

Glasgow City Food Plan

Annual report Year 4 July 2024 - June 25



#GlasgowCityFoodPlan



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1. Introduction

This annual report on the Glasgow City Food Plan (GCFP) covers the year from July 2024 to June 2025; the fourth full year since the Plan's launch.

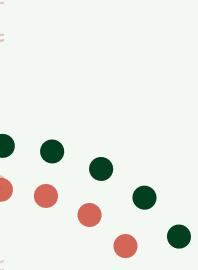
This report was prepared by the Food Plan Project Team, which is the subgroup of the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP) tasked with developing and coordinating implementation of the Food Plan.

The objectives of this annual report are to:

- Describe the changing context for the GCFP and the potential implications of this in Glasgow City.
- Summarise the activity, progress and developments associated with the GCFP that have been undertaken by Food Plan partners in 24/25.
- Review progress on the recommendations made in the 23/24 annual report.
- Identify issues for the Food Plan Project Team to consider and address in the coming (fifth) year of the plan.

The purpose of this annual report is:

- To provide an update on the changing context in which the GCFP is operating.
- To inform GCFP delivery partners and stakeholders of progress and challenges relating to GCFP delivery in its fourth year.
- To encourage discussion amongst partners and stakeholders about how future work will evolve in the changing policy context, particularly with the forthcoming Good Food Nation requirements, and to stimulate discussion about how collaborative action can be further strengthened.



2. The Glasgow City Food Plan

The GCFP is a 10-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 by a multi-sector partnership, the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP), between 2019 and 2021, with extensive engagement with stakeholders across Glasgow. It seeks to bring together partners from the community, public and private sectors to improve collaboration, coordination, and coherence in our collective work to better Glasgow's food system. The Partnership also supports and builds on the wide range of impressive food-related projects already operating across the city to increase the pace and scale of progress.

The Plan has the following long-term outcomes to be delivered over its 10-year life:

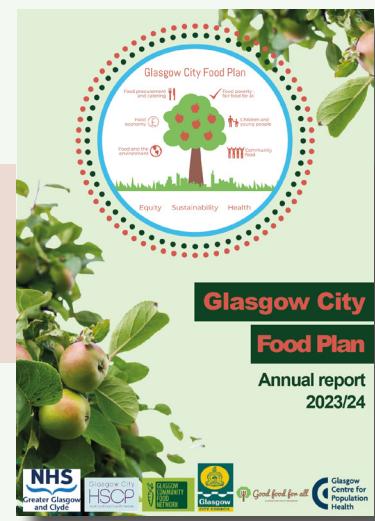
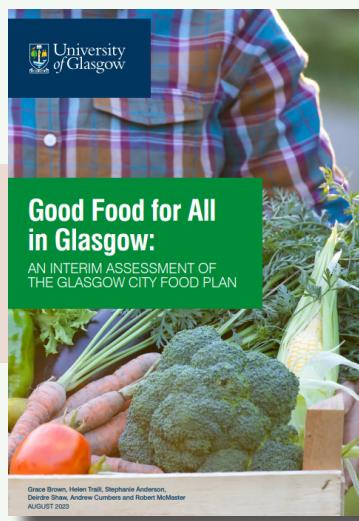
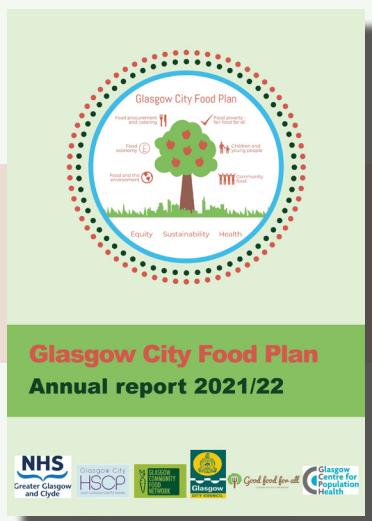
- Improved access to healthy, affordable food and reduced food insecurity.
- Increased understanding of the food system, especially with regards to nutrition and sustainability.
- More opportunities for communities to enjoy cooking and growing together.
- A thriving local food economy which promotes fair work and principles of sustainability.
- Increased availability and use of seasonal, locally grown and produced food in or close to Glasgow.
- 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.

Action to achieve these long-term outcomes takes place across eight themes, each of which is supported by a multi-agency working group:

- Fair Food for All
- Community Food
- Food Economy
- Catering and Procurement
- Food Waste
- Urban Agriculture
- Children and Young People
- Communications

Three pillars underpin all GCFP work: Equity, Health and Sustainability.

More information about the background to the GCFP and its development are described in detail in [previous annual reports](#).



3. Context

3.1 Policy context

Last year's GCFP Annual Report described how and why the GCFP was developed between 2019 and 2021. At that time, while there were aspirations for Scotland to be a 'Good Food Nation' and for a supportive and enabling national policy context to be established, the GCFP was developed with stakeholders in Glasgow when there was no coherent national policy context or requirements to take a coordinated approach to improving the food system.

In 2022, after a long period of development and consultation, the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022¹ received Royal Assent, placing duties on the Scottish Government, local authorities and NHS Health Boards to produce Good Food Nation (GFN) Plans. Thereafter a period of development and consultation took place to produce the required National Good Food Nation Plan which was laid before Parliament in June 2025, and underwent Committee scrutiny in Autumn 2025. The final national Plan, expected to be published in late 2025, will lay out the requirements of all 'Relevant Authorities' (territorial NHS Boards and local authorities) to develop Local Good Food Nation Plans. These will need to have regard to various food-related issues and principles as laid out in the National Plan, will need to go through extensive consultation as part of their development, and, once the final version is published, will need to be reported on every two years and revised every five years. Also, and as a result of the GFN Act, a Scottish Food Commission is being established that will scrutinise and make recommendations regarding all GFN Plans.

Another recent policy change in Scotland highlighting the growing recognition of the importance of the food system includes the Population Health Framework published in June 2025. It sets out the Scottish Government's long-term strategy for improving health and reducing health inequalities, by improving collaboration, focusing on prevention and addressing the determinants of health. One of the two initial framework priorities is on food, and specifically to *"develop a whole-system approach to improve food environments; ensure a healthy, balanced diet is accessible and affordable to all; and improve population levels of healthy weight."*

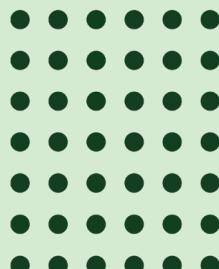
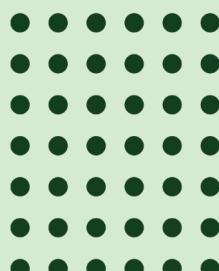
Within Glasgow City, prior to the GFN legislation being developed and the subsequent requirements of relevant authorities being laid out, progress with the Glasgow City Food Plan developed in recognition of the need to address a range of pressing concerns about the food system's adverse impact on health, equity and the environment. The GCFP was thus developed and will have been implemented for five years before GFN requirements come into force. As a result, there are established relationships, processes and projects within Glasgow that will need to be reviewed as Glasgow City adapts to the new GFN context and requirements.

