

Food4Fife Strategy & Action Plan 2023-2030

Consultation Draft - March 2023



PLAN  FIFE

Foreword

Food is a basic human need. Fife produces some of the best food and drink in the world, enjoyed around the globe. The food sector supports and creates jobs the length and breadth of the Kingdom.

The people of Fife deserve to have access to the best produce Fife, and Scotland, has to offer, whether growing it themselves, buying it directly from local producers, choosing it at a retail outlet or being served it at school.

People increasingly want to know where their food has come from – who made it, the food miles involved, the environmental impact of its production and transport and how it supports local jobs and communities.

Increasing the ability to access locally produced food has enormous potential to enrich lives, improve diets, reduce and regenerate environmental damage, and increase community wealth.

This strategy aims to support change in the food system in Fife in a meaningful way, to ensure it flourishes for all; producers, consumers and the environment.

In 2030, when we look back at our journey, what will be the story we tell about our land and food? This strategy is one of our first steps to create a Fife that connects our communities to the ecosystems that support us and each other.

Jo-Anne Valentine
Chair of the Food4Fife Partnership

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Introduction

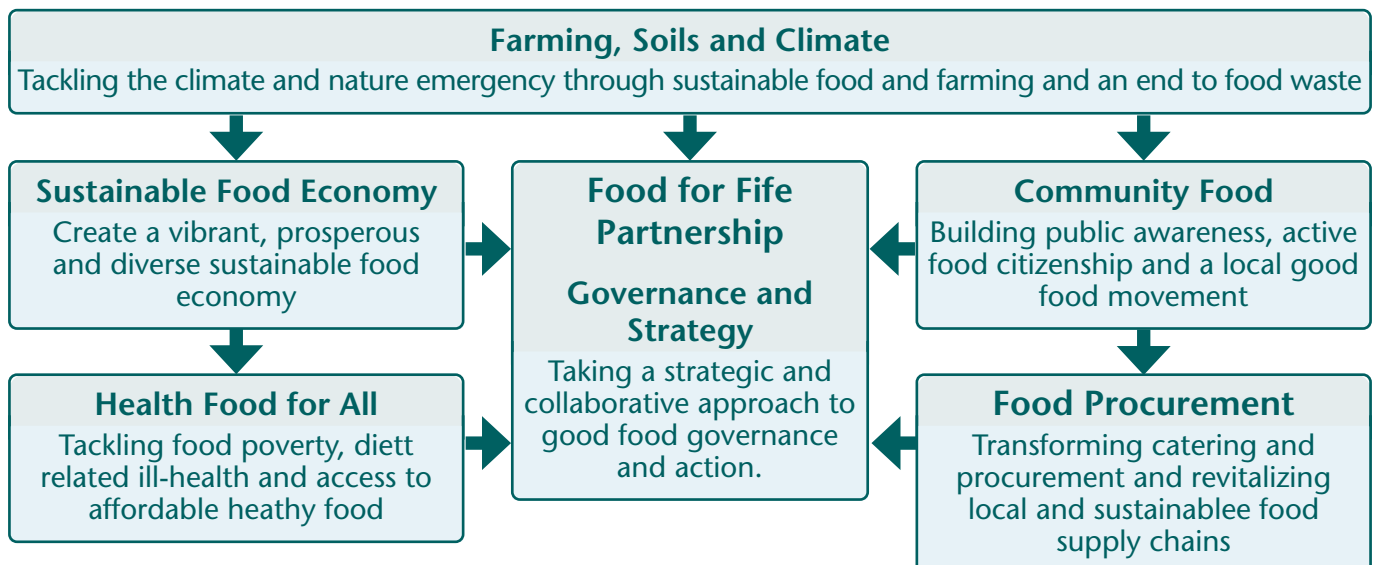
Our Food4Fife Vision

In August 2021, organisations from across Fife’s food system came together to launch the **Food4Fife Partnership**. The partnership recognised a need for a more joined up, strategic approach to the various aspects of the food system and the need to address key challenges. Members of the partnership committed themselves to work across boundaries and disciplines to make sure actions are connected and of benefit to the whole system. In 2021, the Partnership developed and agreed the vision to:

“Create a sustainable food culture for a healthy Fife”, by:

- Working to stop and **prevent food poverty** by providing a dignified, fair and just access to healthy and affordable food for all.
- Growing food in Fife that is **climate friendly** and climate ready, reduces waste, redistributes excess and supports soil health and biodiversity.
- Empowering Fife’s **food community and citizenship** through communication and increased access to growing spaces, food skills and education.
- Using Fife’s public **procurement** for community wealth building we will bring local food into our public buildings including schools, hospitals and learning institutions
- Supporting local food producers and suppliers to create a **food economy** and culture that supports living wages, that’s local, high quality and innovative with good career prospects.
- Working in **partnership** across all parts of the food system, driving positive change through leadership and a Fife-wide food strategy.

This strategy uses these six ambitions as “pillars” forming the basis for this strategy. They are based on the Sustainable Food Places’ six-pillar model (see following diagram) and have been adapted to fit Fife’s local ways of working.



Each pillar represents an integral part of Fife's food system – from the food and drink sector of the local economy to how food is procured; the impacts of food poverty to the community responses that seek new ways of creating sustainable food.

By considering each pillar and its interdependencies, the strategy and action plan outline how partners can work together to tackle the challenges facing Fife's food system now and in the future.

The Challenges

There are some significant challenges that prevent Fife's food system from flourishing.

The national and international context – climate and nature emergencies, changes to international trade, the Covid-19 pandemic and international conflict - are impacting local and global food systems. As a result, global food security is no longer as strong as it once was. putting food supplies and affordability at risk across the region.

Fife is an important food producer for Scotland. However, whilst Fife exports produce grown or reared here, it also buys some back following processing elsewhere, potentially increasing food mileage and economic value for Fife's economy.

Food security depends on several interconnected issues, which this strategy proposes to take action on.

- Food production in Fife needs support to adapt to the impacts of unavoidable climate change: extreme weather will affect crop yields, supplies and costs.
- Soil health is critical to food production and the nutritional content of food, as well as retaining water and storing carbon.
- Biodiversity plays a vital role in crop pollination and health.

Funding also presents a challenge for Fife's food system. Public services budgets are under pressure, and there is increasing demand for services. The Partnership recognises the need to find innovative ways of getting the funds needed to support action and deliver results. Creative solutions that build on community wealth building approaches can be used to make positive change throughout the system.

Communication and skills development will be crucial for **behaviour change** and building understanding of the importance of locally produced food across Fife's private, public and third sectors. It will need co-ordinated and partnership approaches to enable delivery.

Fortunately, Fife has a history of strong partnership working, including activities developed and delivered by local community organisations. The Food4Fife Partnership looks to build on this strength, and it will be key to the success of vital communication campaigns.

National and Local Policy Context

In creating a sustainable food culture for a healthy Fife, this strategy encourages a redesign of the local food system and puts the principles of the **Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022** into practice. The Act underpins in law the work that is already being done nationally to make Scotland a Good Food Nation. It builds on the national policy **Becoming a Good Food Nation**, launched in 2014, which set a new vision for Scotland:

that by 2025, Scotland will be “a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day.”¹

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 also puts a requirement on local authorities to develop a Good Food Nation Plan. This strategy aims to meet that requirement.

Further, the Scottish Government vision² for agriculture is as a leader in sustainable and regenerative farming. A draft Scottish Agriculture Bill³ is under consideration.

