



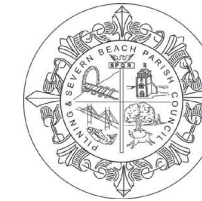
South Gloucestershire

Local Food Partnership Action Plan

2026-2028

Connecting people and communities with local food

South Gloucestershire Local Food Partnership Members



Who are we?

We are organisations, businesses and people across South Gloucestershire working on different parts of the local food system including, farmers and growers, food processors, food businesses and caterers, organisations like town and parish councils, community groups, allotment holders, educational organisations, local residents, Councillors and more (see the logos of all our current members on the final pages). Anyone working on food in South Gloucestershire is invited to join our partnership.

What is a food system?

A food system is everything that links to food, from the land, to growing or making food, to eating it or throwing it away.

A local food system is everything to do with food in the local area. It can connect people more closely with the food produced locally.



Why did we form our partnership?

Food is essential for everyone, right now our food systems are coming under increasing pressure from climate change and nature loss and global instability. The cost of food is rising, and reducing the availability and quality of fresh food for everyone with some people impacted more than others. Food systems are complex and there are many people and organisations involved. By joining together, we can work to solve problems and increase the support that strengthens the local food system.

What do we want to achieve and why?

A stronger local food system in South Gloucestershire – that supports people, businesses and nature in our area to thrive. There are many advantages to strengthening our local food system in terms of local jobs and businesses, opportunities to improve health and well-being, supporting people and nature, as well as promoting enjoyment and appreciation of food.

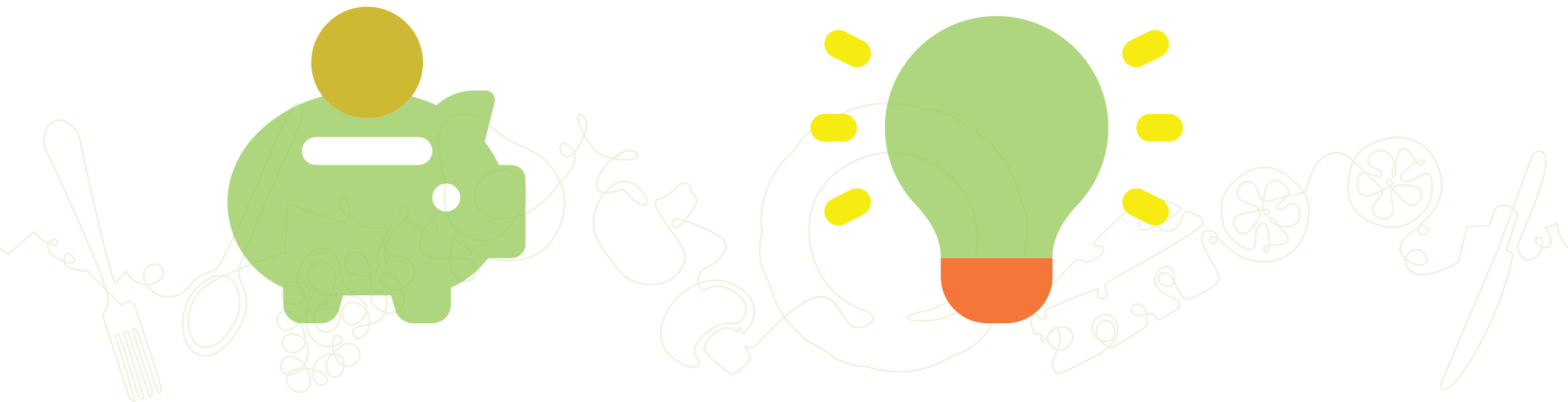


Making food more affordable

Part of the reason that locally produced food can be more expensive is a lack of local supply. Supporting local food production can help to reduce costs by increasing direct-to-consumer options, supporting local jobs and businesses and increasing food availability.

