



Glasgow City Food Plan

Annual report 2021/22: Executive Summary



► What is the Glasgow City Food Plan (GCFP)?

It is a 10-year framework to guide partners in Glasgow working together towards a food system that is fairer, more resilient and environmentally sustainable. The aim is for a food system that makes it easier for everyone in Glasgow to eat healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate, good food no matter where they live, their income or personal circumstances. It was launched in June 2021 after 3 years of development with stakeholders and communities across Glasgow. In 2022 the first [Food Plan annual report](#) was published. This Executive Summary outlines the key points from that report.

► How is the Food Plan being implemented?

The Food Plan was developed by the [Glasgow Food Policy Partnership](#) (GFPP) which has members from the public, private and third sectors. Currently chaired by the [Glasgow Centre for Population Health](#) (GCPH), the GFPP led the development of the GCFP and now oversees its implementation. There is a formal structure through which annual progress on the Food Plan is reported to the Public Health Oversight Board in Glasgow, a part of Glasgow City's Community Planning Partnership structure.

A small project team coordinates the implementation of the GCFP, on behalf of the GFPP, supported by a part-time Coordinator who is part funded through the Sustainable Food Places Network, hosted by GCPH and employed by the Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN).

There are six multi-agency working groups which coordinate delivery of actions in each of the six themes: Fair Food for All; Community Food; Food Economy; Catering and Procurement; Food and the Environment; and Children and Young People, as well as a group focused on developing urban agriculture and another on communications. Each group is led and coordinated by a different GFPP partner, and delivery organisations are represented. These groups report to the GFPP.

One of the challenges in coordinating the implementation of the Food Plan has been the limited and short-term nature of the resources available to fund its management and administration. Partners, including GCPH, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC), Glasgow City Council (GCC), Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), and GCFN, contribute to the Food Plan work in kind, reflecting the relevance to their own priorities. Grants help fund the two dedicated Food Plan staff – the GFPP Coordinator and the Good Food for Glasgow Campaign Coordinator – and Glasgow partners have won awards for collaborative projects that support the delivery of aspects of the Food Plan. These include [Food and Climate Action](#) led by GCFN, and a child healthy weight project ([Thrive Under Five](#)) led by NHSGGC and Glasgow City HSCP.

► What changes have influenced delivery of the Food Plan in the first year?

There have been many important developments in 2021/22 which have affected the delivery of the Food Plan. Internationally, the conflict in Ukraine is impacting on international food supplies and energy costs, causing food shortages and price increases which are forecast to continue for



the foreseeable future. Within the UK the continuing workforce impacts of Brexit and the COVID pandemic have been extremely challenging for food producers and hospitality businesses.

The rising costs of food and energy adds further difficulties which may force some out of business. For individuals, dramatic cost of living increases are driving rising levels of food and fuel insecurity and growing concerns about how many people will cope through the winter.

► What progress has been made on the actions?

There were 76 actions set out in the first iteration of the Glasgow City Food Plan: 55 short-term (2 years) and 21 medium-term (5 years) actions.

In July 2022, 10 of the short-term actions were considered to be progressing as planned and 27 were making some progress. Eighteen had not yet made progress: 10 due to resource issues; 4 due to national delays; 1 was no longer relevant; and 3 were reclassified as medium-term actions due to the increased developmental work required.

► What has been achieved so far?

Some of the biggest achievements in the first year have been the new relationships and joined-up ways of working that have developed as a result of the Food Plan.

As one stakeholder told us:

“It has created a sense of purpose and ambition and more people are aware of the central importance of food as a focus for a wider range of issues that are linked to improving the quality of life for citizens. There is more inter-agency co-operation and a stronger network of people working in a more complementary fashion.”

Other achievements resulting from the development and implementation of the Food Plan include:

- The Glasgow [Food and Climate Action project](#) led by Glasgow Community Food Network and funded by the National Lottery. The 2-year project is a partnership between 5 community food organisations and focusing on: increasing urban agriculture within the city, engaging and empowering people of all ages through food education, establishing community-led green assemblies, supporting action around COP26, and collating all learning in an online food hub.
- NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde’s work with Glasgow’s Health and Social Care Partnership on [Thrive under Five](#), a Scottish Government-funded whole system, community-based, food nurturing programme with families of preschool children combining action on food insecurity, poverty, healthy eating and physical activity in three Glasgow neighbourhoods.



