

Manchester Food Board

Action Plan

The Manchester Food Board (MFB) Action Plan has 5 aims:

1. Improve Manchester's food security, and reduce inequalities by ensuring that safe, appropriate, and nutritious food is available to all
2. Promote a vibrant food culture and grow a dynamic and robust food sector
3. Create more resilient supply chains
4. Reduce environmental impacts throughout the food system with a focus on food waste and a shift to more ecological practices
5. Facilitate collaboration, research and innovation in the food system

Aim 1: Improve Manchester's food security, and reduce inequalities by ensuring that safe, appropriate, and nutritious food is available to all

Objective	Actions	Key partners	Progress
People in crisis have access to emergency food	Ensure adequate emergency food provision for people who might otherwise go hungry	Our Manchester Food Partnership (OMFP); MCC; EMERGE (FareShare Greater Manchester); food aid providers	OMFP leading on this, with support from MFB
	Raise awareness of food security in local plans (eg emergency planning, Brexit/climate change)	OMFP; MCC; Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA); Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA)	OMFP leading on this, with support from MFB
Organisations and charities offering food aid are well supported and address the root causes of food poverty	Improve co-ordination between and among food providers and other aid providers working in communities	MCC; OMFP; EMERGE (FareShare Greater Manchester); Manchester Community Central (MACC); Manchester BME Network; food aid providers	OMFP leading on this, with support from MFB
Clear and committed local leadership around sustainable food	Ensure that anchor institutions have commitments around sustainable food	MCC; Universities; schools; hospitals; cultural institutions; housing providers; care homes	Co-ordinated MCC's signing of the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration (Nov 2021) The Manchester Responsible Business Pioneers Programme and Pathfinders group will feed into the development of a hospitality code of conduct (March 2022)
	Develop policy, such as a PAN, to help increase the number of people growing more of their own food	MCC; Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC); Manchester Housing Providers Partnership (MHPP); Healthy Me Healthy Communities (HMHC); local community growing groups	Conversations ongoing

Objective	Actions	Key partners	Progress
People at risk of or experiencing poverty and hunger have access to healthy, affordable, appropriate food	Ensure food aid is culturally appropriate to the community being served	MCC; OMFP; food aid providers; EMERGE (FareShare Greater Manchester); community groups; faith groups	Produced “Culturally diverse supply chains for Manchester” report, which explores food supply and access across different cultures (Jan 2022)
	Ensure food aid is available in ingredient form and as cooked meals	MCC; OMFP; food aid providers; EMERGE (FareShare Greater Manchester); community groups; faith groups	OMFP leading on this, with support from MFB
	Ensure the serving size of food aid is appropriate to the people receiving it	MCC; OMFP; food aid providers; EMERGE (FareShare Greater Manchester); community groups; faith groups	OMFP leading on this, with support from MFB
	Ensure food aid is healthy and of adequate nutritional value	MCC; OMFP; food aid providers	OMFP leading on this, with support from MFB
	Partnership working to increase the uptake of healthy start vouchers.	MCC; OMFP; Housing providers; community groups; charities; community centres; food providers; food aid providers	Working with OMFP and GMCA on this
	Partnership working to increase the number of food outlets accepting healthy start vouchers.	MCC; OMFP; Housing providers; community groups; charities; community centres; food providers; food aid providers	Working with OMFP and GMCA on this
	Increase the uptake of free school meals and the continuation of subsidised school meals in Manchester.	MCC; OMFP; Housing providers; community groups; charities; community centres; food providers; food aid providers	Conversations ongoing
	Advocate for food clubs to reduce social isolation and the likelihood of malnutrition	MCC; OMFP; Housing providers; community groups; charities; community centres; food providers; food aid providers	Conversations ongoing

Objective	Actions	Key partners	Progress
Individuals are inspired to become more active 'food citizens'	Provide a wide range of free opportunities for people to learn about, share, and enjoy healthy and sustainable food	MCC; CityCo; Bruntwood; Oxford Road Corridor Partnership; Community groups; charities; anchor institutions	<p>Partnership working to develop the Manchester Sustainable Food Week event along Oxford Road (Nov 2021, ongoing)</p> <p>Delivered a presentation about sustainable food consumption and supply at Bruntwood's Sustainability Week (Oct 2021)</p> <p>Spoke at Food Wave workshop, exploring food policy making with over 40 participants (Feb 2021)</p>
	Increase participation in food growing, healthy cooking courses, and other food-related activities	MCC; local growing groups; charities and community groups); housing associations	Established Community Food Growing Cluster, to increase the number of people participating in food growing and improve access to locally grown food. The results of our survey can be viewed on the MFB website.
	Raise public awareness of good food	MFB; partners/wider network	<p>Sharing and promoting opportunities and information about good food and best practice on Twitter (ongoing)</p> <p>Sharing good practice and updates from partners in the MFB newsletter (ongoing)</p>

Objective	Actions	Key partners	Progress
A strong institutional catering infrastructure that provides healthy, affordable, sustainable food	Improve the standard of food in care homes and older people care schemes	Care homes; day centres; community centres; MCC	Not yet started
	Improve the standard of food in schools	Senior schools; primary schools; MCC	Partnership working with MCC to explore this
	Improve the standard of food in early years settings	Nurseries; day care centres; play centres; MCC	Not yet started
	Improve the standard of food in colleges	Sixth form colleges; MCC	Not yet started
	Improve the standard of food in hospitals and hospices	Hospitals; care hospices; MCC	Not yet started
	Improve the standard of food in prisons	Prisons; young offender institutions; MCC	Not yet started
Engage with businesses to support food security in the community	Explore the viability of employers signing up to the Real Living Wage	Hospitality sector; food retail sector; food producers; anchor institutions; MCC	This is a key objective for the development of a hospitality code of conduct (March 2022)
	Work to encourage businesses to sign up to the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter	Hospitality sector; food retail sector; food producers; anchor institutions; MCC	This is a key objective for the development of a hospitality code of conduct (March 2022)
	Explore the viability of employers signing up to the Real Meal Deal	Hospitality sector; food retail sector; food producers; anchor institutions; MCC	This is a key objective for the development of a hospitality code of conduct (March 2022)

Aim 2: Promote a vibrant food culture and grow a dynamic and robust food economy

Objective	Actions	Key partners	Progress
A sustainable, diverse, innovative, and resilient hospitality sector	Work to increase the diversity and sustainability (both financial and environmental) of food and drinks businesses.	MCC; CityCo; Bruntwood; local social enterprises; local independent food and beverage producers; local hospitality businesses	Conversations ongoing
	Ensure a robust and dynamic food producer sector, to support local growers, producers, makers, and brewers	MCC; CityCo; Bruntwood; local social enterprises; local independent food and beverage producers; local hospitality businesses	Developing the Manchester Responsible Business Pioneers Programme to support local food and drinks businesses (Jan 2022)
	Provide opportunities for food businesses to share and exchange knowledge around tech and innovation	FoodSync; CityCo; Bruntwood; Barker Proudlove	Wrote food-focused case study on opportunities in food tech for MCC Digital Strategy (July 2021)
A thriving food scene with visitors from surrounding areas coming to Manchester to eat and drink. Increase in footfall, dwell time, and spend.	Improve and promote Manchester's offer as a food destination	Local and regional media outlets; local restaurants; cafes; bars; pubs; MCC; Visit Manchester; Marketing Manchester; Tourism Industry Economic Recovery (TIER) group	Working with stakeholders to establish the Responsible Business Pathfinder group, which will act as an expert cluster on ethical hospitality (Jan 2022)
	Increase food entrepreneurship by reducing the barriers to entering the food sector as a new trader	MCC; Bruntwood; CityCo; independent local food and beverage producers; independent retailers; wholesalers; local markets; Business Growth Hub	Conversations ongoing
	Create, promote, and support thriving traditional local markets across key Manchester localities	MCC; Bruntwood; CityCo; independent local food and beverage producers; independent retailers; wholesalers; local markets; Business Growth Hub	Sharing and promoting news from the local markets in Manchester via Twitter and the MFB newsletter (ongoing)

