



Glasgow City

Food Plan

Annual report Year 3 July 2023 - June 24



Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Context	5
3. The governance and structures supporting delivery of the Food Plan	6
Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP)	7
Glasgow City Food Plan (GCFP) project management team	7
Research involvement	9
4. Food Plan working groups: Activities, progress and developments	10
Food poverty - Fair Food for All theme	10
Community Food theme.....	12
Catering and Procurement theme.....	13
Food Economy theme	15
Food and the Environment theme.....	16
Children and Young People theme	18
Communications working group	19
5. Progress on the interim evaluation recommendations (2022/23)	21
6. Considerations for 2024/25	22
7. Conclusions	24
Appendix 1: Glasgow University interim evaluation of Glasgow City Food Plan - Specific Recommendations.....	25
Appendix 2: Priorities for the GCFP in the coming (fourth) year of the plan (24/25)	29

1. Introduction

This Glasgow City Food Plan (GCFP) annual report covers the year from July 2023 to June 2024; the third year since the Plan's launch.

The GCFP is a ten-year framework which aims to achieve a food system in Glasgow that is fair, resilient and environmentally sustainable, and enables everyone in Glasgow to eat healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate, good food irrespective of where they live, their income or personal circumstances. It was developed between 2019 and 2021 by a multi-sector partnership, the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP), with extensive engagement with stakeholders across Glasgow. It seeks to improve collaboration, coordination, and coherence in our collective work to improve Glasgow's food system and, as result, produce better and more impactful outcomes in terms of health, equity and sustainability. There were already many innovative and established initiatives in operation, often developed from the ground up and close to the communities they serve. The Plan sought to learn from and build on these, utilising the assets and strengths already in existence.





The Plan has the following long-term outcomes:

- Improved access to healthy affordable food and reduced food insecurity.
- Increased understanding of the food system, especially with regards to nutrition and sustainability.
- More opportunities for communities to enjoy cooking and growing together.
- A thriving local food economy which promotes fair work and principles of sustainability.
- Increased availability and use of seasonal, locally grown and produced food.
- Improved health and wellbeing as a result of improvements in our food system and food environment.
- More food produced in ways that are good for the environment.
- Reduced food waste, increased redistribution of surplus food, and reduced environmental impact from food waste.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions (direct and indirect) arising from our food system.





This report was prepared by the Food Plan project management team, which is the subgroup of the GFPP tasked with developing and coordinating the implementation of the Food Plan.

The objectives of this annual report are to:

-  Describe the current governance arrangements and structures supporting the delivery of the GCFP.
-  Summarise activity, progress and developments associated with the GCFP in its third year.
-  Review progress on the recommendations in the Interim Evaluation 2022/23.
-  Lay out key considerations for Food Plan management and delivery in the coming (fourth) year of the Plan.

The purpose of this report is twofold:

-  To inform partners, funders and stakeholders about what has been achieved in year three and how future work will evolve, and to stimulate discussion about how collaborative action can be further strengthened.
-  To enable the Food Plan project team, the GFPP members and the Food Plan delivery partners to review its implementation, and together agree any changes required.

The Food Plan was developed in full acknowledgement of the extensive work already going on across the city in different sectors, organisations and parts of the food system, and sought to better understand it. This included work to improve health and wellbeing, equity and social justice, skills and opportunities, the environment and biodiversity, as well as work to strengthen communities and resilience. In developing the Food Plan, the GFPP sought to find ways to build on existing successes so that the pace and scale of positive change could be increased. The GFPP wanted to identify and address the barriers to progress that too many small projects encounter as they establish themselves.

The GFPP knows that partners can achieve much more when they support one another, collaborating and coordinating their work across sectors, across communities, and across the food system. The Food Plan set out to provide a framework to do this. Each year, it is important to review progress, reflect on success, challenges and learning, and revise the approach in order to continue to improve progress and impact. This report is a key means of providing a common point of reference for that process across the multiple partners.



2. Context



The delivery context in 2023/24 has been difficult. High food and energy prices, increasing food insecurity and economic hardship, and disruptions to previously reliable food supply chains have affected all stakeholders. There have also been significant challenges around resourcing; much of the work to improve the food system relies on limited – if any – funding, often in small, short-term or project-specific lots, which makes long-term change difficult. Staff shortages and changes across partner organisations in all sectors have led to reduced capacity, further exacerbating delivery challenges.

Despite these circumstances, GCFP stakeholders have continued to recognise the important and pressing nature of the equity, health and environmental problems associated with the current food system. The population level trends continue to show that the food system is driving a lot of health and other harm, including low levels of healthy weight in adults and children, particularly in areas of concentrated deprivation, growing levels of diabetes type 2 diagnoses, dramatic increases in food insecurity, growing numbers of local food enterprises and community organisations struggling to survive, and high levels of wasted food in general waste streams resulting in unnecessary carbon emissions. These trends demonstrate that this work is more urgent than ever, and the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 demonstrates it is a political priority. Food Plan partners have worked flexibly and collaboratively in 2023/24 to adapt delivery of the Plan to the delivery context and, despite the challenges, a huge amount is being done and commitment is strong.

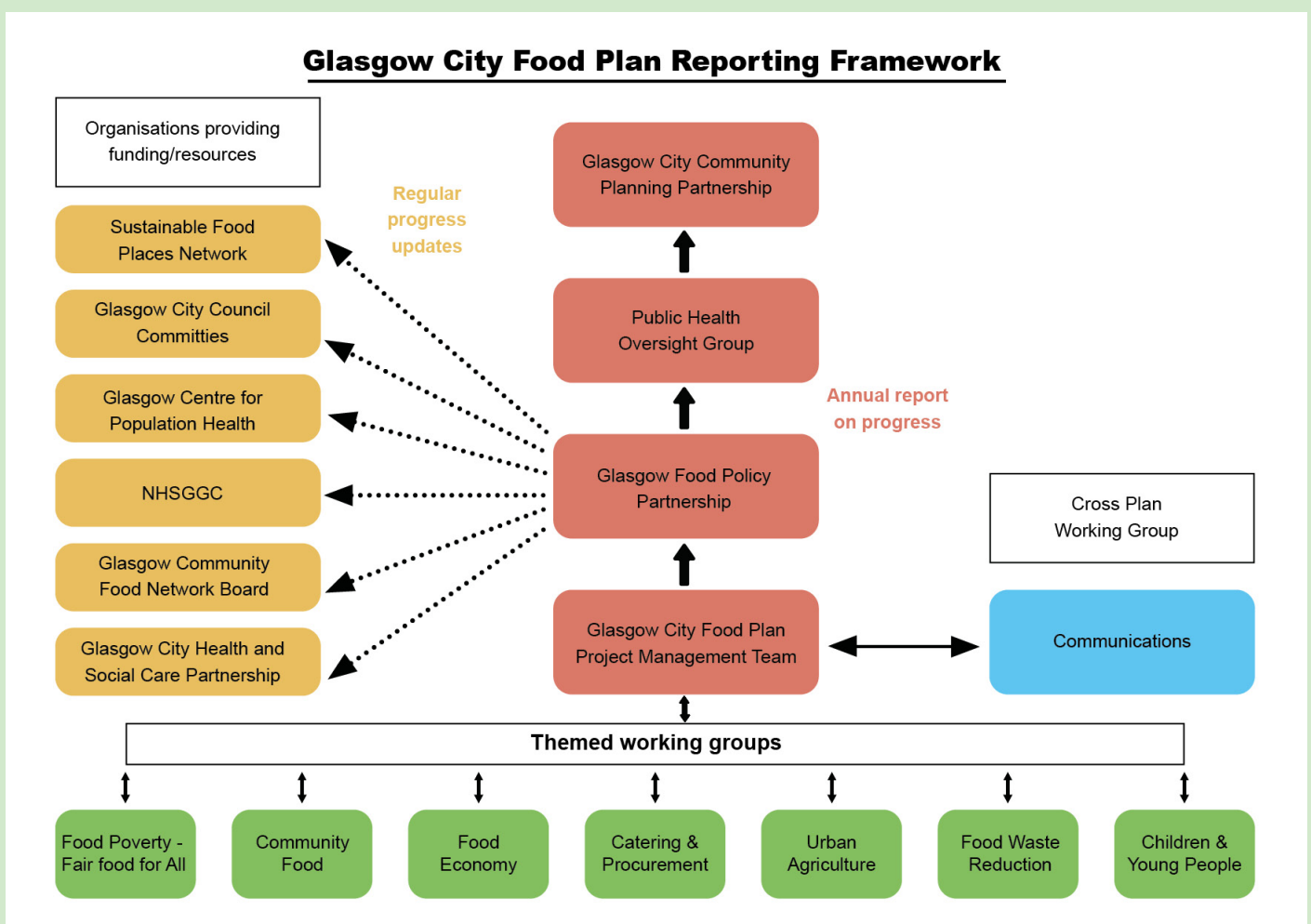
In 2022/23 stakeholders participating in the [interim evaluation of the Food Plan](#) highlighted that the large number of actions listed in the initial Food Plan were considered by many stakeholders to be too difficult to address in the current context, and suggested that some priorities be identified for taking forward in the first instance. In 2023/24 these priorities were identified within the Food Plan working groups, resulting in four-to-five priorities for each. These are listed in Appendix 2. This does not mean that the other actions will not be progressed, but rather that working groups can focus their efforts on agreed priorities in the short-term, with a view to addressing other actions in the future.



3. The governance and structures supporting delivery

When the Food Plan was launched in 2021 a reporting framework was agreed so that there was a clear and agreed process for governance. An updated version of this is outlined in Figure 1 and this section describes the components of this in more detail.

Figure 1: Glasgow City Food Plan reporting framework



3.1 Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP)

The GFPP is the partnership that oversees the Glasgow City Food Plan. There are 21 public, private and third sector partners represented, and it meets twice yearly. At these meetings, the Glasgow City Food Plan project management team presents progress on the Food Plan and other relevant developments, and seeks guidance from partners on a range of related issues. The GFPP reports on Food Plan progress to the [Public Health Oversight Group](#) (PHOG) which is a subgroup of the Glasgow City Community Planning Partnership. The PHOG provides coherence and governance for progressing the shared public health agenda of community planning partners, focusing particularly on public health themes that can be jointly developed and delivered.



3.2 Glasgow City Food Plan (GCFP) project management team

The Food Plan project management team meets regularly to coordinate its delivery, to ensure consistency and encourage collaboration and communication across Food Plan working groups, to promote and share learning, to engage with relevant research opportunities and to enable accurate monitoring and reporting. In addition, the group works to align and integrate the Food Plan with other relevant policies, strategies and committees, contributes to the Scottish and UK Sustainable Food Places Networks, provides a knowledge exchange function by working with academics and colleagues, and provides opportunities for public participation. The project management team is also responsible for compiling the annual report.

The project management team consists of the organisations leading on the eight working groups, and currently includes: Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH), Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP), Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), and Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN). The team reports to the GFPP. The project management team is led by a public health programme manager at GCPH, who also chairs the GFPP, and supported by Glasgow's Sustainable Food Places coordinator, who is employed by GCFN and hosted by GCPH.



Project team activities, progress and developments in 23/24

- Commissioned the [University of Glasgow interim evaluation](#) (at end of Year 2 of the Food Plan) which was published in October 2023: findings were reviewed by the GCFP project team in 2023/24 and are informing future plans (Appendix 1).
- Organised the second [Glasgow City Food Summit](#): over 150 stakeholders came together at Glasgow's City Chambers to reflect on successes to date, to learn about good practice in other places, and to work together to prioritise action for the future in Glasgow. GCPH and GCC collaborated on the delivery of this summit.
- Organised a tour for local elected representatives to visit and see first-hand some of the progressive food work in the city. They visited [Locavore](#) market garden, a primary school lunch, and the [food pantry at Garnethill Multicultural Centre](#).
- Organised a workshop, in collaboration with Glasgow City HSCP and GCFN, with community organisations and community members to gather insights from those with lived experience of food insecurity and to engage in conversations about the future priorities for the GCFP.
- Worked with GCC to support the establishment of a Council officer's group to support delivery of the GCFP across the GCC. GCC have also appointed their first convenor for food and the GCFP.
- Presented to almost all Glasgow's Area Partnerships about the GCFP and discussed with them how they could support its delivery in their local work. This has led to several collaborations.
- Applied for and awarded the [Silver Sustainable Food Places Award](#) for Glasgow City in recognition of the considerable progress made on the GCFP in its first two years.
- Presented the work of the Glasgow City Food Plan model to other local authorities, university students and the Sustainable Food Places UK and Scotland networks.



3.3 Research involvement

An important aspect of the Glasgow City Food Plan is to contribute to knowledge development and knowledge exchange in order to inform and improve future policy and practice. The GCFP project team works closely with academics in a range of institutions to help ensure that the GCFP is informed by the most up-to-date evidence, and that developments in practice are appropriately evaluated.

In 23/24 a number of research collaborations were established:

- £5k from the [Scottish Alliance on Food \(SCAF\) Pump Priming Fund](#) is enabling evaluation of the *Full of Beans* campaign.
- A joint PhD began (led by the Adam Smith Business school, in partnership with GCPH/GFPP): “Diet Transition: Understanding the Effectiveness of Community Organisations in Supporting Change”.
- Active participation in the [Scottish Alliance on Food \(SCAF\) theme](#) on food security, environment and community (Jill Muirie).
- Involvement in [GALLANT Green Recovery Dialogues: food systems transformations](#) (Jill Muirie).

The logo for 'Full of Beans' features the words in a playful, rounded font. Each letter is a different color and has a bean-like shape or texture. Above the word 'Beans', there are three small, stylized bean illustrations in red, orange, and yellow.

4. Food Plan working groups: Activity, progress and developments

There are eight working groups that currently exist to coordinate and support delivery of the Food Plan actions: seven working groups relating to the six themes of the Food Plan and a Communications working group. The following sections provide summaries of activities, progress and developments for each of the working groups in 2023/24.

4.1 Food poverty - Fair Food for All theme

The Fair Food for All Partnership coordinates delivery of this theme. It was established in 2023/24 following the merger of the Food Plan's Fair Food for All working group and Glasgow City's Food Poverty Pathfinder partnership, and in the light of the successful GFPP funding application to Scottish Government for a 'Cash First' project in Glasgow City¹. The Cash First project in Glasgow is funded by the Scottish Government for 24 months and is led by the GFPP and GCPH, with project delivery in close collaboration with partners.

The Fair Food for All Partnership brings partners together from the public and third sectors to collaborate on improving access to healthy affordable food and reducing food insecurity. The Partnership advises and supports the implementation of the Cash First project in ways that align with other work in the GCFP and across Glasgow, as well as overseeing delivery of the other priorities in the Fair Food for All theme of the GCFP.

In 2023/24 the Fair Food for All Partnership was jointly chaired by Siobhan Boyle (Glasgow City HSCP) and Nick Hopkins (Glasgow SE Trussell Trust Food Bank) and supported by the new 'Cash First' project lead, Faiza Hansraj-Jackson (GCPH).



¹ Eight 'Cash First' projects were funded by Scottish Government as part of their ['Towards ending the need for food banks in Scotland'](#) strategy 2023.



Fair Food for All activities, progress and developments in 23/24

- Supported dissemination of the Glasgow City HSCP Emergency Infant Feeding Pathway citywide via local food partners and networks, and facilitated the development and cascading of a cost-of-living guide. Both of these are practical tools to support appropriate signposting by front line staff to relevant support services for those in financial difficulty (lead: Glasgow City HSCP).
- Developed Glasgow's application for a Scottish Government funded 'Cash First' project which was successful. The project is led by the GCPH in partnership with the GFPP, supported by the HSCP, GCC and Trussell Trust. A project lead has been in post since April 2024 and is working on the delivery plan with partners through the newly established Fair Food for All Partnership.
- By aligning to the priorities of the Food Plan, NHSGGC secured funding from Scottish Government to continue and expand the [Thrive Under 5](#) (TU5) project until the end of March 2026 as part of the *Whole Family Support Through General Practice* project (lead: NHSGGC and GHSCP). Through this project, low-income families receive a package of support via a financial inclusion pathway that includes income maximisation, meal packs, pantry membership and vouchers for fuel and cooking equipment. Weekly [Alexandra Rose vouchers](#) for fruit and vegetables from a local outlet were also provided in Drumchapel and Ruchazie areas. Glasgow City Council's Cash First Fund has also supported *Thrive Under 5* with additional funding for meal packs in 2024/25 and to continue *Alexandra Rose vouchers* for a further year with an extension to activity within South Glasgow. An evaluation of the project, undertaken by GCPH, will be available in autumn 2024 and the findings will inform development of the project in its next phase.

As part of
TU5
in 23/24:



- ➔ **230** families were referred to the Financial Inclusion Pathway generating **£286,707** in financial gains.
- ➔ **129** families received a free pantry membership with access to 12 free pantry "shops" (**1548** shops in total).
- ➔ **116** families received a £20 voucher to purchase cooking equipment.
- ➔ **126** families received meal packs, once a week for eight weeks (**1008** family meals distributed).
- ➔ **144** families (**287** children) received Alexandra Rose vouchers to spend on fruit and vegetables at local retail outlets.




4.2 Community Food theme


The Community Food working group brings public and third sector partners together to work on Food Plan actions that increase opportunities for communities to enjoy growing, cooking and eating together and to support the valuable role community food initiatives play in communities across the city.

The Community Food working group was previously led by the Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN), however it was unable to meet in 23/24 due to resourcing constraints. Plans are developing for its re-establishment in 24/25. Despite this, partners have continued to deliver collaboratively on a number of community food actions, and these are outlined below.

Community Food activities, progress and developments in 23/24

 GCFN's [Food and Climate Action](#) project was established in 2021, funded by the National Lottery to support the contribution of the third sector to the implementation of the Glasgow City Food Plan. It has continued to deliver community engagement activities on locally important issues relating to food and climate action in five areas of Glasgow. As part of this:

-  [Climate Crumbs](#), their free professional development programme for community practitioners, has been delivered through a series of training workshops (lead: GCFN).
-  [Composting for the Future](#), a campaign supporting community groups to realise their composting projects through peer budgeting, has led activities across Glasgow. In 2023/24, there were awards of £3000 made to ten community organisations (lead: GCFN).
-  Food education, including delivery of cooking and growing and climate action workshops and activities, have taken place in partnership with all five host organisations (lead: GCFN).

 An online, open source [information hub](#), providing details on the wide range of community food organisations, activities and projects across Glasgow city as well as a *free food in Glasgow* map, has been maintained and publicised. Work will continue in 2024/25 to further develop this (lead: GCFN).

 GCFN's [Cash First Community Food Project](#) (funded by Scottish Government) involved mapping current Cash First/Money Advice activity across Glasgow's community food sector, working with researchers to understand how gaps in understanding and service provision are being addressed and promoting cash first approaches in reducing the need for foodbanks and food aid. Working with the GFPP helped ensure alignment with the Fair Food for All working group's plans for a Cash First project which were in development (lead: GCFN).



NHSGGC arranged a series of funded community-based opportunities to support community cooking and increase relevant skills (food hygiene, community cooking training). In 2023/24, there were 14 of these Cooking Skills Courses, with 75 participants (lead: NHSGGC).



4.3 Catering and Procurement theme

The Catering and Procurement working group brings catering and procurement specialists together to work on progressing Food Plan actions relating to public sector catering and procurement.

The working group was re-established in June 2024 after a year-long pause due to capacity constraints in partner organisations. Despite this pause, some partners continued to deliver collaboratively on several actions. For example, GCC Catering and Facilities Management team maintained their Food for Life Served Here (FFLSH) award, and Soil Association Scotland's focused work in Glasgow resulted in a number of public sector food outlets achieving their FFLSH award.



Catering and Procurement activities, progress and developments

in 23/24

- Glasgow City Council Catering and Facilities Management team maintained their Bronze Food for Life Award for school meals despite financial and supply challenges (lead: GCC CFM team).
- After the year-long Soil Association Food for Life Expansion project in Glasgow in 22/23, the Food For Life Served Here Award reached 270 sites across five organisations. This means that they meet 13 key standards, including that at least 75% of dishes are freshly prepared from unprocessed ingredients each day. Details of award recipients are in Table 1.

Table 1: Food For Life Served Here Award holders Glasgow (August 2024)

Site	Date of First Award	No. of Sites	Current FFLSH Award Level	Meal numbers
Glasgow City Council Early Years	August 2024	113	Bronze	37,000 per day
Glasgow City Council Primary Schools	July 2021	132		
Glasgow City Council ASN Schools	July 2021	20		
Scottish Government Workplaces	March 2023 (Bronze), September 2023 (Silver)	1 in Glasgow, 3 in Edinburgh	Silver	60,000 per year, potentially 15,000 per year for Glasgow site
Glasgow High & Sheriff Courts	April 2023	2	Bronze	99,000 per year
City of Glasgow College	July 2024	1	Bronze	70,000 per year
Glasgow Caledonian University	December 2023	1	Bronze	150,000 per year



4.4 Food Economy theme

The Food Economy working group brings public, private, social enterprise and third sector partners together to oversee and coordinate delivery of the GCFP's food economy-related actions that will contribute to a thriving local food economy which increases the availability and use of local, healthy food and promotes fair work and principles of sustainability. In 2023/24 the working group was led by Riikka Gonzalez, Glasgow's Sustainable Food Places Coordinator.

Food Economy activities, progress and developments in 23/24

- Supported the development and implementation of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce's innovative [Grounds for Recycling](#) initiative that redirected used coffee grounds from cafes during the World Cycling Championships (August 2023) in Glasgow to Botanic Gardens to supplement their composting (lead: Glasgow Chamber of Commerce).
- Supported development of a pilot for the Glasgow Community Food Markets initiative. This took the form of a fruit and vegetable market in Whiteinch, Glasgow. Weekly markets at Whiteinch are planned for 24/25, with a roll out to other areas planned for early 2025 (lead: Glasgow Community Markets CIC).
- Worked with further education providers (City of Glasgow College and Glasgow Kelvin College) to improve/integrate food sustainability education in their work. This has included both colleges taking part in and leading practical workshops for Glasgow's 'Full of Beans' campaign.
- As part of the 'Full of Beans' campaign, eight local restaurants took part in the campaign's 'Beans on the Menu' Challenge in March (more details under 'Communications').
- Developed and launched the second edition of the [Glasgow Sustainable Food Directory](#) in collaboration with Slow Food Glasgow. Also started development of the third edition, which will be launched in the second half of 2024 (lead: GFPP and Slow Food Glasgow). The Sustainable Food Directory is a mechanism for engaging with, supporting and celebrating local food enterprises which are working to incorporate sustainability and health improvement practice. Some of the members of the First Edition had sadly closed their doors due to low numbers of customers (food shops/restaurants), and staffing issues (restaurants). These issues have been directly influenced by the cost-of-living-crisis and the pandemic. Despite these challenges, more venues have joined the directory and numbers are growing:
 - FIRST EDITION October 2021. Total venues: 24; 8 food shops, 4 cafés & takeaways, 11 restaurants
 - SECOND EDITION June 2023. Total venues: 27; 7 food shops, 6 cafés & takeaways, 14 restaurants
 - THIRD EDITION September 2024. Total venues: 39; 9 food shops, 11 cafés & takeaways, 19 restaurants



4.5 Food and the Environment theme

Following the interim evaluation of the GCFP in 23/24, the actions in this theme were split across two working groups: Food Waste Reduction (led by Jill Muirie, GCPH) and Urban Agriculture (led by Ebany Dohle, GCFN).

4.5.1 Food Waste Reduction working group

The Food Waste Reduction working group has a primary focus on preventing food waste, and maximising redistribution of surplus food, but also supports the composting project for unavoidable food waste, which is being undertaken within the Community Food theme of the Food plan.

Activities, progress and developments in 23/24

- An application to Starbucks 'Eat it up' fund was prepared by a collaboration of Milk café, GCFN and GFPP for a project to collect and process surplus fruit and vegetables into fermented and preserved products for distribution through community food projects and pantries. Unfortunately, this application was unsuccessful (lead: Milk café).
- Focusing on prevention of food waste (rather than recycling of food waste) the recent Zero Waste Scotland online 'bitesize' training was disseminated to partners for incorporation into, for example, student inductions in 2024/25 (lead: ZWS).
- GCC Catering and Facilities Management developed plans for a food waste prevention campaign in schools in 2024/25 (lead: GCC CFM).



4.5.2 Urban Agriculture working group

The Urban Agriculture working group has a primary focus on supporting sustainable forms of market gardening and horticulture in and around Glasgow. Community gardens and allotments, an important part of the food system in Glasgow, are addressed in the Community Food theme of the Food Plan. This group didn't meet in 2023/24 but hosted an evidence-gathering session in May which will inform plans to reestablish the group in 2024/25.

Activities, progress and developments in 23/24

- Glasgow Community Food Network has continued to work with communities to explore the potential to develop an urban farm in Glasgow, which grows food in sustainable ways and provides training and employability opportunities for local communities (lead: GCFN). This development work will continue in 2024/25.
- GCC initiated their Glasgow Food System Development Fund, making £485k available to projects delivered by third sector organisations to further the aims of the Glasgow City Food Plan, and make a direct contribution to its outcomes. It is particularly seeking to support work that increases the resilience of Glasgow's food system. There were 17 projects selected to receive funding in 2023/24. Information on these projects is being collected and will be reported and used to inform future work (lead: GCC).



4.6 Children and Young People theme

The Children and Young People working group brings public and third sector partners together to oversee and coordinate delivery of Food Plan actions that specifically target children and young people. These aim for better health and wellbeing through improvements in their understanding of and access to healthy, affordable food, and through changes to their food environments, including in their schools and communities. In 2023/24 the working group was led by Jill Muirie (Glasgow Centre for Population Health).

Children and Young People activities, progress and developments in 23/24

- Revision and launch of the [Your Body Matters](#) curriculum resource in primary schools, which covers a range of aspects of the food system and health. The resource is being rolled out this year (lead: NHSGGC) and evaluated by the University of Glasgow (lead: UofG).
- Supported development of Good Food Groups in schools across Glasgow, providing monthly opportunities to share learning and good practice, as well as opportunities to attract resources and funding (lead: GCC Education Services).
- [UNICEF Baby Friendly Gold Award](#) maintained and roll out of [Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland campaign](#) (lead: Glasgow City HSCP).
- A dedicated webinar and podcast highlighting the successful work in Glasgow to support breastfeeding in a range of settings (leads: GFPP comms and Glasgow HSCP).
- Provided opportunities for partners to engage in the roll out of NHSGGC's new [HENRY programme](#) to support children to maintain a healthy weight (lead: NHSGGC).
- Worked with GCC Education Services and Catering and Facilities Management to support the 'Full of Beans' campaign in schools, which will result in more bean dishes on school meals menus in 24/25 (leads: GFPP comms and GCC).
- Supported a collaboration between Nourish Scotland, Glasgow University, Glasgow HSCP and GCC to trial a programme to increase familiarity and consumption of vegetables in early years establishments. This was evaluated by University of Glasgow as part of the Scottish Collaboration on Food (lead: SCAF).



4.7 Communications working group

The Communications working group develops and delivers a range of communication outputs related to the Glasgow City Food Plan, including the 'Good Food for Glasgow' communications campaign. These include a newsletter, public and stakeholder events, the webinar and podcast series, and focused campaigns. The working group is led by Riikka Gonzalez, Glasgow's Sustainable Food Places Coordinator, and benefits from the support of Thalia Groucott, the Good Food for Glasgow Campaign Co-ordinator, appointed in 2022 specifically to support GCFP/GFPP-related communications and engagement. The working group also benefits from contributions from the GCPH communications team, GCFN communications officer and representatives from Glasgow HSCP, NHSGGC and the University of Glasgow.

Activities, progress and developments in 23/24

- The [Good Food for Glasgow campaign](#) has gone from strength to strength with community-based events, active social media presence (500+ followers), monthly webinars (230 average views per webinar) and podcasts attracting a growing number of followers. The campaign aims to get more people involved in 'Good Food' activities in Glasgow and to increase knowledge about GCFP and work to improve the food system (leads: GCFN and GFPP).
- Launched an [open-access webinar programme](#) as part of the *Good Food For Glasgow* campaign to highlight and share learning from projects, research and other activities that are working towards a more sustainable and healthy food system (leads: GFPP with GCPH).
- Developed the [Full of Beans campaign](#) which was launched in January 2024 with support from the global SDG Advocacy Hub's ['Beans is How'](#) campaign team, the [Beanmeals](#) project from the University of Oxford and many local stakeholders. This city-wide campaign worked with partners to promote greater consumption of beans and pulses as part of a healthy, planet-friendly diet in Glasgow. A range of events, hands-on workshops and communications took place over the eight months of the campaign and a number of high profile food outlets took part by putting 'beans on the menu' for the month of March (leads: GCFN and GFPP).



The Full
of Beans
campaign
resulted
in:



- ➔ **10** campaign partners
- ➔ **244** people attended the Full of Beans webinar, **57** viewed it later
- ➔ **8** food outlets engaging in the #BeansOnTheMenu initiative
- ➔ **20+** public & stakeholder events, with **400+** event participants
- ➔ over **45,000** social media reach impressions
- ➔ development of new bean-based school meals for primary and secondary schools
- ➔ endorsement from the Scottish Government's Population Health Directorate
- ➔ funding (from the Scottish Alliance for Food programme) for an evaluation of the impact of the campaign



5. Progress on the interim evaluation recommendations (22/23)

The interim evaluation, undertaken by Glasgow University's Adam Smith Business School in summer 2023, identified three broad areas for consideration by the Food Plan project management team. In 23/24 these were addressed in the following ways:

1. Refining action plans to make goals SMART

In response, there has been a process of reflection, revision and prioritisation of actions in each of the themes for the next two-to-three years. In doing this, the focus was on actions that will benefit from collaboration and on how the limited available resources can be focused on those actions with the greatest potential for progress. These short-term priorities are detailed in Appendix 2. Some working groups have completed this process whilst others are still working through it. In addition, the Food Plan project management team have taken on more administrative and coordination actions to enable the themed working groups to focus on priorities for delivering change.

2. Intensifying collaboration and achieving more together

In response to this recommendation, there has been further work undertaken to articulate how the Food Plan supports delivery of many other policies, strategies and ambitions shared by our partners, and further consideration of opportunities for synergy and pooling resources both between partners in Glasgow and with partners across Scotland and the UK. The project team is meeting every two months to improve coordination of the different strands of the Food Plan. There have also been more collaborative funding bids with partners although these have had limited success to date.

3. Securing broader stakeholder commitments both at a community level and within the broader anchor institutions

It is widely recognised by national partners that Glasgow has a strong foundation for delivering on the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act as a result of the GCFP. The Food Plan project management team has been working on opportunities for joint working and sharing practice, for example through our podcast and planned webinar series, led by the Communications Working Group. Plans are also developing for a stakeholder engagement event later in 2024.

In addition to these three areas, 12 specific recommendations were made by the research team. Each of these has been considered as part of the ongoing evolution of the Food Plan. Appendix 1 provides further detail on responses to each of the recommendations.



6. Considerations for 2024/25

As Section 4 outlined, there was a great deal of activity in Glasgow in 2023/24 addressing the health, equity and sustainability issues influenced by the current food system. The Food Plan has provided an important means of building more collaborative approaches to these, and of raising awareness and understanding of the issues, and the projects seeking to address them.

Despite the new relationships and successes achieved in many of the Food Plan themes, there are also some areas where the anticipated progress was not made. These will be the focus of additional efforts in the 2024/25. These include:

- Responding to the challenging financial position. Partners are more stretched, with more demands and less funding, but they still need to deliver on local and national policy commitments. The Food Plan is a framework for enabling more effective joint working on these commitments but needs to be responsive to the changing delivery environment. Priorities have been identified in each working group in order to help focus the limited time and resources available in the coming year.
- Reestablishment of the Community Food working group. There is enthusiasm but capacity and resourcing challenges within third sector partners has made this difficult in 2023/24. Discussions are ongoing about possible ways forward.
- Supporting the reestablishment of the Urban Agriculture and Catering and Procurement working groups, which began this process in 23/24.
- Refreshing the Food Plan project management team. This has been somewhat depleted due to changes in staffing in partner organisations. This has meant additional work for the remaining members.
- Improving data that enables better understanding of the food system and allows appropriate monitoring of Food Plan related interventions. The Food Plan project management team will continue to work with partners to identify and develop reliable and robust data. In addition, a series of case studies will be produced that complement existing data and explore in detail the successes and challenges of specific actions being delivered as part of the Plan.
- Supporting and responding to funding opportunities, in order to enable progress on actions where capacity is limited, or to re-compensate agency involvement.
- Actively supporting partner organisations to proactively use the Food Plan in developing and promoting their work (e.g. by using the actions as anchors) and to use the Food Plan, and the partnerships established through the Plan, to submit bids.



There are some important risks to future delivery facing the Glasgow City Food Plan in the coming year. These include: funding challenges and an increasingly stretched public sector; changes in staffing in partnership organisations which limit capacity to take forward Food Plan work; stark ill-health and poverty statistics that may focus attention away from more upstream work like the Food Plan; and potential shifts in political priorities. The Food Plan project management team will seek external funding and actively engage with decision makers about the importance of the Food Plan in contributing to shared health, equity and environmental ambitions.



7. Conclusions

Delivery of the Glasgow City Food Plan has generally progressed well in 2023/24 despite a challenging delivery environment, staff shortages and changes across partner organisations leading to reduced capacity, as well as limited funding available for projects. The need for the Plan, given current population level trends in, for example, inequalities in healthy weight, and increasing food poverty, is stronger than ever. The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 recognises the urgency of this need.

In response to the recommendations in the 2023 interim evaluation, which acknowledged the challenging delivery environment, all working groups were asked to prioritise four-to-five short-term actions for each theme on which to focus for the coming two years. Although three groups (Community Food, Catering and Procurement and Urban Agriculture) have still to sign off their priorities, Appendix 2 outlines those currently agreed and proposed. Next year's annual report will provide an update on progress on these priorities. It is important to note that these priority actions are not a diversion from the original Plan, but rather priorities to enable partners to focus resources in the short term.

In terms of Food Plan management, a clear priority for 2024/25 is to reestablish regular meetings of those working groups that did not meet in 2023/24. Discussions are ongoing to make this happen. Another area of action is to provide more opportunities for members of different Food Plan working groups to meet and explore more potential areas of joint or overlapping work.

The Food Plan project management team will continue to work with partners and stakeholders to evolve and adapt delivery in line with contextual changes and, once published, the Good Food Nation Plan guidance, emerging government policy and any unforeseen funding-related issues. The project management team also will continue to 'horizon scan' for opportunities for joint working, research collaborations and opportunities for more secure funding to support and enable a collaborative approach with public, third and private sector partners to the future delivery of the Food Plan.

Jill Muirie

Chair, Glasgow Food Policy Partnership

October 2024





Appendix 1:

Glasgow University Interim evaluation of Glasgow City Food Plan – Responses to specific recommendations

Recommendation 1: Celebrate success

Taking a positive perspective and publicising the promising work underway across Glasgow is an important part of the approach adopted by the GCFP project management team. In 2023/24 success has been celebrated in a number of ways including through the Food Summit 2023, and the Good Food for Glasgow podcasts and webinars. Publicising success will continue to be an important part of Food Plan communications in 2024/25.

Recommendation 2: Improve communication and outreach

In order to raise awareness and understanding of the Food Plan amongst stakeholders and communities, members of the Food Plan project team engaged with a range of groups to discuss the Plan. These included most of the 23 Area Partnerships in Glasgow, with a number of local and national elected representatives, at national and local conferences and community based events, with community organisations and University meetings, Council, NHS and business partners. We have increased our social media presence and activity and launched our GFPP webinar series.

Recommendation 3: Actions reduced and prioritised, and measurability considered

Prioritising actions was the focus of the Food Summit 2023 workshops. This prioritisation exercise was further developed by (operational) working groups and by June 2024 most working groups had identified four-to-five priorities and were working on developing plans to measure progress. This will continue in 2024/25.

Recommendation 4: Ensure environmental and sustainability objectives cut across all themes

Integration of the three pillars of equity, health and sustainability across the Food Plan activities has, and continues to be, an important consideration in each of the themes.

Recommendation 5: Consider developing a community benefits wish list as part of the procurement work

The Catering and Procurement working group was paused in 2023 due to resource constraints and restarted in June 2024. The group will consider the possibilities relating to community benefits clauses in procurement contracts in 24/25.



Recommendation 6: Consider developing a Sustainable Restaurant Standard

This was considered as part of the collaboration with Slow Food Glasgow on the Sustainable Food Directory. It was decided to continue to develop and expand the Sustainable Food Directory approach rather than introduce a new initiative.

Recommendation 7: Ensure the food plan remains iterative and responsive

The food plan project management team will consider any new policy, practice or research developments that are relevant to the Food Plan. Proposed changes will be taken to the GFPP for discussion and approval.

Recommendation 8: Provide adequate support for new working group leads

The complex nature of the Glasgow City Food Plan is recognised and the need for new working group leads to have an adequate induction is accepted. The volatility of the current working environment would mean that any welcome pack would be quickly out of date. New working group leads will be provided with opportunities to speak with other leads, to attend other working group meetings and to have mentorship from other partners as they settle into the role.

Recommendation 9: Incorporate learning and good practice from elsewhere into the Procurement and Catering theme

The Catering and Procurement working group was paused in 2023 due to resource constraints and restarted in June 2024. A webinar highlighting and showcasing good practice in sustainable food procurement will be planned with the working group and delivered in 24/25.

Recommendation 10: Create more collaborative opportunities for food plan stakeholders

The interim evaluation highlighted that stakeholders lack awareness of the work that is happening in different working groups. The project management team have tried to address this through improving the GFPP website (Good Food for All), increasing social media communications particularly on LinkedIn, actively increasing the circulation of the newsletter and launching the webinar series to raise awareness of work underway to progress the Food Plan.

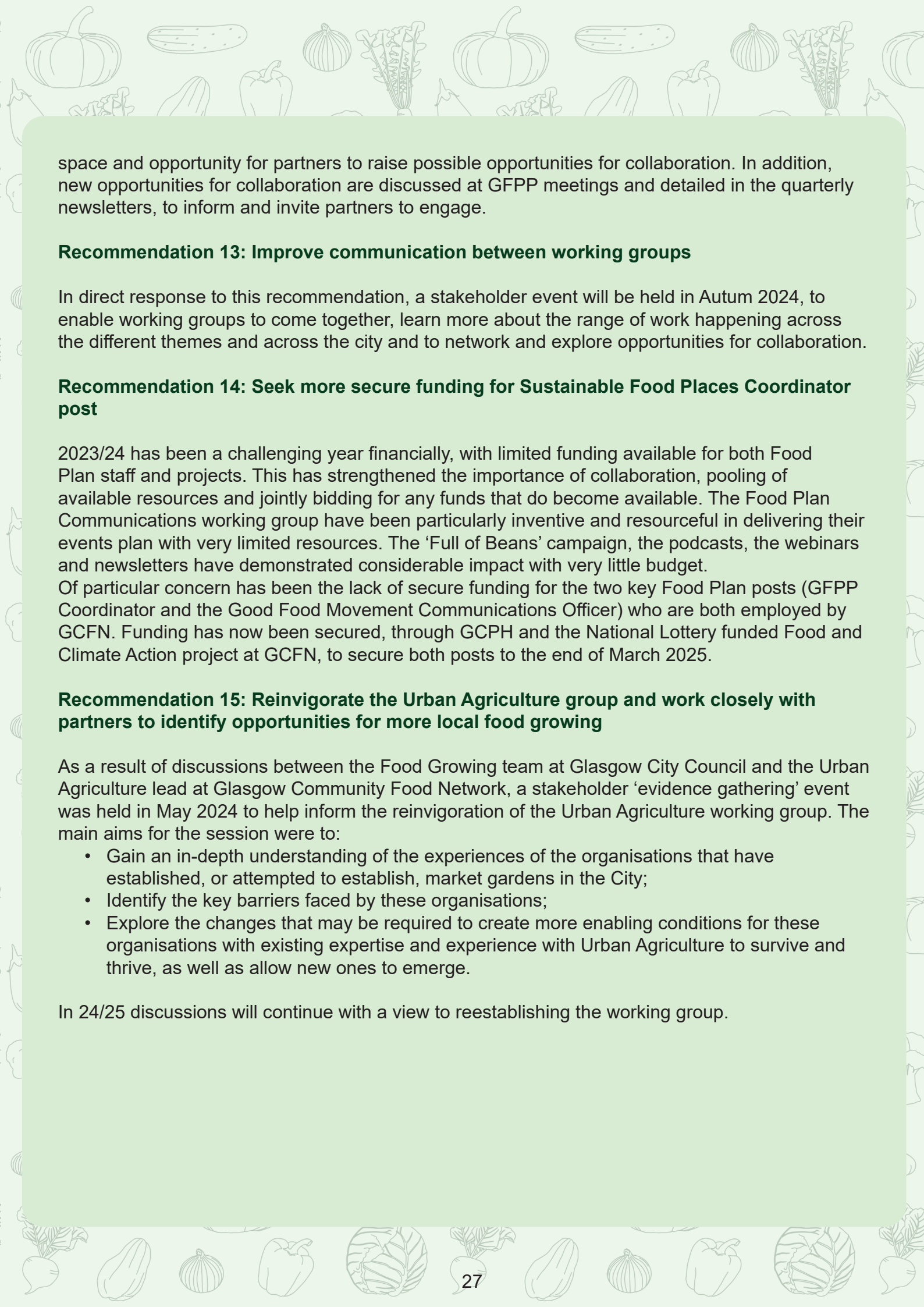
The names of members organisations and meeting minutes will also be made available on the GCFP page from Autumn 2024 onwards.

Recommendation 11: Try to maximise continuity in participation in the Food Plan

This recommendation was considered but is difficult in the current, resource-limited environment where organisational representation may vary according to operational pressures. The project team continues to work on building strong working relationships with all partners.

Recommendation 12: Provide more opportunities for joint working/collaboration at working group meetings

A standing agenda item is now included at each meeting of each working group to provide a



space and opportunity for partners to raise possible opportunities for collaboration. In addition, new opportunities for collaboration are discussed at GFPP meetings and detailed in the quarterly newsletters, to inform and invite partners to engage.

Recommendation 13: Improve communication between working groups

In direct response to this recommendation, a stakeholder event will be held in Autumn 2024, to enable working groups to come together, learn more about the range of work happening across the different themes and across the city and to network and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Recommendation 14: Seek more secure funding for Sustainable Food Places Coordinator post

2023/24 has been a challenging year financially, with limited funding available for both Food Plan staff and projects. This has strengthened the importance of collaboration, pooling of available resources and jointly bidding for any funds that do become available. The Food Plan Communications working group have been particularly inventive and resourceful in delivering their events plan with very limited resources. The 'Full of Beans' campaign, the podcasts, the webinars and newsletters have demonstrated considerable impact with very little budget.

Of particular concern has been the lack of secure funding for the two key Food Plan posts (GFPP Coordinator and the Good Food Movement Communications Officer) who are both employed by GCFN. Funding has now been secured, through GCPH and the National Lottery funded Food and Climate Action project at GCFN, to secure both posts to the end of March 2025.

Recommendation 15: Reinvigorate the Urban Agriculture group and work closely with partners to identify opportunities for more local food growing

As a result of discussions between the Food Growing team at Glasgow City Council and the Urban Agriculture lead at Glasgow Community Food Network, a stakeholder 'evidence gathering' event was held in May 2024 to help inform the reinvigoration of the Urban Agriculture working group. The main aims for the session were to:

- Gain an in-depth understanding of the experiences of the organisations that have established, or attempted to establish, market gardens in the City;
- Identify the key barriers faced by these organisations;
- Explore the changes that may be required to create more enabling conditions for these organisations with existing expertise and experience with Urban Agriculture to survive and thrive, as well as allow new ones to emerge.

In 24/25 discussions will continue with a view to reestablishing the working group.



Appendix 2:

Priorities for the GCFP in the coming (fourth) year of the Plan (24/25)

Fair Food for All (agreed)

1. Understand the levels of food insecurity in Glasgow and the specific population groups adversely affected.
2. Develop, implement and evaluate the Scottish Government funded Cash First Partnership approach for Glasgow in collaboration with key stakeholders.
3. Enhance and sustain food interventions/services that are addressing improved access to affordable, nutritious food in local communities.
4. Develop an accessibility guide to help Community Food/Advice Services maximise their accessibility to all population groups in Glasgow and to mitigate barriers for those population groups who are adversely affected.

Community Food (proposed)


1. Provide resources, support and services to enable community food organisations to deliver services appropriate to their communities.
2. Support delivery of the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy.
3. Increase community participation in planning for community food spaces, activities and ventures.
4. Increase resilience of the community food sector.

Catering and Procurement (proposed)

1. Increase proportion of locally-sourced and low-carbon produced food used in public sector catering.
2. Develop community benefits methodology and community wealth building principles in public sector food contracts, that provide support for community food initiatives.
3. Maintain Bronze Food for Life Served Here accreditation for school meals during next three years with aim to work towards Silver. Encourage other organisations to work towards the FFLSH accreditation.
4. Increase communication and opportunities for small and medium-sized [food] businesses and social enterprises to engage in public sector procurement and/or arrange supplier development opportunities.

Food Economy (agreed)

1. Work with further education providers to improve/integrate [food] sustainability education in order to improve employability prospects for the future workforce.
2. Increase the provision for easily accessible farmers and neighbourhood markets/**shops/**



pantries in all areas of the city prioritising socially and environmentally conscious (local/organic) producers.

3. Continue to encourage, support and work with more local food businesses to adopt sustainability principles (including the real living wage, circular economy, reduced waste, nature friendly and nutritious food provision) through strengthening and growing the existing work
4. Promote and advocate for local food businesses including producers, suppliers and retailers to the general public and our networks and through our communications and campaigns (including Good Food for Glasgow).

Food and Environment: Food Waste Reduction (agreed)

1. Deliver and support campaigns to encourage reductions in household and community food waste.
2. Deliver and support campaigns to encourage reductions in commercial and public sector food waste (at production and consumption stages) and increase volume sent for digestion.
3. Strengthen action to increase volume of food surplus that is redistributed.
4. Support the implementation of the Glasgow Plastic Reduction Strategy in order to reduce the volume of single-use packaging used for food.

Food and Environment: Urban Agriculture (proposed)

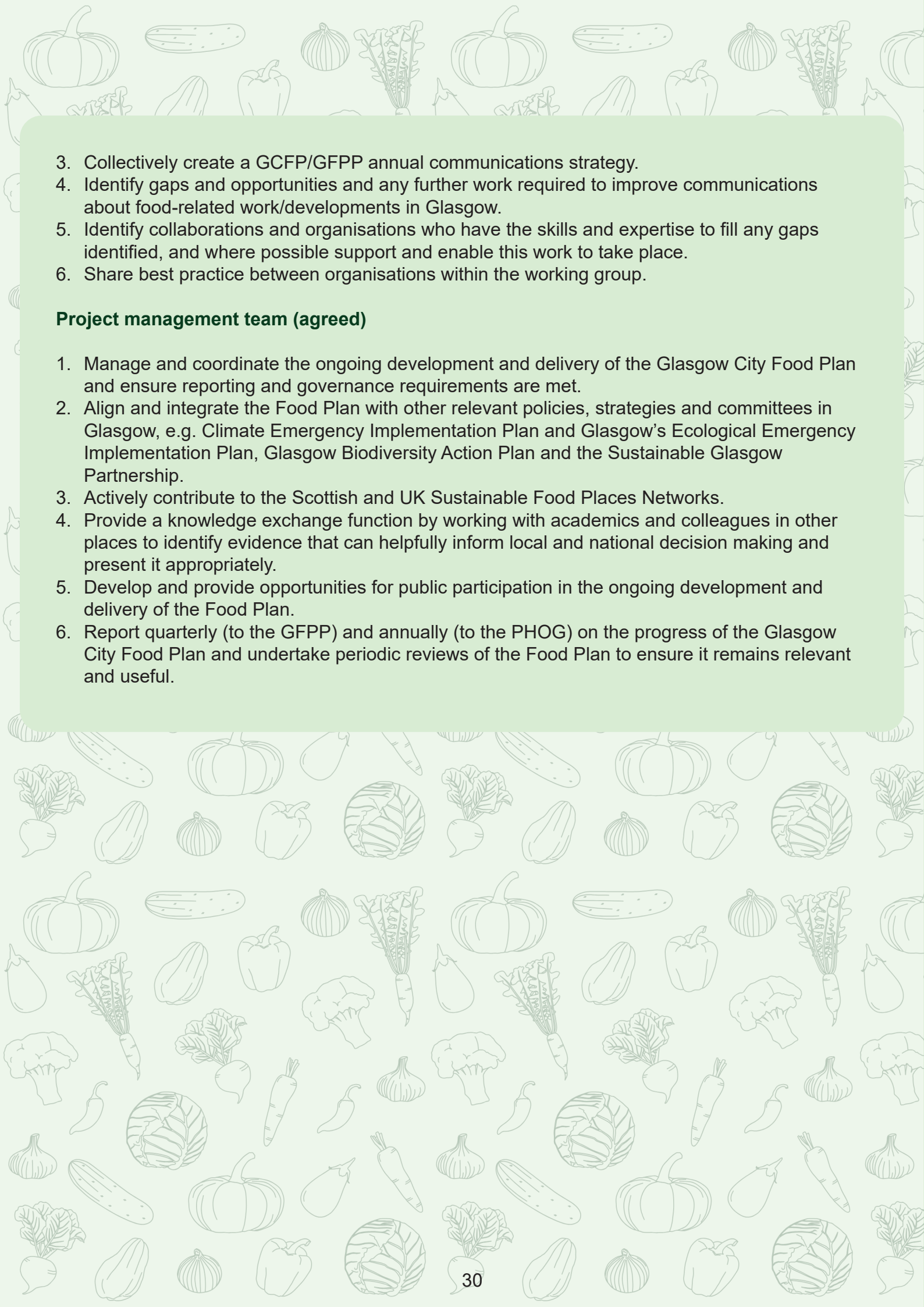
1. Identify and support more opportunities to increase land used for commercial/market scale food growing.
2. Explore opportunities to increase training opportunities and economic support for local food growing.
3. Explore opportunities to increase access/routes to markets for locally-produced food (Glasgow and Scotland).
4. Explore opportunities to increase the use of more nature-friendly techniques (including organic growing) in food production.

Children and Young People (agreed)

1. Promote and improve uptake of school meals in schools across Glasgow.
2. Establish and support more good food groups in schools across Glasgow and improve opportunities for them to support learning about the food system.
3. Promote and encourage use of Your Body Matters in schools across Glasgow and undertake and incorporate learning from evaluation of the resource.
4. Increase engagement by families in programmes to improve nutritional health - Thrive Under 5, Weigh to Go, etc. Review and evaluate the approaches.
5. Support breastfeeding through increased rollout of the Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland (BFS) scheme to businesses and BFS Early Learning scheme to Early Years providers.

Communications working group (agreed)

1. Provide guidance and expertise on Glasgow City Food Plan and GFPP communications and any campaign activity (including Good Food for Glasgow).
2. Create internal and external links to effectively circulate messages from GCFP/GFPP.

- 
3. Collectively create a GCFP/GFPP annual communications strategy.
 4. Identify gaps and opportunities and any further work required to improve communications about food-related work/developments in Glasgow.
 5. Identify collaborations and organisations who have the skills and expertise to fill any gaps identified, and where possible support and enable this work to take place.
 6. Share best practice between organisations within the working group.

Project management team (agreed)

1. Manage and coordinate the ongoing development and delivery of the Glasgow City Food Plan and ensure reporting and governance requirements are met.
2. Align and integrate the Food Plan with other relevant policies, strategies and committees in Glasgow, e.g. Climate Emergency Implementation Plan and Glasgow's Ecological Emergency Implementation Plan, Glasgow Biodiversity Action Plan and the Sustainable Glasgow Partnership.
3. Actively contribute to the Scottish and UK Sustainable Food Places Networks.
4. Provide a knowledge exchange function by working with academics and colleagues in other places to identify evidence that can helpfully inform local and national decision making and present it appropriately.
5. Develop and provide opportunities for public participation in the ongoing development and delivery of the Food Plan.
6. Report quarterly (to the GFPP) and annually (to the PHOG) on the progress of the Glasgow City Food Plan and undertake periodic reviews of the Food Plan to ensure it remains relevant and useful.



Good food for all

GLASGOW FOOD POLICY PARTNERSHIP

Website: goodfoodforall.co.uk

Twitter: [@GlasgowFPP](https://twitter.com/GlasgowFPP)

Instagram: [@goodfoodforglasgow](https://www.instagram.com/goodfoodforglasgow)

LinkedIn: [/glasgowfpp](https://www.linkedin.com/company/glasgowfpp)

Facebook: facebook.com/GlasgowFPP

Email: shw-gfpp@glasgow.ac.uk