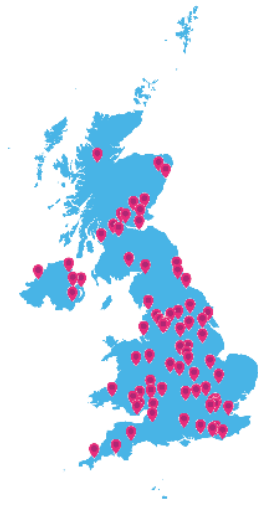


Sustainable Food Places & Government Food Strategy

The Sustainable Food Places model

[Sustainable Food Places \(SFP\)](#) is a fast growing network of over 80 UK food partnerships which work on all aspects of the food system to solve some of today's most pressing social, environmental and economic issues. Food partnerships bring together key stakeholders, from the local authority, health, university and public sector bodies to growers, retailers and the hospitality sector. Through working together, each partnership drives local activity to create a more resilient and sustainable food systems.



Government Food Strategy

The [Government Food Strategy](#) recognises the key role of food partnerships in delivering its objectives:

2.2.3. Local Food Partnerships have already brought together councils and partners from the public sector, voluntary and community groups, and businesses to reduce diet-related ill health and inequality, while supporting a prosperous local food economy. We will learn 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.

The SFP Six Key Issues

The Sustainable Food Places approach is based around 6 key issues, which correlate well to Government Food Strategy objectives:

- KI 1 Food Governance and Strategy** - putting systems in place to foster a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action.
- KI 2 Healthy Food for All** - tackling food poverty, diet related ill-health and increasing access to affordable healthy food.
- KI 3 Catering and Procurement** - transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local and sustainable food supply chains.
- KI 4 Good Food Movement** - building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement.
- KI 5 Sustainable Food Economy** - creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse food economy.
- KI 6 Food for the Planet** - tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming, and an end to food waste. This Key Issue runs at the heart of all SFP work.

These different areas of the food system are individually complex and hard to take meaningful action on - but they are also interconnected. However, they are often looked at silos, failing to take advantage of the synergies between them. **A food partnership is in a unique position to 'join the dots'.**

Potential Roles for Food Partnerships

Food partnerships, supported by the SFP programme, can play a role in supporting cross cutting action to help achieve the following Government Food Strategy objectives:

<p>Food security & sustainable production</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking farmers & food producers with each other & with new markets, and leading innovation on food economy projects • Supporting rollout of workforce/ skills programmes around sustainable food production skills • Supporting and promotion of local sustainable farmers and producers, helping consumers better understand where the food they buy comes from and its production impact • Locally led food waste reduction projects (such as community composting) and redistribution of edible surplus food • Levelling up – food partnerships already play a key role in local economy projects & enabling Levelling Up and other growth funding bids • Being ‘response ready’ to food insecurity shocks including the cost of living crisis – research shows that places with food partnerships responded better to the Covid pandemic.
<p>Healthier & sustainable eating</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a forum for consultation and collaboration on local obesity and healthy eating - related strategies • Leading campaigns and projects which directly reduce health inequalities and increase healthy life expectancy, such as Veg Cities • Providing public education on food-related issues and healthy eating, targeted at areas of disadvantage • Showcasing and championing the role of local food initiatives • Leading on food and climate change strategy and projects • Biodiversity projects linked to food production, such as land use/ supporting community growing and regenerative agriculture • Providing the partnership environment which enables the aspiration to 50% localised/sustainable procurement and driving innovation e.g. around dynamic procurement.
<p>The UK as part of a global food system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting transition in the agrifood sector and acting as a trusted voice for and to local communities when it comes to change.

Potential Opportunities through the SFP Programme

- Co-design & delivery of a support programme to food partnerships, with the aim of producing place based food plans that reflect the priorities of the Government Food Strategy. NB The Welsh Government recently announced £3 million funding to support the development of cross-sector food partnerships In Wales, in response to the cost of living crisis. SFP’s Welsh partner, Food sense Wales, is co-designing and supporting this initiative.
- Expansion of the network to every local authority area in England to match the rapid growth in the other nations – SFP one of the fastest growing movements in the UK, however there is not yet full coverage.
- Further enabling food partnerships to deliver Government food strategy and other government policy and funded programmes by building on our existing support model, which already cuts across health, sustainability and economy.