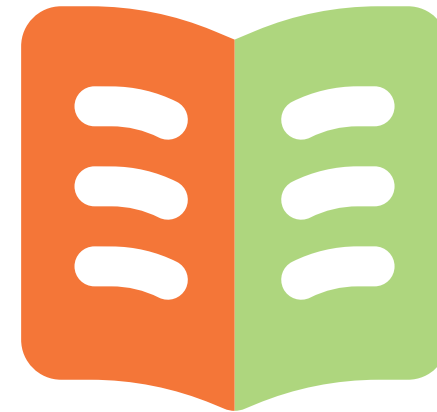
Our vision for South Gloucestershire Local Food Partnership:

A sustainable, fair, thriving, and resilient local food system in South Gloucestershire which supports and enables improved outcomes for public health, the environment and economy.



South Gloucestershire Local Food Partnership Action Plan 2026-2028

- The goal of the partnership action plan is to strengthen the local food system. A food system is everything that links to food, from land to growing or making food, to eating it or throwing it away.
- The actions in the plan aim to reflect the most important areas of the food system that members of the partnership agree need to be strengthened and that have been highlighted in our evidence base Food Across South Gloucestershire (May 25).
- The actions below have been gathered from meetings of the partnership and have been put forward by partnership members.
- The actions were informed by our evidence report 'Food Across South Gloucestershire' which included resident and organisational surveys.
- As well as these in person meetings we are consulting all the members of the partnership to find out which actions are the most useful and important to members and if there is anything missing from the current list below.
- We will use members feedback to order the actions in terms of the most important and useful to take forward.



Food culture
Policy development
Network building
Food infrastructure development - land and soil
Communications
Research
Training and skills

**ACTION
PLAN**
- KEY
GOALS

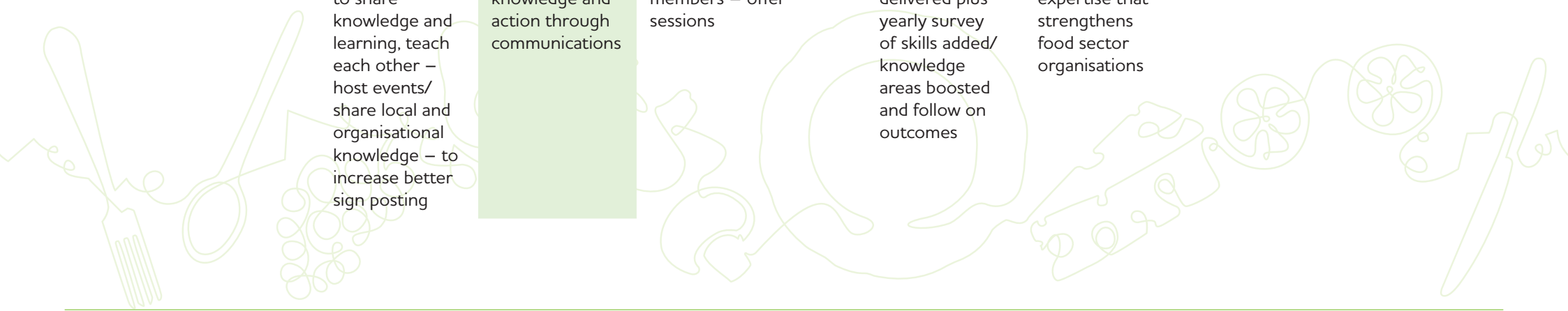
- A stronger local food network
- Increase knowledge and action through communications
- More thriving catering and food businesses
- Increased procurement of local food
- Improve supply chains to support local food
- Increase the availability and take up of training and skills
- Better understanding of local food system issues e.g. research
- Increase local food infrastructure – e.g. land availability, soil health, increase food growing
- More policies that better support the local food system
- Better local food culture - making more local food available, reducing food waste
- Improve health and reduce food poverty