Objective	Actions	Key partners	Progress
A food economy that contributes to the health and food security of people across Manchester.	Work with businesses to ensure more healthy food is available.	Restaurants and cafes; hospitality sector; CityCo; catering providers; procurement teams in anchor institutions; retailers	This is a key objective for the Manchester Responsible Business Pioneers Programme (Jan 2022)
	Explore the viability of a hospitality code of conduct that encourages healthy eating, fair practices, and sustainability	MCC; CityCo; Bruntwood; local social enterprises; local independent food and beverage producers; local hospitality businesses	The Manchester Responsible Business Pioneers Programme and Pathfinders group will feed into the development of a hospitality code of conduct (March 2022)
	As the city grows, ensure that food provision is fully considered and planned, as both an amenity and an economic driver	MCC; Manchester Housing Providers Partnership (MHPP); Bruntwood; Captial and Centric; other developers; retailers; hospitality businesses	Conversations ongoing
	Ensure Manchester considers food in terms of the 20 minute neighbourhood, for the city centre and for key localities	MCC/town planners; Manchester Housing Providers Partnership (MHPP); urban design advisors; Bruntwood; developers; OMFP	Conversations ongoing
	Raise public awareness of good food, promote local businesses, and foster a vibrant food culture	MFB; partners/wider network	Sharing and promoting opportunities and information about good food, local businesses, and the local food culture via Twitter (ongoing) Sharing good practice and updates from partners in the MFB newsletter (ongoing)

Aim 3: Create more resilient supply chains

Objective	Actions	Key partners	Progress
Manchester has a sustainable and viable local wholesale food supply	Develop more resilient local wholesale markets	Local farmers; NFU; local wholesalers; New Smithfield Market; catering suppliers; MCC; local processors and producers	Working with MCC on the potential for a sustainable food hub in Manchester (Dec 2021, ongoing)
	Support local food growing activity to increase levels of local food production	MCC; local farmers; local urban growers; Organic North; local wholesalers; independent retailers	Conversations ongoing
	Develop shorter food supply chains	Local farmers; local wholesalers; retailers; NFU; MCC; Manchester Fairtrade	Produced “Culturally diverse supply chains for Manchester” report (Jan 2022)
	Showcase best practice in supply chain management at all scales	Co-op; Manchester Fairtrade; local food and beverage producers and wholesalers; CityCo; local independent retailers	Sharing and promoting news and best practice in food chains via Twitter and the MFB newsletter (ongoing)
Development of strategies to tackle potential environmental and financial threats	Create an emergency food planning group	MCC; GMCA; MCCA; food producers; food wholesalers; food retailers; food service providers (schools, care homes)	Conversations ongoing
	Engage at regional level to create and improve resilient supply chains	GMCA; MCC	MFB is a member of the Good Food Greater Manchester steering group
Individuals are inspired and engaged to become more active 'food citizens'	Raise public awareness of good food and best practice in supply chains	MFB; partners/wider network	Sharing and promoting opportunities and information about good food and best practice in food chains Twitter (ongoing) Sharing good practice and updates from partners in the MFB newsletter (ongoing)

