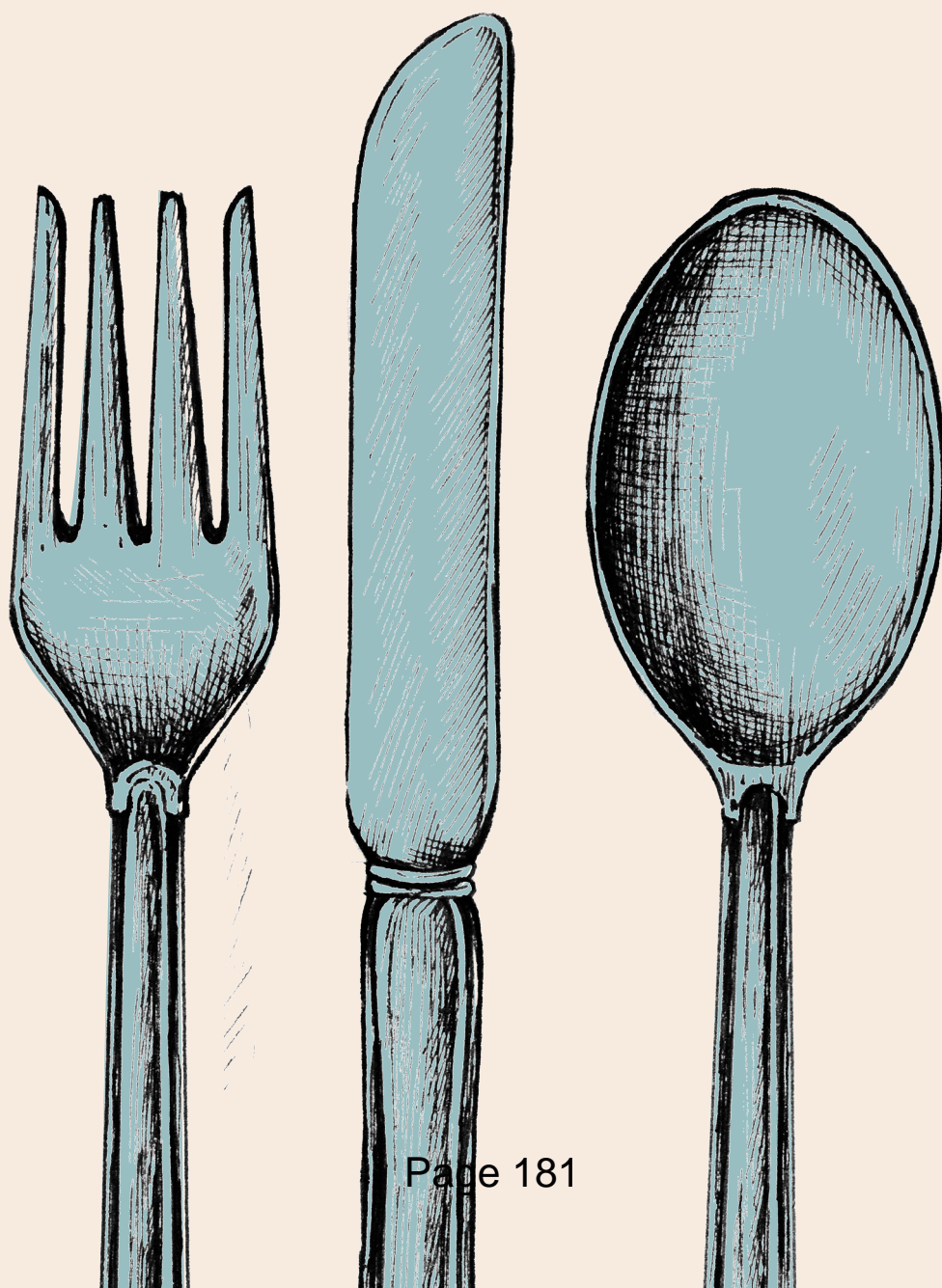


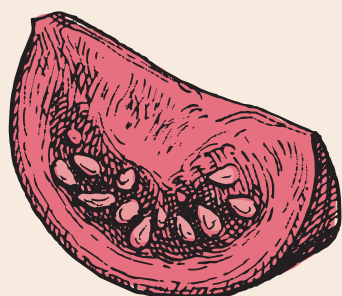
FAIRER, HEALTHIER, GREENER

A FOOD STRATEGY FOR SHEFFIELD



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In Sheffield we want everyone to be able to access food all the time that is safe, affordable, culturally appropriate, nutritious and that benefits their health and wellbeing. We also want to ensure that we safeguard this access for future generations by building a food system that is fairer, more resilient to shocks and that doesn't harm the planet.



Why Food?