Within Fife, the **Plan for Fife 2017-2027** sets out the ten-year ambitions for the Kingdom. The **Recovery and Renewal Plan for Fife 2021-2024** update, published in August 2021, combine these ambitions with learning from the pandemic. The three key priorities for recovery and renewal are supported by an overarching approach of Community Wealth Building:

1. Addressing the Climate Emergency

Fife Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Shortly after, the Council approved the ambitious **Climate Fife: Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan** in March 2020. Climate Fife recognised both the catastrophic effects climate change will have for Fife and the changes needed to all aspects of day-to-day life. It committed to working: “...**With local stakeholders to produce a local food strategy for Fife which will look at improving the quality, health benefits, affordability, access to and reduce the environmental impacts of food consumed within Fife.**” (RE06 p73)

2. Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis

Poverty continues to be one of Fife’s key challenges with many more Fifers impacted by the Cost of Living and needing to access food banks. The gap between those that can afford food and those that can’t is widening. Fife’s deprived areas are becoming more deprived, and Fife continues to see worsening health deprivation.

Research and mapping projects undertaken in Leven during 2018 and South & West Fife in 2022 showed that poorer neighbourhoods have fewer fruit and vegetable retail outlets selling fresh produce. It found that rural locations with reduced transport to shops exacerbates those issues.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/policies/food-and-drink/good-food-nation/>

² Sustainable and regenerative farming - next steps: statement - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

³ Delivering our Vision for Scottish Agriculture. Proposals for a new Agriculture Bill - Scottish Government - Citizen Space (consult.gov.scot)

3. Leading Economic Recovery

Fife faces many economic challenges with rising inflation, shortages and problems in the labour market, low levels of Research and Development, and the persistent underperformance of Mid-Fife. Creating alternative local and sustainable markets for local food producers and maximising local public procurement of food can help support a local food economy in Fife.

Support for new businesses to develop ideas for locally grown produce could create new markets and potentially avoid the need for importing of food.

Another strand of the food system that could benefit the local economy is food trails and the development of agritourism.

Despite the challenges, Fife is the breadbasket of Scotland and so is in a strong position to take this work forward. **Community Wealth Building** offers Fife many opportunities to ensure the local food system works well for local people and that any wealth generated by the local food economy stays in Fife.

Our Strategy

Each of the following chapters show one of the six food pillars, noting the ambition, challenges and direction that will be taken. They were each developed by a multi-agency working group formed of partners who are actively involved in the pillar. From farmers to public services, from community groups to food and drink businesses, each partner contributes a wealth of knowledge and brings a different perspective on Fife's food system.

Farming, Soils and Climate

Sustainable local farming and healthy food production, that tackles the climate and nature emergencies

This chapter sets out Fife's local ambition to deliver the Scottish Government vision for sustainable and regenerative farming. It looks to support farming and food production. Fife is in a strong position to become a leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture that delivers high quality food production, climate mitigation and adaptation, and nature restoration. High quality, nutritious food locally and sustainably produced is key to our wellbeing – in economic, environmental, social and health terms. The Food4Fife Partnership is working with farmers to meet more of Fife's own food needs.

Fife has an abundance of seasonal food, and many farmers are leading the way in sustainable and regenerative practices, with many inspiring case studies and examples of organic farming. Fife also has a strong food and drinks business network.

Fork to Farm Dialogues

This section has been written in partnership with Fife farmers, members of the Fork to Farm Dialogues and the Food4Fife Partnership. The 'Fork to Farm Dialogues' are local-led, relationship-building meetings aimed at bringing farmers into food system and food policy discussions. The dialogues are a platform for learning, knowledge-sharing, and opportunities. It has been developed and supported by Nourish Scotland to bring Fife farmers, members of the National Farmers Union and Food4Fife members together. These dialogues helped identify the many challenges for farmers and soils in Fife, as well as the climate emergency, including:

- **Soil Health** - Looking after Fife's soil is critical to providing nutritious food, maintaining clean water, supporting restoration of nature with biodiversity gain and to sequester carbon; which are vital in tackling the climate emergency.
- **Business resilience** – action on farming, soils and climate should enable long term business resilience, which will be key to supporting efficiency, productivity, food quality, affordability and more local employment on the land.
- **Building capacity and sharing of knowledge** – the Scottish Government recognises the need to identify and develop the skills needed for regenerative and sustainable farming, changes of land use and adaptation to the changing climate. In part, this could be through encouraging co-operative approaches to optimise collaboration and knowledge exchange. For food security, working together on research and development will be essential.

- **Resources** – Land, energy and water for food production are important for food security. Low carbon technologies for production, growing, storage and distribution of food produce should be supported.
- **Local distribution, processing, storage and markets** – to be successful the right infrastructure and supply chains will need to be in place across Fife to support the many different sizes of farms. There is a need to create more localised supply chains, enhance producer value and cut food miles, and access local markets. Again, to encourage co-operative approaches to optimise collaboration.
- **National policy and long-term investment** – to be successful policy needs to support farming make commitments and change required, recognising farming’s long planning timescales.
- **Food and waste** –Scotland and Fife need a secure food supply, to be more self-sufficient, making best use of limited land resources. Food waste needs to be reduced across all the pillars in this strategy, from growing right through to eating. Wasted food from each stage also wastes all the energy and resources that went into growing, processing, transporting and cooking it. Scotland’s ambitious target is to reduce its food waste by one third by 2025.
Food Waste Reduction Action Plan: 2025 Target | Zero Waste Scotland

These challenges come with opportunities. The potential for growing food for Fifiers is very varied. Fife is also well positioned to access world leading tech and research with the James Hutton Institute, animal genetics, universities, and a history of scientists. Projects to develop and use data will be key to delivering change, enabling better understanding of the opportunities and gaps for supporting Fife’s food infrastructure. This research can also help us understand the links between food quality and health.

In addition, growing food in gardens, town centre spaces, allotments, and community gardens offers additional potential and will be covered in the Community Food chapter.

To tackle food waste, the partnership will also work with national partners including Zero Waste Scotland to develop and support projects and behaviour change campaigns to reduce the carbon emissions from food waste.

Sustainable Food Economy

Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy

Making good food a defining characteristic of Fife depends, ultimately, on ensuring healthy and sustainable food businesses are mainstreamed as part of a revitalised local food economy. From producers and processors to retailers and caterers.

Putting good food entrepreneurs and enterprises at the heart of local economic development and promoting them to consumers not only ensures that buying healthy and sustainable food becomes the easy choice but also creates jobs, businesses and prosperity while regenerating high streets and city centres.

This chapter sets out why Fife’s food economy needs to become more sustainable, adaptable, innovative and resilient. It presents actions that will be taken by partners to achieve change.

Every sector of the economy will have to adapt their practices due to climate change. It is clear it will impact adversely on the food and drink sector, both in primary production and secondary manufacturing areas, as well as in processing, storage and logistics. Fife’s food and drink sector underpins Fife’s tourism and retail sectors and any stress in the food and drink sector will ripple through those other industries.

Businesses and jobs occur at all sections of the food system, contributing towards the performance of the food economy. Businesses within Fife’s food and drink sector operate across the wider food system. And for the food system in Fife to continue to produce, process and get to market sustainable food and drink, it requires systemic change.

Changes requires analysis of how the business model for the sector currently operates. That analysis will help support businesses to identify and implement Net-Zero practices that adapt and mitigate the impacts that climate change will have on their business practices.