¹ For details see: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/food-and-drink/good-food-nation/>

3.2 Social and economic context

The UK continues to face a persistent cost-of-living crisis. The inflation rate – the annual percentage change in consumer prices – was historically high (reaching over 9%) between 2021 and 2023. While it fell to 1.7% in September 2024, it has started rising again in 2025, reaching [3.8% in August 2025](#), the highest since January 2024. The combined effect of this is particularly stark when considered over a five-year period: UK consumer prices rose by 28.2% between August 2020 and August 2025, compared to 8.3% from August 2015 to August 2020². This has resulted in a dramatic rise in food costs over recent years, causing many more people to experience food insecurity. The Food Foundation and Joseph Rowntree Foundation are monitoring the impacts of the cost of living across the UK, noting the following:

- **Food Inflation:** The cost of the Basic Basket has risen by 27.3% for women and 28.6% for men since April 2022³.
- **Food Insecurity:** 14% of UK households experienced food insecurity in January 2025, raising concerns about malnutrition and related health risks.
- **Healthy Diet Costs:** Healthier foods are more than twice as expensive per calorie. The most deprived 20% of the population would need to spend 45% of their disposable income to meet government dietary guidelines⁴.
- **Low-Income Impact:** Over 7 million low-income families continue to lack access to essentials, with no improvement in arrears or debt levels as of May 2025⁵.
- Recent NHSGGC Health and Wellbeing Surveys have asked respondents about their experience of food insecurity. While restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/2021 increased levels of food insecurity due to difficulties in both accessing and affording food, these survey responses indicate that levels of food insecurity in Glasgow City have not returned to their pre-Covid levels and are now considerably higher. This is particularly the case in areas of multiple deprivation where they have gone from 14.3% of respondents in 2018/19 to 26.9% in 2022/23⁶.



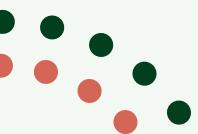
² [Economic update: Why has inflation gone up in 2025?](#)

³ [Food Prices Tracking | Food Foundation](#)

⁴ [The Broken Plate 2025 | Food Foundation](#)

⁵ [A year of Labour but no progress: JRF's cost of living tracker, summer 2025 | Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

⁶ <https://www.stor.scot.nhs.uk/entities/publication/5fce493f-7f56-4071-91b6-32b645751c15>; <https://www.understandingglasgow.com/glasgow-indicators/lifestyle/food-insecurity>



4. Partnerships and working groups involved in the delivery of the GCFP

► 4.1 Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP)

The GFPP is the Partnership that oversees the Glasgow City Food Plan. There are currently 21 partners represented in the GFPP and it meets twice yearly (see [Our Partners – Good Food For All](#)). At these meetings the GCFP Project Team presents progress on the Food Plan and other relevant developments in the city, and seeks guidance from partners on a range of related issues. The GFPP reports annually on Food Plan progress to the Public Health Observatory Group (PHOG), which is a subgroup of the Glasgow City Community Planning Partnership.

► 4.2 GCFP Project Team

The Food Plan Project Management Team meets regularly to coordinate delivery of the Food Plan, to improve consistency and encourage collaboration and communication across Food Plan working groups and between partners, to promote and share learning, to engage with relevant research opportunities and to enable accurate monitoring and reporting. The Project Team is also responsible for compiling the annual report and for developing the Food Plan in response to learning over time. The Project Management Team reports to the GFPP. Made up of the leads for each of the working groups, members include the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Glasgow City Health Improvement (HI) and Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN). Each of these are founding and pivotal partners in the Glasgow City Food Plan, as well as contributing to several other Food Plan working groups.

► 4.3 GCFP working groups

There are eight working groups that help develop and coordinate activities relating to the GCFP and provide opportunities for partners to share relevant work and explore potential collaborations. Each of these working groups are led or supported by a member of the GCFP Project Team. In 2024 the working groups agreed on four/five priority actions from the original GCFP to focus on from 2024 to 2026. These were described in [last year's annual report](#).

5. GCFP themes: update on activities, progress and developments

► 5.1 Fair Food for All (food insecurity theme)



The Fair Food for All theme seeks to aid collaboration and partnership between those working to address and reduce food insecurity in Glasgow. The Fair Food for All Partnership leads the Fair Food for All 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 light of the successful Scottish Government funding application for a 'Cash First' project in Glasgow City as part of the Scottish Government's [Towards ending the need for food banks in Scotland](#) strategy.

In 2024/25, the main focus of this work was supporting the [Glasgow Cash First project](#). Running for 24 months from February 2024 to January 2026, the Glasgow Cash First project has a dedicated project lead who is employed by the GCPH and supported by the Fair Food for All Partnership. The Cash First project benefits from funding by the Scottish Government and is delivered in close collaboration with partners. The Partnership has met approximately every two months during 2024/25 to help inform and guide the Cash First project.

► Fair Food for All theme: activities, progress and developments on priorities in 2024/25

Priority Action 1: Understand the levels of food insecurity in Glasgow and the specific population groups adversely affected.

► The Fair Food for All Partnership and Glasgow's Cash First project commissioned the Centre for Civic Innovation to undertake a multi-method project involving data collation, analysis and engaging with services providing food support across the city to better understand the demographics and circumstances of people experiencing food insecurity. This report used data from applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund and from Glasgow Helps that related to food insecurity.



► The Fair Food for All Partnership and Glasgow's Cash First project provided additional funding for the Access to Advice service which was an early intervention and prevention offer initially funded by Trussell as part of their Pathways to Advice and Cash Scotland projects. This ensured that anyone being referred to [Glasgow Helps](#) was provided with advice by a member of the Glasgow Advice and Information Network (GAIN) (which includes six Citizens Advice Bureaux and Money Matters teams) within 24 hours whilst continuing to receive support from the Glasgow Helps team. This programme is expected to have a longer-term impact in the form of sustainable improved wellbeing of clients.

Priority Action 2: Through the Cash First project, enhance capacity building, shared learning/information and new ideas to build on existing cash first work and to inform the creation of new approaches to service delivery.

The [Cash First in Community Food Settings Research Report: Insights from Glasgow](#), commissioned by Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN) and published in May 2024, aimed to assess the levels of awareness of cash first support in the community food sector, the effectiveness of cash first referrals and the readiness of the community food sector to work in partnership. The report identified a lack of shared understanding of the “cash first” term across the sector, and the need for training, workshops and spaces for conversations to develop a better understanding of cash first. The report identified the range of provision by community food initiatives (CFIs) through access to advice services, embedding welfare rights workers in their services and active onward referrals, but also highlighted the challenges experienced by the sector of short-term funding, high staff turnover, fluctuating priorities, time pressures and excessive demand. The report produced a set of recommendations which the Cash First project has been working to address with support from the Fair Food for All partners. One of the recommendations was to increase opportunities for CFIs to develop a shared understanding of cash first.

Glasgow's Cash First project collaborated with GCFN's Cash First project to undertake a survey of community food organisations across Glasgow to assess the training required. There were 40 responses from community food projects, food banks, pantries, larders and housing associations, 90% (36 of 40) of whom told us they are interested in free training or awareness-raising sessions for staff or volunteers at their organisations. Of these, 75% (27 of 36) also told us they would find it helpful to have access to a suite of online training for their staff or volunteers, and this is something we are planning to make available as part of this project's legacy. We also asked about topics they would be interested in and have used the results to inform the development of the following learning events:

► “**Cash First approaches: reducing the need for food banks in Glasgow**” (10th October 2024). Tying in with the Challenge Poverty Week theme of food, this webinar provided an overview of cash first approaches and examples from across Glasgow, including financial inclusion and advice services. Delivered by colleagues

from Glasgow City Council's Child Poverty Programme and Trussell's Access to Advice service, it was attended by 195 people. [The slides and recording of the session](#) are available on the GCPH [Cash First webpage](#).

“Money Counts Training: a Cash First approach to food insecurity”

(30th October 2024) by the Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) in collaboration with Trussell and Citizens Advice Scotland colleagues. This provided an overview of poverty and food insecurity, Trussell food bank use in Glasgow, Citizens Advice Bureau services, and using the Independent Food Aid Network's Worrying About Money leaflet to initiate conversations around money and advice. This was attended by 83 people and the [slides and recording of the session](#) are available on the [Cash First webpage](#).