Food is vitally important to our health and wellbeing, not only do we need it to stay alive it also gives us pleasure, allows us to share and celebrate and connects us to our land, different cultures and to our neighbourhoods, friends and family.

Despite the fundamental role food plays in our lives there are a number of threats to our ability to access it. For the purposes of this strategy these have been broadly put into 3 themes – **financial access**; **physical access** (including protection from harmful commercial influences); and **future access** (including being resilient to global shocks and minimising the negative impact food production can have on our planet). All these themes must be underpinned by the need for social justice and fairness.

This strategy affirms Sheffield City Council's commitment to the food agenda, it is also a call to action to partners across our local food system. Although the challenges our food system faces are significant Sheffield has a strong foundation from which to respond. We are nationally recognised for our thriving local food economy and the significant knowledge we have across the food sector and can harness this to generate real change.



1. Financial Access to food:

All people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

Food poverty can be described as the inability to acquire or consume an adequate or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so. As with all poverty, food poverty is primarily driven by income deprivation. This income deprivation is in turn linked to a number of interrelated factors that lead to food poverty including local availability of retailers selling affordable nutritious food, access to transport, access to cooking, storage and preparation facilities, having the appropriate skills and knowledge.

Food poverty has negative health and economic outcomes, as well as social and psychological impacts. The existence of food banks and other forms of food aid provision reflects the growth of food poverty in recent years. However, food bank usage highlights only those experiencing severe food poverty, it does not show the full nature and the scale of the problem. Research by the [University of Sheffield](#) revealed that last year over 2.5% of adults in the city experienced hunger due to lack of food, while 11.43% worried about accessing sufficient food. The cost-of-living crisis is likely to see this worsen and the lowest income households will be the most severely affected.

There are equality issues with food poverty that extend beyond income deprivation. Of the 8% of UK families that are estimated to currently be food insecure families with disabilities, families whose head of household are Black/African/Caribbean/Black British, and younger families are disproportionately affected and we need to ensure our local responses adequately address all aspects of inequality.

Link between food poverty, undernutrition, and obesity: Paradoxically, obesity can co-exist with hunger in lower income households including those experiencing food poverty. Children from the most deprived areas are almost twice as likely to be overweight or obese by the time they start secondary school than those from the least deprived areas. Highly processed foods are 3 times cheaper per calorie than healthy food ([Food Foundation, 2021](#)). When very little money is left over after bills are paid, the food budget is often the easiest one to cut. Skipping meals or opting for the cheapest, most filling options – which are often the least healthy – has to suffice. It is not ignorance or the inability to cook that is the root cause of poor diet and obesity. It is poverty.

2. Physical access to nutritious food: People can access food that makes them well instead of sick and are protected from harmful commercial influences.

The nutritional quality of our diets has declined in recent decades whilst levels of obesity have increased. A sudden and population wide loss of personal motivation to eat well is not the reason for this, rather it is the increasingly industrialised food environment in which we now live. Our food choices are heavily influenced by what's available and in the UK's food environment unhealthy, processed food is cheap, abundant and heavily marketed. Commercial influence is the real driver of consumption.

The physical food environment is closely interrelated with income deprivation and this fuels health inequalities. This means that deprivation not only affects the ability to afford nutritious food it also affects the ability to physically access it. Residential areas which lack adequate supply of affordable fresh food retailers are known as food deserts. People living in deprived areas often face significant barriers to accessing affordable, healthy food including living in "food deserts", not having access to transport to be able to reach shops where cheaper and more varied foods are available, increased prevalence of physical and mental health issues, and increased likelihood of being time poor and cash poor.

Companies disproportionately target more deprived areas and communities with their food outlets and advertising campaigns. In 2019 Sheffield was in the top 20% (ranked 33rd of 324 Local Authorities) for Hot Food Takeaway saturation at 117 outlets per 100k residents. These fast food outlets are disproportionately located in more deprived parts of the city. Furthermore, children and adults from lower socio-economic groups are 50% more likely to be exposed to advertisements for "unhealthy" (high fat, salt and/or sugar) foods than those from higher socio-economic groups ([Yau et al., 2021](#)). There is evidence that this advertising directly affects how much we eat.

This is unethical. The food industry is driven to increase shareholder profits by selling unhealthy commodities, whilst the cost of the negative health outcomes resulting from this is being borne by the state and by the individuals affected.

All of these factors contribute to an unhealthy diet through lack of choice, not through personal choice and we must keep that in mind when designing interventions.

