



SHROPSHIRE GOOD FOOD PARTNERSHIP

*GETTING FOOD AND FARMING
ON THE TABLE:
RESPONSE TO THE SHROPSHIRE
PLAN & ECONOMIC GROWTH
STRATEGY*

A REPORT PRODUCED FOR SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL
JUNE 2023



Member of the Sustainable Food Places Network since 2022

THE SHROPSHIRE GOOD FOOD PARTNERSHIP



Shropshire Good Food Partnership (SGFP) has been established to create a local food system which is good for people, place and planet. We bring people together from across the County representing all aspects of the food system, from growers to retailers, those involved with food banks and food festivals, community organisations, academic institutions, and the local Councils. Our six working groups represent our scope of action: Sustainable Food Economy; Healthy Food for All; Wise Land Stewardship; Grow Local; Nature Connection and Reducing Food Waste.

Our objectives are to:

- Ensure everyone has access to sufficient nutritious affordable food
- Build community, connecting people through food to each other and the land
- Create livelihood opportunities, forging a strong local food economy
- Enable environmental regeneration and a shift to net zero carbon in food and farming

SGFP supports the work of organisations across the county, catalyses new initiatives and collaborations, and enables joined-up innovative thinking to improve access to Good Food. We provide a go-to place for individuals and groups to access support and engage in networking on all aspects of healthy eating from setting up and managing community-based food growing, to cooking and food sharing initiatives. This involves facilitating exchange of knowledge, building evidence and nurturing organisations and businesses. We play a convening function, bringing together a range of stakeholder from across the county to engage on policy and planning and to work in partnership with to deliver goods and services.

SGFP is part of the national Sustainable Food Places movement which brings together pioneering food partnerships from towns, cities, boroughs, districts and counties across the UK. These initiatives are driving innovation and best practice on all aspects of healthy and sustainable food. In addition to organising national campaigns, SFP emphasises the importance of working in partnership across sectors to create positive and lasting food system change.

As a core group, our directors have domestic and international experience in business development, food systems planning and routes to market, food poverty and distribution in the charitable sector, as well as farming and food policy.

JOIN WITH US...

As an organisation that focuses on Shropshire's food system, its connections and its diversity of players, we are asking the council to work alongside us at the Shropshire Good Food Partnership to achieve great things for the County:

1. As a part of our wider network of stakeholders to celebrate and elevate Shropshire's food system and the producers, businesses, organisations and actors that make it work.
2. To develop a food strategy and supporting policy structures that would make Shropshire a leader in joined-up food system thinking, as a model for rural counties across the nation.
3. To bring our rural agricultural heritage and food producers to the forefront of our resilience plans, where this aspect of our county and its people are visible in health, economy, climate action and environment aims.

In 2023, the Shropshire Good Food Partnership will be an active presence across the County and the wider Marches food system, with the aim of showcasing Shropshire's most sustainable food producers and businesses, connecting consumers and food, and supporting our regional food economy:

- Hosting the Shropshire Good Food Trail, launching from the Shrewsbury Food Festival on June 24th and running across the county to July 9th at the Oswestry Food Festival.
- Supporting and coordinating the Shropshire Love Nature Festival from July 17th, to August 6th.
- Hosting the Marches Real Food and Farming Conference at Linley Farm on September 15th and 16th.
- Supporting the Right to Grow Movement by working in partnership with community groups and Town and Parish Councils, as well as local level food strategy development
- Engaging with our strategic organisational and council partners across Shropshire's food system to mobilise further action across our six working group areas.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Few county councils take a strategic approach to food and the food system, despite the fact that it touches nearly every part of our lives, and is a significant economic segment, land use, and driver of emissions. In this, food has the unique ability to have multiple positive impacts across different areas from a single targeted application.

This review of the Shropshire Plan and the Economic Growth Strategy was inspired by the release of the Government Food Strategy (2021), as well as a range of sector dialogues that have taken place over the last year across the County, led by the SGFP and our Partners. The call for a joined-up approach to food and farming in Shropshire was emphasised by a wide range of stakeholders at our inaugural 'Good Food Summit', held in October of 2022.

By looking at these and associated documents as a group, we can identify how future versions of these strategies can include food systems thinking for the greatest possible positive impact. A strategy that includes food and farming makes a bold statement about this county's position on health, equity, climate action and land use, and pride in our rural economy.