15.8%
of Fife’s businesses
are in the food and
drink sector



The sector accounts for
14,800 jobs
across Fife, with an
annual turnover of
£550m



The industry has grown
steadily since 2017
to around
1,500
businesses in 2021



As part of primary
producers within the
sector, Fife is home to
524 farms
of 50 hectares or more
and **1,530**
smaller farms and
small holdings

Fife's Food Economy

Fife's food economy has shown remarkable resilience over the past few years, with pressures from Brexit and Covid impacting significantly on all within the sector. Its inherent entrepreneurial strength gives confidence that its actors, with appropriate support, can continue to be innovative ensuring that businesses across all sections of the food system can:

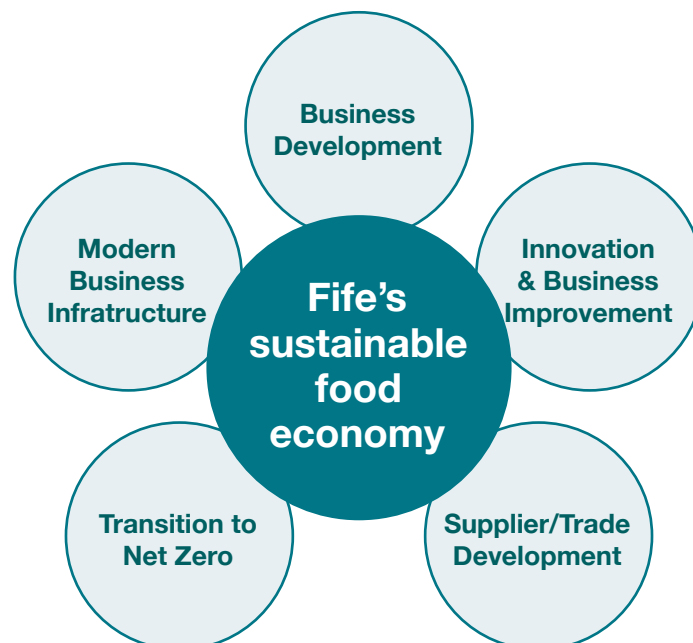
- Start up, grow and thrive in a sustainable way
- Create and support sustainable employment
- Have access to and can develop new markets through supplier and trade development

Fife's food and drink sector is already well established (see figure below). The Food from Fife initiative brings together food and drink businesses in Fife, promoting the quality and variety of their offerings. From top restaurants to neighbourhood cafes; resort hotels to B&B's; artisan producers to large-scale manufacturers; markets to festivals; and everything in between.

The **Fife Economic Strategy (2023-28)** will set a vision for a vibrant and resilient Fife economy and the areas of overall economic focus for 2023-2028.

To support Fife's food economy to become more sustainable, adaptable, innovative and resilient, this pillar is guided by research within the food and drink sector (see Appendix B) and the five strategic themes below.

In the Spring of 2022, several surveys were carried out across the sector. Fife Council's Business & Employability Service ran a **Sustainability Health Check** survey. The results of the survey haven been analysed to further develop products and programmes of support to businesses to sustainably start, operate, grow and trade. Survey responses were key to developing actions for this section of the strategy and action plan. See Appendix B for a detailed breakdown of the evidence gathered.



Sustainable Food Procurement

Transforming procurement and revitalising local and sustainable food supply chains

Catering and procurement provide uniquely powerful levers for promoting good food.

By transforming catering across a wide range of settings - from nurseries, schools and colleges through hospitals and care homes to workplace canteens and smaller scale catering outlets - it is possible not only to improve the eating habits of many thousands of people but also to create the large-scale demand for healthy, sustainable and local food. This underpins a fundamental shift in the food production and supply system.

Procurement is an 'enabling' support service within the public sector. Its strategic focus is the generation of financial benefits, effective supplier management, robust demand challenge, compliance and continuous improvement. Public procurement, has vast potential to enable Fife to create a healthy, sustainable, and thriving local food system.

Food procurement in Scotland is changing. There is pressure to become more agile in the face of national and global change, as well as new commitments to fulfil ambitions to use the public purse to deliver greater public and environmental good.

Public procurement teams in Fife are keen to support change, support locally produced foods and be more involved in the local supply chain. However, there are many factors currently affecting food procurement in Fife:

- The **Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022** enshrines in law the Scottish Government's commitment to Scotland being a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day.
- The UK Government's **Nutritional Requirements in Schools** provides nutritional information on foods that can be supplied in schools.
- Allergen Information, for example, **Natasha's Law**.
- The requirement to provide **Universal Free School Meals** for children in Primaries 1-5 from January 2022, with the possibility of expanding this to all Primary School pupils.
- Free lunches for pre-school age children who have a funded childcare place.
- Supply chain volatility - shortages on food substitutes (specifically pertaining to nutritional requirements for food supplied in schools) and the availability of fresh produce (which cannot be stockpiled).
- Climate change.
- Price increases (estimating potential cost increases of up to 20%) due to the cost-of-living crisis. Increases in consumer prices could pull more people into household food insecurity and increase the demand on public sector food, for example, through greater take-up of free school meals and people becoming unwell or remaining unwell for longer.

Significant amounts are spent on public procurement of food. As an example, Fife Council's spend via contracts in food procurement is approximately £6 million per year with most of this relating to food purchased for schools and care homes. Currently, approximately £4 million of this is spent with local suppliers, however, most of the goods supplied do not come from local producers. For example, Fife Council has existing food contracts with six local suppliers and receives food from local producers through four existing contracts, but there is always opportunity and potential to achieve more through:

- Improving collaborative working across organisations and partnerships, by practising a responsive, pro-active and agile approach where possible.
- Working with suppliers and Fife Council's Business & Employability Service to support local food producers to be included in the supply chain, highlighting contract opportunities at local and national levels.
- Enabling procurement contracts to include community benefits and promote sustainability in line with best practice and regulation requirements.
- Ensuring best value is obtained for the Council – source food products that meet the specification required particularly in schools and care homes for the best price possible.
- Where possible, practicing a Risk Optimisation approach to procurement activity and commercial risk.
- Ensuring activity is compliant with applicable procurement legislation and is aligned with the organisation's strategic direction.
- Supporting Fife Council's Catering Team to implement essential food supplies to support their strategies and objectives.
- Ensuring that all opportunities to achieve savings and efficiencies are considered and pursued.

As major procurers of goods, services and works, public sector organisations have a duty to practice and report on Sustainable Procurement activity. In order to reduce the environmental impacts of procurement activity, Fife Council's Corporate Procurement Team will utilise the Scottish Government's 'Procurement Journey' guidance in terms of best practice and the Sustainable Procurement Tools. These tools will be used to deliver the procurement actions set out in the Action Plan. Adopting and using these tools and best practice principles across all partners will make a real difference and support efforts to tackle the climate emergency.

Healthy Food for All

Ensuring everyone in Fife has equal access to affordable, healthy food

Good food is a right not a privilege and everyone should be able to eat healthily every day, no matter who they are, what they do or where they live.

Key to achieving this is:

- Ensuring all those in danger of going hungry or suffering malnutrition can access nutritious food while working to address the underlying causes of food poverty.
- Raising awareness of what constitutes a healthy diet and giving people the skills, resources and support needed to feed themselves well.
- Changing people's food environment - from institutional settings to high streets - to ensure affordable healthy food is available and accessible to all.

The ambition for Fife is that nobody experiences food insecurity. That everyone has access to the money they need to eat well, and nobody has to make choices like between heating and eating. That everyone is able to buy fresh produce at affordable prices. That everyone has the knowledge, skills and equipment they need to prepare nutritious and culturally appropriate meals.

This pillar builds on work which has been happening over a number of years in Fife. Research carried out in 2017 estimated that approximately 24,000 adults in Fife were experiencing food insecurity. The Covid pandemic and the current cost-of-living crisis have brought the needs of people facing hardship, and the diversity of community and institutional responses, into even sharper focus.

Latest data show that around two thirds of adults in Fife (68%) were overweight (including obese) and 31% of adults were obese in 2016-19. Across Scotland, gradual increases in overweight levels have been seen since 2011 and are currently (2019) at their highest levels since 2003. In the school year 2019/20, just over three quarters (76%) of children in primary 1 (approximately 5 years old) in Fife had a healthy weight and 23.3% were at risk of overweight or obesity.

Poor nutrition is a major risk factor for obesity and for a range of chronic diseases including cancer, heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. And, as with other health outcomes, inequalities are stark. Obesity rates among adults, for example, are higher in Scotland's most deprived areas compared to the least deprived. Prevalence of Type 2 diabetes in the most deprived areas of Scotland (12%) is three times greater than in the least deprived areas (4%). There is evidence, too, of the strong links between nutrition and mental health.

Health inequalities in Fife have increased as a result of the pandemic and are likely to be exacerbated further by the economic crisis. We need to take action urgently to ensure all Fife's citizens have the best opportunity for good health. This includes work in rural areas, where pockets of poverty and deprivation can be masked by SIMD data, and limited access to services and transport is a significant challenge.

Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis is a key priority in the Plan for Fife 2021-2024 Update, and a significant programme of reform is underway with the aim of ensuring people get the help they need, when they need it. This includes actions around benefit take-up and income maximisation, support with fuel and childcare costs, and providing early, joined-up support through a 'no wrong door' approach.

This part of the Food4Fife - Strategy and Action Plan references this programme of work but aims not to duplicate it. Instead, it sets out actions where there is a clear and direct relationship with food.

While our goal is to end food insecurity and the need for emergency food provision, this plan recognises the need for – and the vital role played by – providers of free and low-cost food, in particular those rooted in and led by communities, in mitigating food insecurity. We want to ensure that provision is adequate, appropriate, sustainable and dignified.

Our plan includes work around building knowledge and skills around food in our communities and increasing understanding of the impact of good nutrition on physical and mental health and wellbeing.

It recognises, too, that food is about much more than physical nutrition. Food can be a vehicle for bringing people together, building connections and strengthening community resilience.

The events of the last few years have affected food security, cooking and eating habits, and social connections. But with these challenges come opportunities - to understand, explore and work together, to look differently at our habits and responses, to build on the best of what has happened so far, and to take more coordinated action to ensure healthy food for all.

Community Food

Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement

A shift towards healthier and more sustainable food requires high public awareness of food issues and widespread participation in food-related activity, by both individuals and institutions, as part of a growing movement of active food citizenship.

Key to achieving this is:

- Communications and events that can inspire people about the role, importance and joy of good food and practical engagement opportunities such as growing, cooking and sharing food in every community.
- A facilitated network through which food actors of every kind can connect and collaborate online and in person as part of a local good food movement.

The ambition for Community Food in Fife is for a Good Food Movement. This is about connecting people through community food networks, increasing skills that nurture a positive food culture, increasing community spaces for growing and harvesting, and encouraging innovation in the production and distribution of community grown food.

Fife's Good Food Movement is about building public awareness, increasing participation, and supporting people's access to information and resources regarding their local food spaces. Such a culture shift towards healthier and more sustainable food requires not only awareness of food issues and widespread participation in food-related activities, but also how these activities affect the climate.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there was an increase in successful collaborations between the private, public, and third sectors (retail, catering, and food producers). Fife currently hosts a whole range of community food provision projects, ranging from larders and pantries to food banks and community cafes.

Fife will build on the positive work already achieved and continue to foster a good food movement, by:

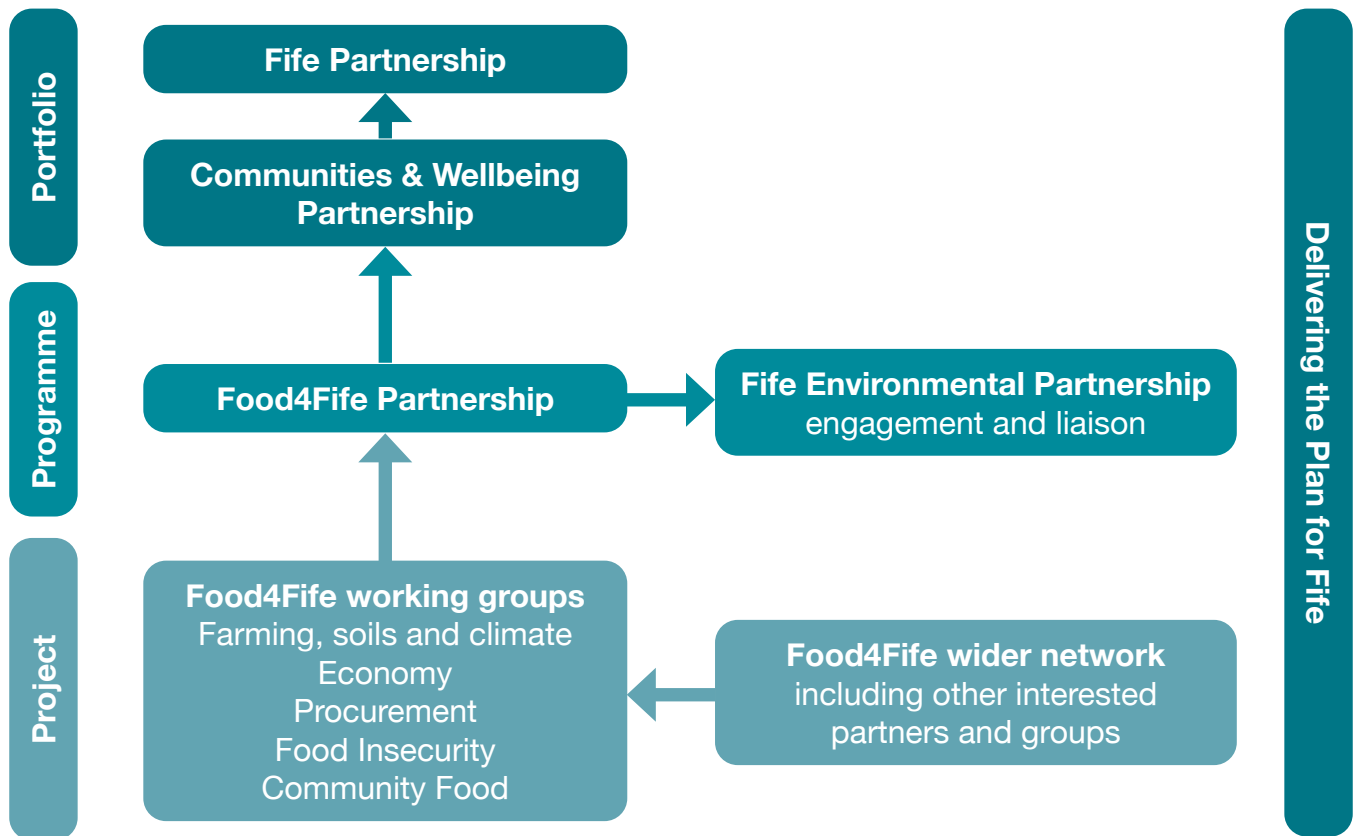
- **Connecting People:** Gathering existing knowledge of community food networks; promoting social events such as lunch clubs and community meals; a Fife-wide mapping project; and heritage projects.
- **Increasing Skills:** Building and enhancing a positive food culture through food education, food growing, cooking classes and connections with local farms. The goal is to coordinate a programme of community events and workshops on food growing (whether its people going in their own gardens at home or in community gardens/ orchards). The programme would cover a multitude of different topics - how to get started, how to keep it cost-effective, how to cook what's been grown (spade to spoon).
- **Growing & Harvesting:** Utilising community spaces for food growing. There are many opportunities for food growing beyond allotments, such as private gardens, community gardens, orchards, and school and church grounds.
- **Producing & Distributing:** Adopting the Community Wealth Building approach by redirecting surplus produce to community pantries and supporting the establishment of community shops, market gardens, and community food-based business initiatives (for example, by selling jams, chutneys and juices made from local produce). In and beyond Fife, there are community shops which encourage bulk buying to reduce costs and waste. Fife can learn from communities at home and across the country that are taking over empty premises and turning them into community shops, with examples like Community Shop, Dunshalt, Locavore, and Nature (an Ayr-based bakery).

Food4Fife Partnership and Governance

We are taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action.

To transform Fife’s food system into one that is healthy, sustainable, and thriving by 2030, we need a joined-up strategic approach and committed long-term collaboration. This needs to happen between individuals and organisations across every sector and at every level; from community grassroots and third sector organisations to businesses and council leaders.

The below diagram illustrates the Food4Fife Partnership governance structure.



Key partners

- NHS Fife
- Fife Council
- Fife Environmental Partnership
- Fife farmers and food business
- Fife Community Climate Action Network

Involvement of stakeholders

This strategy is not an output of one organisation, but a product of collaboration and joint working between partners from across Fife's food system.

