

Glasgow City Food Plan: Food Economy Working Group

Thematic Working Group meeting	
Date	2nd December 2024, 3.30-5 PM
Attendance	Riikka Gonzalez (GFPP), David Cairns (Glasgow Community Markets), Rebecca Ricketts (Chamber of Commerce), Juan Ortiz (The Good Choice)
Apologies	Dale Todd (The Courtyard Pantry), Gillian Edgar (SGF Healthy Living Programme), Keith Morrison (City of Glasgow College), Ewan Curtis (GCC), David Lyon (GCC), Jennifer Robertson (GSEN)
Brief Overview	The date of the meeting was changed from 19 th November as many people usually attending these meetings attended an event hosted by Glasgow City Council. Due to short notice, not many people were in attendance.
Next Meetings	End of February 2025

1. Welcome and apologies

Riikka welcomed Juan Ortiz from The Good Choice (independent retailer included in the Glasgow Sustainable Food Directory) to his first working group meeting and noted the apologies.

2. Note of last meeting and matters arising

Last meeting note was agreed as accurate.

The group discussed the following matters arising:

- David Cairns confirmed that he will be meeting with Dale Todd this week to discuss possible collaboration of Courtyard Pantry producing ready meals for Glasgow Community Markets.
- As some of the working group members attended an event for Co-Operatives in November, it would be good to get an update about this along with any guidance on how to get involved with the UN International Year of Co-Operatives. **ACTION (from previous meeting): Scott Erwin**

3. Update on Glasgow City Food Plan and plans for the 24/25

- The networking event held on the 31st October at the Courtyard Pantry was attended by 50 people and was well received. The event included short presentations from different organisations involved in food work in the city, locally sourced lunch and a chance to visit the pantry and the nearby claypits.
- [The annual report 2023-24](#) was circulated a month ago, and this will be followed up by social media posts about some progress of each working group.

- All the 8 working groups are now operational including the Catering & Procurement, Community Food and Urban Agriculture working groups. Community Food working group met for the first time after a long break at the GCFN's networking event on the 22nd November to discuss the priority actions of the group going forward. The Urban Agriculture working group also met at the same time to refine their priority actions.

4. Priorities and plans of this working group for 24/25

[Update on progress](#)

Action area 1:

- City of Glasgow College, who usually attend these meetings, are always looking for local guest speakers to come and speak to their students. This could be chefs, caterers or suppliers, so if you have any ideas of potential speakers please let Riikka know and she will pass the details to the college. **ACTION: ALL**
- David has been connecting with a global supply-chain expert Franco Fubini, who might be coming for a visit to Glasgow to do a book launch in February. His company, Natura, might be interested in supplying some restaurants in Glasgow. GFPP is exploring hosting a separate panel discussion with the author, which might be of interest to many different sectors including city's catering colleges, academics and food businesses. Riikka will circulate details about this session in due course. **ACTION: Riikka**

Action area 2:

- David gave an update on the work of the Glasgow Community Markets. The Whiteinch market is currently operating well and GCPH is waiting to hear back about a funding bid to evaluate the market with the University of Glasgow. The plan for the Govan Cross market is to open in March-April next year (licence has been granted), already has some funding for vouchers from Area Partnerships and the Arnold Clark foundation and is working with some asylum seekers through Govan Helps. Glasgow Community Markets is also looking at potential sites in Drumchapel and Castlemilk and hopes to work with some housing associations. The plan is, once each market is up and running efficiently, to pass it over to the community to run. Each market will cater for the needs of the community (eg. ethnic background) to provide culturally appropriate food for the markets.
- Following from the discussion at the last meeting about working with more housing associations, Riikka and Dale met with the Manager of Queens Cross Housing Association and their Regeneration Team to talk about potential for setting up community markets at some of their housing developments. They are potentially interested and identified some sites that could be explored for this. They already have some food growing sites, which could provide food for some markets along with linking up with any bulk-buying projects. Dale is happy to be involved with this work going forward. Some other colleagues (GFPP, GCFN, Scottish Pantry Network) have been in contact with other housing associations to gauge level of interest. Going forward we should be writing to the director of GWSF (Glasgow & West of Scotland Forum of Housing Associations) to see the best ways to involve Glasgow-based housing associations in a potential bulk-buying project. David

Lyon has already expressed interest in getting involved with this. Riikka will follow this up with David and include Dale and Scott in the conversation. **ACTION: Riikka**

Action area 3:

- Riikka updated the group on the Full of Beans campaign. This has now been evaluated by a researcher hired with funding from the Scottish Alliance of Food. The summary report will be circulated together with a blog on the 6th of January (the national Bean Day) to mark a year from the campaign launch. Many people have got in contact after the campaign ended, and we are exploring the opportunity of 'Full of Beans 2.0' event with researchers and campaign partners to evaluate the longer-term effects of the campaign. The official campaign is over, but as a legacy of the campaign the campaign website will display all campaign-related resources. The team will also keep encouraging different sectors to put more beans on the menu and the GCC school catering team are now including beans on the menu as a result of the campaign.
- GFPP are not planning another campaign for 2025 right now, but any ideas for future campaigns would be most welcome.
- Glasgow City Region has launched a campaign to make the region into a 'Living Wage Place'. Their team is looking for accredited living wage employers to join their action group. Sprigg, Tantrum Doughnuts and Dear Green Coffee Roasters were identified as some food sector employers who might be worth contacting. Riikka will send these suggestions to the LWP working group. **ACTION: Riikka**
- The 3rd edition of the Glasgow Sustainable Food Directory was launched at the Advanced Research Centre (ARC) in September and was well attended. Questionnaires have been sent to the members to get their opinions on the directory. Some members expressed an interest in facilitated sessions for directory members to connect with each other and discuss any collaborative opportunities. The team (GFPP and Slow Food Glasgow) are looking for sponsorship to fund the work towards developing and designing the next edition of the directory; this could also include training events for members. If you have any ideas of potential sponsors/funders, please get in touch with Riikka. **ACTION: ALL**
- City of Glasgow College has been taking part in the 'Eating Out, Eating Well' pilot run by Public Health Scotland, but it is not yet clear how this will be implemented. This will replace the previous 'Healthy Living Award'. Rebecca thought there might be a link to the 2026 Commonwealth Games and wondered who to contact to find out more about this. Riikka will follow this up and send any updates to Rebecca. **ACTION: Riikka**
- The group had a discussion about the creation of city-wide Sustainable Food Standard for events. Riikka has been trying to connect organisations who already has their own standards, but this has proved quite challenging. She has met with the consultant working on the new Glasgow Live Guidance for events and has connected Gerry Boyle to her as Zero Waste Scotland has their own standard. Sustainable Glasgow is also working on their own events guide. It would make sense to connect all this work to create a city-wide standard everyone can use in the future. The Commonwealth Games coming to Glasgow in 2026 would provide an ideal opportunity for this, and Rebecca already has some initial ideas on this. Riikka and Rebecca will discuss this further at another time. **ACTION: Riikka & Rebecca**

Action area 4:

- Rebecca gave a short presentation (see slides attached) about the 'Taste the Place' campaign by the Chamber of Commerce linked to the Glasgow 850-celebrations. It is one of the 3 signature celebration events featured by the Glasgow City Council. Over 40 food businesses have signed up to be part of the free self-guided trail celebrating Glasgow's diverse food culture and heritage. Each business will create its own guide cards for the trail including some fun facts about their business, recipes and their connection to communities. The recruitment for the campaign is now closed, but Rebecca would welcome guest blogs to link the campaign to wider food work in the city as well as circulation on websites and newsletters. As not everyone in the city is able to afford visit the places featured by the campaign, there is an opportunity for the campaign to bring different cultures together and David is interested in running some kind of community meal in Whiteinch/Govan to link with the campaign. There might be an opportunity to work with community organisations already putting on community meals and multicultural cookery sessions. Riikka will ask Glasgow Community Food Network if this might be of interest to their Food and Climate Action Team. **ACTION: Riikka**
- GCC has been planning a regional food economy meeting with neighbouring councils. Update on this is needed, and Riikka will get in contact with Council officers. **ACTION: Riikka**
- Applications to apply for funding for Pop-Up shop applications are open. If anyone has an idea and is interested in applying, guidance is available from the links below:

The city centre Improvement Grant Fund (IGF) has been established to assist organisations and communities in Glasgow city centre to create meanwhile use spaces¹, deliver small projects and undertake minor improvement works:

[https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/13032/City-Centre-Improvement-Grant-Fund-Guidance/pdf/City Centre Improvement Grant Fund Guidance.pdf?m=1726477251603](https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/media/13032/City-Centre-Improvement-Grant-Fund-Guidance/pdf/City%20Centre%20Improvement%20Grant%20Fund%20Guidance.pdf?m=1726477251603)

[Meanwhile Space - Process for Applicants \(2024\)](#)

[Meanwhile Space - Submission Form \(2024\) FINAL.docx](#)

5. Partner updates and opportunities for collaboration – discussion

- The 'Taste the place' campaign also hopes to give Top -10 sustainability tips to Glasgow residents and one of them is how people can think about shopping for more local produce. Rebecca was wondering about the best way to signpost people to farmers markets. Currently the information on the markets is not easily available as the markets run by City Property Markets don't have a social media presence as they don't have anyone to manage this. David is hoping to work with a media company to market the Glasgow Community Markets next year. David and Rebecca will touch base about this in February. **ACTION: Rebecca & David** Riikka pointed out that the Sustainable Food

Directory would also be good to include as this includes independent sustainable shops in the city.

6. AOB

- The Courtyard Pantry won the 'One to watch' award at the Scottish Social Enterprise Awards. They have also been shortlisted for the national award, which takes place later this week; good luck!
- David is working to take over the Shawlands farmers market in the future.

6. Future meetings dates end of Feb/May

- Riikka asked if people are happy with the current format for the meetings going forward. It was suggested that there would be more in-person meetings next year hosted by willing members of the working group.
- Riikka will send a Doodle-poll around to find suitable dates for our February/May meetings. **ACTION: Riikka**