Based upon the objectives in these strategic documents, our policy analysts have identified gaps, as well as opportunities where food and farming-related actions could be included. This report presents an initial list of recommendations to harness the power of food to achieve council targets. We have mapped a range of areas from the councils strategies where we think we can contribute. In all likelihood, this will be through facilitating partnership working towards specified objectives. We bring to the table a developing network of key stakeholders who can contribute to Shropshire Council's ambitions for healthy people, with a healthy economy in a healthy environment. With this in mind, we would like to host a meeting with leading officers and members to explore how this could work and perhaps set out a protocol for collaboration.

This report is being written upon the backdrop of COVID-19, extreme weather events, the departure of the UK from the European Union after over a decade of national austerity measures, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Cost of Living Crisis, fuel shortages and looming recession. This time of great uncertainty has had and will continue to have impacts upon our food system and food security. These events have shown us that food systems planning is essential to resilience and needs to be a part of every local, county-level, regional and national strategy.

For a joined-up policy approach with the greatest possible impact, food systems thinking is an essential part of a county-wide strategy, economic plan, climate plan and public health approach. We, with the support of our range of Partners, are eager to collaborate with Shropshire Council to create a coordinated and visionary Good Food Strategy for Shropshire, with the projects and programmes needed to support its delivery.

THE SHROPSHIRE PLAN: GAP ANALYSIS

A key word search of the Shropshire Plan shows that food, farming, agriculture and associated areas have not been an area of focus, which is notable for a largely rural county where food production and farming are a significant sector. Where these have been addressed, it is mostly reflecting on past actions (ie: Food Banks during the pandemic), rather than forward planning from the lessons learned during the last few years of trials, and strategic aims for greater resilience.

Food systems experts anticipate that the economic system and climate will continue to exacerbate food insecurity, and with that, reduced health outcomes for the most vulnerable. School meals provision and the Shaping Places food insecurity project are mentioned in the Shropshire Plan, with acknowledgement that food insecurity and school meal demand are projected to increase. The document refers generally to 'healthy food choices' and 'healthy weight initiatives' as aims for individuals.

Noting the key figures (see page 9 of this report) Shropshire's food and agriculture sectors represent a large proportion of the county's economy, as does tourism. This presents an opportunity to amplify food tourism and the pastoral appeal of the natural landscape (particularly with consideration to our unique AONB areas) in economic aims. Linking these to the rural nature of our county, including the environment and climate, offers the opportunity to work closely with food producers in this largely rural county to address the issue of carbon emissions, of which the agricultural sector is a significant contributor.

By taking a food systems view, future versions of the Plan and its corresponding documents can include much more comprehensive approaches to food production, consumption, and waste that correspond to the Healthy People, Economy and Environment objectives. Specific Key Performance Indicators across these areas will be essential to measuring the impact of projects and programmes that put food and farming at the heart of our rural County's strategic plans.



OPPORTUNITIES: HEALTHY PEOPLE



Several pathways already exist through council structures and organisational partnerships:

Public Health: The Healthy Weight Consultation is positioned to inform this action. The SGFP has responded in detail to this consultation with a range of feedback. It is essential to address poverty as a root cause of obesity, malnutrition and poor health, as poverty effectively removes an individual's ability to make healthier food choices. By supporting and expanding Free School meals provision and prioritising healthy meals in schools, young people can get the best start and reduce their risk of obesity.

Shaping Places for Healthier Lives: We have been working with this team to support the objective of reducing food insecurity across Shropshire.

Developing specific KPIs to address diet-related ill health, obesity, alcohol consumption, or food-related lifestyle diseases (associated with the highest cost-burden for the NHS), as well as utilising available data on food insecurity, school meals provision could set targets for reduction. By making explicit the links between food, education, and health, targeted actions and projects could be applied to improve outcomes for Shropshire's children and adults.