The strategy chapters have each been contributed by working groups formed of partners who are actively involved in the pillars. From farmers to public services, from community groups to food and drink businesses, each partner contributes a wealth of knowledge and brings a different perspective on Fife's food system.

Implementation and monitoring progress

The Food4Fife Strategy and Action Plan will be monitored through the Food4Fife Partnership governance structure. There will be ongoing updates with reporting on each of the pillars.

Glossary

Active food citizenship

A shift towards healthier and more sustainable food requires high public awareness of food issues and widespread participation in food-related activity, by both individuals and institutions, as part of a growing movement of active food citizenship

Adaptable

In this context, being able to adapt to unavoidable climate change. The changes that are already happening, or are likely to happen, with increasing extremes of weather / temperature.

Agroecology

Agroecology is sustainable farming that works with nature. Agroecology is the application of ecological concepts and principals in farming. It promotes farming practices that mitigate climate change, works with wildlife, and gives power to approaches led by local people.

Agritourism

Agritourism can be defined as a form of commercial enterprise that links agricultural production and/or processing with tourism to attract visitors onto a farm, ranch, or other agricultural business for the purposes of entertaining and/or educating the visitors while generating income for the farm, ranch, or business owner.

Biodiversity gain

A way of calculating how a development, or a change in land management, will beneficially change the biodiversity value of a site.

Carbon Sequestration

Actions to help tackle the climate emergency by reducing carbon dioxide in the air. Carbon sequestration is using natural processes to absorb emissions from the atmosphere and capture these in things like soils or wood in growing tree.

Climate Emergency

A public commitment to stop all carbon emitting activities as rapidly as possible. Fife Council has committed to set a target for a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest. This will require a huge transformation in Fife's communities

Fork to Farm

Dialogues are local-led, relationship-building meetings aimed at bringing farmers into food system and food policy discussions.

Nature Emergency

The loss of species and degradation of the natural environment which is a threat to humanity which requires restoration of nature.

Net Zero

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance.

Ecology

Ecology is the study of relationships between plants, animals, people, and their environment - and the balance between these relationships.

Food system

A collective term used to describe the supply chain interfaces for food and drink including food production, processing, distribution and storage networks, waste management, markets and consumption.

Ecology

Ecology is the study of relationships between plants, animals, people, and their environment - and the balance between these relationships.

Food system

A collective term used to describe the supply chain interfaces for food and drink including food production, processing, distribution and storage networks, waste management, markets and consumption.

Good food / Healthy food

Food that helps the health of the population

Organic

Food which is produced using environmentally and animal friendly farming methods (agroecological) defined and regulated by organic standards.

Risk optimisation

Something that minimise the risks from an action. For this strategy taking action to best ensure food would be available to purchase at the right time and price.

Systemic change

Change that reaches all or most parts of a system. Where all or almost everything changes.

Sustainable

Balancing the needs of the people, the environment and the economy.

Sustainable and regenerative farming

Farming that delivers high quality food production, climate mitigation and adaptation, and nature restoration. Such as organic standards and agroecological approaches.

Appendix A.

Food4Fife - Action Plan 2023 - 2030 (full version)

The Food4Fife – Action Plan is set out by the five pillars in order of the strategy.

- **Farming, Soils and Climate (FSC)**
- **Sustainable Food Economy (SFE)**
- **Sustainable Food Procurement (SFP)**
- **Healthy Food for All (HFA)**
- **Community Food (COF)**

Actions are identified by a unique code, for example, **FSC01** means Farming, Soils and Climate, action 1. This will help with the monitoring of actions and outcomes and makes it easier to identify specific actions.

Pillars do not exist in silos but are interconnected – working together and influencing each other. Where there are links between actions, there will be multiple codes attached to an action. This is to highlight these interdependencies and ensure action leads talk to each other to link up actions.

Farming, Soils and Climate

Desired Outcomes	Action Leads	Code	Actions	Outputs	Timeline		
					Year 1 Actions (2023-24)	Medium (2024-26)	Long-term (2026-30)
More informed decision making New market opportunities	Fife Council - Economic Development Fife Council - Procurement Service	FSC01 / SFE07	Map supply chain activity across Fife partners and anchor organisations to form a baseline to support opportunities for new markets	Baseline for Fife's food and drink supply chain			
Greater use of Fife's farmers in public sector procurement	Business Gateway Food from Fife	FSC02	Assess the Fife (and wider) food supply chain using innovative methods, such as the Economic Nutrition model	Assessment of the food supply chain			

<p>Support for food producers</p> <p>Reduction in carbon emissions</p> <p>Increase use of local food in supply chains</p>	<p>Fife Council - Economic Development</p> <p>Fife Council - Procurement Service</p> <p>Fife NFU</p> <p>Fork to Farm Dialogues</p> <p>Fife Procurement Group</p>	FSC03	Assess and develop ways of using data from food supply chains to inform decision making on climate friendly food production and	Greater use of data in decision making			
		FSC04 / SFP13	Develop ways for farmers to work together on large tenders through co-production and co-development	More successful tenders from Fife farmers			
		FSC05 / SFE03 / SFP15	Assess the use of planting programmes in procurement as part the tendering process and as part of a 5-year procurement pipeline project				
	<p>Fife Council - Economic Development</p> <p>Business Gateway</p> <p>Food from Fife</p> <p>Fork to Farm Dialogues</p>	FSC06 / SFP04 / SFE21	Investigate processing and infrastructure opportunities for Fife, as well as potential funding streams to support these opportunities	Opportunities identified Funding identified			
		FSC07	Explore and develop a decarbonised distribution system for local food	Better access to local food			
<p>New market opportunities</p>	<p>Fork to Farm Dialogues</p> <p>Fife NFU</p> <p>Fife Council - CCZW</p> <p>Fife Council - Economic Development</p> <p>Business Gateway</p> <p>Scottish Government</p> <p>Soil Association</p>	FSC08 / SFE12	Support farmers to adopt climate friendly and climate ready food production methods (such as agroecological methods) and identify funding opportunities that will assist farmers to change practices	Reduced pesticide, fungicide and insecticide use			
	Fife Council - CCZW	FSC09	Explore protein producing opportunities for Fife and assess the need for a protein strategy	Farmers are more efficient in their fertiliser use			
	<p>Fife Council - Economic Development</p> <p>Business Gateway</p> <p>Food from Fife</p>	FSC10	Explore and assess opportunities for new markets for climate friendly produce				

<p>Increased water supplies for use in drought</p> <p>Increased water retention and resilience</p> <p>Reduced diffuse pollution from field run-offs</p>	<p>Fife Council - CCZW SEPA Scottish Water</p> <p>Food for Fife Dialogues Fife NFU Forth Rivers Trust James Hutton Institute</p>	FSC11	Assess the need for planning for water shortages including monitoring water supplies and water storage for use in times of drought and develop a plan if the assessment recommends it	Monitor for water supplies Water storage method (if required)			
		FSC12	Develop and implement a plan for soil water resilience by building soil organic matter across Fife	Plan for soil water resilience Greater soil organic matter across Fife			
		FSC13	Develop and implement a plan for minimising diffuse pollution from run-off from fields	Plan for diffuse pollution Less diffuse pollution			
<p>Reduction of carbon emissions from food waste within the farming and fishing industries in Fife</p>	<p>Fork to Farm Dialogues Supermarkets Fife NFU</p> <p>Fork to Farm Dialogues Fife NFU Fife Council - CCZW Food from Fife</p> <p>Fife Council - CCZW Zero Waste Scotland</p> <p>Fife Council - Economic Development</p>	FSC14 / FCS15/1 6/17 SFP19 / COF32	Develop a data monitoring system for food loss and food waste from supermarkets to help with food waste decision making and informing local excess food distribution systems	Improved use of data in decision making Reduced food loss and waste from supermarket contracts			
		FSC15 / FCS14/1 6/17	Promote best practice and share ideas for minimising food loss and waste in the agriculture and aquaculture sectors in Fife, including exploring data on livestock mortality and waste from primary production in the aquacultural sector for use by local farmers and fishermen to support decision making on food loss and waste	Improved use of data in decision making			
		FSC16 / FCS14/1 5/17	Develop and deliver a household food waste research project to understand household food waste habits and promote reducing food waste				
		FSC17 / FCS14/1 5/16	Survey food and drink businesses in the catering, hospitality, tourism, processing, and manufacturing sectors to assess				