- ▶ The [Rose Voucher Project](#) supported by the Glasgow City Council and the [Alexandra Rose Foundation](#), to provide fresh fruit and vegetable boxes to families in areas where food poverty and child poverty are at their highest levels in Glasgow.
- ▶ Glasgow City Council Catering and Facilities team's achievement of the [Food for Life Served Here Bronze award](#) in 2021 for its work to get more fresh, local and sustainable food onto school plates. This was a particularly impressive achievement given the challenging delivery context of recent years.
- ▶ Food for Life Scotland's one year [Public Sector Expansion Pilot in Glasgow](#) to bring fresh, local and sustainable meals to new public sector settings across the city.
- ▶ Development of the [Glasgow Sustainable Food Directory](#) with Slow Food Glasgow, with the aim of showcasing the most sustainable food shops and places to eat in the city.
- ▶ Developing the workforce of the future with City of Glasgow College (CoGC) who piloted a new accredited module on sustainability and food waste for the hospitality students (SQA level 5) in March 2022.
- ▶ Supporting the Chamber of Commerce's [Plate up for Glasgow Campaign](#) and collaborating with the Poverty Alliance to promote the Real Living Wage Campaign in the food and drink sector.
- ▶ The [Good Food for Glasgow campaign](#) and other [collaborations](#) on linked campaigns to increase knowledge about Glasgow City Food Plan and to encourage more people to get involved in 'Good Food' activities in Glasgow.

▶ What are the conclusions of the Annual Report 2021/22?

Good progress has been made in the first year of the Glasgow City Food Plan, despite significant contextual challenges.

The partnership approach taken to developing and implementing the Food Plan has been welcomed by stakeholders, who report that this has helped increase the recognition and profile of food system challenges and the importance of change.

The coordination and management of Food Plan implementation appears to be operating well, with good collaboration emerging between many stakeholders. However, whilst many partners have demonstrated support and organisational commitment to implementing the Food Plan, there is a need to more fully engage all partners across the city in order that the required pace and scale of change is achieved.

Having a Coordinator for the GFPP who also provides leadership, coordination and support for the Glasgow City Food Plan has been extremely valuable. However, the short term and



insecure nature of the funding for this post makes future planning difficult and does not reflect the good employment practices advocated in the Food Plan.

Lack of food growing, meeting and cooking spaces and the difficulty in setting up new accessible food markets are significant barriers to community groups, to businesses and to social enterprises seeking to contribute to the city's efforts to build a more sustainable, fair and healthy food system.

Support and management of the different thematic working groups could be strengthened and better aligned.

The Food Plan lacks some key baseline data and measurable indicators for a number of actions. This reflects a lack of robust information relating to many parts of the food system. It is important to define these as a matter of urgency in order to monitor progress effectively.

There is a need for stronger collective support and coordinated action to address current and pressing issues, most notably the economic challenges faced by many households which impact on their ability to eat adequate amounts of nutritious food, without losing focus on addressing sustainability and health issues. The Food Plan is a mechanism for doing this effectively as a multi-sector collaborative approach to changing the food system.

► Recommendations?

Thematic working groups need to operate more consistently so that all those involved understand their role and expected contribution. They should develop terms of reference, review their membership, review stalling actions, and identify new priorities for action.

The GCFP project team need to ensure consistent processes and coordination of the thematic working groups and identify what is required to maintain progress. They should develop appropriate indicators and data sets, case studies and new proposals to address emerging priorities

The GFPP needs to recognise the importance of their collective responsibility and accountability for developing and implementing the Plan, and members need to clearly understand how their organisation contributes and where new connections should be made. They should act as champions for the Food Plan within their own organisations and with partners, encouraging broader engagement, support implementation of Food Plan actions wherever possible, help identify new resources to support delivery, and advise on how to evaluate progress.

► What has been learned?

The implementation of the GCFP is in its very early stages however some important lessons include:

- City food champions and critical friends who understand and support the Food Plan are important in developing more joined up work to improve the food system.



- Changes in outcomes only happen with time and resources spent on developing strong relationships and collaborative planning – the Food Plan needs to be a long-term endeavour, built on a shared understanding and ambition.
- Resources are required to plan, develop, and coordinate food partnerships and a food plan. It is particularly important to consider what is required to enable third sector partners to contribute fully.
- Collective responsibility and accountability for both developing and implementing the Plan are important, although can bring some additional challenges in terms of sharing resources and negotiating mutually acceptable approaches between partner organisations. Reporting to the Community Planning Partnership, rather than any single organisation, has been helpful in this regard.
- Regular communication, showcasing promising work and clearly articulating shared ambitions are important in helping stakeholders and citizens understand and support the Food Plan.

THE GLASGOW CITY FOOD PLAN