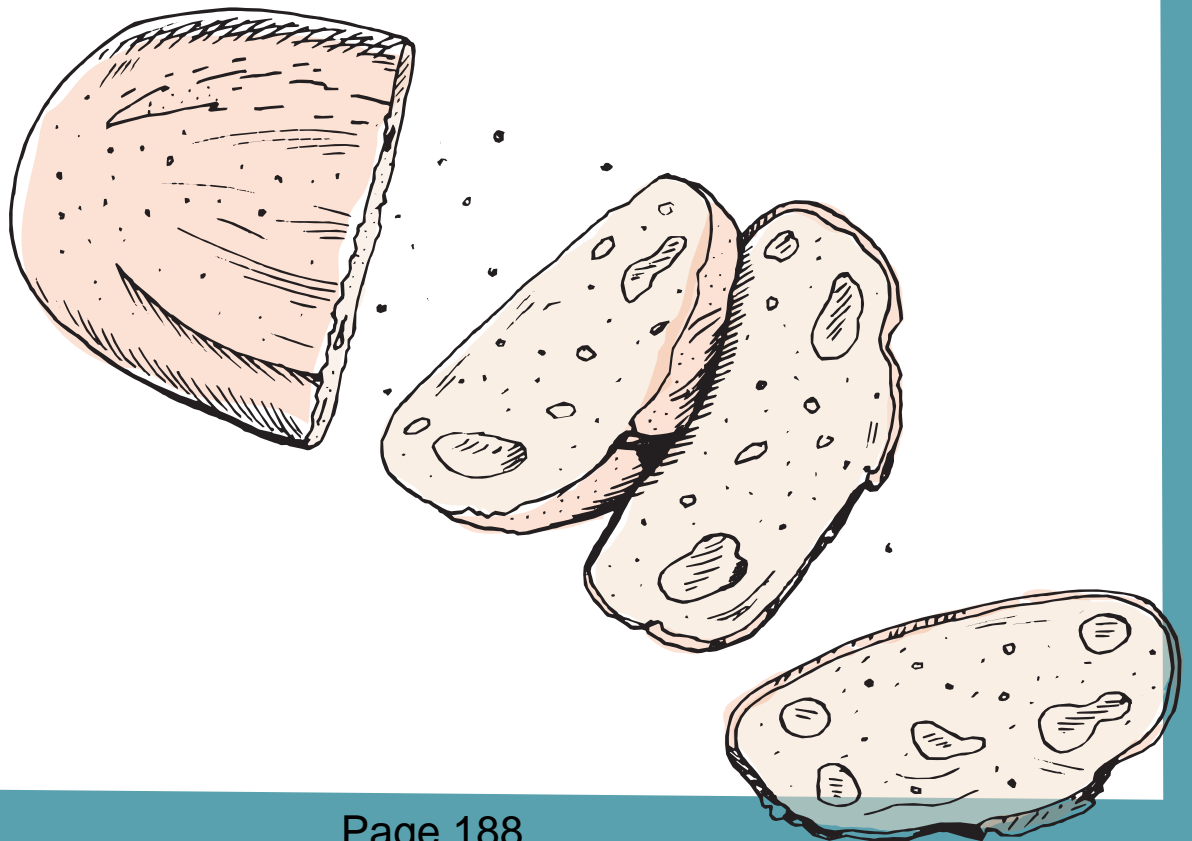
3. Future access to food: Safeguarding our food system by ensuring it produces nutritious food, helps to restore nature and halt climate change and is resilient to withstand global shocks

The UK imports around half of its food and consequently our diets are very varied, demanding a wide range of foodstuffs to be available all year round and relying to a large extent on imports. Environmental, biological, economic, social and geopolitical stresses interact to make the UK's food system vulnerable to disruption. This has clearly been seen during Covid-19 pandemic, in the post-Brexit era and following the disruption to production and supply caused by the war in Ukraine. Combined with a lack of food warehouse provision in the UK (driven by just-in-time supply chains), these drivers lead to volatility in food supply and affordability – and general food security. We are seeing this with the current cost of living crisis. If we want to tackle food insecurity on a fundamental scale we need to enhance our food system's resilience to such shocks and stresses, and not only focus on poverty reduction and emergency food assistance.

In addition to its lack of resilience our current food system is also damaging to the planet. Globally it is the single largest cause of biodiversity loss, deforestation, and freshwater pollution and the second largest cause of climate change. The UK cannot meet its targets to reach net zero by 2050 without changes to the food system. In the UK, agriculture is responsible for 20% of greenhouse gas emissions, 30% if imported food emissions are included. In turn, climate change threatens our future food security due to risk of crop failure, damage to ecosystems, and increased volatility of supply chains. Within the food system, the largest polluter is meat. Currently, 85% of farmland in the UK is used to rear animals, either directly or through their feed some of which could be used differently to support biodiversity and carbon sequestration if demand for meat was reduced.

Growing and sourcing more of our food locally, with the right considerations, can increase our food security, support biodiversity and reduce our carbon emissions. Just to highlight the contribution that urban food production could play, if all available urban and under-used green space were turned to cultivation the area would add up to enough to grow nearly 40% of the UK's fresh fruit and vegetable consumption ([Walsh et al, 2022](#))

There are ways in which we can personally make a difference including by reducing the amount of meat and dairy that we eat, trying to eat more simply and seasonally (recognising the time and financial constraints many people currently face when trying to do this mean it is far from being the default behaviour) and minimising our food waste. The way our food is grown and reaches our plate (so the amount of processing, packaging, the distance it travels) makes a significant impact and there is potential for the council, and partners, to use their influence, physical assets and buying power to stimulate a more sustainable local food system.



Why do we need a Sheffield Food Strategy?

Although authored by Sheffield City Council this Food Strategy is the culmination of many years of conversations with partners across our local food system. It demonstrates the council's own commitment to this agenda but it is also as a call to action for our partners, who we know share our aspirations. It has been written to be overarching across the multiple policy areas that impact on the food system and is intended to facilitate further work and conversations both within the council and with our partners in the city.

This Food Strategy focuses on the strategic and structural challenges our food system faces, our vision for the future and the ways in which we can begin to get there, it does not yet include a detailed plan. Alongside Sheffield's Food Partnership, ShefFood, we will consult with the general public and city partners of all sizes to begin to prioritize our actions and generate a shared action plan that will enable us collectively to move towards the vision set out in this document.

This strategy acknowledges that there are things we in Sheffield can control that will improve our local food system and will have significant positive impact on the lives of everyone in our city, particularly the most disadvantaged. National and international action is certainly needed to make an impact at the level that is required to address the full scale of the public health and environmental crises we are facing. Nevertheless, sound local food policy that recognises the importance of holistic, joined up thinking across the food sector can make significant progress towards a more sustainable food system for everyone in Sheffield.



National context

Published in 2021 the [National Food Strategy](#) is a government-commissioned independent review of the food system led by Henry Dimbleby. It covers major issues including health and inequalities, food security, climate change, biodiversity loss, land use, and trade. The strategy focuses around four strategic objectives:

1. **Escape the junk food cycle to protect the NHS**
2. **Reduce diet-related inequality**
3. **Make the best use of our land**
4. **Create a long-term shift in our food culture.**

The National Food Strategy is a robust analysis of the UK food system in its entirety and it is broadly accepted that implementing its 14 recommendations would make a substantial contribution to restoring food related human and planetary health. The 14 recommendations are outlined in Appendix 1.

The [Government Food Strategy](#) was published in June 2022 in response to the independent review. Many of the key recommendations and findings of Henry Dimbleby's independent report are not addressed by the government response, particularly around sustainability, food security and creating healthier food environments. The strategy response represents a missed opportunity to tackle the underlying causes of a variety of issues, many of which will continue to be exacerbated by the growing cost of living crisis.

Within its recommendation to set clear targets and bring in legislation for long-term change, the NFS suggests all local authorities should put in place food strategies in line with its goals that the food system should:

- **Make us well instead of sick**
- **Be resilient to withstand global shocks**
- **Help to restore nature and halt climate change**
- **Meet the standards the public expect on health, environment, and animal welfare**

This Sheffield Food Strategy attempts to do exactly this, attempting to rise to the challenge on a local level where national government has thus far failed to do so.



Outcomes

There are 3 outcomes that will be addressed through all of the priorities proposed in this strategy.

Through this Food Strategy we aspire to a food system that is:

Fairer:

Everyone can access food all the time that is safe, affordable, nutritious and that benefits their health and wellbeing. Targeted provision of training, skills and “good” jobs in food production provide a route out of poverty in addition to supporting a more local food system.

People are engaged in their local food system and are working together to change this for the better. Community growing in the city guarantees the availability of healthy affordable food and this, alongside surplus redistribution schemes, supports local food security.

● 22% of adults in Sheffield were estimated to have experienced a degree of food insecurity in 2021, of these 2.5% had reported actually going hungry because they could not afford or get access to food (**Blake and Moretti, 2021**)

● The poorest 10% of UK households would need to spend 74% of their disposable income on food to meet the Eatwell Guide costs. This is compared to only 6% of disposable income in the richest 10% (**Food Foundation, 2022**)

● Sheffield has around 30 food banks and other types of food relief projects. Feedback for these organisations suggests the cost of living crisis is creating additional demand

● Fast food outlets are concentrated in the more deprived areas of the city (**PHE, 2018**)

● Over 26,000 children in Sheffield are eligible for means-tested free school meals (Sheffield City Council, 2022)

● 22% of workers in the food system earn the National Minimum Wage or below, compared to 8% of workers across the whole UK economy (**Food Foundation, 2022**)



Healthier:

People can access food that makes them well instead of sick and are protected from harmful commercial influences . A wide range of initiatives exist in communities that harness the broad contribution that food makes to our physical, social and emotional wellbeing.

