



Ranil Jayawardena MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Levelling UP, Housing and Communities

The Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP, Secretary of State for Education

The Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

16 of September 2022

Dear Secretary of State

**Re: Supporting our communities, farmers and food businesses while addressing the cost of living crisis**

The Sustainable Food Places (SFP) Network is a growing movement of 80 food partnerships across the UK that are driving innovation and best practice in all aspects of healthy and sustainable food. Through these cross-sector food partnerships, local authorities and other public bodies are working together with third sector, businesses and academic organisations to transform their local food system. Our aim is to tackle critical sustainability issues including access to healthy food, the climate and nature emergencies, and to create jobs, businesses and bring prosperity to local areas through the development of the good food sector.

On their behalf, we call on the UK Government to recognise the key role of food partnerships by supporting a Food Bill in every nation, underpinned by an independent body to champion action and scrutinise progress, and a food plan and food partnership in every local area to ensure collaboration working across the food system and progress in today's most pressing social, environmental and economic issues related to food.

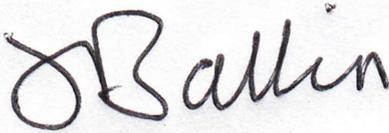
We are living through an unprecedented cost of living crisis and local authorities need backing from national governments to support those most in need through building resilient food systems. Food partnerships, alongside local authorities and other local organisations are playing a pivotal role in driving and coordinating effective community food responses to ensure nobody is left hungry in the face of ever rising food prices. But these local efforts need to be matched with action at the national level. We need a food system that enables everyone to eat well. Getting our food system right could help us not only reduce food insecurity but tackle obesity and disparities and meet our climate and nature targets. With

smart investment, and a joined up approach which food partnerships excel at, the Government could also unlock innovation, drive economic growth and provide jobs.

The Good Food Nation Bill in Scotland, the proposed Food Bill for Wales and the Food Strategy Framework for Northern Ireland will help shape more sustainable food systems across the nations in the UK. The Government Food Strategy for England includes a recognition of the value of food partnerships and we ask you as a matter of urgency to act on that recognition and initiate the process of “learn[ing] from their approaches and work to understand and identify best practice in addressing food affordability and accessibility to healthy food. As part of our levelling up mission to narrow the gap in healthy life expectancy, government will identify the areas most in need of this insight, and Defra will work with local authorities and food charities in these priority areas.”

We would be delighted to present the extraordinary work of our members in more detail and to work with government to fulfil the ambitions in the Government Food Strategy related to food partnerships.

Yours faithfully



Leon Ballin

Programme Manager, Sustainable Food Places

Sustainable Food Places is a partnership programme led by the Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain - the alliance for better food and farming. The call on government outlined in this letter is supported by the food partnerships below:

Aberdeen – Granite City Food City

Aberdeenshire – Fair Food Aberdeenshire

Ards and North Down – Ards and North Down Sustainable Food Community

Arun & Chichester – Arun & Chichester Food Partnership

Belfast – Good Food Belfast

Birmingham – Creating a Healthy Food City Forum

Blackburn with Darwen – Blackburn with Darwen Food Alliance

Blaenau Gwent – Blaenau Gwent Food Partnership  
Brighton and Hove – Brighton & Hove Food Partnership  
Bristol – Bristol Food Network  
Buckinghamshire – Buckinghamshire Food Partnership  
Bury – Bury Food Partnership  
Calderdale – Calderdale Food Network  
Cambridge – Cambridge Sustainable Food  
Cardiff – Food Cardiff  
Carlisle – Food Carlisle  
Carmarthenshire – Bwyd Sir Gâr Food  
Clackmannanshire – Clackmannanshire Good Food Partnership  
County Durham – Food Durham  
Coventry – Coventry Food Network  
Cornwall - Sustainable Food Cornwall  
Derby – Sustainable Food Derby  
Derry City & Strabane District Council – Acorn Food Network  
Devon – Devon Food Partnership  
Doncaster – Good Food Doncaster  
Dumfries and Galloway – Sustainable Food Partnership Dumfries and Galloway  
Dundee – Eat & Drink Dundee  
Eastbourne – Eastbourne Food Partnership CIC  
Edinburgh – Edible Edinburgh  
Exeter – Food Exeter  
Fife – Food4Fife  
Glasgow – Glasgow Food Policy Partnership  
Gloucestershire – Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership  
Greater Lincolnshire – Greater Lincolnshire Food Partnership

Greater London – London Food Board  
Greater Manchester – Good Food Greater Manchester  
Greenwich – Good Food Greenwich  
Herefordshire – Herefordshire Food Alliance  
Highland – Highland Good Food Partnership  
Hull – Hull Food Partnership  
Islington - Islington Food Partnership  
Lambeth – Lambeth Food Partnership  
Lancaster District – FoodFutures  
Leeds – FoodWise Leeds  
Leicester - Leicester's Food Plan  
Leicestershire – Good Food Leicestershire  
Lewes District – Lewes District Food Partnership  
Lewisham – Good Food Lewisham  
Liverpool – Feeding Liverpool  
Luton – Luton Food Plan  
Manchester City – Manchester Food Board  
Medway – Medway Food Partnership  
Merton – Sustainable Merton  
Mid & East Antrim - Mid & East Antrim Food Partnership  
Middlesbrough – Middlesbrough Food Partnership  
Monmouthshire – Monmouthshire Food Partnership  
Newcastle – Food Newcastle  
Newry, Mourne & Down – Newry, Mourne & Down Food Partnership  
North Ayrshire – North Ayrshire Food Forum  
North Lincolnshire – Food in North Lincolnshire  
North Powys – North Powys Sustainable Food Places

Nottingham – Nottingham Good Food Partnership  
Oldham – Oldham Food Network  
Oxfordshire – Good Food Oxfordshire  
Perth & Kinross – Perth & Kinross Good Food  
Peterborough – Peterborough Food Partnership  
Plymouth – Food Plymouth  
Rhondda Cynon Taf – RCT Food  
Sheffield – Sheffood  
Shropshire – Shropshire Good Food Partnership  
South Lanarkshire – South Lanarkshire Good Food Forum  
Southwark – Southwark Food Action Alliance  
Stirling – Stirling Regional Food Partnership  
Sutton – Sutton Food Forum  
Tameside – Tameside Food Partnership  
Tower Hamlets – Tower Hamlets Food Partnership  
Vale of Glamorgan – Food Vale / Bwyd yfro  
Wandsworth – Wandsworth Food Partnership  
Wells – Wells Food Network  
West Northamptonshire – West Northamptonshire Sustainable Food Place  
Winchester – Winchester Food Partnership  
York – Good Food York