	Business Gateway Food from Fife Zero Waste Scotland		business food waste baselines, challenges and opportunities and develop proposals for change and improvements				
	Fife Council - Economic Development Fife Council - CCZW Fork to Farm Dialogues Supermarkets Community food providers Food4Fife Partnership	FSC18 / HFA17	Explore opportunities for redistributing excess food from farmers and supermarkets to promote a circular economy; assess where food is needed, develop a system for redistributing food and develop a communications campaign to promote and raise awareness of where to find excess food				
	Fife Council Fork to Farm Dialogues Fife NFU Food from Fife	FSC19	Assess and develop a plan for action on food storage and preservation options in time of plenty for shortages				
	Fife Council - CCZW Fife NFU Zero Waste Scotland Scottish Government Food4Fife Partnership	FSC20	Investigate best practice methods for alternative animal feed, assess their potential for use in Fife and develop proposals if required; particularly in terms of 1) the use of direct nutrient-rich residues for ruminant animals as a feed option, and 2) the use of grass and trees for feeding cattle and sheep.				
Increased land for food growing - professional as well as community owned small holdings - particularly in areas of food poverty	Fife Council - CCZW Scottish Government Fork to Farm Dialogues	FSC21	Research successful small holding models, including the French small holding project promoted by Pete Ritchie and the Scottish Government, and assess whether a similar business model could work in Fife				
	Fife Council - CCZW SRUC	FSC22	Develop ways of promoting farming or small holdings to students as career pathways or work experience	Number of students expressing an interest in farming and small holding			

More importance given to food in strategic planning	Fife Council - CCZW	FSC23	Ensure food is reflected in wider strategies, such as land and energy plans, considering implications for food production, storage and distribution	Food is captured in other strategies			
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Sustainable Food Economy

Desired Outcomes	Action Leads	Code	Actions	Outputs	Timeline		
					Year 1 Actions (2023-24)	Medium (2024-26)	Long-term (2026-30)
<p>New markets</p> <p>Increased sector resilience and increased capacity</p> <p>Increased local public sector spend with local SMEs</p> <p>Shortened supply chains</p>	<p>Fife Council - Economic Development</p> <p>Fife Council - Procurement Service</p> <p>NHS Fife</p> <p>University of St Andrews</p> <p>Fife College</p> <p>Business Gateway</p>	SFE01	Host and promote events and workshops to raise understanding of how to tender with the public sector.	Increased public sector with Fife businesses as recorded by Grow Local	X		
		SFE02 / SFE03 / SFP15	Collaborate and integrate Fife's key anchor organisations (public sector) procurement pipelines to understand future opportunities.	Increased number of food and drink businesses participating in SDP (Supplier Development Programme) programmes		X	
		SFE03 / SFE02 / FSC05 / SFP15	Establish and publish Fife's food and drink rolling public procurement pipeline for the next 5 years to help develop "tender ready" pathway support for the sector.	Increased number of Food and Drink businesses attending Meet the Buyer events		X	
		SFE04 / SFE05	Enhance the Supplier Development Programme and deliver bespoke tender ready Health Checks via Business Gateway Fife Expert Help Framework.	Increased number of food and drink businesses supported via Expert Help Framework		X	
		SFE05 / SFE04	Work with sector businesses and partners to understand the barriers to public and private sector contracts and align to SFE04	Bespoke land and premises become		X	

		SFE06	Work with businesses and partners to understand the supply chains of existing contracted suppliers and identify opportunities for growing and shortening Fife's supply chain contribution.	available for food and drink businesses		X	
		SFE07 / FSC01	Work with partners to map Fife's food and drink supply chain activity as a baseline to grow opportunities and reduce carbon footprint.		X		
<p>Food and drink business are supported to start-up and grow</p> <p>Efficiencies are made in the sector</p> <p>Increased business start-ups and growth within the sector</p> <p>Support sector efficiencies</p> <p>Sustainability resilience and growth opportunities</p> <p>New markets</p> <p>Shortened supply chains</p> <p>Reduced Carbon Footprint</p>	<p>Fife Council - Economic Development</p> <p>Food from Fife</p> <p>Fork to Farm Dialogues</p> <p>Business Gateway</p> <p>Scottish Enterprise</p>	SFE08	Refresh the Sector Guide to Support Services and regulatory requirements for both food and drink start-up businesses and growth businesses to help demystify processes	<p>Increased number of start-up food and drink businesses</p> <p>Increased number of business interventions (grants, advice) delivered to food and drink businesses</p>	X		
		SFE09	Refresh the Supplier Guide and Community Benefits guide to support food and drink businesses	<p>Number of food and drink sector networking events/online</p> <p>"Collaborate for Sustainable Growth" events</p>	X		
		SFE10	Promote the Transition to Net Zero toolkits to the food and drink sector and encourage their use, for example Business Sustainability, providing easy links for business development and improvement support services e.g., Funding, Finance, Expert Help to deliver the resulting suitability action plans	<p>Increased number of food and drink businesses attending Net Zero/Circular Economy events</p>		X	
		SFE11	Identify via the Economic Development investment and disposal programme opportunities that support food and drink sector priorities	<p>Increased number of food and drink businesses participating in innovation events/ workshops</p>			X
		SFE12 / FSC08	Work with sector ambassadors to engage agri-food producers to identify opportunities to increase sustainable food production	<p>Number of businesses who complete a Health</p>	X		

		SFE13 / SFP13 / FSC04	Support businesses to develop market capacity through collaborative working e.g.co-ops	check toolkit. One to one, Expert help Number of food and drink businesses accessing net zero grants Number of businesses completing Sustainability HealthCheck		X	
		SFE14	Increase the sustainability webinars offer via Business Gateway Fife, for example, Introduction to sustainability and low carbon for your business; Circular Food Economy – benefits to your business; Calculating your carbon footprint; Building a sustainable supply chain; and Sustainability driven innovation in the food and drink sector		X		
		SFE15 / SFE16	Support and work with businesses to develop and implement Net Zero and circular economy activity			X	
		SFE16 / SFE15	Stimulating and raising awareness of transition to Net Zero through enterprise and education with young people			X	
		SFE17	Provide support to businesses investing in developing sustainable premises through Expert Help, Planning, energy audits, lean etc.			X	
Increased business start-ups and growth within the sector Support sector efficiencies Sustainability resilience and growth opportunities	Fife Council - Economic Development Business Gateway Scottish Enterprise	SFE18	Undertake Research and Development and innovation activity leading to business improvements	Increased number of food and drink businesses participating in innovation events/workshops		X	
New markets Shortened supply chains Reduced Carbon Footprint	Fife Council- Economic Development SRUC University of St Andrews Fife College Scottish Enterprise	SFE19	Support industry and academia collaborations, for example, with universities and colleges (e.g. SRUC) to support knowledge transfer, innovation and adoption of creative solutions	Increased number of food and drink businesses participating in innovation events/workshops		X	

Sustainability, resilience and growth opportunities Reduced Carbon Footprint	Fife Council- Economic Development Food from Fife Fork to Farm Dialogues Business Gateway Scottish Enterprise	SFE20	Review the reconditioning of, and opportunities for, new build business premises (Business Property Portfolio) suitable for the sector including production, processing, storage and warehousing (process/ store/ distribute)			X	
		SFE21 / FSC06 / SFP04 / SFE21 / SFP26	Investigate demand, and carry out feasibility studies, for food and drink infrastructure, for example, abattoirs, shared botting distribution, food hubs/interchanges, increased storage facilities (e.g. for grain) etc.			X	

