



Hull Food Partnership c/o Rooted in Hull

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Support a healthy and resilient food culture for Hull

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Dear

Congratulations on your candidacy for the local elections taking place on 6th May, and good luck with your campaign. We are writing to draw your attention to the urgent issues relating to food in Hull and how you can help.

Hull is the 3rd most deprived city in the UK ([UK Poverty 2020/21 | JRF](#)), 29% of children living in Hull currently qualify for Free School Meals. In 2021 it is predicted that some wards within Hull will experience over 30% unemployment. Prior to Covid-19, an existing key issue was generational worklessness, with emergency food aid already oversubscribed within the city. Childhood obesity rates remain stubbornly high, with a cumulative impact on health and wellbeing that persist into adulthood. Obesity is fundamentally linked to poverty and poor life chances.

Hull Food Partnership (HFP) is part of the national Sustainable Food Places network, working across all aspects of the food system to solve some of today's most pressing social, environmental and economic issues. HFP is hosted by Rooted in Hull, an urban farm with the community at its core; growing, sharing and learning about food in the heart of Hull city centre. HFP works as a bridge, connecting everyone to realise a vision of sustainable food for all and is open to everyone, working across every sector of our food systems and culture. Our activities are overseen by our Chair and a cross-sector Steering Group. From policy makers and city leaders, to businesses, local food producers, community organisers, public sector workers, citizens and volunteers, we all have our part to play in changing and influencing our food environment for a sustainable future.

Integral to our work is producing a Food Action Plan that addresses six Key Issues:

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

We are calling upon all electoral candidates to work with us and support our calls to embed a healthy and resilient food culture for everyone who lives and works in Hull, promoting the city as a desirable food destination to visitors.

Our requests for your support are as follows:

- Appoint an elected member to be a Food Champion for the city, who will work with Hull Food Partnership to draw together different work streams in Hull City Council, track progress and be a single point of contact for food-related issues.
- Back a motion for Hull to pledge to become a 'Right to Food' city, following in the footsteps of Newcastle, Greater Manchester, Brighton & Hove, Haringey and Liverpool. Ensuring food is treated as a human right and calling on the UK Government to incorporate this right into domestic legislation.
- Support the development and implementation of a Food Strategy for Hull, that will draw upon the existing Food Charter and Food Action Plan and incorporate the co-produced Food Poverty Action Plan that is being developed by the Hull Food Inequality Alliance. A robust and coherent Food Strategy will embed good practice in policy making and delivery across all council departments, engendering joined up thinking with other key players such as the LEP, Hull NHS CCG, businesses and community organisations.

As a candidate for Hull, we would also like to ask you the following questions:

Q1: Hull Food Partnership believes that good food is a right not a privilege and food banks are not a long-term solution to solve hunger and food insecurity. Our high levels of food insecurity have risen dramatically during the pandemic. **What will you do as a councillor to ensure that everyone has access to good food with dignity and look beyond food banks for solutions?**

Q2: Covid-19 has laid bare the risks of health inequalities and obesity. We know that unhealthy food environments including junk food advertising, proliferation of takeaways and food deserts – where there simply are no shops offering healthier food such as fresh fruits and vegetables – lead people to make the wrong food choices. **What will you do as a councillor to ensure Hull becomes a healthier city?**

Q3: The food sector is a major employer in Hull. Many food businesses, from growers to restaurants, who provide vital jobs in our local economy, have been hit the hardest. But Covid-19 also demonstrated that smaller-scale and localised food supply chains are resilient and can adapt to demand and support the emergency response. **What investment are you planning in the local food economy to safeguard our small and medium-sized enterprises?**

Q4: Catering and procurement across nurseries, schools and colleges through hospitals and care homes to workplace canteens is a powerful lever to create large-scale demand for healthy, sustainable and local food. **How will you use catering and procurement to revitalise local and sustainable food supply chains and reduce the climate impact of the food bought by the council?**

Q5: Almost one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions come from food and agriculture. Hull City Council has a role in procuring food for schools and other services, manage waste and composting, local land use and has a significant role in shaping the diets of residents and the food available locally. **What actions will you support to reduce food-related emissions in Hull?**

Please reply to anna@rootedinhull.org.uk with your answers. We will be collating responses from all candidates and these will be publicly shared with our growing network of individuals and supporter organisations in Hull.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Hamer – Chair | Anna Route – Development Officer | Cara Bilson – Food Inequality Officer.

Hull Food Partnership