



# A Food Partnership Approach

September 2024

# Why care about our food system?

- **Health Imperative** – 26% of Year 6 childhood in Southampton are obese, which is worse than other local areas and is increasing.
- **Economic Imperative** – **1 in 3 businesses** in Southampton are part of the food system, providing **over 6,700 jobs** and contribute up to **£487.3 million to Southampton's economy** per year.
- **Environmental Imperative** – Food production accounts for over a quarter (26%) of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Social Imperative** – 41% of Southampton residents surveyed reported experiencing food insecurity, 22% higher than national average.

# Why care about our food system?

*"Our diets aren't just about personal choice – the food we eat depends on the options presented to us every day, how much they cost, and how well distributed and marketed they are."*



- Food systems are **COMPLEX! No single organisation**, whether public, private or third sector, holds the powers, remit, or insight to **change the local food system alone**.

# Why a 'food partnership' approach?

- **Many innovative and exciting things are already being championed** and led by individual organisations or actors within Southampton.
- Taking a **coordinated and sustained approach** to improving our food system can deliver multiple **economic, health, environmental and social benefits**.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY
• <u>contribute to thriving local economies</u> and sustain the livelihoods of people working in the food sector

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
• protect the diversity of both plants and animals and <u>avoid damaging natural resources</u> and contributing to climate change

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
• <u>provide social benefits</u> , such as good quality food, safe and healthy products and educational opportunities

# Why a 'food partnership' approach?

- **Increase effectiveness** – Taking a **whole systems approach** can influence the causes of the causes. Collaborating we can work smarter, not harder; **reducing duplication, overlap and waste.**
- **Access more financial investment** – Together we have an **increased awareness of grants/bids**, plus collaborative applications are more successful and we could benefit from **economies of scale.**
- **Share learning** – Sharing opportunities and showcasing local work can **increase awareness of community initiatives**, media coverage and **political support.**
- **Be more sustainable** – Greater involvement **reduces reliance on individuals** and clear action plans provide **city-wide accountability.**

# Who is already involved?

## Food Aid Partners

Southampton City Mission

Saint Mary's Church

Monty's Community Hub

Southampton Allotments and  
Gardens Association

The Big Difference

## Cooking and Nutrition Partners

Abri Homes

Roundabout Café

Good Grub Club

City Catering

## Policy and Governance

Southampton City Council

## Economic Development

GoSouthampton

Southampton Forward

Hampshire Chambers of Commerce

Prince's Responsible Business  
Network

## Community Wealth

John Hansard Gallery

Saints Foundation

Feed the Community CIC

Upper Shirley High School

## Research and Academia

University of Southampton

Solent University

## Health and Care Partners

NHS ICB and ICU

Solent NHS Trust

## Green Network Partners

Green Network, SO:Linked

Southampton National Park City

Southampton Voluntary Services

Transition Southampton

Southampton City Farm

Community Roots

Wilder Southampton

Seed Swaps

Sholing Valleys Centre

# How can you help?

- 1. Support the development and growth of the city-wide food partnership, including a bid to become a Sustainable Food Place member.**
- 2. Provide system leadership by promoting food partnership efforts in your respective organisations and encouraging active contribution to the food partnership.**
- 3. Provides a degree of governance and oversight by reviewing the progress of the city-wide food partnership periodically.**