Sustainable Food Procurement

Desired Outcomes	Action Leads	Code	Actions	Outputs	Timeline		
					Year 1 Actions (2023-24)	Medium (2024-26)	Long-term (2026-30)
An agreed proportion of the public purse is spent on locally produced food 1) from Fife, 2) from the City Deal regions, and 3) from Scotland overall	Fife Council - Procurement Service Food4Fife Partnership Food from Fife	SFP01	Research and understand what produce Fife SMEs and suppliers can deliver locally and assess whether they are set up for supplying local markets	Increased knowledge of local produce Increased public spend within Fife	X	X	
	Fife Council - Procurement Service City Regions Deal group Scotland Excel	SFP02	Undertake research to update Fife's Mutual Food Report 2011 and work with regional partners to undertake the same research at a city region level	Support for food and drink businesses Increased community wealth building	X		

	Fife Council- Economic Development Fife Council - Procurement Service Food4Fife Partnership Food from Fife	SFP03	Examine supply chains in the industry and identify opportunities to drive innovation within SMEs		X		
	Fife Council - Economic Development InvestFife	SFP04 / FSC06	Identify infrastructure projects that will attract new food and drink businesses to Fife.		X		
	Fife Council	SFP05	Collaborate on the Community Wealth Building Delivery Plan (action 2.1) on developing a baseline assessment on the proportion of local spend		X		
Increased value and volume of procurement of climate friendly products	Fife Council - Procurement Service Scotland Excel	SFP06	Analyse the Country of Origin of procured supplies to assist in procurement decision making	Improved decision making	X		
	Fife Council- Procurement Service	SFP07	Analyse data to understand what goods could have shorter supply chains to assist in procurement decision making		X		
		SFP08	Understand the difference between air freighted, shipped and support shipped and the impact they can have on carbon emissions and food miles		X		
		SFP09	Analyse what products are produced in a climate friendly manner e.g. organic or regenerative farming (e.g. farms that protect soils)		X		
		SFP10	Understand what processing is sustainable and climate friendly and build them into procurement contracts		X		

Increased number of Fife SMEs who win contracts Increased value of spend in the local economy	Fife Council - Procurement Service Supplier Development Programme	SFP11	Research how smaller producers' lots can be built and advertised through PCS (Public Contracts Scotland)	Greater resilience and sustainability for local companies		X	
		SFP12	Research the use of dynamic purchasing systems (DPS) and how that can benefit all stakeholders	Shorter supply chains		X	
	Fife Council - Procurement Service Fife Council - Economic Development Community Development Scotland	SFP13 / FSC04 / SFE13	Work with Fife Council Economic Development team and Community Development Scotland to develop co-operatives between smaller suppliers in order that they can submit tenders for contracts			X	
		SFP14	Run supplier events and workshops to assist SMEs to understand procurement processes better			X	
	Fife Council - Procurement Service Fife Council - Economic Development	SFP15 / SFE03 / SFE02 / FSC05	Create and publish a pipeline of future contracts to allow SMEs to upskill and invest in order to be able to bid			X	
		SFP16	Work with Scotland Excel to examine frameworks for local climate friendly food			X	
Social values/ assurances and climate standards for contracts are agreed and functioning	Fife Council	SFP17 / SFP18	Develop and implement a project to research what additional social value and assurances can be included in contracts; agree and establish the Real Living Wage in contracts; agree a percentage of food value and types; and build in recovery growth and community wealth building	Increase in sustainability contracts Increased community wealth building	X		

		SFP18 / SFP17	Research and understand the working practises of the companies participating in the research project (SFP17)		X		
Reduced food waste	NHS Fife Zero Waste Scotland Cireco	SFP19 / FSC14 / COF32	Understand the types and amount of food waste from different locations	Reduced food loss and waste Reduced carbon emissions	X		
		SFP20 / SFP29 / HFA18 / HFA19	Explore how to improve the systems for distributing surplus meals to those in need	Increased opportunities to use excess food productively	X		
Better information sharing across anchor organisations	Fife Council NHS Fife University of St Andrews Fife College	SFP21	Ensure standard procurement policies across Fife anchor organisations	Standardised procurement policies across anchor organisations	X		
Fair Work and Real Living Wage packages included in tenders for food and drink contracts	Fife Council NHS Fife University of St Andrews Fife College	SFP22	Embed the Scottish Real Living Wage and Fair Work policy in all tenders for food and drink procurement across Fife anchor organisations	Improved decision making	X		
Improved population health due to access to more nutritious foods	Fife Council	SFP23	Research the additional value in terms of the impact on health from food grown in healthy soils (organic and regenerative)		X		
	Fife Council NHS Fife University of St Andrews Fife College Scotland Excel Food from Fife	SFP24 / COF35	Work with procurement partners and businesses to offer support and opportunities for food banks and pantries		X		

Additional risks linked to the use of smaller producers, climate friendly food, seasonal goods etc are understood and shared between partners	Fife Council NHS Fife University of St Andrews Fife College	SFP25	Create a risk log for use by partners and to share understanding of risks among partners	A risk log and method of consistent information sharing Method of assessing financial implications A set of KPIs being used by all anchor organisations A joint dashboard	X		
		SFP26 / SFE21 / FSC06 / SFP04 / SFE21	Assess the financial implications of investments in infrastructure		X		
		SFP27	Assess the financial implications of potentially using smaller local producers		X		
Performance reporting data is consistent across all anchor organisations	Fife Council NHS Fife University of St Andrews Fife College	SFP28	Develop a set of KPIs for use across Fife anchor organisations including indicators on the quality of products, on time deliveries, training and wellbeing plans for staff, sustainability/climate measures, percentage of local produce, as well as exploring the creation of a joint dashboard		X		
Resilient food and drink infrastructure	Food4Fife Partnership Fife Council - Procurement Service Fife Council - Economic Development InvestFife	SFP29 / SFP20 / HFA18 / HFA19	Research distribution options and gaps for locally produced food	Increased delivery options for local markets	X		

Healthy Food for All

Desired Outcomes	Action Leads	Code	Actions	Outputs	Timeline		
					Year 1 Actions (2023-24)	Medium (2024-26)	Long-term (2026-30)
Better coordination and understanding of food needs and support across Fife	Food Insecurity Group Local Welfare Reform & Anti-Poverty Groups Local food resilience groups Fife Council IFAN	HFA01	Work with IFAN to pilot a mechanism for measuring food insecurity at local authority level		X		
		HFA02	Expand membership of the Food Insecurity Group to include local food group reps		X		
		HFA03	Maintain the online map of food support		X		
		HFA04	Use the Feeding Fifers Facebook page to showcase Fife's range of community food initiatives and share best practice		X		
		HFA05	Update community food providers regularly on potential funding sources		X		
		HFA06 / COF01	Investigate ongoing data collection to better understand need and efficacy of responses				
		HFA07 / COF05 / COF08	Strengthen links between Fife-wide work and area responses to share and build on good practice				
		HFA08	Build capacity in local areas to support the growth and development of food projects				
		HFA09	Establish a community food providers network				

Increased access to local, healthy, affordable food	Fife Council Food Insecurity Group Local Welfare Reform & Anti-Poverty Groups Local food resilience groups	HFA10 / COF12	Develop and deliver holiday provision including the Cafe Inc initiative to reduce holiday hunger				
		HFA11 / HFA12	Explore different options for free school meals				
		HFA12 / HFA11	Increase take-up of free school meals				
		HFA13	Increase community-led food support - e.g., pantries, larders, community fridges				
		HFA14	Run and evaluate a small grants scheme for community food initiatives		X		
		HFA15	Explore new models of provision to address issues of affordability and access		X		
Improved distribution mechanisms	Food Insecurity Group Local Welfare Reform & Anti-Poverty Groups Local food resilience groups	HFA16	Investigate sharing donations and surplus food between community food providers				
		HFA17 / FSC18	Explore redirection of food excess from farms to community food providers				
		HFA18 / SFP20 / SFP29 / HFA19	Identify or develop an improved distribution mechanisms for surplus food				
		HFA19 / SFP20 / SFP29 / HFA18	Research distribution models in other parts of Scotland and the UK to identify and share good practice		X		
Improved quality of food responses	Food Insecurity Group Local Welfare	HFA20	Deliver a staff and volunteer support programme based on the Dignity principles and nutritional guidance				

