



CIVIL FOOD RESILIENCE CASE STUDY 8: LINCOLNSHIRE

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The Greater Lincolnshire Food Partnership is an alliance of organisations across Greater Lincolnshire working together for greener, fairer and healthier food for all through sustainable local action. Greater Lincolnshire has a major part to play in national food and nutrient security because of its concentration of the UK's grade 1 land, and nationally pivotal role in agri-food, processing and distribution.

The Lincolnshire population has, however, a particularly high vulnerability to shocks, because of the extent of flood risk, high levels of poverty (e.g. 34.5% child poverty in North East Lincolnshire) and poor diets (e.g. in Boston 43.4% of children leave primary school with overweight or obesity).

Approach

Lincolnshire's approach to Civil Food Resilience planning centres on joining up emergency planning with food system resilience. This includes engaging with Local Resilience Forum officers on the broader aspects of food resilience (e.g., via the 'Just in Time...' report).

The Lincolnshire Local Resilience Forum has recently appointed two new staff members to focus on Food and Communities, respectively. This creates an opportunity to work alongside the Resilience Forum, to influence the development of Emergency Plans, to increase understanding of the issues and processes of Resilience Forums, identify pitfalls and challenges, and showcase what can be done on a local level.

The Communities Officer role includes supporting parish-level community groups to develop their own [emergency plans](#).

- Plans deal with short term, acute shocks, including multiple and cascading shocks such as flooding, infectious diseases and loss of gas or electricity (but not war, harvest failure or anything "overwhelming")
- There is interest in ways to maintain engagement with local groups (as opposed to creating a one-off emergency plan that will sit on a shelf); supporting communities to make the link between on-going resilience capacity-building and their emergency response plan could be a productive way to do this.

- LRF is looking to fund physical resilience hubs, and mobile hubs; the team is looking to integrate these within the existing resources and needs of communities, rather than “inventing something new”.

Approach: The Food Partnership’s roles in resilience

Emergency responses during COVID

- Brought together a consortium of foodbanks & community food support, and supported county-wide delivery using freezer-vans, to distribute food to vulnerable groups
- Developed an [online directory](#) of Lincoln food businesses’ provision during lockdown to help small businesses providing for their communities in new or temporary ways
- Collated and publicised covid food responses by individual organisations, including Food Partnership members - e.g.
 - a [Good Citizen Guide](#) (Simon Hawking, Acts Trust)
 - Washingborough Academy school kitchen provided meals to vulnerable members of the village community
- Provided a connection between businesses and the foodbank network to enable the distribution of unusual surplus food, for example airline meals

Strengthening Household Food Security

- Provides an online map and directory of social food provision, including food banks, community groceries and community cafes - used by individuals seeking support, agencies looking to sign-post, and businesses and individuals wishing to donate or volunteer
- Organises an annual Food Summit, bringing together social food organisations to share best practice, and solve problems together
- Developed a “[Reducing Dependency](#)” strategy to move beyond foodbanks to long term household food resilience (led by Board member Simon Hawking, Acts Trust). This has led to a reduction in food bank use in Lincoln.

Convening stakeholders to address challenges together

- Host workshops with food system stakeholders, such as [wheat-to-bread](#) supply chain actors, Lincoln Food Conversations, and the Future of Food in the Lincolnshire Fens to co-develop [recommendations for the region](#)
- Work with local planners and nature groups to develop policies to support their aims for climate-adapted and nature-restorative rural developments
- Organise workshops to develop [local food supply](#)

Challenges

Food tends to be under-addressed in community plans; there is recognition that it needs to be considered, and a willingness to work with the Food Partnership.

Lincolnshire LRF new Food Officer is tasked with developing an emergency plan for food, but is awaiting steer from central government, and has not yet started in her role at the time of writing. This has slowed collaboration with the Food Partnership.

Opportunities

By working with the Communities Engagement Officer within the LRF, it is hoped that the 'Food Gap' will become clear and that when the Food Officer engages that the subject will be addressed swiftly as a logical connection,

The 'Just in time...' report helps to bridge communication between the Partnership, the LRF and those working with the Crisis & Resilience Support funding, especially the correspondence between "chronic' slow food shocks to society that are being normalised, such as obesity and deep inequalities on the one hand, and 'acute' shocks that are now coming to the fore."

Locally, the Social Food Support map can be updated to signpost the public to emergency food resources including community kitchens, food hubs, distribution, surplus food banks. Working with the LRF Communities Liaison this can be designed to meet local needs and vulnerable groups. This project would benefit from the Crisis and Resilience Fund (set to launch in March 2026)

Lincolnshire Food Summit



The Lincolnshire Food Summit is an opportunity for organisations in the food system to come together to share inspiring practice, discuss key issues, and solve problems together.

The purpose of the Lincolnshire Food Summit is to bring multiple conversations on food resilience

into the same room, co-create a shared picture of the issues in Lincolnshire, and develop place-based responses together.

The Summit makes links between household- and community level resilience; access to healthy food; resilient diets, and more.

The Summit is of particular relevance to those involved in the food system, from farming, retail and catering, through policy, education and health, to social food support, community kitchens and local growing projects. This space gives the opportunity to hear from experts and those working in Lincolnshire's food system to bring together current research and national context in food resilience along with Lincolnshire's local circumstances and needs.