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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Glasgow wins prestigious Sustainable Food award**

Glasgow has won the prestigious Sustainable Food Places Silver award. The award recognises the collaborative work of the public, private and third sector partners of the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership to promote healthy, sustainable and local food and to tackle some of today’s greatest social challenges; from food poverty and diet-related ill-health, to the disappearance of locally grown food and the loss of independent food retailers.

This Sustainable Food Places Award is a national, evidence-based recognition and celebration of places taking a joined-up, holistic approach to building a sustainable and healthy food system. Awardees must demonstrate commitment, activity and impact across their food system by the food partnership and their stakeholders’. This award is a recognition of the excellent work of the many organisations and individuals working tirelessly across Glasgow City to address the barriers citizens face to eating healthier and more sustainable food.

In June 2021 Glasgow received the Sustainable Food Places Bronze award and launched the 10-year Glasgow City Food Plan at the same time. The plan creates a framework for this work in the city, and has a played an important role in Glasgow’s award success by giving partners a shared vision of a food system in Glasgow that is fairer, healthier and more sustainable. By working with over 80 partners and many community organisations addressing social, health and environment related problems, new innovative food programmes have been created and local food businesses have been encouraged to become more sustainable.

Jill Muirie, the Chair of the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership and a Public Health Programme Manager at the Glasgow Centre for Population Health said: “I am delighted for Glasgow to receive this national award recognising the hard work of many organisations and sectors to change Glasgow’s reputation to a place that is committed to good food and a sustainable food system. We celebrate all the local partners, projects and initiatives for their collective efforts that have made this award possible. In the next few months our partnership will consider what further steps the city can take towards Glasgow’s Sustainable Food Places Gold ambition.”

Glasgow City Council is working closely with the Glasgow City Food Plan team to help deliver actions of the plan. In September it hosted Glasgow’s 2nd Food Summit at the Glasgow City Chambers chaired by Cllr Angus Millar and appointed Cllr Elaine McSporran as a Convener for the Food Plan. Councillor McSporran said: “This silver award is great news for the city and everyone involved in the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership. Coming on the back of our bronze award in 2021, it demonstrates progress, but we cannot rest on our laurels. While the council and our partners knew in March 2019 that we needed to address food poverty and improve food systems, none of us could have predicted the seismic changes and scale of need that has happened since. I am committed to continually improving council coordination and support internally and externally to ensure we develop a one-stop-shop approach, whatever food query an individual or group may have. Along with my colleague, Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, we can build on previous successes and continue sharing good practice.”

Leon Ballin, Sustainable Food Places Programme Manager, said: “Glasgow has shown what can be achieved when creative and committed people work together to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where they live. While there is still much to do and many challenges to overcome, Glasgow Food Policy Partnership has helped to set a high benchmark for other members of the UK Sustainable Food Places Network to follow. We look forward to working with them over the months and years ahead to continue to transform Glasgow’s food culture and food system for the better.”

The SFP Silver Award demonstrates that there is a particularly diverse, robust, and sustainable cross-sector food partnership in place with strategic long-term plans. These include a range of local authority policies and food access initiatives as well as effective promotion and increasing access to sustainable and nutritious food. Also evidenced is a diverse and connected local good food movement, building a shared belief across Glasgow of the possibility of a better food future. Sustainable food enterprises have a significant role in the local economy, backed by local catering and procurement practices and systemic responses that are increasingly addressing the negative climate and nature impacts of the local food system.

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**Notes to editors**

1. [The Sustainable Food Places](https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/) programme is a partnership between the Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain. It is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the National Lottery Community Fund and supports places to transform food culture.

The Sustainable Food Places programme work across six key areas:

1. Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action
2. Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement
3. Tackling food poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food
4. Creating a vibrant, prosperous, and diverse sustainable food economy
5. Transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local supply chains
6. Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste.

For more information about Sustainable Food Places visit <https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/> or @FoodPlacesUK @sustainablefoodplaces #sustainablefoodplaces

1. [Glasgow Food Policy Partnership](http://goodfoodforall.co.uk/) **(GFPP)** is a group of public, private and voluntary sector organisations working together towards a fairer, healthier, more sustainable and resilient food system for Glasgow. It is a member of the UK-wide Sustainable Food Places Network. In June 2021 Glasgow was awarded Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award recognising the success of taking a joined up, holistic approach to food and achieving significant positive change on a range of key food issues. Glasgow Food Policy Partnership hopes to build on this work and engage with even more organisations and businesses to help us make Glasgow’s food system better for everyone.
2. The [Glasgow City Food Plan](http://goodfoodforall.co.uk/home/glasgow-city-food-plan), launched in June 2021, was developed by a team comprising Glasgow Food Policy Partnership, Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Glasgow Community Food Network. The team worked with over 80 city-wide partners to develop actions towards a more sustainable equitable and healthy food system for Glasgow. Examples of programmes taking creative approaches toward citizen and business engagement and food education include:
   1. *Food and Climate Action* by the Glasgow Community Food Network, which works with communities in five areas to build knowledge and local action on food and climate issues;
   2. The local health and care partnership’s *Thrive Under Five* project which takes an holistic approach to working with families to help them access healthy food and services;
   3. Through the Food Plan, local food businesses have been encouraged to become more sustainable with initiatives such as the Glasgow *Sustainable Food Directory*, created in partnership with Slow Food Glasgow, and previous campaigns (*Plate Up for Glasgow/Grounds for Recycling*) by the Circular Glasgow, an initiative by the Chamber of Commerce;
   4. Another key partner, Glasgow City Council, has brought tastier, healthier food to Glasgow’s children through its award-winning (*Food for Life Served Here* bronze award) school meal service at the same time making sure the primary school curriculum includes the latest evidence-based education on food and health through the newly launched ‘*Your Body Matters’* resource, developed in partnership with NHSGGC;
   5. Access to healthy food across the city has also improved in the recent years due to the introduction of *Alexandra Rose Vouchers* and new pantries in Glasgow;
   6. Many other projects are under way including increasing spaces available for more local food growing and research into reducing food waste in different settings.