● Poor diet and unhealthy weight are two of the biggest contributors to ill health and early death in our city. The health consequences of poor diet include increased risk of chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer.

● Almost two thirds of adults are overweight or obese (this equates to over 290,000 adults in Sheffield). (OHID)

● The most deprived communities in the city are eating the least healthily and are more likely to experience the negative health consequences of this.

● More than 2 in 5 Sheffield children experience tooth decay by age 5. Children in Sheffield are more than twice as likely to have teeth removed than the national average. (OHID)

● Only 45% of adults in Sheffield consume the recommended 5 of more portions of fruit and vegetables an average day (OHID)

● More than 1 in 5 Sheffield children were overweight or obese when they started school (age 4/5 years), this increases to more than 1 in 3 by the time they reach Year 6 (age 10/11 years). (OHID)



Greener:

Food is produced and transported in a way that minimises damage to the environment. Agroecological principles are followed to regenerate degraded farmland and improve biodiversity. Artificial chemical inputs are reduced and supply chains are shortened through a focus on diets based around seasonal and locally-grown produce.

Wastage is minimised at all stages of the food system and surplus redistribution initiatives are recognised for the role they play in both environmental sustainability and social justice. Nutrient-recovery is promoted through a programme of food waste composting.

Community food-growing spaces are commonplace, particularly in areas with high levels of deprivation.

Two organic farms operate in the Moss valley covering 36 acres in total. It has been estimated that these larger “nature friendly farms”, when combined with the wider network of community food growing and therapeutic gardens, allotments and apiaries across South Yorkshire cultivate nearly 40 hectares, employ nearly 100 staff with a collective turnover of £8m, engage nearly 2,000 volunteers contributing 200,000 hours and support over 1,000 vulnerable people annually (**Sustain, 2021**)

An average of 33% of the contents of Sheffield’s black bins are made up of food waste (**Sheffield City Council, 2019**)

Sheffield has over 7,528ha of grassland and arable land, over half of which is improved grassland. Unimproved grasslands – the most beneficial for wildlife – cover less than 10% of all grasslands and farmland. (**Wild Sheffield, 2019**)

Every £1 spent with a local supplier is worth £1.76 to the local economy, and only 36 pence if it is spent out of the local area (**NEF, 2005**)

Many of the dietary changes we can make to improve our health will also reduce the climate impact of the food system. To meet all its health, climate, and nature goals, the **2021 National Food Strategy** suggests that the national diet should contain 30% more fruit and vegetables; 50% more fibre; 25% less high fat, salt, and sugar foods; and 30% less meat by 2032.

Alongside a reduction in carbon emissions, 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**)



Co-benefits

There are also a number of co-benefits to be gained for implementing measures that make our local food system fairer, healthier and greener. The beauty of food is that many initiatives will have multiple, cross cutting benefits for example:

Economic benefits

A more localised food system also brings economic benefits through creation of local business and job opportunities. The local food sector employs around 25,000 people, and is a key component of Sheffield's entrepreneurial identity. Hospitality initiatives such as Blend Kitchen provide a valuable source of training and employment for those who have faced challenges in life and may otherwise struggle to enter the job market.

Sheffield's food scene contributes to the vibrancy of the city and helps form the city offer to tourists. For example, Sheffield Food Festival is the city's largest free event attracting thousands of visitors to the city centre each June and showcasing the best of the city's diverse and dynamic food scene.

Our universities and colleges also enrol large numbers of students onto a wide range of food-related courses and support local food businesses with research and innovation. New learning pathways are being developed through agroecological farms in the city, to ensure we have the knowledge to feed ourselves for the next generation.

Improvements in population health through a focus on healthy and affordable diets can also bring economic benefits through reduced burden on health and social care, reduced unemployment and increased economic activity.

Inclusion and community cohesion

Food and food businesses are uniquely placed as a means to bring the diverse communities across Sheffield together through the sharing of food and food culture. In Sheffield, you can eat your way around the world in one city, celebrating diversity and heritage through food. It also is a way to enable individuals from minority communities to use their cultural knowledge and skills to play an active role in the local food economy. There are areas of the city that also host authentic cuisine served to the community of the owners providing employment and supporting tourism but also serving as social spaces for those communities.

Tackling loneliness and social isolation

Along with nutrition, food in itself plays an important role in supporting mental wellbeing. The more often people eat with others, the more likely they are to report being satisfied with their life and feeling engaged with their local community. The benefits of initiatives like social eating spaces, lunch clubs and food growing spaces come about as much from the reduced social isolation and improved mental wellbeing as they do from the actual nutrition found in the food that is grown or eaten.