SGFP Areas of Work and Key Delivery Partners:

- Our Healthy Food for All working group is led by our members the Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance and Citizen's Advice Shropshire, with input from the Shaping Places team and the Shrewsbury Food Hub
- Our Food Waste working group is supporting the Shrewsbury Food Hub in developing a 'gleaning network' for food waste redistribution, widening its public education and outreach work through the 'Taste with no waste' project, as well as developing a food waste research project with Harper Adams University
- The 'Right to Grow' initiative (motion passed by Shropshire Council, September 2022) is led by SGFP in conjunction with the Street Allotment Project and members of Shropshire Council. We are supporting the Right to Grow Movement by creating process documents and templates to help Town & Parish Councils and Applicants to navigate this new motion. In partnership with Bishop's Castle Town Council and community members, we have created the first local-level Food Policy Council to apply the Right to Grow as a model in a rural town, and a Food Policy Council to support the aims of the Bishop's Castle Community Food Resilience Plan - Another first for the county.
- With the help of two local coordinators, our Grow Local project with Telford and Wrekin Council is focused on mapping and broadening connections with community growing groups with an aim to promote greater community food security, and supporting the local food economy.
- We have launched a Shropshire Rural Seed Bank Network in partnership with the Gaia Foundation's Seed Sovereignty Programme. This project trains seed savers to establish a network of seed banks to encourage more community growing and the food resilience that comes with seed security.



OPPORTUNITIES: HEALTHY ECONOMY



It is important to recognise that Shropshire is a largely rural and farmed landscape with a natural beauty that not only draws tourism, but has a key role to play in the economy and food security of Shropshire.

There are many foods that Shropshire produces very successfully, yet many are exported and then swapped like-for-like from abroad. Relocalisation of the food system using Short-Food Supply Chains (SFSCs) aims to reduce this exchange and prioritise locally produced foods. This supports farmers, local processing and makes our regional food system more resilient to supply chain disruptions, while reducing transport emissions. These are facts to highlight in future versions of strategic plans.

SGFP Areas of Work and Key Delivery Partners:

- The Shropshire Good Food Trail, June 24th to July 9th, 2023, has been designed to showcase the range and richness of Shropshire's sustainable producers. This initiative will support the creation of ongoing links between local producers and consumers, developing a lasting legacy, support cultural food traditions, and strengthen rural heritage and rural economies.
- Local food marketing: We have supported the launch of a hyper-local food hub trial called Oswestry 5-Mile Food and are working with producers to use digital food marketing platforms such as the Open Food Network.
- SGFP has been working with Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin on a feasibility study into a 'Dynamic Procurement' approach to support a more localised food economy.
- Links with Harper Adams University, The AONB, CPRE and others offer connections for the development of rural skills and employment linked to agriculture and land stewardship.

Further detail on the economic opportunities for Shropshire's Food and Farming Sector can be found in the below examination of the Economic Plan.



OPPORTUNITIES: HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



Acknowledging the connection that our food system has to our landscape, natural environment and climate is paramount. Soil, air and water systems should be considered for their intrinsic value as well as the inestimable ecosystem services that they provide. By recognising the rural nature of the county and acknowledging the role of Shropshire's rural food producers in the huge changes that should be made to farming practices, we are taking a realistic step towards supporting them in this great task.

The Council's Climate strategy, which underpins much of this section, does not link carbon emissions to the food and farming sector or food transport, which is a significant oversight considering the percentage of emissions from these sectors.

The NFU has set a goal of reaching net zero across the whole of agriculture in England and Wales by 2040. By working with NFU Shropshire, the Council can identify how to work alongside farmers to achieve these aims. Agricultural pollutants have significant impacts on human health, soil fertility, biodiversity and the pollution of watercourses. Supporting farmers in their transition to Agroecological farming practices is the recommended route to achieving a wide range of aims.

Similarly, services such as recycling and food waste collection are noted in the Climate Strategy, but would benefit from detail of reduction plans and carbon links. 30% of food is wasted with 70% of this at household level. Increasing food production is not necessary to feed the world, but reducing waste and the equitable redistribution of food is essential, and will help achieve our climate targets. Further development of 'A vision for A Zero Food Waste Shropshire' is an essential strategic course of action.