“Working with refugees and asylum seekers experiencing food insecurity”

(19th November 2024) was delivered by the Scottish Refugee Council and provided a summary of the rights and supports available to refugees and asylum seekers, the reasons they experience food insecurity and sources of support available. This had 128 attendees and the [slides and recording of the session](#) are available on the [Cash First webpage](#).

“Universal Credit Managed Migration” (November 2024) delivered by the Glasgow City HSCP, this workshop had 21 attendees who learned about the managed migration of universal credit, the administrative process involved, and how to support their clients with the protections available to ensure these were not lost.

On 15th January 2025, Govan Community Project's Food for All group facilitated a **Dignity in Practice** online workshop with 27 organisations about the asylum process and practical ideas for organisations on how to enhance the dignity of asylum seekers they support.

“Unlocking local resources in Glasgow: a guide to ALISS” (12th February 2025) was delivered by the [A Local Information System for Scotland](#) (ALISS) team and provided an overview to the 75 participants of this Scottish Government-funded online platform. It is an online directory of health and wellbeing services, resources and support networks across Scotland. The [webinar](#) highlighted how the platform can be used to improve service delivery, empower communities and enhance collaboration across sectors.

“Cash first training and awareness raising for community organisations”

(27th June 2025) was an in-person session co-organised with GCFN which aimed to increase community organisations' awareness of the range of support, including cash first support, available across Glasgow to people experiencing food insecurity. All the [presentations](#) are available on the [Cash First webpage](#). Further details are in the spotlight below.

Priority Action 3: Enhance and sustain food interventions/services that are addressing improved access to affordable, nutritious food in local communities. Support partner organisations to overcome barriers to delivery and invest in gap sites (places and communities) where there is identified need in Glasgow.

- █ Several Fair Food For All partners provided support to help sustain and improve access to food over the last year. Of note is the funding provided through Glasgow City Council's Food System Development Fund to **The Scottish Pantry Network** (TSPN) to help establish their new base in Tollcross, which includes a preparation kitchen, storage and office facility to support their affordable, healthy meal packs (Prepmate) which they are making available through their pantry network to supplement the surplus food that pantries largely rely on for their stock [Lead: TSPN].
- █ NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and the Health Improvement team from Glasgow City HSCP further managed the transition of their Thrive Under 5 (Tu5) programme in Glasgow to a new funding model as part of the '**Whole Family Wellbeing Support Through General Practice**' (WFWBGP) programme. Under this new model, the Tu5 offer is included within a package of holistic support for families within 12 GP 'Deep End Practices' in the city (four in North-West, five in North-East and three in South). This supports low-income families with young children to eat well through provision of a range of services including money advice services, food vouchers and healthy meal kits (Prepmate). The Tu5-enhanced supports within the 12 GP practices for families include pantry membership and 12 shops, meal packs and supermarket vouchers for cooking equipment. These supports are offered as part of a holistic package that includes and complements existing financial inclusion services delivered through Welfare Advice and Health Partnerships (WAHP) and financial capability support through the wider programme (not exclusive to Tu5), helping build confidence and skills in managing household finances. Referrals to the Tu5 pathway can be made by NHS Health staff, WAHP advisors, and Family Finance Advisors. Within each GP practice, Family Wellbeing Workers act as the key conduit, enabling families to access the full range of support [Lead: NHSGGC and Glasgow City HSCP].
- █ The Cash First project is also developing a **Test of Change project**, for implementation in late 2025/26 which will explore provision of cash first support through local community organisations as a way of supporting people to access a wide range of support to help provide longer-term support [Lead: Fair Food for All Partnership].

Priority Action 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.

► The Glasgow Cash First project collaborated with GCFN to co-commission engagement with people with lived experience of food insecurity to explore how cash first support could be implemented in community food initiatives, following on from recommendations from the [Cash First in Community Food Settings Research Report: Insights from Glasgow](#) report. This took a co-design and asset-based community development approach to design and facilitation, and resulted in production of a zine⁷ with suggestions on how improvements can be made to community food initiatives e.g. the importance of providing training for all staff and volunteers, creating a culture of empathy, compassion and care, and the importance of involving the people accessing the community food initiative. The [zine](#) is available here.

► SPOTLIGHT: Cash first training and awareness raising for community organisations



On 27th June 2025, the Glasgow Cash First project and GCFN co-organised an in-person event which aimed to increase awareness amongst front line service providers, particularly in the community sector, of the support available across Glasgow to people experiencing food insecurity. A presentation was given from Glasgow Helps, which is

⁷ A zine is a booklet or magazine, usually intended for a relatively small and/or targeted circulation and generally created by hand or using digital tools and self-published. It can be a more accessible output than a more formal report or document.

a partnership of the city's public and voluntary sectors aiming to make it easier for the people of Glasgow to find the help and support they need, and which the Glasgow Cash First project has been promoting from a cash first perspective as the main referral pathway for anyone experiencing food insecurity either in isolation or alongside other concerns. We also had presentations from Glasgow's No Wrong Door approach which works alongside Glasgow Helps and other parts of Glasgow City Council's Child Poverty Programme, and Glasgow's Council for the Voluntary Sector (GCVS), followed by group breakout sessions to discuss training needs and informal networking opportunities. There were 36 attendees representing 21 organisations, and all the [presentations](#) are available on the Cash First webpage.

The feedback from this session demonstrated a significant increase in awareness of cash first approaches, Glasgow Helps, GCVS and Glasgow's No Wrong Door approach after the event compared to before the event. Respondents said they found the presentations, discussion sessions and informal networking spaces helpful with many noting that the variety of speakers and opportunities to network and make new connections were the highlights for them.

5.2 Community Food theme



The Community Food theme is intended to help build capacity and resilience in the community food sector, to enable collaboration between the community sector and other partners on food-related activities and to share learning and resources of potential use to community food organisations. There are many community food organisations that operate across Glasgow which provide a vast range of activities and services for their communities including, but not limited to, community meals, community shops and larders, food growing, family activities, support and signposting to other vital services, but are often reliant on short-term, project-specific funding and the commitment and goodwill of their staff and volunteers.

The Community Food working group was established to support this theme, led by the Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN). After a pause in 2023/24, the group was re-established and refreshed in 2024/25, focusing on events to share learning and also acting as an information and knowledge exchange forum for partners with an interest in community food issues. Resourcing remains a challenge for this group due to the time and funding pressures on community sector colleagues which limit the opportunities to participate. The GFPP are seeking additional funding to help ease these pressures but have not yet been successful in securing.

Despite this, city Food Plan partners have continued to deliver collaboratively with community food organisations and a number of examples are detailed below.

Community Food theme: activities, progress and developments on priorities in 2024/25

Priority Action 1: Provide resources, support and services to enable community food organisations to deliver services appropriate to their communities.

- GCFN continued to deliver their [Food and Climate Action](#) (FCA) project in partnership with community anchor organisations in five geographic communities across Glasgow. The FCA project also allocated £32,000 of funding to 19 community groups leading local food and climate-related initiatives, and delivered more [Climate Crumbs](#) workshops in communities across Glasgow [Lead: GCFN].
- NHSGGC funding provided to the City's Health Improvement Team supported valuable community-based activity that aligns with the City's Health Improvement Strategic Direction, NHSGGC community food priorities and the Glasgow City Food Plan's Community Food theme. Community work facilitated in 2024/25 included cooking courses/demonstrations, training in food and health, and a Community Food and Growing small grants scheme, administered by Glasgow Community Food Network⁸. As a result, the following were achieved in 2024/25 [Lead: HSCP Health Improvement]:
 - 6 community cooking courses (206 participants)
 - 26 cooking demonstrations (291 participants)
 - 6 Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS) cooking demonstrations (48 participants)
 - 3 REHIS Training the Trainer 'how to run a cookery course' (17 participants)
 - 22 projects received funding as part of the Community Food and Growing small grants scheme amounting to £15,000 (administered by GCFN)

Priority Action 2: Support the delivery of the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy.