	Reform & Anti-Poverty Groups Local food resilience groups Fife Council Fife Health & Social Care Partnership	HFA21	Ensure standards of nutrition are maintained across provision (e.g. holiday hunger programmes)				
		HFA22	Develop a good practice framework for community food providers		X		
Improved knowledge and skills around local, healthy and affordable food		HFA23 / COF22-28	Increase the number of local growing projects, in particular in deprived areas, and raise awareness of these				
		HFA24 / HFA27 / COF19	Build capacity in communities to share positive messages around healthy eating through Community Food Champions programme				
		HFA25	Deliver targeted cooking skills programmes for individuals and families facing financial hardship				
		HFA26	Enhance communications around food and health				
		HFA27 / COF19	Remobilise Community Food Champions training programme		X		
Reduced levels of obesity and Type 2 diabetes	Communities & Wellbeing Partnership NHS Fife Fife Health & Social Care Partnership Wider partners	HFA28	Roll out Type 2 Diabetes Prevention programme				
		HFA29	Implement a range of early intervention and prevention programmes				
		HFA30	Disseminate learning from Fife pilot of Whole Systems Approach to Obesity prevention across Fife		X		
		HFA31	Develop programmes to include input from Fife Sports & Leisure Trust and Psychology		X		
Improved wider support mechanisms for people who are		HFA32	Test and evaluate placement of advice workers in food banks				

accessing emergency food provision		HFA33	Ensure that information on financial advice is routinely circulated to food providers				
More people's incomes are maximised and there is increased take up in benefits	Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Board and subgroups	HFA34	See Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Action Plan				
People are protected from cost-of-living increases with a focus on support for food, fuel and childcare costs	Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Board and subgroups	HFA35	See Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Action Plan (actions related to fuel and childcare costs)				
More people have crisis prevented through a No Wrong Door approach ensuring early and joined up support	Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Board and subgroups	HFA36	See Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis Action Plan				

Community Food

Desired Outcomes	Action Leads	Code	Actions	Outputs	Timeline		
					Year 1 Actions (2023-24)	Medium (2024-26)	Long-term (2026-30)
Improve knowledge sharing by connecting people and strengthening food networks across Fife (Connecting People)	Community Food Group Fife Communities Climate Action Network Fife Council Local Welfare Reform & Anti-Poverty Groups	COF01 / HFA06	Collect data of existing community food groups, organisations and programmes				
		COF02	Create annual calendar of information on community food events, classes, and festivals				
		COF03	Expand Outreach via Newsletter and Media Program to promote local sustainable food across Fife.				

		COF04	Increase connection with community to Fife's food heritage				
	Community Food Group Food Insecurity Group Fife Council - Local Area Teams	COF05 / COF08 / HFA07	Work with the Food Insecurity Group to establish links between food networks and Local Community Plans/ Local Neighbourhood Plans				
		COF06	Expand the membership of the Community Food Group				
Expand knowledge of community food growing in the local areas (Connecting People)	Community Food Group Fife Council - Community Food Team	COF07	Explore establishing a Growers Network				
		COF08 / COF05 / HFA07	Identify and enhance links between Fife-wide work and local area work to share good food growing practice and address issues				
Develop accessible mapping information of existing community gardens, allotments, orchards (Connecting People)		COF09 / COF10	Map existing community gardens, allotments, orchards etc. for an interactive resource				
		COF10 / COF09 / COF21	Create an interactive map of available land for food growing opportunities				
Gain accreditation by joining sustainable food places award (Connecting People)		COF11	Achieve Gold standard in Sustainable Food Places award				
Bringing communities together through food (Connecting People)		COF12 / HFA10	Support community food initiatives such as: Feeding Fifers (using Facebook to highlight community food initiatives); lunch clubs, community meals and takeaways; Cafe Inc (Fife Council); community cookery books (e.g. South & West Fife 'Between the Bridges')				

Increase volunteering opportunities (Connecting People)	FCCAN Falkland Estate Grow West Local Welfare Reform & Anti- Poverty Groups Fife Voluntary Action	COF13	Establish volunteering opportunities at local farms and community gardens				
		COF14	Create volunteering opportunities with local food growers				
Provide food-based classes and workshops for cultivating, cooking and preservation for schools, groups, and individuals (Increase Skills)		COF15	Provide food-based classes and workshops in the areas of vegetables, herbs and fruit growing; orchards; sustainable foraging - mushrooms and wild plants; beekeeping; coastal foods - seaweed, mussels, oysters etc.; urban farming; and soil health and regenerative growing				
		COF16	Provide food preservation classes and workshops in areas of jams, chutneys, juices; dehydration; fermentation; cheese making; honey; preserving and storing seeds for the future				
Skills development and certification (Increase Skills)		COF17	Facilitate skills development in food waste and savvy shopper				
		COF18	Facilitate certification of Food Hygiene and horticulture for food growing				
		COF19 / HFA27	Support the Fife Food Champions programme				
Increase visits to working farms (Increase Skills)		COF20	Increase visits to working farms for schools, young carers, adults with special needs, senior groups, Scouts, Rainbows and Duke of Edinburgh				
Increase access to land for schools, groups and individuals for food	Community Food Group Fife Council -	COF21 / COF10	Utilise mapping information to understand what land is available for community food growing				

growing opportunities (Growing and Harvesting)	Community Food Team FCCAN Grow West Carnegie Trust	COF22 / HFA23	Work with Fife Council Economic Development team to identify council land for food growing				
		COF23 / HFA23	Increase the numbers of allotments				
		COF24 / HFA23	Work with NHS to identify NHS land that can be used for food growing				
		COF25 / HFA23	Increase food growing in unconventional spaces such as homes, schools, churches, and urban farms				
		COF26 / HFA23	Establish home growing initiatives				
		COF27 / HFA23	Reach out to churches initiating community gardens				
		COF28 / HFA23	Support Men's Shed's Projects to have growing spaces				
Support existing food growing spaces, projects, and organisation (Growing and Harvesting)		COF29	Support existing food growing spaces, projects, and organisations				
Expand seed sharing (Growing and Harvesting)		COF30	Support and expand on the Andrew Carnegie seed library				
		COF31	Run and promote seed and plant swapping events				

Increase the surplus of community grown food going to community pantries (Producing and Distributing)	Community Food Group Fife Council - Economic Development Fife Council - Procurement Fife Council - Community Projects Food Insecurity Group NHS Fife Food from Fife	COF32	Work with the Food Insecurity Group to explore and research where excess food exists in Fife and look to redirect it (farms, allotments. community gardens, food businesses)				
Connect community-grown food to community kitchens, veg box schemes (Producing and Distributing)		COF33	Establish Fife's own Fareshare model				
		COF34	Establish a central food hub in Fife				
Low-cost fruit and vegetables for pantries (Producing and Distributing)		COF35 / SFP24	Support community food groups to work with Fife Council Procurement suppliers to have cost price fruit/ veg for local foodbanks and pantries				
Support community-based food production initiatives such as branded jams, chutneys, and juice (Producing and Distributing)		COF36	Support access to community kitchens for community organisations producing food (jams, chutney, juice, etc.)				
		COF37	Promote community products (e.g Buckyne products)				
Support community-based food initiatives, e.g. community shops (Producing and Distributing)		COF38	Support new community shops (e.g Dunshalt)				

Food4Fife Strategy & Action Plan 2023-2030

Consultation Draft - March 2023

For more information and to share your views on the Food4Fife Strategy and Action Plan consultation draft visit our.fife.scot/food4fife