SGFP Areas of Work and Key Delivery Partners:

- Our Reducing Food Waste group (led by Mark Foxall of Shropshire Organic Growers and Shrewsbury Food Hub Co-Founder Katy Anderson) is partnering with Harper Adams University to reduce food waste in the food and farming sector.
- With a grant from Coop Foundation, our Regenerative Food and Farming initiative is supporting innovation, research and learning across the county on climate and nature-friendly farming. We fund local research, farmer groups, networking and events.
- We work alongside the NFU and Organic Farmers and Growers (OF&G), the AONB and SWT representatives in developing our approach to land stewardship and the local food economy work-streams.
- We will be hosting the first Marches Real Food and Farming Conference (September 15th and 16th, 2023) inspired by the Oxford Real Farming Conference. This will bring together thought leaders and food producers from across the Marches region to discuss agro-ecological farming and the regional food economy.



SHROPSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY: GAP ANALYSIS

Like the Shropshire Plan, "food", "farming", "food producers", "farmers" or "agriculture" are not well-represented in the Economic Growth Strategy. In future versions, to include the food and farming sector would support the aim of co-creating "a connected, competitive, sustainable and inclusive economy" and would more accurately reflect the aims stated in Shropshire's Draft Local Plan 2016-2038. Similarly, where 'health' is mentioned, it should be recognised that food and health are inextricably linked, with food poverty being a fundamentally economic issue.

By working with those who are connected with the land and food system, the view of 'sustainability' could be expanded with KPIs for measuring broader impacts, integrating health, wellbeing and the natural environment.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES: Shropshire is a predominantly rural county in which food and tourism are key sectors of the economy. However there is no strategic approach that reflects this and the importance of championing 'The Good Food Economy' - food that is good for people, place and planet. The existing food, farming and tourism sectors are highly established, but it is unclear what support the Economic Strategy will provide for them.

STRATEGIC LOCATIONS: The Food and Farming sector is well-positioned to create sustainable, prosperous, and growing communities: essential considerations for the Strategy's KPIs.

In order to shift to more ambitious localised business models which involve prioritising animal welfare and ecological practices, farmers need support that will enable their resilience planning. A resilient food and farming sector means a county that is able to withstand food system shocks and supply chain disruptions like we have seen in the last few years.

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS: Agricultural and traditional rural skills are in decline, as are the number of farmers, and new entrants. This makes the farming sector vulnerable. Food security and resilience in the UK requires a diverse range of new entrants to farming, equipped with skills, training, housing, business support and succession planning.

While Shropshire Council identifies its cross-cutting values as sustainability, inclusivity, resilience and supporting the wellbeing and health of the County's residents, the Economic Strategy does not identify these rural issues or associated actions to underpin this economically essential sector.

To support the food and farming sector, the right tools and the right support mechanisms are required. This includes not only investing in people, but in business and research and development that is specific to the agriculture industry. Having the right infrastructure for farms and food businesses in place would make Shropshire appealing for relocation and expansion.

SHROPSHIRE'S FOOD SYSTEM: KEY FIGURES

The exclusion of food and farming in Shropshire's Economic Strategy diminishes the role that agriculture plays in the County's rural economy (including tourism), as well as the county's food producers as providers of food security and stewards of the landscape. The following figures highlight the role of agriculture in the county:

- "A fifth of all enterprises registered for VAT or PAYE are classified as agricultural." (Data from ONS Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) 2022 and ONS Business Register of Employment Survey (BRES), 2021)
- In 2020, Shropshire's agricultural industry made a £317 million contribution to the County's overall economy, which is the equivalent of 5.2% of all Shropshire generated Gross Value Added.
- £259 million of GVA was generated by the food manufacturing sector in 2020, which is 4.2% of the Shropshire total. (Data from ONS Regional Gross Value Added (Balanced) by industry 2020 at current prices)
- 3,686 commercial farm holdings in 2021, covering 257,821 hectares, which is four-fifths of Shropshire's land mass. 60% of farmed area is designated to grassland, the remainder is arable.
- Of total arable farmed land, cereals account for 27%, other arable crops for 12% and fruit and vegetables for 1%.
- In terms of livestock, Shropshire had 219,630 cattle and calves, 695,800 sheep and lambs, 50,696 pigs and 9,549,701 poultry.
- The commercial farm holdings have a combined workforce of just over 10,000 (10,013), of which the majority are farmers, partners, directors and spouses (65.8%). Casual labour accounts for just under a tenth of the total. (All figures from DEFRA's Census of Agriculture, June 2021)

OPPORTUNITIES: SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES



In future versions of the economic plan, acknowledging and integrating the rurality of Shropshire's food system would be beneficial. A strong starting point would be working with Town and Parish Councils and communities to develop local level food strategies which draw on the existing projects and infrastructure already established, and to determine the needs and values of these communities in relation to the food system and their economies. This involves consulting with local food producers and processors and engaging communities through community food systems assessments.

Likewise, it would be beneficial to include food and farming-specific business support activities in the Economic Plan as it develops. KPIs would show how these sectors can grow with specific supports. Our members and links in the food and farming community could help provide insight into effective measures and targets.

Dynamic Procurement represents an area where huge systemic economic shifts are possible, with associated returns. SGFP work includes the Marches Hub feasibility study. This initiative is investigating business opportunities for local producers and processors to develop and access more localised and regional markets.

To showcase the range and richness of Shropshire's sustainable producers, the Shropshire Good Food Trail is a two-week celebration of locally produced, delicious and sustainable food, designed to guide visitors across the county and connect with where their food comes from, and how it is produced. The aim is to drive the local food economy, support producers and connect buyers with local sources of sustainably-produced food. This is an initiative that will leave a legacy of resources to guide people to local producers and businesses to keep them buying locally.



OPPORTUNITIES: STRATEGIC LOCATIONS

By taking a place-based approach with local food economies at its heart, Shropshire has an opportunity to develop more hyper-local food markets. An example of this is 'Oswestry 5 Mile Food': a food marketing pilot scheme initiated by SGFP to bring together local producers in a hub format to support local producers and get more people eating well-produced food with shorter supply chains.

One of SGFP goals is to champion the local good food economy, making it visible and accessible to the general public. The SGFP Good Food Trail project emphasises the rural connections, cultural heritage, and quality of production across the county. The Draft Local Plan prioritises "Promoting connections between visitors and Shropshire's natural, cultural and historic environment, including through active recreation, access to heritage trails and parkland, and an enhanced value of local food, drink and crafts" (p. 101, Draft Local Plan). This is an aim which aligns with the Economic Strategy's focus on tourism, and can be supported by the work that SGFP is undertaking across multiple projects and working groups.

By working with farmers, producers and landowners across the County and beyond, we are creating a strong network of stakeholders that can represent the interests of their local farming communities and discuss the management of their unique landscapes. Our 'Wise Land Stewardship' working group and network of partners allows us to work with farmers as stewards of the land as well as large estate owners to support this aim, and to showcase good practice.



OPPORTUNITIES: EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

SGFP is focused on strengthening connectivity and partnership between businesses and organisations - both horizontally and vertically in the food chain.

We have a specific mandate to focus on inclusion from the perspective of race, equality and diversity. Our REDI project, funded by the Sustainable Food Places network is enabling us to work with members across the county on this.

Farming is changing: The new model should be focused on profitable businesses that are on the path to net zero. We have good engagement from producers and support scaling up of agro-ecological farming practices, the demand for climate and nature-friendly food, and connecting local producers and consumers. This area of our work is largely supported by our Co-op Foundation grant.

We have been working with the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission (FFCC) to look at what sustainable food production in Shropshire look like, as well as linking with academic institutions like Harper Adams and CREST to support relevant research projects. We would like to work with Shropshire Council and our range of partners to envision and work toward a more sustainable and resilient food system for Shropshire.