- GCFN have worked closely with GCC to improve the links between the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy and the Glasgow City Food Plan during 2024/25. Further detail is provided later in this report, in the Urban Agriculture theme.

⁸ (ref: HSCP HI report 24/25).



Priority 3: Increase community participation in planning for community food spaces, activities and ventures.

- █ GCFN quarterly networking events have continued to provide themed opportunities for community organisations and people working or interested in community food to come together to build relationships and share learning. The Spring 2025 networking event explored how food growing practices from diverse cultural backgrounds are strengthening the resilience of Glasgow's local food system. Linking to Glasgow's 850 celebrations, this event celebrated examples from groups who have created a sense of belonging in a new home through growing culturally familiar foods. [Lead: GCFN].
- █ GCFN organised four film and discussion events, free and open to all to highlight different aspects of the food system. These included 'Rooted: Growing a Local Food Ecosystem', '6 inches of soil', 'The Ants and the Grasshopper' and 'Seedling: Seeds of Freedom' and each had a panel to stimulate discussion after the film [Lead: GCFN].
- █ GCFN's Food and Climate Action project ran a two-day community chef training course for New Scots in collaboration with Central and West Integration Network (CWIN) for asylum seekers, refugees or New Scots keen to share their culture through food and to support them with future volunteering or work opportunities [Lead: GCFN].

Priority Action 4: Increase resilience of the community food sector.

- █ It continues to be a challenging economic environment for community food organisations despite growing demand for their services. However, public sector partners have provided support in a variety of forms. For example, as part of the HSCP Health Improvement community food programme, 22 projects received funding from the Community Food and Growing small grants scheme, amounting to £15,000 [Lead: HSCP; administered by GCFN].
- █ In addition, GCFN continue to host the Glasgow Community Food Hub on the GCFN website. This hub includes a map of community food-related services in Glasgow and resources relating to community food work and policy. GCFN worked with GCPH to [provide information about how to be listed on the ALISS database](#) for community organisations so that their services can be listed accurately on the map [Lead: GCPH].

SPOTLIGHT: Community Food and Growing small grants scheme



£15,000 from the funding that Glasgow City Health Improvement received from NHSGGC went towards the Community Food and Growing small grants scheme in 24/25, administered by GCFN. As a result of this collaborative process, third-sector organisations and community groups across all three Glasgow localities were invited to apply for up to £1,000 to support their community food and growing activities. The following summary demonstrates the demand for this support and the extent to which it was oversubscribed.

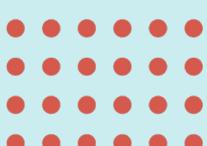


Overall Glasgow City HSCPS

Total Requested: £43,738

Total Awarded: £15,000

Number of Projects awarded: 22



North East

Total Requested: £14,279

Total Awarded: £5,000 to 7 projects



North West

Total Requested: £17,746

Total Awarded: £5,000 to 7 projects



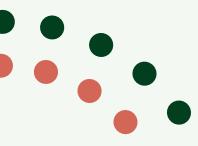
South

Total Requested: £11,713

Total Awarded: £5,000 to 8 projects



Twenty-two projects were successful in being awarded full or part funding to develop small scale community food and growing projects that aligned with priorities of the Glasgow City Food Plan. These included allotment sites and community gardens. Some groups were already trained to deliver a NHSGGC-approved cookery course, the small grants application process enabled them to apply for resources to assist delivery e.g. food and equipment.



Overall applications were impressive with a wide range of ideas and innovation. Successful projects delivered high-quality work despite the small amount of money, with many using matched funding to increase their impact. However, it was substantially oversubscribed with many excellent applications receiving partial or no funding. This demonstrates the need and potential for community food activities if adequate funding was available.

5.3 Catering and Procurement theme



The Catering and Procurement theme seeks to share and promote learning and good practice in relation to healthy and sustainable procurement in the public sector in Glasgow.

The Catering and Procurement working group, reestablished in June 2024 after a year-long pause due to capacity constraints in partner organisations, was well attended in 2024/25, with regular representation from 12 organisations and chaired by the Assistant Director (Facilities and Production) at NHSGGC.

It provides a forum for sharing information, examples of good practice and policy developments, and to enable more joint working towards more healthy and sustainable catering and procurement.

Catering and Procurement theme: activities, progress and developments on priorities in 2024/25

Priority Action 1: To increase the proportion of foods in public food provision that are locally sourced (Scotland) and/or low carbon (vegetables, pulses) and that align with current public health objectives, and minimise production of food waste and share examples of reformulation.

Glasgow City Council's Catering and Facilities Management received a [special award at the Scottish School Food Awards](#) in recognition of the success of their implementation of the "Full of Beans" campaign in schools, which aims to increase the consumption of beans and pulses. This collaborative initiative, with the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership and Glasgow Community Food Network, included training for catering staff, workshops for pupils and the introduction of new bean dishes on school menus [Lead: GCC catering and facilities].

► The group continues to work on developing baseline data, case studies and examples of good practice.

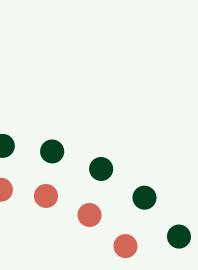
Priority Action 2: To make better use of the Community Benefits (CB) methodology through food procurement to help improve the health, equity and sustainability of the food system. Map current CB in our respective organisations/across Glasgow.

► Partners developed and shared their organisation's approaches to Community Benefits and links were made to other relevant developments including the City Region Community Benefits Hub and the NHS Community Benefits Hub. Work will continue to explore how to maximise these benefits for local communities, making links with Community Wealth Building work.

Priority Action 3: To increase the number of venues in Glasgow that hold the Food for Life Served Here (FFLSH) accreditation.

► Soil Association Scotland (SAS) has continued to support the Catering and Procurement theme of the GCFP, working with caterers in Glasgow towards the Food for Life Served Here (FFLSH) awards. Impressive progress has been made in Glasgow with the following awarded in 2025 to these six providers now serving an estimated 231,591 meals each year [Lead: Soil Association Scotland and catering providers].

- Glasgow City Council – All Primary and Early Years services (bronze)
- BaxterStorey - Scottish Government Workplaces (upgraded to silver)
- BaxterStorey - Scottish Courts and Tribunal Services (bronze)
- BaxterStorey - City of Glasgow College (bronze)
- BaxterStorey – Glasgow Caledonian University (silver)
- [University of Glasgow](#) (bronze) across its whole campus



Priority Action 4: To create more opportunities for small and social enterprises to connect better with public procurement. Collate and articulate the positive work that is already happening.

- Work is underway to identify more potential local suppliers to encourage onto supplier development programmes. Through the Sustainable Food Directory work (see Food Economy theme) a local [sustainable supplier directory](#) has been developed. It is not intended to be a complete list, and the team is always looking to improve it based on comments and expertise from stakeholders [Lead: GFPP and Slow Food Glasgow].

SPOTLIGHT: GCC school meals



In 2024 Glasgow City Council was awarded the Food for Life Served Here Bronze Award for the third consecutive year, but for the first time the award included Glasgow City Council nurseries and early years centres (121 sites), as well as all 141 primary schools. This equates to 37,000 daily meals. This widely respected and independently-assessed scheme is led by Soil Association Scotland and funded by Scottish Government.

The Bronze level award certifies that Glasgow's school meals are free from trans-fats, sweeteners and additives, and use free range eggs, higher welfare meat and ingredients from sustainable and ethical sources. At least 75% of dishes served up to pupils across the city are freshly prepared from unprocessed and seasonal ingredients from local suppliers like McLays. Glasgow also provides pupils with the opportunity to participate in cooking and food growing activities.