Aim 4: Reduce environmental impacts throughout the food system

Objective	Actions	Key partners	Progress
Reduction in carbon emissions associated with food waste	Reduce commercial food waste in line with the food waste hierarchy	MCC; EMERGE (FareShare Greater Manchester); Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA); TBBT; food redistribution charities; Manchester Urban Diggers; Co-op; independent retailers; WRAP; anchor institutions	This is a key objective for the Manchester Responsible Business Pioneers Programme (Jan 2022) Working with WRAP to promote the Guardians of Grub programme in Manchester (Feb 2022)
	Reduce domestic food waste in line with the food waste hierarchy	MCC; WRAP; Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA); Real Food Wythenshawe; Manchester Urban Diggers	Championed reduction of food waste at home when speaking with residents at the launches for Ward Climate Action Plans (Dec 2021)
Sustainable food anchored at council level	Develop a policy to enhance the sustainability of food in Manchester	MCC; MCCA; CityCo; retailers; food producers	Co-ordinated MCC's signing of the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration (Nov 2021) We will be facilitating further discussions about other relevant policy levers we can link with this work.
Individuals are inspired and engaged to become more active 'food citizens'	Raise public awareness of sustainable food consumption	MFB; partners/wider network	Sharing and promoting opportunities and information about good food and best practice on Twitter (ongoing) Sharing good practice and updates from partners in the MFB newsletter (ongoing)

Objective	Actions	Key partners	Progress
Reduction in environmental impacts from food	Increased local food consumption at domestic level	MCC; Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA); NFU; smaller farms; Sow the City; Real Food Wythenshawe; Kindling Trust; Manchester Urban Diggers (MUD); community growing groups; Healthy Me Healthy Communities (HMHC); local dairies; nearby abattoirs	Established Community Food Growing Cluster, and ran a survey to understand how best to support food growing activity; the results of this are available on our website.
	Help identify and encourage improved farming processes and practices	NFU; smaller farms and community growing sites; Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA); Co-op; manufacturers in Manchester but also across GM eg Heineken, McVitties, Kellogg's; local dairies; nearby abattoirs	The Spring 2021 MFB newsletter features Brades Dairy, who feed their herd Mootrall, a supplement that produces less methane in cows (April 2021)
	Increase consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables, grains, pulses, and legumes	Retail; hospitality sector; MCCA; MCC; general public; NFU	Conversations ongoing
	Promote consumption of fresh, farm-assured meat	NFU; smaller farms; retail; hospitality sector; MCCA; MCC; general public; nearby abattoirs	Conversations ongoing
	Promote sustainable consumption of fish	NFU; retail; hospitality sector; MCCA; MCC; general public	The Spring 2021 MFB Newsletter included a feature about sustainable fishing (April 2021)
	Support farmers and growers in their net zero carbon ambitions, as highlighted by the NFU	NFU; smaller farms	Conversations ongoing

Aim 5: Facilitate collaboration, research and innovation in the food system

Objective	Actions	Key partners	Progress
More cross-cutting solutions that will help overcome the barriers to a more sustainable food system	Bring together a multi-stakeholder partnership to explore and develop new schemes of technological innovation	Y-Food; Bruntwood; Sow the City; Groundwork; Met Munch; University of Leeds; University of Salford; University of Lancaster; University of Manchester; Manchester Metropolitan University	Due to begin 2022
	Help support and develop innovative approaches to tackle the wider challenges of the food system	MCCA; University of Manchester; University of Leeds; One Manchester	Conversations ongoing
Ability to target resources effectively when developing policy and other mechanisms, to improve food sustainability	Facilitate research to develop an evidence base and to design approaches that help inform policy delivery and application for the city	University of Salford; University of Manchester; MCC; University of Leeds; housing providers; local community and charity groups	Contributed to the academic report “Incorporating Food into Manchester’s Climate Change Response: Why Manchester Needs a Sustainable Food Mission to Support a Green and Just Recovery from COVID-19”, by Dr Jo Mylan at the University of Manchester (Dec 2021)
Support from a wide range of groups for a shift towards more sustainable consumption and production	Develop sector-specific groups to increase technology innovation and application across the city	Y-Food; Bruntwood; University of Salford; University of Lancaster; University of Manchester; Manchester Metropolitan University	Delivered a presentation about sustainable food consumption and supply at Bruntwood’s Sustainability Week (Oct 2021)
Individuals are inspired and engaged to become more active 'food citizens'	Raise public awareness of innovations and research relating to food	MFB; partners/wider network	Sharing and promoting opportunities and information about innovations and research relating to food (ongoing)
			Sharing good practice and updates from partners in the MFB newsletter (ongoing)