

# SFP Bronze and Silver Awards Application Form 2023

This form is for completing an SFP Bronze or Silver Award application. If you are considering applying for a Gold Award, please contact the SFP team at [sfpawards@soilassociation.org](mailto:sfpawards@soilassociation.org) to discuss the process.



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

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

## SECTION 1: Information about your partnership and your place

Please complete the following (\*= compulsory):

Name of your partnership\*:

<b>Fair Food Aberdeenshire</b>
<b>Name and contact details of person/people leading on this application*:</b>
<b>Steve Balfour</b>
<b>Geographic region which this award will represent*:</b>
<b>Aberdeenshire</b>
<b>Award you are applying for*:</b>
<b>Bronze</b>

**Please provide us with background information about your place\*:** Advisory word limit: 400 words

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

**ANSWER:**

Aberdeenshire is currently home to around 258,000 people and by 2037 the population of Aberdeenshire is projected to be 299,813 (an increase of 17.3% from 2012 figures). To assist in providing services to residents, Aberdeenshire is split into six administrative areas; Banff & Buchan, Buchan, Formartine, Garioch, Kincardine & Mearns and Marr. A variety of diverse and unique communities' make-up each area, spanning into the Cairngorms National Park in the West, bordering with Angus in the South and the North Sea coastline in the East and North. Aberdeenshire is the fourth-largest council area in Scotland, covering an area of 6,313 square kilometers.

The political make up of Aberdeenshire can viewed [here](#) giving Aberdeenshire a perception of wealth, however due to the vast area and rural nature of Aberdeenshire, access to affordable, healthy food is a challenge that is often unperceived when we think about food insecurity. Aberdeenshire has one of the highest levels of people living in 'access deprived' areas in Scotland, contributing to higher fuel costs, reduced mobility and little or no access to affordable food. FFA aim to ensure that high quality food provision is accessible as well as identifying other key factors that contribute to food insecurity.

Food and drink is a significant part of North East Scotland's economy, with more than 22,000 people directly employed in the sector:

- 51% in agriculture
- 32% in food manufacturing
- 11% in fishing
- 6% in drinks

This makes it critically important to the success of the Scottish food and drink sector.

**How have you considered equity, diversity and inclusion in the structure and work of your partnership \*? Advisory word limit: 300 words**

**ANSWER:**

Aberdeenshire has a diverse range of communities over a large geographical area which FFA raised as one of the challenges the partnership would face from the beginning. FFA agreed that a community led approach would be essential to capture the range of views from across Aberdeenshire, from more prosperous areas to those more deprived. The first piece of funding and work that FFA have undertaken was a Participatory Development Grant from SFP to engage with marginalised groups. Through increased participation in all aspects of the partnership we are continuing to engage with communities across the Shire to encourage groups and individuals to help shape our plan. We will continue to build and strengthen these relationships so that we can provide a voice to anyone in Aberdeenshire facing the challenges we are trying to address.

The FFA steering is made up of members from various backgrounds and strives to be inclusive and represent the various groups across Aberdeenshire. The FFA action plan includes an action to develop an equity, diversity and inclusion policy which will be shared in early 2024.

## SECTION 2: Local food activity and impact

Please read **SFP Awards: Guidance for applicants:** [SFP Awards - Guidance for applicants.docx](#) before completing this section.

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

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

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

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

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

##### Local Food Partnership

[Fair Food Aberdeenshire](#) (FFA) was established in 2021 in response to the development of the Aberdeenshire Food Strategy. The group was broadened to include a cross-sector partnership with representatives from public, private and community sectors and report annually to the [Aberdeenshire Community Planning Board](#). The steering group meets bi-monthly and have a clear Terms of Reference with representation from a range of organisations which include:

- Aberdeenshire Council – [Tackling Poverty & Inequalities](#)  
[Economic Development](#)  
[Climate & Sustainability](#)
- [Aberdeenshire North Foodbank](#)
- [Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership](#)

- [NHS Grampian](#)
- [North East Scotland Climate Action Network \(NESCAN\)](#)
- [Community Food Initiatives North East \(CFINE\)](#)
- [One Seed Forward](#)
- [James Hutton Institute](#)
- [The Rowett Institute - University of Aberdeen](#)
- [The Haven](#)



The chairperson is a role currently shared by steering group members on a 6–12-month rotation. FFA has been supported by Aberdeenshire Council (Tackling Poverty & Inequalities) with the coordinator post being funded from 2022-2025. To further support the shared vision of all partners, FFA became a member of Sustainable Food Places in 2022. FFA have [Food Charter](#) which sets out their goals and aims in an accessible way.

### Policy & Strategy

The [Local Outcome Improvement Plan](#) (LOIP) includes a [Healthy Eating & Active Living \(HEAL\)](#) strategy with FFA are taking an active lead in delivering Food Accessibility outcomes . The FFA and HEAL coordinator meet bi-monthly to ensure that actions are taken forward and duplication is avoided.

[The Good Food Nation Bill](#) ensures Scottish Ministers, and a range of public bodies produce ‘good food nation’ plans to support social and economic wellbeing, the environment, health and economic development. The Bill lays the foundation for Scotland to become a Good Food Nation where people from all walks of life take pride and pleasure from the food they produce, buy, cook and eat each day. The Fair Food Aberdeenshire Food Plan will align with the ambitions of the Good Food Nation Bill, and we will continue to consult with the Scottish Government on all food policies.

[Sustainable Development Goals](#) - Driven by the United Nations, Sustainable Development (development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UN)) has been at the forefront of policy debate in recent decades as governments and local authorities look to transition to a green economy. Sustainable Development can not only tackle environmental issues but can help to solve the world's other challenges such as inequalities, poverty and economic downturns; governments and local authorities have now embedded these goals in national and local policies. Each key area of our strategy will highlight how a sustainable food system can contribute to various Sustainable Development Goals.

Huntly Food Plan is a pilot project to test a 'micro' sustainable food plan where groups have been in place to take forward

### Subgroups

Aberdeenshire is split into six administrative areas; Banff & Buchan, Buchan, Formartine, Garioch, Kincardine & Mearns and Marr. Each administrative area is served by a Local Community Planning Group and various local sub-groups which have agreed to partner with FFA to align food plans and deliver actions. Subgroups for Food Environment, Food Culture and Food Security have been established to develop and deliver actions across the FFA Food Plan. Economy and Procurement subgroups will be linked between the City and Shire however as FFA are a new partnership, the integration of these strands are actioned for 2024.

FFA sit in various groups which also contribute to and compliment the food plan such as:

- [Marr Area Partnership](#)
- [Buchan Poverty Hub](#)
- [Tre-Life](#)
- [Aberdeenshire Lived Experience Network](#)
- [Garioch Health Improvement Network](#)
- [Formartine Health Improvement Network](#)
- [Nescan Hub Climate Week North East](#)

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

### Food Plan

[The Aberdeenshire Sustainable Food Plan](#) is a 'living document' which provides a 3-year framework for those with lived experience to contribute to FFA's decision making process and is reviewed annually. Recent consultation work undertaken through the SFP Participatory Process Development Grant has provided us with an opportunity to establish relationships with community groups. We aim to utilise these relationships so that long-term engagement can provide a voice to marginalised groups. Currently 91 people have been engaged through face-to-face informal workshops, with a further 70 people taking part in an online survey. Further consultation workshops are currently taking place with plans to present our findings to those engaged with so far.

### Delivery

Considering the partnership is relatively new, FFA have managed to deliver several actions, developments so far include:

- Establish a working group to investigate the feasibility of Food Hubs
- Obtain funding for a Participatory Approach to the development of the Food Plan.
- Delivery of community workshops across Aberdeenshire
- Attendance at Taste of Grampian
- Strengthen partnership by expanding membership.
- Produce a food charter.
- Produce a draft food plan.
- Establish working groups.
- Join and engage with SFP Network

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

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

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

#### Public Awareness

[Our Aberdeenshire](#) is a website shows how we work towards our goal of achieving the “best quality of life for everyone in Aberdeenshire”. Partners work together at a strategic and local level to deliver priorities through the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and the Locality Plans.

**FFA Newsletter** has provides updates on food related initiatives, funding, events and engagement opportunities. The newsletter currently has a mailing list 111 recipients. FFA also has an Instagram with account (103 followers) and a Facebook (197 followers) and Twitter account (47 followers). FFA are currently developing a communications strategy with aims to expand partnership capacity in 2024 to increase public presence. A link to our social media platforms can be found [here](#).

[Visit Aberdeenshire](#) is a website that promotes and supports Aberdeenshire as a food tourism destination.

Supported by Aberdeenshire Council, FFA have a [webpage](#) which is a temporary online space for FFA until a website has been developed where information about aspects of all sustainable and healthy food in Aberdeenshire can be accessed. A word press page is also currently in development as a starting point to collate information.

FFA attended [Taste of Grampian](#) where a booth was hired to engage with the public and local food producers. An emailing signup list was available as well as leaflets, a suggestion board, volunteering opportunities, a partner case study and a competition. The event was worthwhile with a significant rise in social media followers and email recipients.





## Opportunities

[The Royal Northern Countryside Initiative](#) provides free education to children and young people in Aberdeenshire and RNCI provide farm visits, classroom speakers, demonstrations and much more for schools and local events. The RNCI has also sent out over 70 grow boxes to schools reaching nearly 2000 school children.