Underlying principles

Collaborative and inclusive

We recognise the collective expertise and influence in our city that works across organisational and geographical boundaries. There are many shared aims between these groups and organisations, large and small, who come together through the ShefFood partnership and beyond it, and who will wish to participate in the development of a shared food action plan.

Compassionate and non-judgmental

We recognise the complexity of the food choices we make in our daily lives and the multiple barriers that are faced by all of us when trying to eat a healthy and/or more sustainable diet. We will endeavour to ensure that all of the initiatives and service developments resulting from this food strategy will treat people with compassion and respect, will understand and accept difference and will actively challenge the stigma that can often be experienced by those living with obesity or living in poverty. Actions will be person-centred and inclusive, supporting all communities of the city towards healthier outcomes in the broadest sense of the word.

Whole system

Responsibility for decision making that can have an impact on our food system is spread across the Local Authority and beyond. Waste management, parks and countryside, leisure, housing, school food, markets, events, planning, communications and many more council services will all contribute to the outcomes in this strategy. There may also at times be conflicting priorities, for example the need to protect agricultural land vs the need for sufficient and affordable housing in the city. As such, the strategy will be a starting point for multiple conversations across the council and beyond to understand and maximise this collective contribution and to take informed decisions.

We acknowledge that the causes of the challenges described in this strategy are multiple and complex and therefore multiple interventions will be needed as part of a whole systems approach. Emphasis will be on tackling environmental and commercial determinants rather than on individual behaviour. Monitoring the effectiveness of these interventions will be similarly complex due to the complexity of the issues, the lack of direct causal relationships and the amount of time it will take to turn the tide and to start seeing measurable impacts.

Commercial determinants of health

Commercial determinants of health are the private sector activities that affect people's health. For example, the marketing of unhealthy foods through advertising, product placement and price promotion. The food industry is driven to increase shareholder profits by selling food that is harmful to human and planetary health. The cost of the negative health and environmental outcomes resulting from this is borne by the state and by the individuals affected. This strategy aims to increase awareness of these harmful industry practices and of strategies to counter them.

Food ladders

Sheffield City Council has adopted the Food Ladders approach. Food ladders are community-scale interventions aimed at building local level resilience in the face of food insecurity. The approach was developed for low-income communities to address the wider effects that poverty has on health, wellbeing, and community cohesion. Food Ladders encompasses three levels of intervention

- **Catching** - for those in crisis and including emergency food aid
- **Capacity building to enable social innovation** – examples are training programmes, shared cooking and eating activities, food pantries, children's holiday clubs, and voucher schemes. Activities done in a manner that celebrates difference and is not stigmatising
- **Self-organised community change** - projects that meet community needs as communities themselves identify them. Examples include developing a social enterprise based on community cooking knowledge that provides employment, food growing that increases the local availability of good food, regular social cooking and eating activities to overcome loneliness
- **For more information see [Food Ladders](#)**



Our commitments

Our work will be organised around the 3 Threats to Access — **Financial Access, Physical Access and Future Access** — described in this strategy.

Financial Access: Reduce inequalities in access to nutritious food and diet-related inequalities.

The cost of living crisis and poverty are important policy issues that need to be addressed by national policy. Locally we should provide evidence-based challenge to national policy responses where they do not adequately address the problems many people in Sheffield are facing. However, there are also things that we can and should do locally to help.

This commitment will closely align with Sheffield's Tackling Poverty action plan and cost of living incident response. Along with increasing the resilience of our food system, tackling poverty is fundamental to reducing diet-related inequality. Specific to addressing food poverty in the here and now the council will continue to develop and implement its Food Access Plan shown below:

Sheffield Food Access Plan

1. Respond to immediate need

Rising demand coupled with reducing donations means that food banks are struggling to source enough food and need help with this. Sheffield City Council will purchase food on behalf of food banks to ensure they are able to provide sufficient food to meet current levels of demand. This will be a short term measure in response to the cost of living crisis but will be kept under review.

As part of the work on delivering the government's energy rebate to over 215,000 households in South Yorkshire Community Foundation have created a fund that will support individuals in need and to encourage people to donate their rebate to this fund. The council has supported the creation of this fund and funding generated will be given to food banks and other types of support organisations in the city to enable them to continue their work and respond to increasing demand.

We will take specific focussed action to reduce food inequality for children and young people including by developing Sheffield's Holiday Activities and Food Programme, ensuring access to nutritious food and meaningful activities for children and young people of benefits-related free school meals during all school holidays

2. Responding to underlying causes of food poverty

Food poverty is a result of financial hardship. The council's poverty strategy and cost of living crisis incidence response both outline ways the council can prevent poverty or support those experiencing poverty. Specific to food it is clear that

accessing a food bank can be a gateway to other support services that may be able to help people with their financial situation e.g. employment, financial or mental health support. Sheffield Citizen's Advice have a history of providing outreach into food banks and therefore will be approached to discuss funded expansion of this work.

