

BIRMINGHAM FOOD SYSTEM STRATEGY

B A BOLDER, HEALTHIER AND MORE
SUSTAINABLE BIRMINGHAM
2022-2030



Birmingham Food System Strategy & Food Insecurity Work

Dr Rosemary Jenkins
Food System Team,
Public Health Division,
Birmingham City
Council



Vision

Create a fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food options are nutritious, affordable and desirable so everyone can thrive.

This is the vision of our Birmingham Food System Strategy. The strategy will inform the development of the Food System Strategic Action plan which will set out the actions needed to achieve this vision.

Key Principles

Three principles are key to developing and delivering the Food System Strategic Action Plan:

Collaborate

Strengthen partnerships and build on existing good practice.

Empower

Remove barriers and facilitate solutions.

Equalise

Focus actions where they are needed most to reduce inequalities.



 **REGENERATIVE
FOOD SYSTEM** 



A thriving food system is built on a strong foundation where we regenerate and improve our environment, communities and economy.

It is no longer enough to reduce negative outcomes by being sustainable or neutral. If we do this nothing will improve so we must aim higher.

**UNSUSTAINABLE PRACTICES DAMAGE THE FOUNDATION
OF OUR ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY.**



The four cross-cutting themes are:

Food Skills & Knowledge	Empowering citizens with knowledge and skills in relation to the food system.
Food Behaviour Change	Developing the capability, opportunity and motivation for key behaviours that will enable long term change.
Food Security & Resilience	Increasing access to sufficient affordable, nutritious and safe food for all citizens, all the time, in every community, and at every age.
Food Innovation, Data & Research	Gathering insights and data and facilitating innovation, collaboration, learning and research across the food system.



The six strategy work streams are:

Food Production	Empowering and enabling citizens and local producers to grow food throughout the year and connect to the city's food system.
Food Sourcing	Increasing both supply and demand for local, environmentally sustainable, ethical and nutritious foods in the food system.
Food Transformation	Transforming the food offer and diets to contain more diverse, nutritious and sustainable ingredients, and less fat, salt and sugar.
Food Waste & Recycling	Minimising food waste and unsustainable packaging throughout the food system and maximising the repurposing and redistribution of surplus.
Food Economy & Employment	Facilitating a thriving local food economy for all and maximising training and employment opportunities.
Food Safety & Standards	Improving food safety and standards for Birmingham's citizens and businesses.



Birmingham Food Justice Pledge

“As city leaders, we are committed to addressing food justice by acknowledging that all our citizens irrespective of status are entitled to safe, nutritious and sustainable food at all times. We recognise the benefits of a collaborative partnership to address the global challenge of food insecurity exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis, global food and fuel crisis and disaster displacement.”

- ✓ Signed
- ✓ Calling on other cities to sign – highlighting importance of food justice!



Work on Food Insecurity during the Cost of Living Crisis

Key principles:

1. Support access and capacity
2. Introduce actions that will bring both short and long term impact
3. Learn from the pandemic emergency food response
4. Ensure delivery is informed and co-created with the Food Justice Network
5. Use existing evidence, insights and recommendations to guide the delivery plan



Work on Food Insecurity during the Cost of Living Crisis

- 116 Projects funded to purchase food and consumables over the winter/spring
- Match-funded the Holidays Activities and Food programme providing food parcels for 1,900 families over the Christmas holidays
- Funded 14 youth centres to buy better kitchen equipment
- Affordable Food Infrastructure Fund – equipment/ infrastructure to increase capacity for 70 projects
- Surplus food hub supported in Balsall Heath
- Shame and stigma review and toolkit coming soon



Direction of Travel

Supporting those
experiencing food
insecurity

Preventing food
insecurity with
food policy

Preventing food
insecurity through
inclusive growth,
adequate benefits
and wages etc.



Over to you!

- Get involved with the Birmingham Food System Strategy! Email us at foodsystemPH@birmingham.gov.uk for more details – or find out if your local area has a food strategy and get involved!
- Consider the three pillars and the direction of travel when considering food justice & sustainability
- Get to know your local food system and lend them your support – including local businesses, food projects & growing
- Identify where changes are needed and where the power to make those changes lie – organisations, local authorities, governments
- Sign in support of the Food Justice Pledge or get your city to sign up!



Join the #BirminghamFoodRevolution



Thank you!
Get in touch:

foodsystemPH@birmingham.gov.uk

