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GLASGOW LAUNCHES A CITY-WIDE FOOD PLAN AND WINS AWARD FOR ITS WORK TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FOOD CITY

After two years in the making, the Glasgow City Food Plan (GCFP) will be launched **today** at an online event. Over 400 people will gather to hear what actions are included in the 10-year plan to ensure Glasgow achieves a food system that is equitable, sustainable and healthy.

The plan has been developed collaboratively with over 80 multisector stakeholders, with Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP) responsible for overseeing the delivery of the plan actions.

Abi Mordin, Chair of GFPP said: *“I’m really proud to have been part of the team working on the City Food Plan. I’m excited by the whole systems and holistic approach that we’ve taken, and the collaborative work that has gone into this. We’ve tried to make sure that the 76 joined up actions will pave the way for Glasgow to be a city where good, healthy, ecologically produced food is affordable and accessible for all”.*

Dr Pete Seaman, Associate Director of the Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH), who host the GFPP coordinator post added: *“The collaborative way in which this city-wide vision has been developed means it supports a range of priorities relating to food poverty, sustainability, stimulating local food economies and of course, health. This plan demonstrates what can be achieved when we recognise the links between different organisational agendas and has produced a range of actions potentially more transformational than if these organisations worked alone.”*

The holistic plan aims for everyone in the city to eat healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate *Good Food* irrespective of where they live, their income or personal circumstances. Good Food is food that is accessible, affordable, tasty and healthy, good for the planet and good for those who work in the food industry. Good Food is good for society, for health, for the environment and for the economy.

Dr Linda de Caestecker, Director of Public Health at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, said: *“A healthy diet is vital for good health and wellbeing but for too many in Glasgow, food poverty is a real issue which cannot be ignored. No-one should be going hungry in our city. But more than that, we need to make healthy food more affordable and accessible for the whole population, which is what makes this plan so important. Food not only nourishes us, but it also bring families and communities together.*

“As we look to tackle the climate crisis, increasingly locally produced food will be the way forward, sustaining both the environment and local economies. We welcome the Glasgow City Food Plan and commit to working with our partners to improve health across the city.”

Cllr Anna Richardson, City Convener for Sustainability and Carbon Reduction, added:

“The development of the city food plan is a great step forward in improving Glasgow’s food system. It will also complement our food growing strategy which is about providing Glaswegians with the means to grow their own food.

“We are working towards Glasgow becoming a sustainable food city which will help the city tackle the challenges of climate change and address issues of food poverty and general well-being.

“Supporting local food production will mean cheap, fresh and nutritious produce is available and consumed in Glasgow. The added benefit to having local produce is it will help reduce the carbon footprint created by our current and complex food system.

“It lets too much food go to waste and can have a significant effect on the environment through carbon emissions which contribute to climate change, as well as through impacts on air and water pollution and on biodiversity. Working together with city-wide partners to change the system will ensure that we take action that improves our residents’ lives while reducing emissions.”

The coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated just how important our food system is and why it needs to be more resilient. The Food Plan launched today reflects the city’s experience and learning from the pandemic and recognises the pressing need to build a food system in Glasgow that is good for our citizens, our health and our environment and which helps our city recover and rebuild in an equitable way.

The timing of the food plan could not be better, with the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) coming to Glasgow in November. Pete Ritchie, The Executive Director of Nourish Scotland and the Chair of the event said: *“With this ambitious cross-cutting food plan, Glasgow is taking its place in an international network of cities using integrated food policies to tackle climate change, improve health, restore nature, reduce inequalities and create good green jobs. As a founding signatory of the Glasgow Declaration on Food and Climate, the city is showing global leadership and ensuring that food is on the table at COP26.”*

Work on making the food system better for its citizens is not new to Glasgow; work to reduce food-related health inequalities, improve access to community growing projects, educate people on the impacts of food waste and the importance of good nutrition, as well as, engaging with food businesses about circular economy principles has been happening for years. The food plan aims to build on this substantial work by encouraging different sectors to work together and to share resources already available.

While finalising the Glasgow City Food Plan, GFPP applied for a Sustainable Food Places award. The Sustainable Food Places Network (SFP) announced this week that Glasgow will be awarded a bronze SFP award together with some other UK cities. The SFP is a UK wide network of cities, towns, boroughs and counties working across all aspects of the food system to solve today’s most pressing social, environmental and economic issues. GFPP and its multisector partners are proud that the hard work of many organisations, community groups and businesses has been officially recognized through this award.

Tom Andrews, Sustainable Food Places Director at the Soil Association said:

“Glasgow’s Sustainable Food Places award is a testament to the huge wealth and diversity of good food action across the city, from the myriad passionate individuals delivering food projects in their local

communities through to the Council and other institutions' committed efforts to put good food at the heart of policy and practice. With its ambitious City Food Plan in place and in progress, Glasgow joins a small group of pioneering Scottish cities that are leading the way on creating a food system that is good for people and good for the planet."

ENDS

Issued by: Glasgow Food Policy Partnership

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Further Details: See Glasgow City Food Plan [page](#)

Notes to Editors

1. The Glasgow Food Plan will be launched at a virtual event on Tuesday 15th June between 2-3pm. If you require a copy of the programme, further detail of the format or a link to attend please contact: Riikka.Gonzalez@glasgow.ac.uk/Sheena.Fletcher@glasgow.ac.uk
2. The event is open to all and delegates include food policy experts, decision and policy makers, food businesses and caterers, health improvement and public health professionals, community food workers, researchers and the general public.
3. Speakers at the launch event include:

Pete Ritchie, Executive Director, Nourish Scotland (event chair)

Cllr Anna Richardson, City Convener for Sustainability and Carbon Reduction, Glasgow City Council

Abi Mordin, Chair of Glasgow Community Food Network and Co-chair of Glasgow Food Policy Partnership

Fiona Moss, Head of Health Improvement and Equalities, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership

Siobhan Boyle, Health Improvement Lead, Glasgow City HSCP

Gillian Pagani, Catering and Facilities Management, Glasgow City Council

Eleanor Dillon, Food and Climate Action Project, Glasgow Community Food Network

Rebecca Ricketts, Circular Glasgow, Chamber of Commerce

Kathleen Caskie, Glasgow Third Sector Interface

4. [Download a copy of the Glasgow City Food Plan](#)
5. For more information about the development process of the GCFP process, please visit Glasgow Food Policy Partnership's [website](#).
6. **Glasgow City Food Plan (GCFP) Working Group.** The development of the GCFP has been led by a multisector working group comprising Glasgow City Council, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Glasgow City HSCP, Glasgow Community Food Network, Glasgow Centre for Population Health and the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership.