

SFP Bronze and Silver Awards Application Form 2025

This form is for completing an SFP Bronze or Silver Award application. **If you are considering applying for a Gold Award, please contact the SFP team at info@sustainablefoodplaces.org to discuss the process.**



Before starting your application, please fully read this form as well as the following documents:

- SFP Awards: Guidance for applicants
- SFP Awards: Activity and Impact: [SFP Awards - Activity and Impact.docx](#)

Please do not alter the formatting of this form or redesign it and only return as a Word document not a PDF. This is essential for you application to pass the initial eligibility check.

SECTION 1: Information about your partnership and your place

Please complete the following (*= mandatory):

Name of your partnership*:
Hull Food Partnership
Name and contact details of person/people leading on this application*:
Anna Route, Development Officer anna@hullfood.org.uk
Geographic region which this award will represent*:
Kingston upon Hull
Award you are applying for*:
Sustainable Food Places Silver Award

Please provide us with background information about your place (not scored)*: Advisory word limit: 400 words

This is to help the panel understand the context in which you are working. *You may include (but not limited to): Population and demographic information, location/geography & economic and social challenges.*

ANSWER:

Kingston upon Hull (or Hull as it is commonly known) is Yorkshire's only maritime city, sitting at the confluence of the river Hull after which it is named, and the Humber Estuary (that forms the southern boundary of the city) which flows into the North Sea. As a tightly boundaried unitary authority currently led by the Liberal Democrats, [Hull City Council](#) has no green belt and instead is enclosed to the north, east and west by the [East Riding of Yorkshire Council](#) led by the Conservative Party.

In 2024 The [Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority \(HEYCA\)](#) was created by Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. In May 2025, the first mayor for HEYCA was elected, representing Reform UK.

Hull has a history of supporting radical political ideas, being one of the places that [triggered the English Civil War](#), and is deeply connected to the anti-slavery movement spearheaded by Hull MP [William Wilberforce](#) in the late 18th to early 19th centuries, leading to the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in 1807. As a result, the University of Hull established the [Wilberforce Institute](#) for the study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE), Hull was declared a [City of Sanctuary](#) in 2017 as well as first becoming a [Fairtrade City in 2005](#).

[Hull Fair](#) received its first Royal Charter in 1279, and has operated almost continuously since then, although its location and month has changed, it is a well-established event that every October hosts Europe's largest travelling funfair.

Kingston upon Hull came into being through the [granting of a Charter in 1299](#) by Edward I, thereby changing the name from Wyke upon Hull (a small town that had been there for 100 years) primarily to exploit the customs revenues of the port and to provide a base for supplying by sea his troops in Scotland. In commemoration of her Diamond Jubilee, Queen Victoria granted Hull [city status on 6th July 1897](#).

Sitting in a bowl of former marshland over boulder clay, the land surrounding Hull was very fertile and well used for horticulture, however farming of this land was interrupted during World War II as Hull was bombed repeatedly, [95% of Hull's housing was damaged or destroyed](#) during the bombing raids, making it the most severely damaged city after London. The new housing that had to be built in the aftermath took up most of the remaining farmland within the boundary of the city.

From the late 15th century, Hull's [oil seed crushing industry](#) provided employment for over 500 years, and was one of the major industries that Hull's success was built upon. The city boasts the birthplace of [Reckitt, Smith and Nephew](#) and Rank (now [RankHovisMacdougall](#)). These businesses' founding fathers had a strong sense of civic duty, often driven by their Non-Conformist religious beliefs. As a result, they played a significant role in supporting the city, including the building of social housing for workers and charitable trusts that still operate in Hull today. All of these businesses are now either multinational conglomerates, have left the city, or both.

Once part of the [Hanseatic league of European cities](#), Hull's historic whaling and fishing industries brought wealth and success but also tragedies to the city, compounded by the loss of the deep-sea trawling industry in the 1970's, leading to generational worklessness. However, Hull is on the cusp of economic success once again thanks to the investment in green energy, communication technologies and health care industries. In 2017 the [UK City of Culture](#) accolade brought Hull's cultural capital to the nation's attention.

Hull has a relatively young population, with the median age for Hull in the 2021 census being 36, which is four years lower than the national median age. However, Hull is also a trauma-informed city with the number of residents experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage (SMD) as a result of having significant and complex unmet needs is very high.

Based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation, out of 317 local authorities in England, [Hull was the fourth most deprived](#) in 2019. For 2022/23, it is estimated that 12,406 children representing 23.1% of all under 16s live in absolute low-income families in Hull, and that 15,321 children in Hull representing 28.5% of all under 16s in Hull live in relatively low-income families (much higher than England at 15.6% and 19.8% respectively). For the 2023/24 school year, one-third of school children in Hull are eligible for free school meals (33.7%) compared to under one-quarter of children in England (24.6%)

Hull is acutely at risk of the impacts of climate change. With a population of around 267,000 people living in 121,000 homes, over 95% of these homes are at risk of at least one type of flooding. After London, Hull has the overall highest number of homes at risk of flooding within England. People living in areas with high levels of deprivation are less likely to be able to prepare, plan and recover from a

flood event. They are also less likely to be able to adapt to future risk, which increases vulnerability to future flood events.

Despite these challenges, residents of Hull are supported by a strong network of anchor institutions, VCSE organisations and local businesses who are dedicated to improving outcomes for everyone who lives, learns, works and plays in the city.

How have you considered equity, diversity and inclusion in the structure and work of your partnership (not scored)*: ? Advisory word limit: 300 words

ANSWER:

Hull is a city rapidly growing in cultural diversity as recorded in the 2021 census: 34,962 residents of Hull (13.1%) were born outside the UK. This is a growth of 60.2% since the previous census in 2011.

The number of people in Hull living with disability is also higher than the national average, with 35.6% Hull residents considered disabled, compared with 32% of people in England.

In 2024, Hull's Director of Public Health published her annual report, finding that in Hull people live shorter lives on average as life expectancy for men in Hull is currently 75.9 years compared to 78.9 years nationally (a gap of three years). For women, this is 80.4 years in Hull compared to 82.9 years nationally (a gap of 2.5 years). In addition, the average male resident of Hull lives in poor health for more than twelve years before they reach state pension age, with female residents living in poor health for about eight years before they reach state pension age.

In advance of developing the Hull Food Strategy and redefining the function and role of the Hull Food Partnership Steering Group, an Equality and Human Rights Impact Analysis was carried out, with the express intention that the Hull Food Strategy would have a focus on food inequality and the impact of food insecurity on low/no-income households. These households include individuals from the following groups:

- Disabled people
- Larger family groups, single parent families, families with disabled children
- People on low incomes, particularly younger working people
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups
- People experiencing isolation, digital exclusion or have multiple unmet needs (including addiction, homelessness, domestic abuse)
- Care leavers and young people Not in Education, Employment or Training

Food insecurity can trigger inadequate nutrition and obesity due to poor diet. Poor diet is associated with health conditions that lead to premature death or disability. The Hull Food Strategy has been enhanced by the development of a Food Action Plan that is co-produced with individuals who have lived experience of food insecurity.

The Hull Food Partnership Steering Group membership is drawn from several organisations whose representatives either work directly with residents who are representative of the groups listed above or belong to those groups themselves. Likewise, Hull Food Partnership staff have intersecting multiple identities and lived experiences that are outlined above, and within certain fora are willing to speak to these where appropriate.

SECTION 2: Local food activity and impact

Please read **SFP Awards: Guidance for applicants before completing this section.**

Please describe the activity and impact of local food work delivered in your place within the last three years against the relevant key issues (1-6) and action areas (A and B) below.

We advise that you keep answers to within 600 words for each action area (i.e. for each A and B under the key issues). Whilst you won't be penalised for going over this limit, this will help the panel focus on your main achievements. For sections C, 250 words is the mandatory limit.

For Bronze and Silver awards, there are mandatory actions for some key issues. These are laid out in *SFP Awards - Activity and Impact*: [SFP Awards - Activity and Impact.docx](#). This document also provides a broad benchmark for each award, rationale for SFP's inclusion of each key issue, and example actions for each action area.

Only submit additional documents for food action plans and strategies related to Key Issue 1 mandatory criteria. All other additional documents will not be assessed. You may add links to online documents but always check the links and permissions as we will not be requesting changes from you after submission.

Key Issue 1 Mandatory Criteria Checklist

NB failure to provide Key Issue 1, Action area B mandatory criteria will result in rejection at the eligibility stage.

- Bronze applications require a one year action plan
- Silver applications require a three year action plan

1. Have you submitted a current food action plan or food strategy with an action plan?

- Yes

2. How are you evidencing this action plan?

- Attachment as a Word, PPF, Excel document? Yes
- Link to a document? No
- If a link place here as well under Key Issue 1
- Action Plan link:

3. Has the action plan less than 6 months to run?

- No
- If less than 6 months to run what is happening after the action plan expires?
(100 words)

Key Issue 1: Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action

Action area A: Establish a broad, representative, and dynamic local food partnership

From initial beginnings as Food4Hull in 2013, Hull Food Partnership was established in 2016 and has grown from a network focused on community food growing and sharing to a broader partnership that is engaged in food systems work to transform the diets of people in Hull. Formerly hosted by the urban farm [Rooted in Hull](#), Hull Food Partnership moved to [Hull Community and Voluntary Services](#) (Hull CVS) in October 2023, who alongside hosting, offered an incubation and development opportunity to embed strategic food work across the city.

Hull Food Partnership membership is drawn from signatories to the [Hull Food Charter](#) which was refreshed and relaunched in February 2025, along with a new 4 tier approach to membership which gives members an opportunity to define the level of participation they want to undertake. At the time of writing, membership consists of 94 organisations and 112 individuals who are also Hull Food Charter signatories.

Hull Food Charter

Organisations and individuals who pledge to support the following objectives of a new community based a number of Hull Food Partnerships:

- Well Fed**: Improve the health, well-being and life chances of everyone who lives, works, plays and visits in Hull through growing and increasing access to a delicious, nutritious, balanced diet that meets dietary and cultural needs.
- Well Supported**: Create and nurture a vibrant and resilient local sustainable food economy in Hull by supporting and prioritising the growth and development of independent food enterprises, responding proactively by encouraging and enabling farmers of varied throughput to the whole food chain.
- Well Happy**: Cultivate a culture embracing and sharing food within communities which recognises the value of food, nurtures the food and the people who produce it.
- Well Connected**: Implement and embed sustainable food procurement practices across major institutions, the VCSE and private sector to generate jobs, jobs in and strengthen the local economy, improving understanding of where and how our food is sourced, produced and distributed.
- Well Learned**: Support and enhance the practical abilities of everyone to grow, cook and make good food decisions which are easy, affordable and acceptable or providing access to information, education and skills development for all ages.
- Well Nurtured**: Tackle food inequality and injustice by increasing awareness and availability of a range of affordable and desirable, accessible food options across Hull, including local and easy access for everyone and challenging the systems that prevent people from making good food part of their life.
- Well Planet**: Reduce and mitigate the ecological impact of the local food system through reducing waste, reducing unnecessary transportation using sustainable food production methods and shorter supply chains, and working for use of produce and processes that support and protect the planet.

Hull Food Partnership - Tiers of Membership

Hull Food Partnership is a new collaborative group that works to connect another institutions, public services, businesses, organisations, communities and individuals across Hull and the surrounding area.

The vision for Hull Food Partnership is a food system which is both healthy and fair for people and the environment, the most and best way to ensure local and sustainable food production, retail and procurement, it will support our local economy and reduce the need for a necessary long distance and supply chain. Through these actions, we are taking responsibility for our food system, and creating opportunities for our sector and creating good employment.

Food quality is central to this vision, ensuring that all people can access a range of sustainable food appropriate for their needs and open to the skills needed to work in the sector and their families. We focus on developing the sectors that already exist to be sustainable across the city, we will create a healthy and resilient food system, and become a city in which the joy of eating, cooking, growing and celebrating good food can be shared by all.

Tier 1 - Entry Level:
Interested individual, community or organisation.
Level of participation:
• Signatory to Hull Food Charter
Benefits:
• Receives monthly ebulletin and invitations to events

Tier 2 - Vested Interest:
Active in the local food system either as an another institution, public service, business or voluntary/community sector organisation.
Level of participation:
• Signatory to Hull Food Charter
• Contribution to consultation
Benefits:
• Receives monthly ebulletin and invitations to events
• Food related activity is engaged and promoted
• Credited as contributing to Hull's application for Sustainable Food Places' Silver Award accreditation

Tier 3 - Member of Hull Food Action Plan Task and Finish Group:
Key actor in the local food system either as an another institution, public service, business or voluntary/community sector organisation who is able to lead on and influence system change.
Level of participation:
• Signatory to Hull Food Charter
• Contributes to consultation
• Actively contributes to Hull Food Action Plan Task and Finish Groups with tangible actions in response to the Hull Food Strategy
Benefits:
• Receives monthly ebulletin and invitations to events
• Food related activity is engaged and promoted
• Credited as contributing to Hull's application for Sustainable Food Places' Silver Award accreditation
• Credited as contributing to the Hull Food Action Plan as a local organisation

Tier 4 - Member of Hull Food Partnership Steering Group:
Key actor in the local food system either as an another institution, public service, business or voluntary/community sector organisation who can lead on and influence system change, and implement the actions of the Hull Food Strategy / Action Plan.
Level of participation:
• Signatory to Hull Food Charter
• Contributes to consultation
• Chair and actively contributes to Task and Finish Groups with tangible actions in response to the Hull Food Strategy
• Uses influence to unlock barriers to Action Plan implementation
Benefits:
• Receives monthly ebulletin and invitations to events
• Food related activity is engaged and promoted
• Credited as contributing to Hull's application for Sustainable Food Places' Silver Award accreditation
• Promoted locally and nationally as a key organisations driving forward positive food system change

The Hull Food Partnership staff team consists of a Development Officer, Campaigns & Projects Officer and Community Food Support Officer. Their roles are funded primarily through a two year contract with Hull City Council via the [Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board](#) (ICB) with the option to renew for a further 3 years on delivery of a range of objectives, mainly focused to tackle the issue of food insecurity and implement the [Hull Food Strategy](#).

Activity is directed by a cross-sector Steering Group that meets quarterly and is drawn from established members and co-chairs of the [Hull Food Action Plan](#) Task and Finish Groups. The 15 members of the Steering Group are drawn from:

- Hull Food Partnership
- Hull CVS
- Hull City Council: Public Health
- Hull City Council: Economic Development & Regeneration
- Hull City Council: Climate Change & Waste Management
- Hull City Council: Parks and Open Spaces
- EMS Ltd
- FoodCycle
- Hull and East Riding Friends of the Earth
- University of Leeds: School of Earth and Environment

Each Task and Finish Group focuses on a different Key Pillar of the Hull Food Strategy, with membership drawn from across the statutory, VCSE and business communities in Hull. Task and Finish Groups focus on development work and engagement with stakeholders and communities to deliver the Hull Food Strategy, Charter and Action Plan. This is a city-wide multi-stakeholder approach to supporting residents' health and wellbeing which includes mapping the variety of food actors across Hull and their intersecting roles in supporting public health outcomes through the provision of affordable, nutritious, sustainable food. The work is governed by a [Terms of Reference](#), and each group is co-chaired by representatives from both the VCSE and statutory sector to ensure fair representation and diverse voices are heard.

Hull Food Partnership delivers the secretariat for the Task and Finish Groups, meeting with the co-chairs to agree and circulate agenda items, schedule meetings and collate input from each group as well as reaching out to potential new members. This also co-ordinates action across the groups and ensure duplication is avoided where possible.

The Hull Food Action Plan Task and Finish Groups include representation from the following organisations:

- Hull Food Partnership
- Hull CVS
- Hull City Council
- Hull Fairtrade Partnership
- Goodwin Development Trust / Fareshare Hull and Humber
- Groundwork Yorkshire
- Office of Emma Hardy MP
- Cooperation Hull
- P.K. Cook and Daughters
- Rooted in Hull
- Places for People
- FoodCycle

- The Peel Project
- EMS Ltd
- Feeding Britain
- Citizens Advice Hull and East Riding
- Trussell Trust
- University of Hull
- Hull Unity Shop / National Education Union / Trades Union Council
- The Freedom Community Trust
- Hull York Medical School
- Humber Foundation Trust
- City Health Care Partnership (CHCP)
- The Warren
- Timebank Hull & East Riding
- Waffle / We Are Not Takeaway / Hull Delivery Co-op
- Horizon Academy Trust
- Hull & East Riding Friends of the Earth
- University of Leeds: School of Earth and Environment

Task and Finish groups are scheduled to meet bi-monthly, primarily in person to facilitate sharing of ideas. Their first task was to develop a revised Hull Food Action Plan which is reviewed and endorsed by the Hull Food Partnership Steering Group.

In addition to this, quarterly monitoring reports on this work and other funded activity are submitted to the Hull Health and Care Partnership as well as presenting regular updates as standing items at the Healthy Weight Steering Group, Financial Inclusion Network and other oversight groups such as the [Hull Health and Well Being Board](#), Area Committees, and Health Inequalities Innovation Hub as required.

Also contributing to this work is the [Hull Food Inequality Alliance](#) (HFIA), which now has over 100 members, primarily representing organisations who provide community food support in Hull. This group meets online bi-monthly and is an opportunity to share challenges and success in relation to food insecurity, as well as invite guest speakers and respond to local and national consultations.

Action area B: Develop, deliver, and monitor a food strategy/action plan

Hull Food Partnership has had an established brand identity and [website](#) since 2017.



The 5 year Hull Food Strategy was [endorsed by the Hull Integrated Health and Care Partnership](#) on 2 December 2024.

The strategy was developed through wide consultation across members of the public, the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, businesses and public sector organisations, seeking views and priorities for how we can work together as a city to promote a resilient, healthy, fair and sustainable approach to food, that has benefits for individuals, communities, the local economy and the environment. Over 1,000 responses were received which helped to shape the strategy.

The development of the strategy was led by Hull Food Partnership, with support from Hull City Council. Hull Food Partnership is supported by a multi sector steering group and is hosted by Hull Council for Voluntary Services (Hull CVS). The Hull Health and Well Being Board will provide ongoing strategic oversight of the action planning, implementation and review phases of the Food Strategy.

The strategy is framed around the Sustainable Food Places Six Key Issues which are a recognised framework for developing good food systems nationally and provide a focus for a wide range of sectors and organisations to engage with the action planning and implementation of the strategy. The strategy builds on previous achievements evidenced in Hull's Bronze Award accreditation as a Sustainable Food Place and addresses the recommendations set out in the 2021 National Food Strategy within a local context.

6: The Strategy

Delivering the Hull Food Strategy using the Six Pillars: Priority Areas for Action

Making sure the people of Hull are Well Fed will require commitment from everyone, including the active participation of residents and communities. The Hull Food Strategy through the Priority Areas for Action must catalyse Hull's public, private and voluntary and community organisations to further build on existing effective partnership working and to engage with residents and businesses in new ways, as we all work towards a better food future for Hull.

Based on the Sustainable Food Places six key issues, the pillars that support the actions are laid out as follows:



Strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action.

Helping local organisations and people to work together to support sustainable and affordable food in Hull.



Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy.

Local organisations and people buy from local food businesses first, where possible.



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

Local people working together, learning, growing, and cooking and eating in an informed way, using their power to change things for the better.



Transforming catering and procurement and revitalising local and sustainable food supply chains.

A thriving and robust local food sector from field to plate, with fairly-paid staff.



Tackling food poverty and diet related ill-health and increasing access to affordable healthy food.

Affordable and nourishing food – ensuring that everyone can easily get and can afford nutritious, tasty food.



Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste.

All local organisations and people help to tackle climate change and benefit nature by making ethical, informed food choices.

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A priority area for early action is addressing food insecurity and access to affordable healthy food. Implementation of the strategy will be an ongoing and iterative process, and active engagement of stakeholders across the city, including the VCSE sector, businesses, public sector organisations and communities, is key to its successful implementation. Hull's large anchor organisations and multi sector partnerships, including Hull Integrated Health and Care Partnership members have a key role to play in the action planning and implementation.

A launch event to promote the Hull Food Strategy and initiate engagement in developing the Hull Food Action Plan took place in October 2024, attracting 50+ attendees from across the public, private business and voluntary sectors. Of those attendees, 48 expressed their interest in being part of the task and finish groups which have developed and scrutinised the action plan.

Establishing effective and proactive task and finish groups is paramount to the success of the delivery and implementation of the strategy. The first part of this was scoping what groups already exist and what work is already taking place within our system as some of the task and finish groups not only touch on local food provision, but wider issues such as environment, economy and inequalities.

Initiation meetings for each of the Task and Finish Groups took place over April-June 2025 and relevant people were invited, however as the groups develop they may identify further members who could contribute and also bring in others on an ad hoc basis for

specialist input. The first meetings were facilitated by members of Hull Food Partnership and supported by Hull City Council Public Health to establish group co-chairs, agree Terms of Reference, and to identify who else needs to be engaged.

The Task and Finish Groups core membership is now finalised and includes senior representatives from 30 local businesses, voluntary and community sector (including faith organisations) and public sector organisations such as Hull City Council. Members of the Task and Finish Groups are expected to be able drive action or have the ability to make sure things are escalated within their own organisation to achieve action.

Guidance on how to develop the Action Plan across each of the six key issues was created and shared with the Task and Finish groups to give them a concrete framework around which to begin collecting evidence and sharing information on work that is already happening across the city as well as identifying where there are gaps in creating a sustainable local food system.

In 2029, the Hull Food Strategy will be refreshed in light of what has happened over the previous five years, and alongside this, a new action plan will be developed to take into account the new food landscape and priorities for Hull.

The work of Hull Food Partnership, and the Hull Food Strategy is referenced in the:

- [Hull Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)
- [Hull Local Plan](#)
- [Hull Community Plan](#)
- [Hull 2030 Carbon Neutral Strategy](#)
- [Hull Economic Strategy](#)
- [Hull Director of Public Health Annual Reports](#)

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

Our commitment to influencing access to sustainable, nutritious food means that we have cultivated and maintained strong relationships with our local MPs; [Emma Hardy](#) (Hull West and Haltemprice) Minister for Water and Flooding at DEFRA, and [Dame Diana Johnson](#) (Hull North and Cottingham) Minister of State at DWP. We ensure they are regularly updated on activities and take relevant issues to them as appropriate.

We also contribute to research, including:

- July 2023 co-facilitated a Big Conversation event at Newington Primary Academy with Emma Hardy around how food poverty affects schools.
- Also in 2023, contributed to the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology briefing (POSTnote) on [Child food insecurity and Free School Meals](#)

- In 2024, met with the Food Standards agency to investigate implementing the recommendations from the [School Food Standards Compliance Pilot: Feasibility Research](#)
- In 2025 contributed to the report '[Deeper Roots, Stronger Futures: unlocking the potential of food partnerships with young people](#)', co-commissioned by Barnardos and the Co-Op, and the launch event at Westminster

"The Hull Food Strategy is all about making sure everyone in the city has access to food – the healthier, fresher and more locally produced the better. I'm getting involved with developing the strategy and the Hull Food Partnership to help bring people together and get the message out there.

But the strategy is about everybody in the city, so to find out what you can do, and sign up to support the Hull Food Charter"

[Emma Hardy](#) MP for Hull West and Haltemprice.

Key Issue 2: Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement

NB at Silver we require evidence that your food partnership has catalysed, influenced or delivered activity. That the food partnership has created additionality. At Silver simply mapping activity is not sufficient. The 'value added' of the partnership must be demonstrated.

Action area A: Inspire and engage the public about good food

Between 2021 and 2023 Hull Food Partnership was a [commissioned Local Partner](#) for the Food For Life Get Togethers (FFLGT) programme, through which we co-facilitated network events with the FFLGT team. We also produced 2 case studies and [shared content and resources](#) to promote key events and grants, co-ordinated user generated content to inspire others and encouraged people to share their content e.g. top tips videos/documents, how to guides, activity ideas, community recipes, etc through our local networks and Get Togethers channels. The positive impact generated included establishing 2 members of HFP staff on the [My Food Community](#) Leadership development programme and ensuring take-up and membership of Hull based organisations to a number of Food For Life Programmes as follows:

- 1 x [FFL Early Years Award](#) member
- 2 x FFL memberships in primary schools
- 23 x [FFL Awards](#) in primary schools
- 22 x [FFL Served Here](#) in schools
- 81 x organisations hosting [FFL Get Togethers events](#) via £150 micro-grants

Although funding for this work has now ceased, the legacy remains in developing a well-informed network of community organisations invested in using good food as a catalyst for social cohesion.

Throughout the year, Hull Food Partnership can be seen at events across the city promoting local sustainable and nutritious food often through family friendly activities such as veg planting and giving away fresh fruit, sometimes in tandem with the Hull Fairtrade Partnership to share the benefits of ethically sourced food to everyone. Our target is to attend a minimum of 8 events throughout each year, and to reach as many new people as possible. Events attended include:

- Hull Fairtrade Partnership Celebration: Feb 2024
- Hull Seed Swap: Feb 2024
- Hull Open Spaces network launch: April 2024
- Right to Grow HU4 network event: May 2024
- Hesse Road Network Health event: May 2024
- Food Growing in Factories event: June 2024
- Alderman Kneeshaw Family Fun Day: July 2024
- Pearson Park Family Fair: Aug 2024
- Little Amal visit to Hull: Sept 2024
- Hull Green Fair: Oct 2024
- Hull Business Breakfast: Nov 2024
- Living with Water event: Jan 2025
- Hull Seed Celebration: Feb 2025
- Action for Nature Day: May 2025
- Hull Central Library Great Gardening Day: June 2025
- HU4 Great Get Together: June 2025
- Bransholme Songbird Survival Garden launch: July 2025
- East Park family nature event: August 2025

Since the relaunch of the [Hull Food Charter](#) in February 2025 we have encouraged people to pledge to improve the local food system, and this year alone have attracted 103 new members.

In addition, Hull Food Partnership staff are invited to give presentations and workshops e.g. healthy eating, the climate impacts of food, how to grow from scratch, and ways to share food in communities, to local interest groups from a diverse array of backgrounds, ranging from academics and professionals, to care homes, children's centres, and refugee groups.

Over the past 5 years we have delivered annual lectures to University of Hull Sports and Nutrition students in their first semester to appraise them of food issues in Hull, as well as

over the past 4 years delivering a Hull-focused workshop session to University of Leeds MSC Sustainable Food Systems students on their annual field trip to the Yorkshire coast.

"Thank you so much for the part you played in making yesterday's Action for Nature Day such a success!

You'll be pleased to hear we had 168 attendees. The strength of these events lies in the partnerships that make it happen, and we really couldn't facilitate them without so many passionate people, community groups and organisations. I want to thank you personally from the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Despite the challenging weather you all delivered your talks, walks, stalls and activities with such enthusiasm, and we've had nothing but positive feedback from visitors and stall holders alike."

[Jo Rawson](#), Community Engagement Manager, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

The jewel in the crown of our activity is the annual [Seed Celebration](#), which has grown from a small community seed swap in 2014, to a city centre event that regularly attracts 200+ participants. Held during the February half term break to give families the opportunity for a free, child-friendly event that can pave the way to good food growing and consumption from the very beginning. 20+ Food Partnership member organisations attend and bring their expertise and seeds to share with the public through a range of stalls, workshops, talks, films and good food provided by the [Timebank Kitchen](#).

Seen by the community as the beginning of the growing season in Hull, we also use the Seed Celebration as an opportunity to update the [Hull Growers' Handbook](#) which is distributed for free to attendees. Initially part of the Hull Veg Cities programme, this handbook is now created via the Postcode Gardener project funded by Friends of the Earth and The Co-operative Bank and gives people in Hull a 'how to' guide on getting started and what vegetables grow best in Hull's microclimate.

Alongside this activity, we are also focussed on working directly with children and young people to understand how they view the food environment they live in, and what resources they need in order to make better food choices for themselves. Previous activity has included co-producing resources such as the ['Veg Champions'](#) activity booklet for primary aged and special needs pupils, alongside the ['What Do You Put in Your Mouth'](#) action pack for young people.

This work has continued over the past year with the production of the ['Food And Solutions'](#) portal, working with the Young Mayor and Youth Reps for Hull (a voluntary group of 20+ young people aged 11-17 years meeting weekly to discuss the policies and services that are important to them), the aim of the portal is to address the barriers young people face in accessing quality food and community support.

The group worked extensively with Hull Food Partnership on the initiation, creation, design, implementation and promotion of the portal which was [launched in February 2025](#). The group distributed media packs to secondary schools, community centres, pharmacies and libraries across Hull; aiming to promote the website at places young people and families with young people would most likely visit.

When asked about how they felt following the campaign, the Young Mayor and Youth Voice group said:

“We are extremely excited to see the campaign happen because it is so powerful. We have a strong sense of pride regarding our work and hope it will have a positive impact on many people.”

We also promote and amplify nationally led campaigns to encourage the take up of fresh fruit and vegetables, this has led to an ongoing relationship with [Veg Power](#) who have supplied us with resources to take into children’s settings and deliver family friendly activity sessions around their core campaigns:

- 500 x [Eat Them to Defeat Them](#) activity packs
- 500 x [Simply Veg](#) flyers and posters
- 300 x [Eat the Rainbow](#) activity packs

Action Area B: Foster food citizenship and a local good food movement

In 2017, Hull Food Partnership ensured that a food growing policy was embedded in Hull’s Local Plan as [‘Policy 46 Local food growing’](#). This policy stated that:

1. The use of land and buildings as new allotments, orchards and for local food growing spaces and production will be supported, including the temporary use of 11 vacant or derelict land or buildings and the use of amenity green space on housing estates and other open space areas, where this does not conflict with other policy objectives or land use priorities.

2. The incorporation of community gardens, allotments, orchards and innovative spaces for growing food, including green roofs, will be encouraged and supported in new development where possible and appropriate, particularly where there is demand for food growing space in the vicinity of the application site.

3. The inclusion of productive trees and plants in landscaping schemes will be encouraged where appropriate.

This policy still stands, and Hull Food Partnership has responded to a new consultation in summer 2025 relating to the development of the next Local Plan to further embed and enhance this policy in relation to the Right to Grow.

Historically, Hull has coordinated [Big Dig](#) and latterly [Good to Grow](#) events under the banner of our [Veg Cities](#) programme with a number of community groups getting involved. We have also contributed to the Good to Grow working group, and gave a presentation at Sustain webinar on '[Growing Food for Resilience](#)' in March 2023, highlighting work in Hull and generating national interest. As Peas Please [Veg Advocates](#), between 2021-23, we worked to promote the uptake of veg in schools (reaching 400 pupils through our [Veg Champions](#) project), and consulted with national food producers and supermarkets to improve the volume and promotion of veg in retail offers.

Since 2020, Hull Food Partnership has worked with organisations in Hull in promoting and developing a local '[Right to Grow](#)' on public land. This was supported by Incredible Edible and [Rights:Community:Action](#) who were able to offer the legal rationale to underpin the core principles.

Initially led by Hull Growers' Network and Garden and Open Spaces Hull (GOSH), Hull Food Partnership took on the coordination of the work after the first council motion proposed by GOSH in September 2020 failed to get sufficient support to implement it effectively.

After holding '[food hustings](#)' in the run up to the May 2023 local elections, it became clear that a Right to Grow was one of two key issues that residents wanted to see addressed in relation to local food (the other being the increasing need for food banks across the city). Using this evidence, and with cross party support from candidates who attended the hustings, we embarked on a process of rewriting and strengthening the original motion, incorporating new elements that residents felt were important, such as the ability to use public land to foster biodiversity as well as food growing, and that sufficiency of local allotments per household was also protected.

Working with the same councillor ([Gill Kennett](#)) who put forward the original motion, the new Right to Grow motion was unanimously voted in favour by elected members of Hull City Council in September 2023, three years after the original vote.

The press attention received in this period led to an approach from Friends of The Earth/The Co-operative Bank who wanted to fund a [Postcode Gardener](#) project in Hull. We advised them of different organisations in the area that would be suitable, and they were so impressed with the quality of their work, they decided to fund two of them, [EMS](#) and [Rewilding Youth](#), for two years each, with continuation funding just announced to extend this work.

Ongoing discussions about how to turn the motion into practice led to the formation of a Task and Finish Group led by Hull City Council officers and elected members, with representations from the VCSE via Hull Food Partnership, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and EMS. Meetings took place throughout 2024, with co-opted members attending to bring

insight from different departments across Hull City Council to tackle issues such as housing, highways and legal responsibilities.

In January 2025 the legal framework of [Hull's Right to Grow policy](#) was agreed by the cabinet, and in May 2025 Hull became the first council in England to implement an effective Right to Grow policy for council owned land, with residents able to apply for an annual licence.

Throughout 2024 and 2025, Hull Food Partnership also contributed to various research projects nationally and internationally relating to the Right to Grow in the UK, most closely with [Dr Rebecca St Clair and Claire Gribben at the University of Leeds](#) who are due to publish their findings soon.

A separate report which features Hull's work around the Right to Grow was published in May 2025 by [Coronation Gardens for Food and Nature](#) (a partnership between The Wildlife Trusts, Incredible Edible, the WI and Garden Organic).

In addition, Hull Food Partnership has been asked to speak at various events and webinars to highlight the challenges and benefits of working on a project that has weathered several years from conception to realisation. This includes contributing to the [Incredible Edible Right to Grow Learning Network](#), and being one of the founder members of Hull's [Open Spaces Network](#) (140+ members), speaking at their launch event in April 2024. The Open Spaces Network replaces the Hull Growers' Network, and provides on-line and face to face opportunities for groups and individuals to share inspiration, ideas, and resources and to work together on a range of initiatives relating to food and biodiversity.

In May 2024 we worked with Hull City Council on the '[Explore HU4](#)' pilot that was delivered in partnership with Mikey Tomkins, academic from Brighton University.

This community engagement project worked with underserved groups on a Hull housing estate to create new maps that brought new life to neglected spaces in the area. The maps produced from this initiative re-imagined how Hull's public spaces can be used for food production and biodiversity.

A map of [Hull's community growing projects](#) is hosted online.

We have also supported the development of gardening groups across the city which give communities from the global majority the ability to grow food from their countries of origin, these include:

- [Humber All Nations Alliance](#)
- [Bora shabaa Refugee Association](#)
- [Cosmo Community CIC](#)
- [Solidarity Hull CIC](#)

These interconnected pieces of work will be enhanced by strategic support via the [£6million Community Highstreets programme](#) which is currently under consultation and Hull Food Partnership is contributing to.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

Underpinning all of this action is a connected suite of online resources that are free for the public to access whenever they need them. They are primarily available via the Hull Food Partnership website, but we have also created a [Linktr.ee](#) which highlights the most used resources and direct links to download them.

The Linktr.ee site alone has enabled 1,600+ downloads and this complements the social media platforms we use to promote Hull Food Partnership and other national and local organisations and campaigns. We use [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Bluesky](#) on a weekly basis, we also have a presence on [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#) and [TikTok](#) to promote specific activities with a combined following of 6,100+ users.

Our well regarded monthly [email newsletter](#) goes out to 800+ recipients and covers a broad range of subjects across local and national news, consultations and campaigns, competitions and resources, funding opportunities, events and training / skills development.

Added value over the past year has been the production of a monthly podcast '[Eat The System](#)' which is created by our Campaigns & Projects Officer and has just reached 1,000+ downloads. This covers a variety of subjects relating to food and is not just focused on work in Hull.

In addition to this we have also developed webinars for Sustainable Food Places on the subjects of '[From Co-Ops to Bulk Purchasing: Models for Emergency Food Provision](#)' (March 2024), and '[How to Engage with Schools](#)' (May 2025) to support national good practice across food systems work.

Key Issue 3: Tackling food poverty and diet related ill-health and increasing access to affordable healthy food

NB at Silver we require evidence that your food partnership has catalysed, influenced or delivered activity. That the food partnership has created additionality. At Silver simply mapping activity is not sufficient. The 'value added' of the partnership must be demonstrated.

Action area A: Tackle food poverty

Hull Food Partnership contributed to the consortium bid led by Forum to [establish a Poverty Truth Commission in Hull](#) in 2021. This bid was successful, and [Hull's Poverty Truth Commission](#) has been running since 2022. The [University of Hull published a report](#) in November 2024 to examine the work that had been undertaken, and what the next steps should be. In 2025 Hull City Council decided to fund 2 further phases of the Poverty Truth Commission to build on this work, and recruitment for a new cohort of commissioners is now underway. Unsurprisingly, access to food was a key feature in discussions around poverty, and we expect that a greater focus on food will be part of the new iterations of the Hull Poverty Truth Commission.

Since February 2021, Hull Food Partnership has convened the [Hull Food Inequality Alliance](#) (HFIA) which meets every 2 months to address the various issues that contribute to food inequality in Hull, and how the group can work collectively with local and national partners to try and mitigate the worst impacts of those issues. At the time of writing the group has 100+ members, representing 60+ different organisations and including two local MPs.

Each meeting usually has a presentation from an organisation that is of relevance to the HFIA (recent contributors have been the [Alliance for Dignified Food Support](#) and [Cooperation Town](#)), bespoke training sessions delivered by partners such as Citizen's Advice as well as updates from each organisation.

Hull Food Partnership is also a contributing member of the Hull Financial Inclusion Network (FIN) and in 2023 provided evidence to the [Royal Society for Public Health's rapid review](#) to explore the types and causes of financial insecurity and the impacts they have on population health and wellbeing in Hull. We influenced the recommendation that:

"The FIN to offer ongoing support and assurance in the delivery of the Food Poverty and Affordable Warmth Action Plans, to create the conditions for sustainable local change, placing dignity and respect at the heart of what we do." RSPH report, July 2023

As well as contributing to consultations in relation to food poverty (the most recent being the 'Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support' in June 2025), and developing a motion on the Right to Food that was presented to the Labour Party Conference in October 2024, our work with Feeding Britain on the ['Pathways from Poverty'](#) programme

has led to the funding of a Citizens Advice worker to be co-located in three community organisations across Hull. This role is funded until August 2026 and will assist in moving people away from reliance on emergency food support and towards greater financial resilience.

So far, this co-located advice worker has engaged with 91 residents and the total amount of additional money that households are receiving from income maximisation activities through the service currently stands at £32,284.88

Further work with Trussell, Hull Food Bank, Citizens Advice and Hull City Council has led to the initiation of the 'Tackling Destitution Together' project In February 2025 which will explore and address the conditions that lead to destitution in Hull and what support is needed to prevent residents from falling into destitution in the first place. At the time of writing, a new app is being developed that will enable people to access the appropriate support at a much earlier stage and provide a triage service that will prioritise people based on specific needs. This is being tested with groups who have lived experienced of multiple unmet needs.

We responded to findings from a survey conducted early 2023 to gain a better local picture of poverty-related issues affecting schools in Hull. 44 schools responded (just under half of all schools), of those, 98% schools saw children coming to school hungry because their parents/carers couldn't afford food. Of that 98%, two thirds said that the situation had worsened over the past 6 months. 98% schools also said that there are children in their school who are ineligible for Free School Meals who would benefit from receiving them

We delivered support by presenting information at Emma Hardy MP's emergency Cost of Living Facebook webinar (January 2023) and presented 2 x sessions on access to emergency food in Hull at Child & Family Poverty Early Help webinars, reaching over 120 attendees (February 2023).

Figures from Trussell for [emergency food parcel distribution in the UK April 2024 – March 2025](#), show that during that period, Hull residents received 9,822 food parcels (2,812 of which were for children). This is a decrease from the previous year, where residents received 10,000+ food parcels. However, this does not account for the 50+ organisations in Hull who are also distributing some form of food support across the city. [FareShare Hull and Humber](#) currently has 85 Community Food Members in Hull alone, many of which are schools or family hubs.

Local charity [EMS](#) reports annually on how many households they support through a number of food related projects. They have seen demand for their work rise steadily since 2020, when they reported supporting 39,698 people between April 2020-March 2021, and supporting 92,721 people between April 2024-March 2025. In the last year they

delivered 9,981 Freedom Foods ready meals to 8 community fridges across the city. These meals can feed 4 people and use surplus and donated food from different providers to ensure families are able to access nutritious hot food. Sadly, this service had to end in April 2025 due to lack of funding, but Hull Food Partnership successfully lobbied for £72k Household Support Fund monies to re-establish this service from Sept 2025-March 2026, we will continue to lobby for funding beyond this date as the multiple benefits of the service continuing are proven.

Following on from Hull Food Partnership's successful delivery of a bulk food purchasing project in 2023/2024 (with local supplier Turner Price, £53k of food was distributed to 12 organisations across Hull, feeding 8,000+ households between Nov 23-May 24), the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board provided funding to develop a bulk purchasing co-operative for community food providers which started work in January 2025 with 6 selected organisations providing the greatest distributed reach across the city, to date this has fed 3,400+ households.

Alongside this, £24k of funding from the Household Support Fund was provided via Hull City Council for Hull Food Partnership to support Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic-led groups with access to culturally appropriate food for their beneficiaries. Working with local company CK Foods/Haris & Co (a wholesaler specialising in international foods), Hull Food Partnership was able to source a range of suitable foods (notwithstanding some supply chain issues for some very hard to obtain items). Collectively these two projects worked with 17 organisations to feed 3,000 households in Hull between January-March 2025. As a result of this partnership working, CK Foods/Haris & Co were given the [High Sheriff Award](#) for their support in developing the first Halal food bank in Hull.

"Thank you for the detailed overview regarding the challenges in sourcing African vegetables. I truly appreciate all the hard work you've put into this process, especially considering the difficulties posed by the supplier's unreliability and the complications of global produce sourcing. It's important to recognise that African foods can be quite rare, which understandably makes them more expensive. Your commitment to ensuring we have access to these unique items is greatly valued.

I'm also pleased to share that our service users were very happy with the food we provided. Their positive feedback reflects the significance of having these items available, and it truly shows how your efforts have made a positive impact."

Severine Kipili, CEO [Bora Shabaa Refugee Community Organisation](#)

Our work on moving residents up the [Food Ladder](#) has meant that we have been engaging over the past year with Community Shop and Hull City Council to identify areas of greatest need in Hull that will benefit from the opening of a [Community Shop](#). Negotiations are ongoing, and we hope to have a positive announcement before the end of 2025.

Action Area B: Promote healthy eating

At a regional level, Hull Food Partnership contributes to [the Yorkshire and Humber Food Systems Network](#) (YHFSN) of local authority professionals, regional and local food partnerships, and academic partners working on agendas where food and public health overlap. Work of the YHFSN is member-directed with the principal aim of providing members with practical information and shared learning.

Locally, Hull Food Partnership sits on the Hull Healthy Weight Steering Group which is responsible for developing a Whole System Approach to tackle excess weight across Hull and is led by Hull City Council's Public Health team, with partners from across education, NHS teams, GP practices, VCSE organisations and various council departments. Alongside this we also sit on the Healthy Weight Food Sub-Group which focuses specifically on how the food environment can be improved across the city.

Part of this work is to actively support the promotion of Healthy Start vouchers to eligible households, a separate group including Hull Food Partnership meets quarterly to assess take-up, create new interventions, and stimulate public engagement, developing a dedicated suite of resources including a [short film](#) shared across local networks.

Current take-up of Healthy Start in Hull is at around 3,000 households, which we believe reaches approximately 69% of eligible families. An investigation by Hull Food Partnership into the supply of Healthy Start vitamins found that these were not being offered in Hull, which prompted Hull's Healthy Lifestyles Team to establish a supply chain via the Family Hubs, a successful pilot has now led to vitamins being rolled out to new locations across the city in 2025.

Hull City Council's Healthy Lifestyles Team is an important vector for healthy eating messaging to children and families across the city, it is a collaboration between Public Health and the Children, Young People and Families Directorates. They offer a range of support to residents to improve diets, including:

- Train the trainer – annual Healthy Cooking on a Budget food prep training for partners
- Family Cooking sessions during Healthy Holiday periods
- Events – healthy snacks, fruit provision including smoothie bike activities
- NHS Healthy Start scheme working group
- [HENRY programme](#) (previously called Health, Exercise, Nutrition for the Really Young) – Eat Well for Less, Starting Solid Foods and Group Programmes for parents at Family Hubs
- Eating and Sensory parent programme. Introductory sessions for parents

Throughout 2024-25 the Healthy Lifestyles Team have reached 2,093 adults and 2,448 children and delivered:

- 3 x HENRY Right from the Start Group Programmes,
- 6 x HENRY Healthy Families Growing Group Programmes
- 7 x HENRY 1:1 Programmes
- 42 x HENRY Workshops (Starting Solids, Eat Well for Less, Healthy Teeth, Fussy Eaters)
- 8 x Eating and Sensory Workshops
- Healthy Cooking on a Budget Workshops to 582 residents

In addition to this, with support from Hull Food Partnership and Feeding Britain, Hull City Council has just embarked on the [auto-enrolment of Free School Meals](#) to all eligible families from September 2025, with 750 eligible children confirmed to be positively impacted that were not previously claiming their entitlement and potentially releasing a predicted £1million Pupil Premium to schools in Hull.

Because we have a specific focus on children and young people, we link with schools who have high numbers of students on their rolls that are from underrepresented groups, including disabled children who are often left out of the conversation when considering food. This includes primary schools that have highly diverse populations, and connecting with special schools, both to engage with students and parents and to cultivate working relationships with multi academy trusts, modifying content where necessary to be more accessible to students.

This complements ongoing work to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme to households across the city. Hull was one of the pilot areas for HAF when it first launched and is unusual in that although it prioritises families in receipt of Free School Meals, it is open to every child and young person in Hull, with the acknowledgement that most families are experiencing financial pressure and segregating this support risks stigmatising the families accessing it.

The most recent [Hull HAF report for 2024-25](#) showed that 86,400+ opportunities were offered via family hubs, youth centres, 6 strategic partners and 70+ VCSE groups, with 45,484 children and young people participating in an offer that included a nutritious meal at every session.

Consolidating all of the above is ongoing work to develop the new Local Plan with reference to the prevalence of food provision in the city. In the existing Local Plan is Policy 12 - "District, Local and Neighbourhood Centres" as follows:

10. In the city's neighbourhood centres, development that leads to the loss of food shops will not be supported when that loss would lead to a lack of easy access to food shops within easy walking distance of surrounding residential neighbourhoods.

11. In areas outside of defined centres, the Council will not support conversion or change of use of corner shops and local convenience stores to other uses where this would lead to a lack of easy access to food shops within easy walking distance of surrounding residential neighbourhoods.

Food & drink, drinking establishments and hot food takeaways:

12. Development of food and drink, drinking establishments or hot food takeaway outlets (A3 – A5) will be permitted within centres where they do not lead to an overconcentration of inactive frontages within stretches of properties that would undermine vitality and viability or would harm local amenity.

13. Development to accommodate hot food takeaway (A5) use will not be supported in local or neighbourhood centres where a threshold of 20% of all units would be or has already been reached, to prevent over-proliferation where this could undermine objectives to promote healthy eating in the city.

14. Development to accommodate hot food takeaway (A5) use will not normally be supported within 400m of a secondary school or sixth form college or playing fields.

Evaluation results show that in 2016 Hull had 302 hot food takeaways in the city and in 2023, 6 years later it had 259 (43 fewer).

The new [National Policy Planning Framework \(NPPF\) Dec 2024](#) at paragraph 97 says that 'planning authorities should refuse applications for hot food takeaways and fast food outlets:

a) within walking distance of schools and other places young people meet, unless the location is in a designated town centre: or

b) locations where there is evidence that a concentration of such uses is having an adverse impact on local health, pollution or anti-social behaviour.'

Hull also presents a [Healthy Places, Healthy People Supplementary Planning Document 14](#) which was adopted in February 2021. This plan draws out the key health issues contained in the Hull Local Plan and provides further guidance to developers, applicants and other interested parties.

Development of the new Local Plan will strengthen and enhance all of the above, and seek to understand if all hot food takeaways are selling High Fat Salt Sugar Food (HFSS), what other food outlets are not covered, and balancing outlets selling healthier food,

whilst also considering the commercial determinants of health and how these can be reframed in public spaces across the city.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

As part of Hull's Household Support Fund allocation for 2025-26, Hull Food Partnership was tasked with delivering a £43,500 small grants programme. Launched in Summer 2025, our guidance for applicants stated:

"Research shows that there are 50+ community food providers across the city covering a range of support such as food banks, food pantries, community fridges, etc. These food providers vary in scale, some serving residents with a direct connection to their organisation such as faith groups, others serving hundreds of households across a broad spectrum of household types. This funding programme is part of a wider initiative to embed sustainable VCSE community food distribution within a comprehensive response to all community groups, and maintain food distribution that supports the health and wellbeing needs of all VCSE beneficiaries.

Guidance from the Department for Work and Pensions for the distribution of the Household Support Fund includes encouragement for local authorities to facilitate preventative approaches, such as the co-location of advice services with food to maximise household incomes, and the development of affordable food clubs such as pantries and social supermarkets. From April 2026, the Government will replace the Household Support Fund with a new Crisis and Resilience Fund, which has a stated objective of 'helping to end mass dependence on emergency food parcels'."

The panel to assess applications sat on 10th Sept 2025 and has awarded £43,335 to 21 community food support organisations across Hull. We look forward to working with them to support households in the city.

Key Issue 4: Creating a vibrant, prosperous, and diverse sustainable food economy

NB at Silver we require evidence that your food partnership has catalysed, influenced or delivered activity. That the food partnership has created additionality. At Silver simply mapping activity is not sufficient. The 'value added' of the partnership must be demonstrated.

Action area A: Put good food enterprise at the heart of local economic development

Although Hull has a vibrant independent food sector, it has often been difficult for independent food business to survive economically in the continuing challenging environment as costs continue to rise for raw produce, alongside rising staffing and utilities costs to keep premises running. Sadly, this sector has seen several businesses

servicing good quality, locally produced, sustainable food close since 2020, with no real positives on the horizon to facilitate growth in this sector.

Despite this, Hull Food Partnership has worked to support local retailers such as those within [Trinity Market Food Hall](#) which offers an indoor street market with traditional grocers alongside speciality traders, including Fairtrade and independent businesses serving food to eat in or takeaway, plus regular events such as [Trinity Live](#) to support the night-time economy and local musicians and artists.

Furthermore, we have been working to create better capacity to support local businesses to source locally produced food via the [Food Exchange Platform](#).

The Food Exchange Platform has always been intended as a free to use mechanism that promotes fruit and vegetables grown locally in Hull, by developing a resource for organisations who serve food to source local produce in a way that ensures Hull's local economy benefits and climate impacts are reduced, as well as mitigating impacts from the cost-of-living crisis.

Initially developed in 2023, The Food Exchange Platform was built on various open-source plugins which were modified to work together for the needs of the platform to be achieved. With ongoing updates from the creators of these plugins, maintaining the functionality became an increasingly difficult task, especially as their core codes were changed. In order to make the necessary changes to keep the platform running, we applied to the King Charles Coronation Fund to further develop and maintain the platform for enhanced user functionality, we obtained a two-year grant to do this in 2024.

This funding has enabled us to work with local food support organisations to test the original system and make significant improvements both in functionality and to develop a more secure system that is not vulnerable to changes to free open-source plugins.

With this insight, over the past year the developer of the Food Exchange Platform has been working on more specific software which allows increased functionality whilst making it more straightforward to maintain and update.

We have included the ability to calculate carbon value savings of produce. Previously this would not have been possible, however functionality has been created to automatically calculate estimated carbon value through produce type, weight and quantity. This will alert growers to the potential food waste to be prevented/reduced.

We have also improved the platform by creating better breakdowns of produce quantities. Previously options to add weight and quantity types were free text boxes due to the nature of the open-source plugins which meant it was easy for information to not be entered correctly. Now, growers will be able to select the quantity type, e.g. bunches, boxes etc. as well as the weight per quantity type so when ordering people will better

understand what is being ordered. For example, instead of 6 beetroots it would be 6KG of beetroots or 6 boxes of beetroots. This will all contribute to a reduction in food waste for organisations at both ends of the re-distribution process.

With an updated system, we have begun re-approaching organisations to use the Food Exchange Platform, we are in negotiations with [Fareshare Hull & Humber](#) who are now in receipt of large volumes of fresh fruit and veg through the DEFRA 'Tackling Food Surplus at the Farm Gate' scheme.

Our ambition is to make available at least 30 tonnes of food, or approximately 6,000 meals that would otherwise have gone to waste, supporting local organisations and businesses to make the best use of fresh, good quality produce and support the local economy.

We have also produced "[Secrets of the Chefs](#)" short films for our YouTube channel to showcase some of the expertise local food businesses are able to offer.

Action Area B: Promote healthy, sustainable, and independent food businesses to consumers

Over the past two years Hull Food Partnership has been involved in the re-opening of The New Clarence pub in Hull city centre which was taken on by a local chef and food producer '[Chilli Devils](#)' during the pandemic.

This pub was originally an old Co-operative shop that was converted after the shop closed in 1968. In the post-covid hospitality downturn, Admiral Taverns sold the building in 2023, which prompted the formation of the 'Save the New Clarence' group with a vision of listing the pub as an Asset of Community Value ([ACV - one of only three in Hull](#)), and to bring it back into use as a community owned, co-operatively run pub running on an inclusive model that would provide locally produced food and drinks, as well as a meeting room/event space to meet the needs of everyone who used it.

The new owner after initially offering to sell the pub to the group, then decided to challenge the ACV status and put forward a planning application for change of use to a HMO (three times, as various amended applications were refused).

Hull Food Partnership played a pivotal role in supporting the rescue and reinstatement of the pub, from being part of the initial formation of the '[Hull Community Pub Society](#)' (a [Community Benefit Society](#) - CBS) using various means to support the campaign to bring the pub back into use and support the ACV application and continuing status, as follows:

- Writing in detail to Hull City Council planning officers, advising to both refuse the applications to turn the pub into an HMO and support the pub retaining its ACV

status, plus sent representatives to meetings at Hull Guildhall when planning applications have been called in for debate

- Using the Hull Food Partnership monthly newsletter, networks and social media platforms to promote the campaign, including promoting surveys to find out what the public and local VCSE organisations might wish to use the meeting/event space for and promoted the share offer during both issues (February 2024 and March 2025)
- Bought shares in the Hull Community Pub Society and encouraged others to do so
- Attended multiple meetings of the Hull Community Pub Society and voted at the AGM on 1st March 2025
- Advised the Secretary and Committee of relevant funding opportunities when they became available

This contributed to raising enough funds for the eventual successful purchase of the pub in February 2025, refurbishment and [reopening in September 2025](#).

At the time of writing, the share offer has raised £248k to buy the pub and bring it back into use, and there are almost 500 shareholders, with a further £300k raised through the UK Government's Community Ownership Fund. Work is ongoing to raise a further £10k through the share offer to fully reinstate the function room/event space which had unforeseen structural issues.

"I am writing to thank you for all the support you have given to the Save The New Clarence campaign and the Hull Community Pub Society over the last two years.

The pub recently reopened after being derelict for two years, we now offer a wide variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks as well as vegetarian, vegan, gluten free and other food options from our newly reinstated kitchen. The pub is owned by Hull's first co-operative community benefit society which has just under 500 members. We want the pub to be an accessible, safe, inclusive space where people can come with or make new friends.

Hull Food Partnership was one of our earliest supporters, believing we could do it when many doubted. Your contribution started when you attended our earliest meetings where we were gauging whether we had the support to make the pub an asset of community value and fight planning permission to turn it into an HMO. We really appreciated that you didn't just say you supported the pub reopening, you wrote to the council and turned up at council meetings to demonstrate your support. You have promoted our cause via your newsletter and by social media. Your active support has also included promoting our community share issue, your members buying shares and taking an active part in the democratic decision making of the co-operative. We really appreciate the advice you have given on funding opportunities and are hopeful that the most recent one you flagged will help us reopen the function room with a lift to make it accessible so the whole building is

brought back into use. On a personal note, I appreciate the kind words of wisdom and support I received from Anna when I was going through some difficult times during the project.

The New Clarence pub reopened its doors last week. We have created 6 jobs, including hiring several staff who had been unemployed. Our first customer was Mary, who has no family, everyone knows Mary and we all enjoy talking with her and seeing that she is OK. We have reopened the beer garden. One of our supporters who doesn't have a garden took the lead on cleaning up, redecorating and sourcing pot plants and benches, all of which were donated by other supporters. Our chairperson uses a wheelchair, he used to be able to get into and around The New Clarence, but the toilets were inaccessible to him. As part of the renovations, we have installed an accessible toilet so that he and anyone else with mobility issues can have a hassle-free visit to the pub. Our newest and youngest shareholder came in and the whole pub sang happy birthday for her 18th.

I could give you more stats on our sales and takings (we smashed the expected sales by 25%) but for me the impact of seeing The New Clarence community re-form, creating jobs and creating an accessible and welcoming space for people to get together is much greater."

[Catherine Murray](#), Secretary, Hull Community Pub Society

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

The work we have undertaken in the past continues to benefit small businesses in the city with seed funding we made available through a small grants programme in 2022 having lasting impact for micro businesses such as [W.A.N.T.](#) (We Are Not Takeaway) which came about from an idea put forward by [Hull Delivery Co-op](#) (local eBike delivery company).

We granted £2k for their idea where local chefs use a combination of locally grown food, potential food waste and ethically sourced ingredients to create batch meals for sale to Hull residents. Each meal offers an alternative to the traditional takeaway, it will be healthier, it will not be delivered exactly when the customer wants it, it may need heating and it will cost you exactly what you wish to pay for it. Based on the 'pay it forward' model, where those able can pay full price or more to subsidise the meals of those unable to afford it. Those with low income could also offer their skills or time in return, washing pots, riding delivery bikes, creating art etc to support the project.

From this sprung several new initiatives that continue to have impact, W.A.N.T. has become a successful, ethical catering company, delivering lunches to business meetings, hosting pop-up '[Feed the NHS](#)' events to give health workers a healthy meal on their break, and established [Waffle](#), a weekly pay-what-you want community meal and co-

operative arts collective running from a community centre in one of Hull's most deprived areas.

Key Issue 5: Transforming catering and procurement and revitalising local and sustainable food supply chains

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Action area A: Change policy and practice to put good food on people's plates

Hull Food Partnership's work on developing the Hull Food Strategy has been acknowledged and referenced across many of Hull City Council's Strategies and Plans. However, few of those documents have concrete policy commitments to food unless you count the contributions to the existing Local Plan and work on Right to Grow which has become part of Hull's Open Space Strategy.

We have found that the pathway to positive policy implementation has been via the introduction of motions to the council which then through the mechanism of sub-committees or Task and Finish groups, can realise policy creation and implementation in collaboration with the relevant departments.

Hull Fairtrade Partnership brings together statutory representatives, businesses and organisations across Hull that are dedicated to the promotion and sale of Fairtrade goods in the city.

To mark [20 years of being a Fairtrade City](#) on July 17 2025, at Hull's full council meeting, a motion was passed unanimously by elected members to re-affirm Hull City Council's commitment to supporting Fairtrade and the values it represents, with the following resolutions:

- *Ask the Executive to ensure that the Council offers Fairtrade food and drink options internally and in our catering offer, also consider Fairtrade cotton for staff uniforms and other opportunities to use Fairtrade products.*
- *Ask the Executive to ensure that a commitment to fairer trade is recognised as a way to deliver against other sustainability commitments.*
- *Make sure posts promoting Fairtrade and celebrating the local Fairtrade City commitment are regularly posted on social media channels.*
- *Use influence to encourage local businesses to offer Fairtrade options.*
- *Continue to nominate Council representatives (Members and Officers) to be active members of the Hull Fairtrade Partnership Group and support ongoing work to promote Fairtrade.*

- *Support local Fairtrade events, including by providing facilities where local campaigners can meet and host events.*
- *Organise events and publicity during National Fairtrade Fortnight, the annual national campaign to promote sales of products with the Fairtrade Mark*

Work is now underway to ensure that these commitments are supported in policy by working with Hull City Council officers to deliver against the resolution to ensure the Council offers a meaningful Fairtrade food and drink / catering offer. The following actions will now take place:

- *Check whether within HCC's procurement and tendering framework, a score of at least 10% in the 'Social Good' category is allocated for Fairtrade products, working with procurement specialists to advise.*
- *Understand what HCC's current catering / hospitality offer is and how it can be improved to incorporate more Fairtrade.*
- *To ensure that a commitment to fairer trade is recognised as a way to deliver against other sustainability commitments.*

Since 2022, Hull Food Partnership has also been an active supporter of [The Deep's Sustainable Palm Oil](#) campaign, with the objective of Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire being the UK's first Sustainable Palm Oil region. As palm oil is one of the world's most used products, the social, climate and environmental impacts of the destruction of natural habitats in countries where palm oil is grown has been well documented. Therefore, the promotion of properly regulated, sustainable palm oil as an alternative is essential. Hull hosts the [UK base for AAK](#), one of the UK largest sustainable edible oils refineries which produces oils for use in the food industry. This collaboration has led to major stakeholders including Hull City Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the University of Hull to pledge to only use sustainable palm oil in their catering offers.

In addition to this work, we have been conducting 'mystery shopper' audits of facilities operated by [Hull Culture and Leisure](#) (HCAL), including cafes and vending machines in parks, leisure centres, museums, theatres, galleries and libraries to understand the quality of food provided in these venues and how it can be improved to create a healthier offer to residents as well as support local businesses and Fairtrade aspirations.

Feedback from these audits have been shared with HCAL and work is underway with the HCAL procurement team to explore how cost-effective solutions can be provided to both improve the offer but also maintain the much-needed customer uptake of those options. This work is ongoing and still in development, it ties in with similar activity as part of the Healthy Weight Food Sub-Group which is looking at improving food provision across council run Family Hubs, Youth Centres and Adult Care facilities.

We are also supporting the pilot of a 'Hull'thier Choices' menu project with staff in Sport, Nutrition and Catering at the University of Hull. This is a research project aimed at enhancing campus menu offerings. Based on initial survey feedback from 125 staff and students, it is exploring ways to introduce more affordable, plant-based and health-conscious options. Preliminary strategic recommendations are as follows:

- *Expand menu options to include more plant-based and culturally diverse meals – interestingly this contradicts the data that states that the vast majority (69%) of respondents have zero dietary requirements, however the majority of respondents have asked for these menu enhancements*
- *Improve affordability of meals through pricing reviews and student / staff offers*
- *Improve communication of menus through circulating menu and offers via social media, e-bulletin and intranet*
- *Use posters and QR codes to provide nutritional and sustainability information*
- *Consider feedback on ambiance and dining experience to attract repeat customers*

Follow up work to measure take up of these recommendations is underway.

Action Area B: Improving connections and collaboration across the local supply chain

Because Hull is so tightly boundaried, there is no substantive farmland within the local authority to be able to contribute to the local food economy. Instead, food is produced in factory facilities within the city, with some food being grown and brought in from the surrounding East Riding of Yorkshire, which is primarily known for 'Peas, Pigs and Poultry'. The fishing industry for which the city was once famed has also disappeared, with Hesse Road, the old heart of the fishing fleet having a single remaining wet fish shop.

Birds Eye's largest pea processing factory is based in Hull and is supplied by local farmers co-operative [The Green Pea Company](#). Although, in keeping with modern business structures, Birds Eye is no longer British owned, and its new £8,500,000 facility is run by [Nomad Foods](#), who also own Aunt Bessie's and Goodfella's.

This creates a challenge when it comes to supporting connections and collaboration across the local supply chain, as most local food producers are part of larger agribusinesses. However, we contribute to and promote the creation of the East Yorkshire Local Food and Rural Tourism Network's annual '[Enjoy Local Food and Drink](#)' guide which features local food and drink producers, information on where to buy and enjoy local food and drink in East Yorkshire, together with a food festival and events diary and farmers markets calendar. Primarily tourist-focused there are also sections about the information available to help visitors explore the area.

Regardless, there is a recognition that a more coherent and substantive approach is needed to both address the need to support smaller local businesses as well as larger

food producers who are committed to providing good quality, nutritious food and need a better marketplace to engage with larger scale procurers such as council services, healthcare providers and education establishments.

In order to build on the development of the Task and Finish Groups to deliver the Hull Food Strategy Action Plan, we are combining the expertise of Group 4 (Local organisations and people buy from local food businesses first, where possible) and Group 5 (A thriving and robust local food sector from field to plate, with fairly-paid staff) so that there is greater connectivity and opportunity for decision makers to collaborate and begin to synchronise their procurement processes to improve the social and economic value of local food purchasing, as well as create a pathway for much smaller businesses to benefit from larger contracts and work collectively to enhance the food landscape in Hull. This work is very much in its infancy, but with support from one local Multi Academy Trust, Hull Catering Services and Hull City Council's procurement team, as well as an invitation to the newly revamped Patient Meals Team at Hull's local hospitals, we are confident this new group will begin to make inroads into opening opportunities up for more local businesses.

This will make sure that organisations are upskilled in using tools such as [The Supply Chain Network](#), an online platform created by East Riding of Yorkshire Council which allows businesses to find suppliers, promote products and services, find new opportunities and clients and showcase their commitment to using local supply chains wherever possible.

At the same time, this links directly to the UK Government's new Food Strategy '[Towards a Good Food Cycle](#)' published in July 2025 which includes priorities for:

Good growth

- *Conditions for the food sector to thrive and grow sustainably, including investment in innovation and productivity, and fairer more transparent supply chains*
- *Food sector attracts talent and develops skilled workforce in every region*

Sustainable and resilient supply

- *Food supply is environmentally sustainable with high animal welfare standards, and waste is reduced*
- *Trade supports environmentally sustainable growth, upholds British standards and expands export opportunities*
- *Resilient domestic production for a secure supply of healthier food*
- *Greater preparedness for supply chain shocks, disruption, and impacts of chronic risks*

Many of these changes will take time to be delivered at scale but crucially, the new strategy recognises food partnerships as essential to delivering these priorities, highlighting them as best-practice incubators already making change happen.

We are also conscious of the need to develop regional as well as national food resilience as articulated in Professor Tim Lang's ['Just in Case: 7 Steps to Narrow the UK Civil Food Resilience Gap'](#) report for the National Preparedness Commission in February 2025, and the recently published (September 2025) evidence from the [UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\) research programme](#) which has identified 27 action areas that will help make the nation's food healthier, fairer and greener. These actions include:

Regenerative production

- *support independent agronomic advice*
- *'lighthouse' farms*
- *long-term (10-year plus) evidence on environmental and financial outcomes*

Manufacturing and supply chains

- *incentivise UK pulses*
- *legislate for mandatory redistribution of surplus and waste food*
- *back place-based logistics and digital platforms*

Food environments

- *scale supermarket interventions*
- *expand vouchers*
- *standardise simple health-and-environment labels*
- *reformulate menus in public sector catering*

Empowered communities

- *strengthen social enterprise models*
- *rebalance supply-chain power toward producers*
- *make co-production the norm in local decision-making*

Policy and governance

- *apply systems approaches to public procurement*
- *improve national-local delivery*
- *explore a cross-government food systems body and an open evidence centre*

As these are complex food systems issues that we cannot tackle in isolation, we have revived our relationship with [Fix Our Food](#), as our last major connection was via their Yorkshire Food System Summit in March 2023. We met in September 2025 to explore

ways to initiate and engage local organisations in improving connections and collaboration across the local supply chain with a focus on the [Three Horizons](#) approach to systems change.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

Part of our work to improve food across institutions in Hull also recognises that it is not enough to simply provide better food, but those people engaged in procuring, cooking and serving that food also understand why it is important. That is why we have engaged with local business [William Jackson Food Group](#) to support the delivery of the [Chefs in Schools](#) 'School Chef Educator' programme for free to school catering staff in Hull.

This consists of a hybrid training model with 2 in-person training sessions at the [Tiger's Trust](#) catering kitchen in Hull, and 8 weeks of self-directed learning using the Chefs in Schools online learning platform. Follow up support includes a Chefs in Schools Membership bursary, half day session focussing on practical skills and operational support, and additional in-person training for school chefs and Senior Leadership Teams.

Over the life of this project (2023-2025), 36 school chefs and team members participated, with 51 schools and 5 Multi Academy Trusts impacted and 14,160 children potentially impacted by the training (33% in receipt of Free School Meals)

Food education matters, it supports young people's health, wellbeing and independence, whilst also contributing to wider social, environmental and economic goals, which is why we are now embarking on the next phase of this work with William Jackson Food Group to bring the [TasteEd](#) child-focussed programme to schools in Hull. The first sessions will begin to be delivered in the Autumn 2025 term, with follow up engagement taking place in 2026.

Key Issue 6: Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food & farming and an end to food waste

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Action area A: Promote sustainable food production and consumption and resource efficiency

In March 2019, [Hull City Council declared a climate emergency](#) and that the "Council resolves to do everything within the Council's power to make Hull carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions".

Hull Food Partnership is a contributor to Hull City Council's new climate and nature strategy which is being developed to replace the previous [Hull 2030 Carbon Neutral Strategy](#) that had few provisions relating to food within it.

Working with Hull City Council's Climate Change Manager and team, the new strategy has the following items earmarked for inclusion following representation from Hull Food Partnership:

The current food system causes irreversible damage to the planet with commercial and consumer decisions playing their role. In the UK, food contributes 30% of total greenhouse gas emissions, 10 million tonnes of food is wasted every year and 90% of fisheries are fully exploited or overfished. Hull's Climate and Nature Action Plan will aim to:

- *Gather metrics on the impacts of food policies and particularly on greenhouse gas emissions, this is a challenge local authorities face. Sustain has produced the [Every Mouthful Counts toolkit](#) for Local Authorities, which has already helped more than 50 councils in the UK identify where significant food emissions can be cut. The toolkit provides estimates of the emissions reductions that various actions may deliver, as well as the co-benefits for public health and wellbeing, nature and biodiversity, local communities, and economic development.*
- *Hotels, restaurants, and retail establishments should receive targets and guidance to prevent food waste at source. Accreditation such as the [Green Kitchen Standard](#) can be used by caterers to prove their environmental credentials and provide a clear point of difference to set their service apart from the rest. This can mean cost savings as well as aligning with energy, water and waste requirements of the Defra Plan for Public Procurement and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.*

Hull Food Partnership is also a Silver Member of '[Oh Yes! Net Zero](#)'. Established in 2022 by founding partners Reckitt, Hull City Council, Future Humber and the University of Hull, the campaign's objective is for Hull to lead the way in demonstrating how a city can become net zero. As one of 170 active members, spanning all sectors and industries, we amplify the net zero message by promoting the Climate Changemakers project to young people and the Carbon Clinics that are put on regularly for businesses to help reduce their climate impacts.

This is imperative as Hull is founded on reclaimed tidal marshland. The city is shaped like a bowl, [with 90% of the city sitting below sea level at high tide](#), and water that enters this bowl needs to be pumped out. The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) forecast in a worst-case emissions scenario, that a sea level rise of between 61cm and 1.1m is now likely by 2100.

Currently Hull has the second highest flood risk in the UK with 95% of properties at risk of flooding. In Hull [sustainable drainage systems \(SuDS\)](#) are being planned and delivered to

manage the area's flood risk. SuDS help to manage surface water caused by rainfall by acting in a similar way to natural water processes. SuDS improve water quality, water quantity, amenity and biodiversity.

Hull Food Partnership works with [Living With Water](#) (a partnership between Yorkshire Water, Hull City Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Environment Agency and the University of Hull) to help build understanding across Hull and the East Riding about the [threats and opportunities water brings](#) to our region. The main focus of work is to highlight the issues that Hull faces in relation to flooding and build residents' confidence around water related concerns. Targeted work with households in areas of the greatest risk has led to the [distribution of 500 free water butts](#) that can each capture 200 litres of rain, and encourage the development of watergardens/raised beds to soak up water, as well as ongoing [large scale infrastructure projects](#) such as the installation of aqua greens to capture surface water.

Hull Food Partnership also supports the [Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership Green Plan 2025-2028](#) which aims to:

- *Achieve a net zero health care system*
- *Adapt to the effects of climate change*
- *Enhance biodiversity and enable people to healthier lives and experience better wellbeing through access to the natural environment and sustainable infrastructure.*

At a household and community level, Hull Food Partnership has led on projects engaging with families to make the most of fresh food available in their neighbourhoods.

[Save Our Surplus](#) was a project using locally grown seasonal gluts of fruits and veg to show families how these can be preserved to make tasty treats for children, many of whom are currently experiencing deprivation and lack of access to good quality, nutritious food.

The project aims are to help families save money, encourage children to explore new ways of eating fruit and veg, and help avoid surplus food going to waste.

We worked with local orchards, allotments, family hubs and community groups to collect surplus food and hold informal training sessions for families on how to use the equipment to make food items such as fruit leathers that children will find appealing and have a long shelf life.

Now the project is over, Hull Food Partnership has donated the full set of food preservation equipment to the [Hull Library of Stuff](#), including:

- Professional Food Dehydrator

- Jam Making Equipment
- Fruit Crusher and Fruit Press
- Pasteuriser and Juice Extractor
- Bottling Equipment
- Instructions on how to use all of the above

As a resource for the entire community, members of the public can hire the equipment at very reasonable prices from the Hull Library of Stuff.

The Hull Library of Stuff is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company with a serious commitment to the reduction of waste and climate damaging emissions, with a focus on encouraging a circular economy.

Action Area B: Reduce, redirect, and recycle food, packaging, and related waste

For over a decade Hull City Council has been a forerunner in taking household food and garden waste from residents and businesses and sending it to local environmental company [Wastewise](#), based in East Yorkshire. This waste is then turned into compost which is used in municipal parks and green spaces, and is periodically offered to residents, businesses and VCSE groups for free to encourage them to grow their own produce, over the past year we have given away 50 tonnes of Hull generated compost, and the next residents compost giveaway is planned for April 2026, which is usually very successful as the last event distributed 2,400 x 25kg bags of Hull compost to residents.

For every tonne of organic waste which goes for composting, approx. 40% is lost to moisture (steam) leaving the actual amount of compost produced per tonne at approximately 60% of the input. Statistics over the past three years are as follows:

Year	Organic Waste (Garden & Food)	Food Waste	Compost produced
2024/25	16,166 tonnes	4,171 tonnes	2,503 tonnes
2023/24	17,405 tonnes	4,516 tonnes	2,710 tonnes
2022/23	15,665 tonnes	4,041 tonnes	2,425 tonnes

To support this, Hull Food Partnership has created a [factsheet on reducing food waste](#) for residents and businesses, to help them save food from landfill in the first instance, and various initiatives such as those promoted by WRAP and the Guardians of Grub.

This information has been compiled to take account of the new Simpler Recycling legislation which places greater duties on organisations to recycle and dispose of all forms of waste efficiently. Hull City Council has also been refreshing guidance across all waste

types and recruiting new officers and volunteers (named 'bin-tellecuals') to raise awareness across the council estate. New literature is being developed to target commercial premises, so they are aware of their new duties. Smaller organisations have until March 2027 to comply and getting them ready in time is crucial.

Collectively we are working to raise awareness of this programme through:

- Possible routes to engage with businesses, including a flyer insert in the next business rates correspondence
- Inclusion in the 6 monthly 'Hull CC News' magazine that goes to all households - to be included as part of a wider feature on recycling.
- Initially aimed at schools KS1-2 and KS3-4, a website and education packs have been developed to engage children and young people in sorting and disposing of waste correctly at school and at home. A website to support this will be launched at the end of the year.
- With sticker packs and digital lesson plans already in place for KS1-2, and KS3-4 nearly ready, a decision was taken to replicate the resources by expanding waste education across businesses and households as the messaging works well at all levels.
- Using funding from the government's Simpler Recycling programme, new resources are being developed which include downloadable packs, videos and presentations which illustrate the 5 steps in end-to-end recycling.

Under the banner '[Simpler Recycling Hull](#)'; a new 6 month recycling trial across Hull flats was launched in August 2025, with citywide roll out in March 2026

Part of this will be to develop and deliver a series of trials to establish the most effective solution for the collection of food waste from different flat types, trialling different container combinations, collection frequencies, resident participation and waste quality.

Hull City Council is also re-evaluating food waste as a wider issue within the council when catering for their own events as well as civic ones and those that non-council organisations hold on council premisses. Furthermore, all council buildings now have food caddies to recycle food items and the intention is that this is picked up as one of the actions in the new climate and nature strategy, with an ambition to move towards purely plant based menus at a pace that will not alienate current users of the council's catering service.

There is an acknowledgement on the sensitivity needed on how to engage in conversations relating to this, as reducing meat eating within service provision can be difficult. Any work going forward will recognise that:

- Despite the growing body of evidence around the harmful impacts of meat and dairy production and consumption, the public debate has recently become more toxic, with polarisation on both sides. A softer approach to shift opinion towards less and better quality meat is required.
- Cooking on a Budget sessions organised by the Healthy Lifestyles Team could be adapted to include messaging on the reduction of meat consumption as well as tackling kitchen waste.

As part of our wider commitments to amplify and influence positive actions around waste reduction and the need to conserve precious resources, Hull Food Partnership has supported several environmental campaigns including: Food Waste Action Week, Global Recycling Day, World Water Day and World Refill Day.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

Building on the Right to Grow, Hull Food Partnership members [Hull & East Riding Friends of the Earth](#) put forward a motion on the reduction of Glyphosate usage by Hull City Council. The motion was passed unanimously by elected members in July 2025, with following resolutions:

- *Implement a phased reduction in Glyphosate and other Glyphosate based herbicide on Council owned land (including work conducted by both Hull City Council staff and its authorised contractors and business tenants) resulting in an 80% reduction by April, 2030.*
- *Develop an alternative weed management strategy to include non-chemical alternatives to glyphosate weed management, or acceptance of the existence of wildflowers and plants as being part of a biodiverse urban ecosystem.*
- *Train relevant Council operatives in outputs of the weed management strategy.*
- *Develop and implement a clear communication plan, including: (i) engaging those participating in RTG activities to act as ambassadors of good herbicide and pesticide practice; (ii) to support understanding of wild plants, the benefits of biodiversity positive practices to encourage residents to engage with alternative strategies; (iii) use of signage to advertise the reasons why more wild plants may be establishing, and the benefits of that to people and wildlife, and (iv) establish a communication strategy that provides information about the visual impact of using less chemicals, and the positive reasons for implementing the changes (including improved flood management through soil health).*

Since spring 2024, the council no longer sprays glyphosate in 92 of the city's playgrounds and parks.