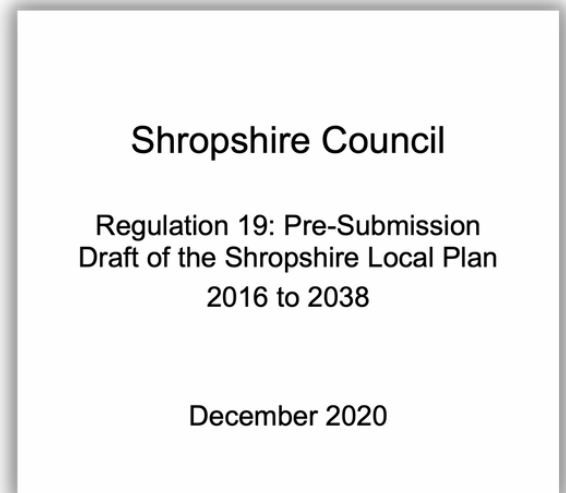
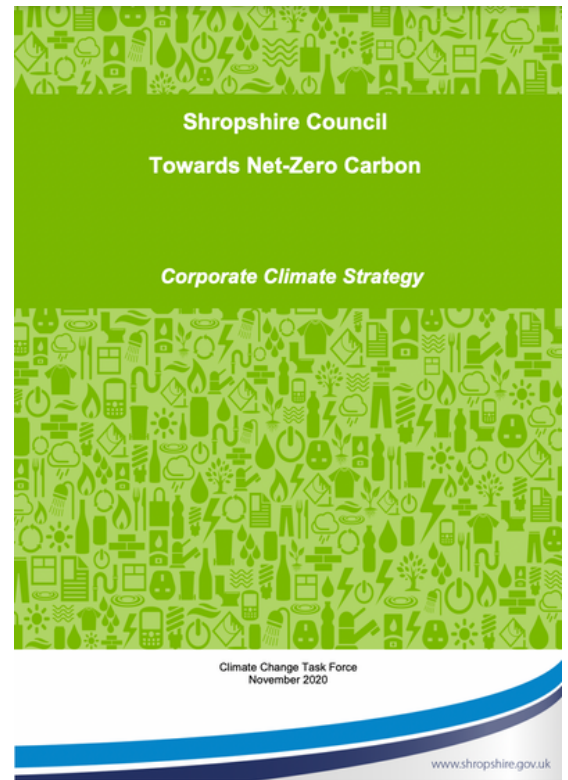
ASSOCIATED STRATEGIES

Towards Net-Zero Carbon:

The Climate Strategy likewise has no mention of Food, Farming or Agriculture. It holds one reference to farmers, in relation to Carbon Capture and Storage. The Climate Strategy for Shropshire does not address agricultural emissions, transport emissions from food or emissions from food waste. SGFP aims to continue working with Zero Carbon Shropshire to ensure that emissions from the food system are a consideration in their policy consultation work.

Shropshire Local Plan:

Offers a comparatively more detailed awareness of food and its links to tourism and the rural economy, but still lacks core awareness of the food system, including the role of farming and agriculture in environmental and economic resilience. Food poverty, and poverty in general are not present. This document acknowledges that taking action to build resilience to climate change is essential, and signposts to the Net-Zero strategy. This once again reinforces the need to include food, farming, and wise land stewardship in the Climate Strategy and across all policies and strategies for a joined up approach.



RECOMMENDATIONS

"Food is the low hanging fruit of transition" - C. Clare Hinrichs

All areas of the food system are overlapping and inextricably linked. This offers a unique opportunity: where addressing any one aspect of the food system, we can be assured that our actions will have impacts across other areas.

These documents effectively omit food and farming, which in a rural county is a significant oversight. Likewise, by excluding food from the Plan's 'Healthy People' aims, the approach is missing an essential component which is tied to both public health and associated longterm care costs.

As an organisation specialising in Shropshire's Food System, SGFP would like to work with Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Councils to bring food, farming and health to the forefront of our local strategies.

SGFP recommends:

- KPIs for the food and farming sector should be identified, developed and broken down so that they can be tracked for progress outputs and outcomes, and linked across relevant strategic and policy areas.
- Food System Mapping: This exercise identifies the areas of overlap in the county's food system and how it tracks to the council's statutory requirements and departmental responsibilities, as well as the aims and objectives for Health, Economy, Climate and Environment. Synergies and gaps can then be targeted for joined up action.
- "Food Policy Coherence": "The alignment of policies that affect the food system with the aim of achieving health, environmental, social and economic goals, to ensure that policies designed to improve one food system outcome do not undermine others" (Parson, K; Hawkes, C. Brief 5: Policy Coherence in Food Systems. Centre for Food Policy; 2019).
- Embedding Food in All Policies (FiAP): This approach ensures that food and food systems are considered when making decisions across policy areas, to enhance the positive impact that food can have, such as education, inclusion, health, livelihoods, equity, community cohesion, resilience, and ecological stability (Parson, K; Hawkes, C. Brief 4: Embedding Food in All Policies. Centre for Food Policy; 2019). In this thread, we also recommend a 'Race, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion' (REDI) approach be embedded into all food policy decisions, as per the Sustainable Food Places work on food equity and justice.
- SGFP to facilitate working across sectors with the Council and with established partner organisations which have specialist knowledge in their subject area (ie: Food Poverty, Community Growing, Green Social Prescribing, Agroecological farming), as well as networks and infrastructure to mobilise programmes and materials.