Action Plan

- 2026-2028

Action number	Partnership activity proposed 2026-2028	Action Plan Goal	Who leads?	How will we measure the impact?	Desired Outcomes	Timeframe
1.	Find resources and funding to deliver the food partnership and associated action plan.	A stronger local food network	Steering group and whole partnership work together to identify funding/host org in continuing to support partnership. This could be community host or council – currently support via the Climate and Nature Emergency budget and team in the Council.	Existence of a developed published, plan and resources/ funds to deliver projects and sustain the work	Functioning partnership that delivers on the shared action plan goals	2026-2028
2.	Help to join up existing projects/ organisations in the network	A stronger local food network	Food partnership	Number of members in the partnership additional projects delivered as a result of/with the support of the network	Strengthened connections and community of organisations working in the food sector, more partnership arrangements	2026 and ongoing

Action number	Partnership activity proposed 2026-2028	Action Plan Goal	Who leads?	How will we measure the impact?	Desired Outcomes	Timeframe
3.	Join Feeding Britain network – food access project development support	A stronger local food network	Food partnership	Join partnership. Document how partnership with Feeding Britain supports local action	Access to wider opportunities as a result of being part of the network.	2026
4.	Resources to support delivery that all partners can use – seasonal food card/food waste reduction tips/ recipes etc...	Increase knowledge and action through communications	SGC communications/ partner communications teams/Core steering group	Monitor the number and impact of shared communications campaigns	Measurable reductions in food waste, Increased consumption of local and seasonal food,	2026
5.	Partnership to share knowledge and learning, teach each other – host events/ share local and organisational knowledge – to increase better sign posting	Increase knowledge and action through communications	Food partnership members – offer sessions	No of events delivered plus yearly survey of skills added/ knowledge areas boosted and follow on outcomes	Increased local expertise that strengthens food sector organisations	2026-2028



Action number	Partnership activity proposed 2026-2028	Action Plan Goal	Who leads?	How will we measure the impact?	Desired Outcomes	Timeframe
6.	Create a searchable local food app from the food map evidence base	Increase knowledge and action through communications	University Student/App designer	Usage stats	Increase access to information about local food production and availability.	2027
7.	Sign up a local food ambassador	Increase knowledge and action through communications	Partnership members to identify a good local food ambassador	Number of public engagements, in speaking events attended etc...	Increase public awareness of food topics	2026-2028
8.	Work with caterers and businesses to understand their needs and increase public awareness.	More thriving catering and food businesses	Recruit caterer/ business member onto the steering group, work with Economic Development Team to understand the needs of food and catering businesses and increase public awareness of their services	Numbers and range of catering and food businesses joining the partnership and how lasting these businesses are	Increased numbers of sustained local food businesses	2026-2028



Action number	Partnership activity proposed 2026-2028	Action Plan Goal	Who leads?	How will we measure the impact?	Desired Outcomes	Timeframe
9.	<p>Council and partner led initiatives to enable local produce to be used in school meals.</p> <p>NB: National school meal providers now provide meals for schools in our area</p>	Increased procurement of local food	Council/Growers/Food Producers working with national school meal providers	Number of schools increasing local food in provision – metrics e.g. school meat sourced within 20 km radius.	More locally produced food eaten in school and educational settings	2026-2028
10.	Develop a local/ local food hub/s	Improvements in supply chains to support local food	Town and Parish Councils/Community Organisations engage willing partner and assess the needs to enable this	Number of hubs/Support provided	Increased access to locally produced food for local groups and people	2026-2028



Action number	Partnership activity proposed 2026-2028	Action Plan Goal	Who leads?	How will we measure the impact?	Desired Outcomes	Timeframe
11.	Develop a Food Skills hub - Centre of Excellence for skills etc...	Increase the availability and take up of training and skills	Local academic institutions/Economic Development Team	Understand what is currently available and measure the number of educational sessions/courses delivered – longer term monitoring numbers of attendees going into the food sector	Local population has improved skills and knowledge around food enabling local food businesses to access skilled workers and increasing the numbers of people cooking their own food locally	2027-2028
12.	Promote nature friendly food growing (an Agroecological approach)	Increase the availability and take up of training and skills	Landowners/Tenants/ Growers	Numbers of local farmers putting in place practices that support nature	Increased nature friendly food growing in the urban and semi-urban areas of South Gloucestershire	2027-2028