We will continue to undertake work to maximise uptake of food related benefits such as Healthy Start vouchers and free school meals

3. Co-ordination and capacity building

The council will fund dedicated staffing capacity that will allow detailed and up to date information to be held on emergency food provision in the city, the scale of the demand for this provision and the challenges being faced by providers and users. This intelligence and conduit between the council and the diverse range of food support in the city will enable us to provide that right kind of support. It will also support networking, collaboration and the sharing of learning and expertise between projects, in particular those who want to develop their provision in response to the **food ladders** model. The desired outcome will be community food spaces that increasingly:

- Build resilience through prevention. We must still ensure emergency food provision is accessible to those who need it, but where possible we should also try to shift away from a dependency model of emergency food provision to one of prevention.
- Expand the use of food as a tool to access other support and services, including financial support and mental health services.
- Provide increased choice, opportunities for participation and minimise the risk of stigma.

A food bank/ food relief development fund will also be established to support food banks and other food relief projects who wish to develop their offer to move away from a dependency model of emergency food provision to one of prevention.

Physical Access: Use our influence to create environments where healthier and more sustainable food choices are possible, easy, affordable, culturally appropriate and abundant.

Greater emphasis will be put on implementing upstream, population level interventions as these outgun downstream, individual focussed interventions both in terms of equity and impact. The council will need to take a whole systems approach, by this we mean taking advantage of as many of the opportunities we have to influence the food environment as possible in order to have impact on the scale that is required.

We must address the underlying reasons why people may be unable to access nutritious food, this will include taking action on food poverty as described above. We must also take steps to protect the people of Sheffield from negative commercial influences on diet so that less healthy food choices are less heavily marketed and less abundant in our everyday food environments.

Whilst there is significant emphasis on upstream intervention there is still a place and a need for provision of support for individuals. Where this is in place locally there will be targeting of groups known to be at highest risk of diet related ill health in order to tackle health inequalities.

Specific priorities for action include:

- Develop good practice and/or minimum standards that ensure we meet the standards the public expect on health, environment, and animal welfare. These should be applied wherever procuring operators for or leasing venues that will include a food offer and/or advertising and sponsorship opportunities. For example, this will include leisure centres, entertainment venues, parks cafes, staff bases and school food.
- Develop a junk food advertising and sponsorship policy that reflects the council's role as a public health organisation.
- Develop a Hot Food Takeaways Policy as part of the new Local Plan which limits proliferation in areas of high deprivation and obesity and in close proximity to secondary schools.
- Continue to support educational and early years settings to create and develop healthy and sustainable food environments.
- Share learning and good practice amongst partners such as the local NHS and our Universities, many of whom are already taking action to improve the food they serve.
- Work in collaboration with the ShefFood partnership to achieve Sustainable Food Places Silver award status for Sheffield.
- Work with local community groups and organisations to ensure support services, such as those helping people to manage their weight, take a compassionate approach and are suitable for and accessed by under-served populations and/or groups at increased risk of obesity and poor diet.

Future access: safeguarding our food system by ensuring it produces nutritious food, restores nature, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and is resilient to effects of climate change and other global shocks.

If we are going to safeguard our food system for the long term the food we eat (and throw away) and the way we use our land needs to change. The council and our partners own a wide variety of assets including land and buildings and, in some cases, may be able to use these differently to support a healthier and more sustainable food system. This might include creating spaces for community food growing, social eating schemes or community pantries for example. The council and our partners also buy food or hold contracts with venue operators who in turn buy food. We can use this influence to stimulate a growing market for more sustainable food and also as a way to change social norms, to lead by example and to disseminate information to our communities about the impact of the food we eat.

A further way to free up land and reduce the carbon impact of our food system would be to reduce food waste. Most of this waste comes from households and one way to reduce this is by introducing household collection of food waste, which can increase people's awareness of what they are throwing in the bin and influence changes in behaviour.