[The Huntly Hairst](#) is a unique annual harvest festival taking place in Huntly. This family event, established in 2002, celebrates the food and traditions of Aberdeenshire. It has something for everyone, from an extended Farmers Market with over 50 stalls showcasing the best of local produce to cookery demonstrations and competitions, including The World [Stovies](#) Championship.

[The Turriff Show](#) is the biggest two-day agricultural show in Scotland, attracting around 24,000 people, including those involved in farming as well as many non-farming people who enjoy the show for its wide array of activities. 300+ exhibitor stands as well as some of the finest food & drink and arts & crafts stands which included producers from within Aberdeenshire.

[One Seed Forward](#) encourage people of all ages to grow their own vegetables and fruit. OSF distribute seed potatoes via schools and community groups and deliver information sessions on how to grow them, including for individuals with no access to gardens/growing space as well as workplaces.

[Huntly's Greenspace Collective](#) is a grassroots collective of enterprises currently setting up as a CIC including wild areas, kitchen garden, shared market and big table to share meals in the garden.

[Confidence 2 Cook](#) is an NHS Grampian resource (including training) designed to equip those working in a community setting with the skills, knowledge and confidence to help others start to cook. It is particularly aimed to increase participant's knowledge on food and health and to help others develop their cooking skills. AHSCP and partners are supporting and implementing its use across Aberdeenshire.

[SRUC](#) offers a range of courses including Agriculture, Countryside and Environmental Management, Environmental Resource Management and Wildlife and Conservation Management. Recent discussions with FFA and SRUC have provided an opportunity for collaboration.

[Tap O'North Farm](#) has a Permaculture area and offer tours and advice.

[The Banff Vinery](#), managed by [Aberdeen Foyer](#) is a community space that provides opportunities for children, young people and families to take part in valuable health and wellbeing activities. The garden and Vinery space provide both indoor and outdoor space for growing and gardening opportunities. Ranging from planting seeds to harvesting fresh produce such as vegetables, fruits & herbs. The beautiful open plan kitchen space and café area provides opportunities for community learning, cooking and workshops.

[Peterhead Market Garden](#) is a multi-learning community growing space where anyone can participate in events and workshops. The site is managed by [Aberdeenshire North Food Bank](#) in partnership with Stella's Voice. The long-term aim of the project is to develop a large market garden providing access to affordable and health food. The project has received attention in the [national press](#) and continues to attract funding as a desired project for the Buchan area.

## Participation

[FFA](#) received funding for a Participatory Development grant and have engaged with various marginalised groups to increase participation in decision making.

[Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action](#) promote the growth of strong, resilient communities by connecting, supporting and promoting the third sector in Aberdeenshire. AVA is a one-stop-shop for all aspects of local volunteering. Support is available for finding suitable volunteering opportunities as well as advising groups on taking on and managing volunteers.

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

### **Support and Access**

[Faithful+Gould](#) are the leading the Design Team for the [Peterhead Community Campus](#) project and are have a number of community benefit commitments to deliver alongside the project including CPD events, online case studies/thought leadership pieces about projects and community, work experience placements, skills campaigns, college visits or careers days, mentoring programme, local charity fundraising, food bank collections and volunteering. F+G have agreed to help with delivery of market garden in Peterhead working in partnership with Aberdeenshire North Foodbank.

[The Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015 \("The Act"\)](#) aims to empower communities and those wanting to grow-your-own ("GYO").