Action number	Partnership activity proposed 2026-2028	Action Plan Goal	Who leads?	How will we measure the impact?	Desired Outcomes	Timeframe
13.	E-Learning Module and Training - Local food, why it matters and how to strengthen our local food system – include training MPs, Councillors and local leaders alongside the public	Increase the availability and take up of training and skills	Food partnership to write/Council to host presentation on website etc...and train local elected leaders	Numbers receiving training resources and follow on actions	Increased knowledge of food skills and food issues that leads to reduced food waste, increased take up of growing, interest in locally produced food and cooking from scratch	2026 produce module – 2027 onwards deliver training
14.	Better understanding of the local food deserts – drill down into the data gathered which communities/streets	Better understanding of local food system issues e.g. research	Council to develop further refined data working with consultants or suitable partner organisations	Number of food desert gaps plugged	How can we support initiatives to close food desert gaps – what would be the beneficial outcomes for local people?	2027

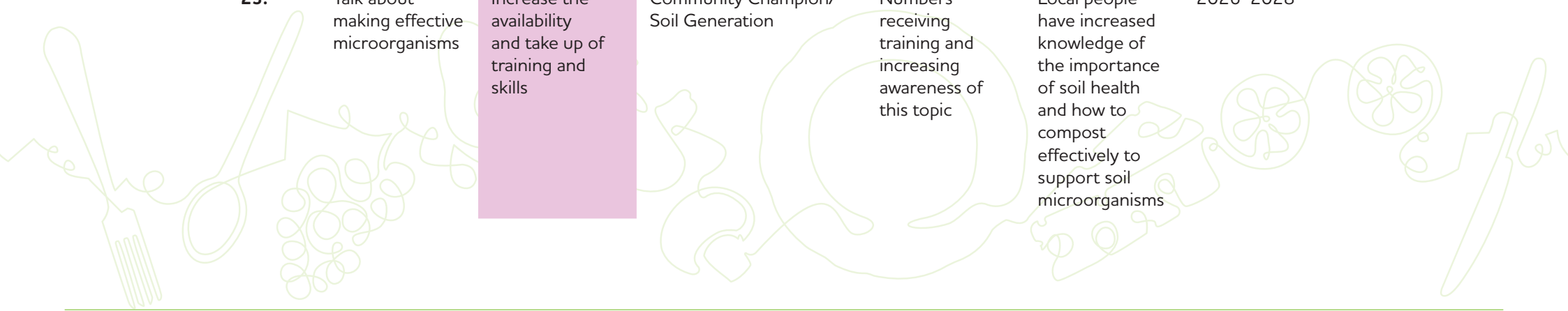


Action number	Partnership activity proposed 2026-2028	Action Plan Goal	Who leads?	How will we measure the impact?	Desired Outcomes	Timeframe
15.	Which groups are not being reached – refine research – in rural areas/ disabled people/ elderly/socially isolated – what services would meet their needs?	Better understanding of local food system issues e.g. research	Council could develop further refined data working with consultants or suitable partner organisations	Number of people struggling with food access issues -insight gathered on how best to assist these people	Increased knowledge of inequalities specifically related to food	2027
16.	Transform local land spaces into food growing hubs or find other community spaces that could become food hubs	Increase local food infrastructure – e.g. land availability, soil health, increase growing	Council/Town and Parish Council/Land owning partner organisations	Food infrastructure baseline and number of new sites added	Increase access to local food production through the creation of more food growing hubs	2026-2028
17.	Support for Farm Labour – Universal basic income for farmers or other initiatives	More policies that support the local food system	Food Partnership sign up in support/ Promote to residents and businesses to support?	Does it get adopted or are other measures to support farmer/producer labourers introduced	Better conditions and pay for those working in the food production industry that leads to greater retention of skilled workers	2026-2028