Specific priorities for action include:

- Develop a consistent approach to incorporating climate impacts (including through food provision) into contracts and ensuring appropriate performance monitoring is carried out. This approach to procurement will be included as part of the SCC 2030 route map which will set out our objectives and actions for reducing our own climate impacts as a Council. Climate impact assessments already prompt officers to consider the impacts of the sourcing of food and drink. Continue to refine this process which has already been tested on the school catering contract and in parks cafés.
- Consider whether the council should adopt a range of sustainable standards for our internal catering including, for example, meat and dairy reduction, locally grown, reduction in single use plastic, reduction in food waste
- Introduce kerbside household food waste collections in line with the Environment Act 2020. Continue to work with initiatives such as Love Food Hate Waste to encourage household food waste reduction. Consider possible strategies to increase compost production from household food waste
- Participate in the Eat Trees Sheffield project aiming to grow edible fruit trees, orchards and agroforestry systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and connect people to regenerative food and farming.
- The Council will work with local communities and partners to identify spaces where food production and provision can be accommodated

- Through programmes like Holiday Activities and Food focus on funding local enterprises that are driven by local needs, provide local employment, and multiply the impacts of money earned and spent locally.
- Consider how we can work strategically with community initiatives that seek to minimise the negative impact of the food system on the environment, for example by redistributing food surpluses or by growing food for local use in order to maximise the positive outcomes
- Actively participate in and support the Sheffield Good Food Movement (ShefFood) to develop and expand as this collective effort and expertise will be essential if we are to achieve the outcomes outlined in this strategy



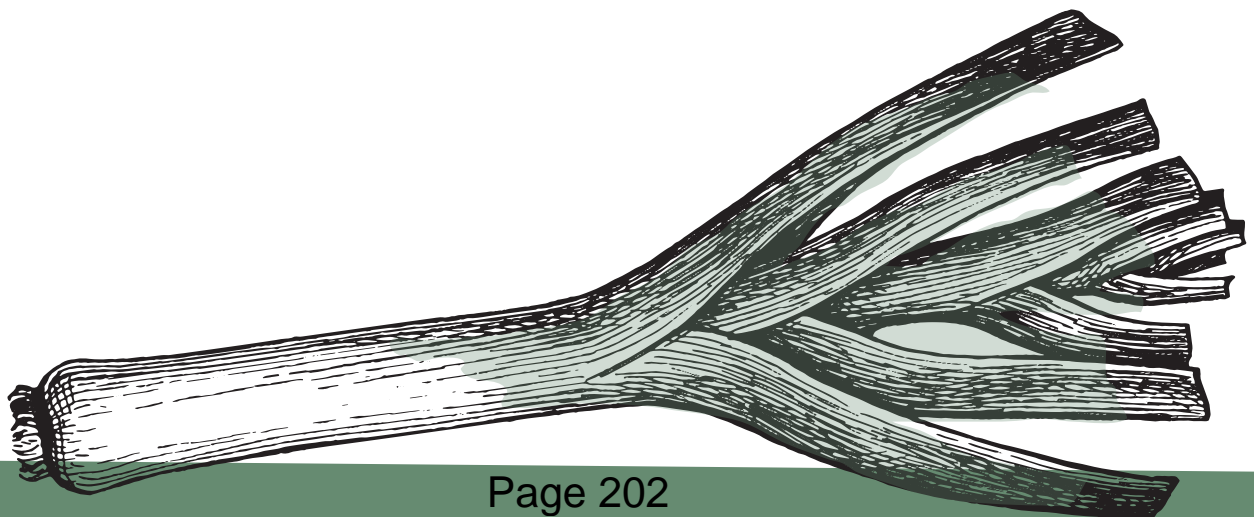
Wider policy linkages

The cross-cutting nature of food means that the issues intersect with multiple council services and policies. However, there are a few policies that are particularly closely aligned.

[Sheffield Poverty Framework 2020-2030](#)

[Our long term plan for climate change \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](#) and [10 Point Plan for Climate Action](#)

[Sheffield Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)



Appendix 1 - National Food Strategy recommendations

The National Food Strategy - The Plan

1. Escape the junk food cycle and protect the NHS

Recommendation 1: Introduce a Sugar and Salt Reformulation Tax. Use some of the revenue to help get fresh fruit and vegetables to low-income families

Recommendation 2: Introduce mandatory reporting for large food companies

Recommendation 3: Launch a new “Eat and Learn” initiative for schools.

2. Reduce diet-related inequality

Recommendation 4: Extend eligibility for free school meals.

Recommendation 5: Fund the Holiday Activities and Food programme for the next three years.

Recommendation 6: Expand the Healthy Start scheme.

Recommendation 7: Trial a “Community Eatwell” programme, supporting those on low incomes to improve their diets.

3. Make the best of our land

Recommendation 8: Guarantee the budget for agricultural payments until at least 2029 to help farmers transition to more sustainable land use.

Recommendation 9: Create a rural land use framework based on the Three Compartment Model.

Recommendation 10: Define minimum standards for trade, and a mechanism for protecting them.

4. Create a long-term shift in our food culture

Recommendation 11: Invest £1 billion in innovation to create a better food system

Recommendation 12: Create a National Food System Data programme

Recommendation 13: Strengthen Government procurement rules to ensure that taxpayer money is spent on healthy and sustainable food.

Recommendation 14: Set clear targets and bring in legislation for long-term change

