
	68	Begin conversations with local landowning farmers lacking a succession plan to hand land to their descendants, and with landowners, and rural land agents. This would help protect food-producing land from the risk of future development.	Urban Agriculture Task Force (Regather)	🏠
Expand the number of access points for affordable, sustainable food.	69	Continue expanding the network of Food Works partner hubs across the city as access points for affordable, sustainable food. Use these food focal points for growing local activism and engagement with the food system in the city.	Food Works	📌 📌
Support and promote food businesses across Sheffield's high streets.	70	Signpost with Business Sheffield (Sheffield City Council) to support potential food businesses in the city start up and expand.	Business Sheffield (Sheffield City Council), ShefFood	🟦
	71	Support small food businesses to scale up and work with large caterers.		
Increase the number of edible trees in Sheffield & caring for existing fruit trees/ orchards in schools and public spaces.	72	Increase the quantity and productivity of edible fruit trees, orchards and agroforestry systems in Sheffield.	Abundance, Eat Trees Sheffield - Regather & Sheffield City Council	🏠
	73	Increase the volume of fruit harvested, processed and eaten in Sheffield.	Community Forestry, Green City Action, Kids Plant Trees, Moss Valley Market Garden, Sheffield Fruit Trees, Sheffield Organic Growers	



Concluding Remarks



We hope that a common appetite for collaboration comes through in this document, as well as a shared commitment to building a food system where everyone in Sheffield has access to healthy and sustainable food. We are incredibly grateful to every organisation that has contributed to the development of this plan, and especially to those listed organisations that have committed to deliver these actions. We believe the seventy-three actions described here can be important stepping stones towards positive and lasting food systems change. This document is not the beginning or the end of this process. It is one moment in a long term trajectory of change that must involve the whole city.

In this plan we have focused on those commitments and actions that emerged across twelve workshops and ongoing conversations. It has been an exciting process, full of collective moments of inspiration. There is almost certainly much

that we have not been able to capture here. But the process has made clear the importance of building networks, meeting in person, and sharing experiences between diverse organisations and groups. The challenge is not only to strengthen these networks and make them more inclusive, but to extend them to connect with a wider range of organisations operating in and around the city that focus on social and environmental issues beyond food. We hope that the ongoing Working Group Meetings can provide a platform for these networks and collaborations to develop.

There is much more to be done. Challenges remain in relation to issues of capacity and resourcing, as well as the dominance of powerful actors and interests in food systems. Equally, the workshops revealed an ambitious range of potential actions to be further developed, not least in relation to strengthening links with other cities and integrating Sheffield's Local Food Action Plan into the hospitality and manufacturing sectors, regional public health, food procurement, and land use policy-making, amongst many others.

We hope readers can place themselves and their organisations within and across these actions, strategies, and Working Groups. We hope the local food action plan will be read, shared, talked about, and acted upon. We hope this document does justice to the commitment, innovation, and engagement of initiatives, organisations, and institutions across Sheffield - this plan could never have been produced without them. Above all, we hope to continue working together to build on this local food action plan to deliver profound and lasting change to Sheffield's food system.



Glossary of Terms

Agroecology	The application of ecological principles in farming; it means farming <i>with</i> rather than <i>against</i> nature. Agroecology can play a vital role in mitigating climate change, increasing biodiversity, and empowering farmers and communities to become stewards of their environments and food systems.
Agroforestry	The purposeful integration of trees with agricultural or horticultural crops within the same piece of land in order to provide a range of beneficial environmental outcomes.
Anchor Institutions	Large institutions that are embedded in the city of Sheffield and which have the potential to deliver significant public benefit. In this document, the term is used to refer to hospitals, healthcare services, schools, universities, colleges, and Sheffield City Council, all of whom contributed to the development of the local food action plan.
Biodiversity	The co-existence of a wide variety of plant and animal species in their natural environments at a particular time.
Community Gardens	Mixed-use gardens typically in urban and peri-urban areas, maintained and managed by and for the benefit of the local community with few or no commercial activities.
Decarbonisation	The process of stopping or reducing carbon gases, especially carbon dioxide, being released into the atmosphere.
Food Bank	A place where stocks of food, typically basic provisions and non-perishable items, are supplied free of charge to people experiencing food insecurity.
Food Hub	Enterprises that source food directly from multiple producers, aggregate the produce, and sell it on, while applying a set of standards or values in their sourcing and operations that uphold various sustainability principles (Neumann & Sharpe, 2023).

Food Insecurity	A person is food insecure when they lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. This may be due to unavailability of food and/or lack of resources to obtain food (FAO, 1996).
Food Ladders	A framework developed by Megan Blake which places food-based organisations based on a 'three rung ladder' model, which aims to build local level resilience. (For more information see Blake, 2019)
Food Networks	The more or less formal relationships, collaborations and/or partnerships between diverse food enterprises, initiatives, organisations and institutions with a shared commitment to place-based activities. These networks can play vital roles in knowledge management, amplification and advocacy, community-building, convening, and resource mobilisation (Hearn & Mendizabal, 2011).
Food Pantry	A community membership shop that will provide high quality, low cost food to those in a local area.
Food Partnerships	Place-based multi stakeholder partnerships that work to improve local food systems. Activities typically include contributing to the development of local food strategies. There are currently over 90 food partnerships in the UK networked through the Sustainable Food Places programme, led by Sustain, the Soil Association, and Food Matters.
Food Waste	Food that is fit for consumption but consciously discarded at the retail or consumption phases.
Local	For the most part in this document, the food that is produced in South Yorkshire. However, wherever possible Local Food should be food that aims to shorten supply chains as much as possible – e.g. Sheffield or peri-urban grown.
Nature Friendly Food	See Sustainable Food
Peri Urban Agriculture	Food production on the edge of city boundaries. In the context of Sheffield, examples of peri-urban agriculture would include Sheffield Organic Growers and Regather Farm in the Moss Valley to the South East of Sheffield.

Procurement	The process often used by organisations to source and purchase goods and services. Each individual business will generally have set guidance or policies that govern their choice of suppliers and the methods that will be used to communicate with them and so on.
Public Agencies	A formally established organisation that is, at least in part, publicly funded to deliver a public or government service, though not as a Ministerial Department.
Right to Food	The Right to adequate food is realised when every man, woman and child, alone and in community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement (UN Social and Economic Council, 1999). The Right to Food received binding legal status in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which the UK agreed to follow in 1976.
ShefFood Charter	A voluntary charter, developed by ShefFood, which outlines commitments to creating a better food system in Sheffield for people and the planet. When an organisation signs the charter, they become a partner of ShefFood.
Social Eating Spaces	Places where the primary intention is for people to come to enjoy and share a meal together, usually in a community setting.
Surplus Food	Food in the supply chain that has not been sold or eaten but is still fit for human consumption.
Sustainable food	In this document, we refer to the Sustain's (2013) working definition, which states that sustainable food should be produced, processed, distributed and disposed of in ways that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to thriving local economies and sustainable livelihoods - both in the UK and, in the case of imported products, in producer countries; • Protect the diversity of both plants and animals and the welfare of farmed and wild species; • Avoid damaging or wasting natural resources or contributing to climate - change; • Provide social benefits, such as good quality food, safe and healthy products, and educational opportunities.

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