Actions 2026 -2028 INDIVIDUAL organisations in the food system						
Action number	Action goal	Who can lead?	How will we measure the impact?	Desired outcomes	Timeframe	
18.	Council to review and consider the development of policies that could support the local food system.	More policies that better support the local food system	South Gloucestershire Council with support from the partnership/ councillors/residents	Council has considered policy changes and if relevant/ feasible taken steps to implement.	Increased public ability to grow their own food/ increased local food growing	2027-2028
19.	Farm and other food business visits - bring in wider population including urban school children	Better local food culture - making more local food available, reducing food waste	Farmers/Organisations that oversee school farm visits	Numbers visiting plus feedback	Local children have increased knowledge of the origins of food and food production	2027
20.	Produce/ Share Recipe Cards local ingredients/ food bank ingredients/ reducing food waste	Better local food culture - making more local food available, reducing food waste	Foodbank Team/Bridge Team	How many cards produced/how many used - local sign-ups to food waste reduction initiatives...	Local people have increased knowledge of how to prepare food and how to use available ingredients	2026



Actions 2026 -2028 INDIVIDUAL organisations in the food system						
Action number	Action goal	Who can lead?	How will we measure the impact?	Desired outcomes	Timeframe	
21.	Local community leaders on board using their influence	Better local food culture - making more local food available, reducing food waste	Religious leaders/ Business leaders/ Academic/Schools/ Council heads	High profile event numbers participating in events	Food issues have a greater importance with more resources directed to strengthening the local food system	2026
22.	Create work experience opportunities in food sector	Increase the availability and take up of training and skills	All partnership members to consider if they can offer work experience	Numbers of those participating in work experience in the food sector	More people working in the food sector	2027-2028
23.	Talk about making effective microorganisms	Increase the availability and take up of training and skills	Community Champion/ Soil Generation	Numbers receiving training and increasing awareness of this topic	Local people have increased knowledge of the importance of soil health and how to compost effectively to support soil microorganisms	2026-2028



Actions 2026 -2028 INDIVIDUAL organisations in the food system						
Action number	Action goal	Who can lead?	How will we measure the impact?	Desired outcomes	Timeframe	
24.	Support existing educational food engagement organisations/ and if needed develop CIC –	Increase the availability and take up of training and skills	Existing community food and academic organisations	Find out more about what educational offers exist already in the area, monitor increases in provision or gaps filled	Local people have a dedicated place to access information on food which increases their knowledge and choices that support a stronger local food system	2026-2028
25.	Increase access to affordable locally produced fresh food	Improve health and reduce food poverty	Link to existing Council and partner work on food affordability and the Holiday Activity Fund, plus the What's on your Plate campaign. Next steps support for existing food distribution organisations find, ways to increase locally produced food into offers – harvest of local fruit trees etc...	Measure increased numbers of links made between existing food affordability initiatives and local food producers	Residents consume fresher more affordable locally produced food.	2026-2028



Actions 2026 -2028 INDIVIDUAL organisations in the food system						
Action number	Action goal	Who can lead?	How will we measure the impact?	Desired outcomes	Timeframe	
26.	Explore initiatives around affordable food	Improve health and reduce food poverty	Work with the financial wellbeing and Child Poverty action groups to explore opportunities to align actions and develop projects to improve local food affordability.	Monitor take up of initiatives that increase the affordability of food that are promoted by the partnership	More residents can access more affordable and healthy food	2026-2028



Reporting:

We will review our progress on an annual basis and reflect on what is working to see if any adjustments need to be made to our plans.

Conclusion:

Thanks to all members of the partnership for the incredible work on the local food system that is already being delivered across our area which makes a real difference to our communities.

This work aims to provide a shared vision and plan for strengthening the local food system in South Gloucestershire that enhances and support everything these organisations, businesses and people do for our area.