LOOKING AHEAD: COLLABORATION

As an organisation, SGFP is a platform for convening and coordinating action across the food and farming sector in Shropshire, and is a part of the national movement of *Sustainable Food Places*, where we are quickly building a reputation for leading thinking on rural food economy engagement. This includes active Working Groups which are driving action around our six specific focus areas, all of which have overlap with economic objectives. In particular, our "Sustainable Food Economy" working group addresses this area.

Since 2020, SGFP has built a strong relationship with local producers, and they have expressed to us that their priority for our support is around marketing and building regional demand for the food they are producing.

We are developing an engagement strategy that will help us build the Good Food Movement, having clear pathways for people to get involved.

We are working to enable collaborative responses to rising food poverty, that is supportive of existing partner organisations and connects up the right and capacity to grow and eat.

We will continue to secure funding to support good practice across the county in all our different focus areas.

Work will continue with Local Councils on strategic plans that will be based on the business case for a food systems approach.

All of the 'Areas of work' and projects with key delivery partners mentioned within this report are examples of targeted actions instigated by the SGFP or through our network with a range of different organisations. They highlight the range of expertise within the partnership and the breadth of food system engagement that is possible with strategic coordination.

OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Over the last year, the SGFP has built up an active network of partners working across several parts of Shropshire's food system, as well as national level organisations which are funding our ongoing work.



Sustainable Food Places

With over 80 members, the SFP is a national network of communities, cities and regions working to develop a more equitable, sustainable and resilient food system. SGFP has been a member since 2021, with funding from SFP supporting our Coordinator and RED1 Officer roles, and the local food economy work for the Shropshire Good Food Trail.



The Coop Foundation

The Carbon Innovation Fund has supported our Wise Land Stewardship group in developing its Nature Friendly Farming grants to research carbon reduction on farms, as well as our Citizen's Good Food Challenge fund for small community project support.



The Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance

Working with SGFP to inform our Healthy Food For All Working group and linking SGFP with other organisations such as food banks and emergency food organisations across the county.



Shrewsbury Food Hub

An established organisation with strong links in the community, and across the county to reduce food waste, redistribute to those in need, and to educate.



The Street Allotment Project

SAP works across Shrewsbury with several urban agriculture sites, and works with SGFP in promoting the Right to Grow Movement. SGFP funding has enabled SAP to purchase a cargo bike to move tools and produce across the city and to advertise their work.



Oswestry 5 Mile Food

A SGFP initiative of our Nature Connection working group, launched in partnership with a number of food organisations, farms and small businesses in Oswestry to trial the concept of a 'hyper-local food hub'.



Shrewsbury Food Festival

The Shrewsbury Food Festival, like the Ludlow Food Festival, does a great deal to put our local producers on the map. This year the Shropshire Good Food Trail will launch from the momentum of SFF weekend to continue to showcase producers.



OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Hands Together Ludlow

A long-established organisation in Ludlow with links to the local community and essential to emergency food distribution in the area.



Sustainable Telford and Wrekin

SGFP has linked with Telford and Wrekin Climate Change Fund to launch the Telford & Wrekin Grow Local and Local Food Economy project. Sustainable Telford & Wrekin has awarded funding for a job share position based in the area to promote the local food system.



OsNosh

A community cafe and charitable organisation focused on food education, community building, and reducing food waste. A member of the Oswestry 5-Mile Food group.



Shropshire Love Nature Festival

An annual festival with events across the county. SGFP has supported through consultation work and network building from 2022 as a part of our Nature Connection working group, and the festival will feature in the Shropshire Good Food Trail this year.



Slow Food Ludlow

An active local branch of the Slow Food Movement and promoter of Fairtrade, high quality, sustainable regional food and connection to our food system.



South Shropshire Climate Action

SGFP is working with SSCA to ensure that food is represented in discussions around carbon and climate.

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