5.4 Food Economy theme



This Food Plan theme seeks to help build a strong and thriving local food economy that supports health and wellbeing and principles of sustainability by working with local food producers and providers.

The Food Economy working group coordinates work on this theme, and continues to be led by Glasgow's Sustainable Food Places Coordinator. This group provides a forum for delivery partners to share their work and to support partners' initiatives, as well as identify new opportunities for collaborative work.

The group membership includes independent food businesses (restaurants, shops, wholesalers), social enterprises, Glasgow University's Adam Smith Business School, Glasgow City Council, Chamber of Commerce and members of the Scottish Pantry Network.

Food Economy theme: activities, progress and developments on priorities in 2024/25

Priority Action 1: 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.

The Glasgow Community Food Markets initiative was trialled through a fruit and vegetable market in Whiteinch, Glasgow. A weekly market stall at Whiteinch Cross ran for four months from August to December 2024 devised, developed and operated by Glasgow Community Food Markets CIC with capital funding from GCC's Food System Development Fund. The lessons from this are informing further work on community food markets in 2025/26, including a Lottery funded year-long community market project in Westercommon run by the Courtyard Pantry, and a three-year UKRI-funded research project led by the University of Glasgow looking at the impact of community food markets on local communities [Lead: Glasgow Community Food Markets CIC, Courtyard Pantry, GCPH, UofG].



Priority Action 2: Work with further education providers to improve/integrate [food] sustainability education in order to improve employability prospects for the future workforce.

- The City of Glasgow College (CoGC), which is an active partner in this working group, took part in the Scotland-wide 'Eating Out, Eating Well' pilot and has been working to make nutritious food more available and accessible to students and staff and actively working to reduce food waste [Lead: CoGC].
- CoGC is also developing opportunities to introduce staff/students to local sustainable food businesses by including speakers from local hospitality businesses and visits to local suppliers [Lead: CoGC].

Priority Action 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.

- A training event took place for local food businesses linked to the development and new inclusion criteria of the 4th Edition of the Glasgow Sustainable Food Directory in May 2025. This included speakers from Zero Waste Scotland, Poverty Alliance, Fraser of Allander Institute, Open Seas, Dear Green Coffee Roasters and Slow Food Coffee Coalition to highlight latest advice and best practice on sustainability. The event also connected local shops, cafes and restaurants to five sustainable, local suppliers (Brose Oat Milk, Dear Green, Freedom Bakery, Glasgow Mushroom Company and Greencycle Wholefoods) [Lead: GFPP].

Priority Action 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 campaign).

- The Food Economy working group and Glasgow City Food Plan Project Team supported and promoted the Chamber of Commerce's [Taste the Place](#) campaign celebrating local food outlets, which was linked to Glasgow 850 celebrations. This major campaign was launched in Spring 2025 and will continue until the end of 2025 [Lead: Glasgow Chamber of Commerce].

► The Food Economy working group and the GFPP developed and launched the third edition of [Glasgow's Sustainable Food Directory](#) in collaboration with Slow Food Glasgow. Work also started on the development of the fourth edition, which will be launched in autumn 2025, with applications invited from food providers across the city. The questionnaires and inclusion criteria were updated for this edition based on comments from existing members and advice from industry experts such as Zero Waste Scotland, Open Seas, and Dear Green Coffee Roasters. These projects along with a selection of other sustainable food businesses were showcased as part of GFPP's ['Good Food for Glasgow' podcasts](#) [Lead: GFPP and Slow Food Glasgow].

► SPOTLIGHT: training event for sustainable suppliers



In May 2025 the GFPP, and particularly the Food Economy working group and Slow Food Glasgow hosted a training session on sustainability and health for those working in Glasgow's hospitality venues and food retailers, and particularly for those interested in being listed in the Glasgow Sustainable Food Directory. There were presentations from Dear Green Coffee, Zero Waste Scotland, The Poverty Alliance, The Fraser of Allander Institute, and a screening of the Open Seas documentary on dived scallop fishing, The Orkney Dive.

In addition, a number of local, sustainable suppliers hosted information stalls and provided delegates with detailed information about their products.

This provided an opportunity for interested food enterprises to come together and share good practice, as well as to learn more about the Glasgow Sustainable Food Directory, what is involved in an application, and the benefits of being listed.

More detail and pictures available on the [GFPP website](#).

5.5 Food Waste Reduction theme



This theme recognises the environmental impact of food waste both in terms of the wasted resources used to produce the food, and the environmental impact of the disposal of wasted food. This theme seeks to support prevention of food waste as well as to promote more sustainable ways of disposing of waste food.

The Food Waste Reduction working group, led by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, met regularly in 24/25 to share information about current projects being undertaken by partners and to explore opportunities to collaborate on the Food Plan's food waste reduction priorities. In 2025/26 changes to the way the working group operates will be explored to improve participation and opportunities for joint working.

Food Waste Reduction theme: activities, progress and developments on priorities in 2024/25

Priority Action 1: Deliver and support campaigns to encourage reductions in household and community food waste.

In 2024/25 GCFN's Food and Climate Action Project developed and ran the [Composting for the Future](#) programme to spark interest and involvement in composting in communities across Glasgow. This involved running five Composting for the Future masterclasses, Composting Connections networking meetings to support peer networking and skills sharing, as well as the Composting for the Future Peer Budgeting project which awarded 10 community groups across Glasgow with £3,000 each to develop community composting initiatives [Lead: GCFN].

Priority Action 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.

Glasgow City Council's Catering and Facilities Management team, concerned about the levels of plate waste in schools, piloted Zero Waste Scotland's [Waste Warrior campaign](#) with pupils in one primary school in Glasgow during the summer term of 2025. Successful and popular, this initiative will be rolled out to other primary schools in 2025/26 [Lead: GCC Catering and Facilities Management and Zero Waste Scotland].

Priority Action 3: Engaging food producers, providers and retailers in practice changes to reduce surplus

- Retailer and hospitality venues were invited to the GSFD training session in May during which Zero Waste Scotland gave practical examples/reasons to reduce food waste, including the creation of Food Waste Action Plans. The questionnaires applicants had to fill also asked about barriers to sustainability and food waste was one of them (also see Food Economy theme) [Lead: GFPP].

SPOTLIGHT: 'Waste Warriors' in Glasgow Primary Schools



Pupils at Blackfriars Primary School in Glasgow piloted the 'Waste Warriors' (WW) initiative in the summer term of 2025. This included young people in the WW team setting up a weighing station to monitor food waste levels in their dining hall, raising awareness of the importance of preventing food waste, and encouraging classmates to finish meals or share leftovers. Any remaining food was sorted, whole fruit saved for later, and waste weighed and recorded daily. The initiative resulted in a reduction in plate waste by an average of 11.93kg each day.

The WW scheme links with the school curriculum on sustainability and primary schools across the city will receive a resource pack to support the roll out of this initiative in 2025/26.

5.6 Urban Agriculture theme

Through this theme, the intention is to enable more food growing in Glasgow, both in terms of community food growing and market gardening, particularly using more nature friendly approaches.

The Urban Agriculture working group supports this theme, led by the Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN). It brings together local growers and public sector partners to explore opportunities for identifying land for food growing, developing suitable training, supporting new and established food growers and exploring routes to market for locally grown food.



Urban Agriculture theme: activities, progress and developments on priorities in 2024/25

Priority Action 1: Identify and support more opportunities to increase land used for commercial/market scale food growing. .

- GCFN's Food and Climate Action (FCA) Team has continued to lead [development work in Ruchill](#) for a growing space. This has included running a food growing project with an after-school programme in Ruchill, and linking with other existing local projects at WSREC and the allotment community at Roots of Ruchill (micro allotments in Ruchill) [Lead: GCFN].
- Glasgow City Council provided capital funding to 14 community organisations to support food growing initiatives through its Food System Development Fund in 2024. These projects, delivered in 24/25, were located in communities across Glasgow. Case studies of some of these initiatives are detailed in a report⁹ [Lead: GCC and GCPH].
- GCC's annual [Let's Grow Together Fund](#) was repeated in 24/25 making £50K available in grants of £500 to £5,000 to community growing projects to be delivered in 2025/26. Eligible applications are to be reviewed collaboratively by representatives of Glasgow City Council's Food Growing team and Glasgow Community Food Network [Lead: GCC].
- The FCA team has also been working with GCC committees and officers to build support and future plans for local food growing, for example, through vacant and derelict land funding and by pre-vetting potential growing sites [Lead: GCFN].

⁹ Shaw A. Food System Development Fund projects in 2024/25. GCPH: forthcoming publication.

Priority Action 2: Explore opportunities to increase training opportunities and economic support for local food growing. Work with training providers and funders to build more opportunities and support in Glasgow for local, sustainable food growing.

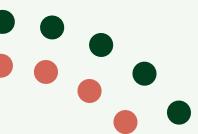
- GCFN's Food and Climate Action project started its [Life Cycle of Food](#) movement building strand which focused on three topics: Seeding, Growing, & Harvesting. Each module included a variety of activities which equipped participants with the knowledge and practical skills to become more involved in reshaping Glasgow's local food system [Lead: GCFN].
- GCFN's Food and Climate Action project staff coordinated a Learn to Grow programme at Wash House Garden which covered modules on the basics of growing for two cohorts of 15 people (four sessions per cohort) [Lead: GCFN].
- GCFN's Food and Climate Action project ran Community Growing Network meetings in different parts of the city, in collaboration with local community organisations including Glasgow EcoTrust and Knightswood Community Garden project [Lead: GCFN].
- Following discussions with the Food Growing team at Glasgow City Council, a plan was agreed for GCFN to co-chair the Community Food Growers Forum with Glasgow City Council starting officially in early 2026 [Co-Lead: GCC and GCFN].

Priority Action 3: Explore opportunities to increase access/routes to markets for locally-produced food (Glasgow and Scotland).

- The term 'market garden' refers to land that is used for the purpose of growing produce for sale (as opposed to growing produce for own use or for a community). As there are few market gardens in and around Glasgow, this has been challenging to progress. Discussions were ongoing in 2024/25 but no firm future plans developed. This is something that GCFN will be focusing on in the coming year.

Priority Action 4: Explore opportunities to increase the use of more nature-friendly techniques (including organic growing) in food production.

- Webinars and training opportunities in sustainable and nature-friendly food production/growing and composting (GCFN composting project)
 - Composting webinar and workshops (described above)
 - GCFN's Food and Climate Project ran a series of workshops on agroecological growing [Lead: GCFN]



SPOTLIGHT: Glasgow Food System Development Funding for Nan Mackay Hall Community Garden



This fund was developed by GCC to support community-led projects delivered by third-sector organisations whose work contributes to the Glasgow City Food Plan. The funding process invited applications for projects which would have a long-term impact, with a direct improvement to the resilience of the city's food system, including the growing or production of food, its distribution and disposing of waste.

One of the recipients in 2024/25 was the Nan Mackay Hall in Pollokshields. Established over 40 years ago, it was initially developed to provide support and activities for the young people of the area. Recently, however, its activities and services are primarily aimed at older people and people from minority ethnic communities living in the vicinity. Services are wide-ranging but include a weekly gardening and soup club, and nutrition and wellbeing sessions which use the new growing space and the produce that is grown there.

£7,984 was used to increase growing capacity in the garden threefold by the addition of five substantial raised beds, six fruit trees and a polytunnel containing a further two beds for protected crops. This involved improving an area at the back of the garden that was previously overgrown and underutilised.

The reported impact of this investment included:

- Increased community engagement and education, for example through their ESOL class, the Gardening and Soup Club and the Nutrition and Wellbeing Class that have all used the improved and expanded growing space.
- Contribution towards food security: the produce grown in the garden, including in the new raised beds and polytunnel, are used for the weekly soup lunch as well as by the Nutrition and Wellbeing Class cooking activities. Any leftovers are taken home by participants either straight from the garden or in prepared 'soup bags' so they can make their own soup at home. There are no shops in the immediate vicinity that sell fresh produce.
- Sustainability and environmental impact: the garden is managed using organic and agroecological approaches with all garden and vegetable waste composted.

5.7 Children and Young People theme



This theme focuses on the food system's impact on children and young people, and in particular on addressing food insecurity and supporting good nutrition to enable healthy growth and development.

The Children and Young People's working group, led by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, brings together stakeholders who support delivery of programmes relating to this theme of the Food Plan. The working group discusses issues of common interest, explores opportunities for collaboration and shares learning.

Children and Young People theme: activities, progress and developments on priorities in 2024/25

Priority Action 1: Promote and improve uptake of school meals in schools across Glasgow.

- Waste Warriors (WW) project in selected schools, in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) (and linked to Food Waste Reduction theme) to engage and inform students about the importance of minimising avoidable food waste, as well as work on appropriate use of Parent Pay system/prebooking meals in order to minimise the ordering of unnecessary/unwanted meals [Lead: GGC Catering and Facilities Management].

Priority Action 2: Establish and support more good food groups in schools across Glasgow and improve opportunities for them to support learning about the food system.

- Partners supported GCC Education Services to establish good food groups in schools, providing appropriate links, signposting and connections with relevant resources [Lead: GFPP and GCC Education].
- GFPP and GCFN delivered Full of Beans workshops in three primary schools, including cooking activities, in association with GCC Education and Glasgow Community Food Network [Lead: GCFN].
- Yes to Veg!, a project to promote and encourage vegetable consumption in nursery schools, was delivered in a number of nurseries across Glasgow. The project was developed by Glasgow City Health Improvement in collaboration with Nourish Scotland, and the University of Glasgow as the evaluation partner [Lead: Glasgow City HSCP].



Priority Action 3: Promote and encourage use of Your Body Matters in schools across Glasgow and undertake and incorporate learning from evaluation of the resource.

- Food Plan partners continued to support NHSGGC and GCC Education services to promote and roll out this resource across primary schools in Glasgow City. The University of Glasgow continued with its evaluation of the resource [Lead: GCC Education Services, Glasgow City HSCP, University of Glasgow].

Priority Action 4: Increase engagement by families in programmes to improve nutritional health such as Thrive Under 5, etc. Review and evaluate the approaches.

- NHSGGC and Health Improvement from Glasgow City HSCP worked together to evolve the Tu5 project in line with new funding requirements so that, in 2025/26 it will be delivered through 12 General Practices in Glasgow City as part of the Family Wellbeing Initiative [Lead: NHSGGC and Glasgow City HSCP]. See spotlight below for further information.
- The HENRY programme¹⁰ continued to be rolled out with good uptake of training amongst front-line professionals. The programme aims to support families of children aged 0-12 years with engaging the whole family to adopt healthier eating and lifestyle habits.

Priority Action 5: Support breastfeeding through increased rollout of the Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland (BFS) scheme to businesses and BFS Early Learning scheme to Early Years providers.

- Following the Glasgow City Food Plan webinar and podcast on infant feeding in 2023/24, communications have continued to highlight and advocate for breastfeeding as healthy and sustainable, and support GCFP partners, including hospitality partners to encourage and enable breastfeeding in their premises [Lead: Glasgow City HSCP, GFPP].
- A question about support for breastfeeding customers is now included in the Sustainable Food Directory assessment along with active encouragement to local food outlets and businesses to sign up to the Breastfeeding Friendly scheme [Lead: GFPP]

¹⁰ For more information about the HENRY programme in Glasgow see <https://www.nhsggc.scot/your-health/child-and-young-persons-healthy-weight/henry/>

► SPOTLIGHT: Thrive Under 5 (Tu5)



Tu5 was an early intervention project that combines financial inclusion and healthy weight support for families with children under five. It was delivered as a whole-systems approach complementing wider NHSGGC public health nutrition activities. It recognised the barriers in place preventing families to enact a healthy lifestyle including low income; food insecurity; access to affordable/healthy foods; being able to take part in community physical activities or having the skills/equipment to cook healthily at home. Developed by NHSGGC this project was implemented in Glasgow City by the Health Improvement Team.

In 2024/25 the original Scottish Government funding for Tu5 came to an end and Glasgow Health Improvement successfully won funding from the SG Whole Family Wellbeing Fund in Primary care to deliver the initiative across 12 Deep End GPs in the city servicing seven communities in 2025/26.

Tu5 activities undertaken in 24/25 included:

- Financial inclusion pathway delivered through [Money Matters](#) accumulated £198,450 financial gains for families
- 47 families received eight meal packs each, in partnership with East End Flat Pack meals
- 107 families were able to shop 12 times each at their local pantry
- 135 families received a cooking equipment voucher
- The Alexandra Rose Voucher Scheme continued its relationship with Tu5 providing 108 families with fruit and vegetables (funded by Glasgow City Council Tackling Poverty Fund)
- 68 physical activity sessions for 112 families in partnership with Early Years Scotland



5.8 Communications

The Food Plan's Communications working group is led by the Glasgow Sustainable Food Places Co-ordinator and benefits from the support of the Good Food for Glasgow Campaign Officer, appointed specifically to support GCFP-related communications and wider engagement. The working group also benefits from support from the GCPH communications team, GCFN Communications Officer and colleagues from the Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership and the University of Glasgow. It has managed a wide range of communications activities in 2024/25 with extensive reach. Comms group priorities are available [here](#).

Communications Strategy for GFPP/GCFP is available [here](#).

Communications: activities, progress and developments on priorities in 2024/25

A Stakeholder networking event was organised (31st October, 2024) after feedback in the 2023 University of Glasgow interim evaluation of the Food Plan noted requests for more networking-style events and collaboration between the groups. The event was well attended and received very positive feedback. The first Glasgow City Food Plan Networking Event was an opportunity for the members of the different GCFP working groups to come together and hear about each other's work. You can view the slides from the 14 short Pecha Kucha-inspired presentations [here](#).

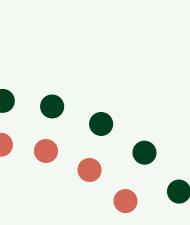


The [Good Food for Glasgow](#) campaign has continued, aiming to get more people involved in 'Good Food' activities in Glasgow and to increase knowledge about GCFP and work to improve the food system [Lead: GFPP and GCPH]. In particular the [open-access webinar programme](#) and [podcasts](#) that share learning from projects, research and other activities that are working towards a more sustainable and healthy food system have continued to gain popularity. In June 2025, the webinar series has recorded 2448 views/downloads (Jan 24-Jun 25) and the podcast series, 1809 streams/downloads (May 22 - June 25) (see Table 1) [Lead: GFPP in partnership with GCPH].

Table 1: Good Food for Glasgow webinars and podcasts in 2024/25

Title	Medium	Date	Reach (Views/ stream/ downloads)
Community Connections	Webinar	12/09/24	133
School Food	Webinar	26/11/24	113
Alternative Community Food Retail	Webinar	25/02/25	145
Political Change and UK Food Policy	Podcast	10/09/24	57
The Glasgow Sustainable Food Directory	Podcast	1/10/24	51
Glasgow Mushrooms: Process, People, and Planet	Podcast	29/10/24	48
The Right to Food	Podcast	17/12/24	33
Burns Night meets Veganuary	Podcast	24/1/25	49
Sustainable Food Production: Meat and Dairy	Podcast	25/3/25	39
Taste the Place: Glasgow's Cultural and Culinary Heritage	Podcast	7/4/25	66

Continuation of the [Full of Beans](#) campaign [Lead: GCFN and GFPP].



The Full of Beans Campaign, which ran from January-October 2024, was evaluated with the funding secured by the Scottish Alliance of Food in collaboration with the University of Glasgow. A lot of the stakeholder research was gathered at the '[Full of Beans Harvest Celebration' event](#) in September, and the summary report is available [here](#) with other learning and resources from the campaign. Some of the successes of the campaign include the Glasgow City Council School Catering now offering new bean-filled dishes in all their primary and secondary school menus, and winning a Scottish School Food Award for their participation in the campaign. University of Glasgow has also come on board with the campaign and now offers bean-based dishes in all their catering outlets.



A 2025 Communications Strategy for GFPP/GCFP was created in Spring 2025 and is available [here](#). It is being delivered by the Food Plan Communications working group.



6. Research involvement

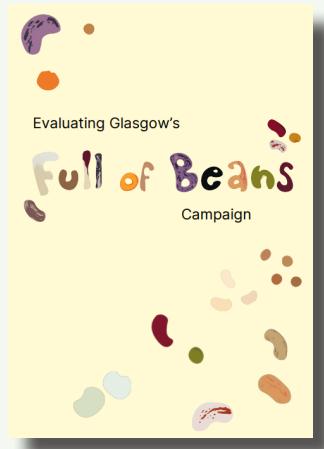
An important aspect of the Glasgow City Food Plan is to contribute to the development and exchange of knowledge in order to inform and improve future policy and practice in relation to improving the food system. The GCFP Project Team works closely with academics in a range of institutions to help ensure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

This year, a number of research collaborations were established.

6.1 The Scottish Alliance on Food (SCAF) funded an initial evaluation of Full of Beans campaign in 2024/25

Using a mixed method approach, this [small scale study](#) found that most people who attended campaign events increased both their knowledge of the climate-friendly impact of beans as well as their consumption of beans, although this was primarily tinned or jarred beans as opposed to dried beans.

More funding has been secured by the Adam Smith Business School for further research in 2025/26 to find out the longer-term impacts of the following work. This research will help capture and sustain the momentum and collaborative work that emerged from the campaign and provide evidence to inform future policy.



6.2 The Scottish Alliance on Food (SCAF) funded an evaluation of the introduction of food provision at an after-school club (Courtyard Pantry Enterprise)

In summer 2024, the Courtyard Pantry Enterprise piloted a programme providing an evening meal and breakfast bag to children attending an after-school club, run by Young People's Futures, held at the hub twice a week. The Courtyard Pantry found that, over a period of two months, attendance approximately doubled to 25-30 children regularly attending the meals. They also found that 50% of the families participating had previously experienced some form of food insecurity and reported that they found the programme beneficial in terms of relieving time and some financial pressures. When further funding was secured to extend the programme, a research grant from the Scottish Alliance for Food (funded by the Scottish Funding Council (H23050)) was secured. This enabled researchers to explore how the programme impacted the families and children attending, including the effects on social wellbeing, and to identify areas to incorporate healthier options into the menu, aligning with the Scottish Dietary Goals. This research will report in 2025/26.

6.3 UofG awarded UKRI funding to evaluate introduction of Community Food Market Stalls in three Glasgow neighbourhoods from 2025 to 2028

In 2024/25, the Glasgow Community Food Markets CIC established by David Cairns, a community activist who previously introduced Alexandra Rose vouchers to Glasgow, devised, developed and piloted a weekly community-led food market stall in Whiteinch, Glasgow, an area with limited grocery shops. Operating with capital funding from GCC's Food Systems Development Fund and a small grant from FirstPort, but with very little but with no revenue funding to pay for staff or produce, this ran for four months and was welcomed by many in the local community. To help build a stronger evidence base on which to develop future, longer-term community food markets and to attract more start-up support, the University of Glasgow bid for, and won, UKRI funding to undertake research inspired by this initiative. This will focus on two additional community food market stalls and work closely with the Courtyard Pantry's newly established market stall at Westercommon. The plan is to launch the new community food market stalls one at a time after consultation with local communities so that they are appropriate to local needs and circumstances. The research will explore the contribution that community-led food market stalls can make to improving access to affordable and nutritious food that supports meeting national dietary targets.



7. Progress made on the recommendations in the 2023/24 annual report

The GCFP Annual Report 2023/24 outlined significant activity in Glasgow addressing the health, equity and sustainability issues influenced by the current food system. However, it also noted some areas for additional focus in 2024/25. An update on these is provided below.

7.1 Responding to the challenging financial position

Partners have continued to be stretched, with more demands and less funding. Four to five priorities were identified for each theme in 2023 and the working groups and Food Plan partners have focused on making progress on these in 2024/25. There have been a number of successes, as detailed in this annual report, despite the continuing difficulties in the delivery environment. Where possible, joint funding and/or collaboration has enabled the sharing of resources and delivery of projects that might not otherwise have been possible (e.g. HSCP-funded small grants programme administered through GCFN; the Sustainable Food Directory work jointly delivered by the GFPP and Slow Food Glasgow).

It is notable that the Food Plan themes that have had the most activity have been those with dedicated funding and staff (i.e. the Cash First project funding from Scottish Government which funds the Cash First project lead supporting the Fair Food for All theme; and the Good Food for Glasgow communications officer funded by GCPH supporting the Food Plan communications activities).

7.2 Re-establishment of the Community Food working group

Despite the economic challenges facing the community sector, this working group reformed and delivered an event on cultural food in March 2025. There continue to be significant resourcing challenges in the community food sector, and these severely limit the extent to which community organisations can participate in this group and collaborative Food Plan activities more generally. Funding to help support the involvement of community organisations has been sought but, so far, without success. Despite this GCFN works closely with Food Plan partners and has continued to provide on the ground support to a number of community organisations on Food Plan priorities, like promoting cash first approaches.

7.3 Supporting the re-establishment of the Urban Agriculture and Catering and Procurement working groups

These groups were reestablished in 2024/25 with revised membership. The Urban Agriculture working group, led by GCFN, is not yet meeting regularly, but hopes to resume in 2025/26. The Catering and Procurement working group, now chaired by NHSGGC and with refreshed membership, has been active and meeting regularly.



7.4 Refreshing the Food Plan Project Team

New partners have joined the Project Team, but participation is likely to continue to evolve in 2025/26, as the Good Food Nation Act requirements become clear. The Food Plan Project Team worked with NHSGGC colleagues to explore how 'Relevant Authorities' (as laid out in the GFN Act) across the NHSGGC Board area might most effectively work together in meeting their GFN requirements. The first of, what is intended to be, a series of networking meetings for Relevant Authorities within the NHSGGC Board area was held in May 2025, hosted by GCC and organised by NHSGGC. Speakers included representatives from Scottish Government, the Living Good Food Nation Lab and NHSGGC Public Health, followed by roundtable discussions to explore potential areas for collaboration in relation to GFN.

7.5 Improving data

Having consistent and robust data that enables better understanding of the food system and allows appropriate monitoring of Food Plan-related interventions remains a priority.

Comprehensive relevant data relating to the food system is limited, so this is an ongoing piece of work. Progress will be reported on in the five-year interim GCFP evaluation planned in 2026. The Food Plan Project Team are also working closely with the Good Food Nation Living Lab, hosted at the University of Edinburgh, as they develop their Good Food Nation core data sets and toolkits for Relevant Authorities.

► **7.6 Supporting and responding to funding opportunities, in order to enable progress on actions where capacity is limited, or to re-compensate agency involvement**

The challenge of delivering this Food Plan in a time of tight budgets has been noted throughout this annual report, and the benefits of dedicated funding and posts has been demonstrated, for example with the Cash First work in the Fair Food for All theme. The funding for the Sustainable Food Places Coordinator, who supports the work of the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership, is primarily dependent on GCPH. Furthermore GCPH, Glasgow City HSCP, NHSGGC and the GCFN support their staff to contribute to the management and delivery of the Food Plan. There are no additional funds for Food Plan activities nor to reimburse the contribution of community organisations or community members.

As a result, the Food Plan Project Team have continued to seek funding from a range of sources and funds in 2024/25 for activities, for research and so that reimbursement of partners' time can be offered. There have been some successes, most notably in securing funding for research and evaluation. As the local GFN requirements become clear, it will be important to continue to seek funding to support effective and collaborative action to deliver the improvements to the food system that are needed for health, equity and sustainability.

► **7.7 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**

The Glasgow City Food Plan, the collaborative nature of its development and the shared ownership between key partners has resulted in it being used by partners to help plan their own work in ways that contribute to the shared goals of improved health, equity and sustainability in the food system. For example, Glasgow City Council's Food System Development Fund directed funds to community organisations for work that aligned with the Food Plan's goals to increase food growing and to improve access to affordable, nutritious food. Glasgow City HSCP Health Improvement used funding from NHSGGC to support the City Food Plan's Community theme in ways that also aligned with NHSGGC community food priorities.

8. Reflections and plans for 2025/26

2024/25 has, again, seen increasing financial challenges for partner organisations from all sectors, as well as for Glasgow citizens, and this has affected the delivery of the Food Plan and its activities. However, the growing and interrelated challenges of food insecurity and dietary ill health increases the need for the Food Plan and reinforces the importance of continuing to strengthen our collective work to improve the food system.

There continues to be recognition of the need for the Food Plan, and enthusiasm, engagement and commitment from many partners, although not all are in a position to play as active a part as they would like due to limited capacity. Working together across sectors and organisations strengthens action as demonstrated by the many examples presented in this annual report, highlighting the value of collaboration, particularly when resources are limited.

As we begin the fifth year of the Glasgow City Food Plan and approach the half-way point, it will be important to take stock and to objectively assess the progress made so far, what is working well and what changes are required. To this end, there is an intention to undertake an external review of the Plan at the end of Year 5 and to reflect on and refresh the Plan for the subsequent five-year period. Given the developing national Good Food Nation policy context and the forthcoming requirement for local Good Food Nation Plans, the intention is to tie this midterm review of the GCFP with the development of the local GFN Plans for Glasgow. At the same time, it will be important to streamline the systems in place both to deliver and coordinate this work and, to this end, the Glasgow City Food Plan processes and working groups will be reviewed with NHSGGC and GCC (the GFN-designated Relevant Authorities) to ensure that these are efficient, effective and avoid duplication or inconsistencies. The partnerships, systems and achievements of the Glasgow City Food Plan to date mean that Glasgow is well placed to use the opportunities that the GFN Act brings to increase the pace and scale of progress towards a fairer, healthier and more sustainable food system and it is important to build on these.

The Good Food Nation is not just an opportunity to strengthen work to improve the food system in Glasgow City, but it also offers the potential to collaborate with neighbouring relevant authorities in the wider Glasgow City Region. In 2024/25 the first GFN networking event was held with local authorities across the NHSGGC area, and this networking will continue in the coming year to maximise opportunities for collaboration in our shared aim to improve the food system.

***Jill Muirie,
Chair, Glasgow Food Policy Partnership
October 2025***



Good food for all

GLASGOW FOOD POLICY PARTNERSHIP

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