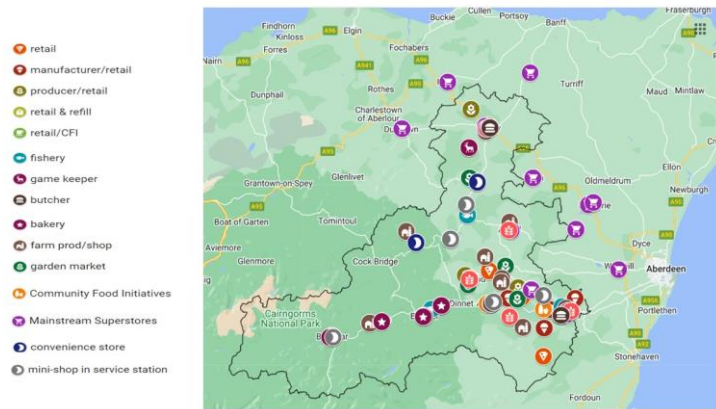
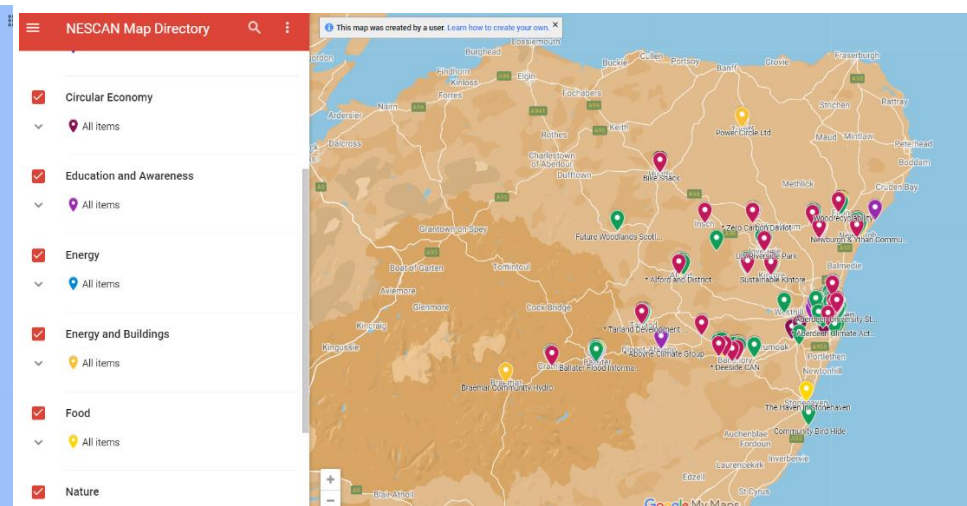
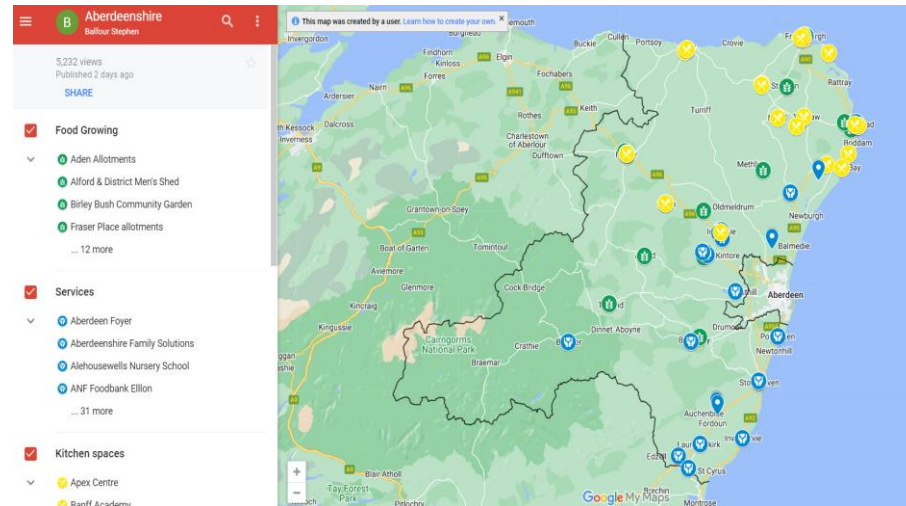
The Act requires local authorities to deliver GYO opportunities through:

- Maintenance of allotment waiting lists,
- Taking reasonable steps to increase allotment provision where waiting lists exceed trigger points,
- Identifying land within communities which may be suitable for community food growing and allotment provision.

The Act offers clarification of rights and protection for allotment holders and the local authority including making allotment site regulations.

FFA are developing a [map](#) of food growing spaces, services and places to access sustainable food. Working in collaboration with Community Planning and AHSCP, the map is a work in progress and will be embedded on partner websites once completed.

NESCAN have developed an [interactive map](#) which includes transport links and where to access food and growing opportunities.



Some of the extensive mapping undertaken by NESCAN, Marr Area Partnership, Aberdeenshire North Foodbank and Aberdeenshire Council. This shows a real desire to move beyond our current food choices, particularly in areas with limited access to affordable food and transportation. FFA are currently collating data relevant to sustainable food choices to produce a region wide map.





**Aberdeenshire Growing Spaces**

- COUNCIL OWNED/ LEASED ALLOTMENTS
- PRIVATE ALLOTMENTS
- COMMUNITY GARDENS
- ORCHARDS & EDIBLE TRAILS
- PARTNERSHIP GROWING AREAS
- FARMERS MARKETS

1. St. Andrews Gardens, Inverurie
2. Gordon Terrace, Elgin
3. Fraser Place, Kemnay
4. King Street, Huntly
5. Gourdian Allotments
6. Banff Allotments
7. Aden Allotments, Mintlaw
8. Stonehaven Allotments
9. Glamerhaugh Allotments
10. Peterhead Allotments
11. Alford District Mens Shed Allotments
12. Newtonhill Allotments
13. Cambhill Community Allotments
14. Woodend Allotments
15. Coulter's Allotments
16. Terland Community Allotments
17. Benholm Mill Orchard
18. Bervie Edible Trail
19. Portlethen Edible trail
20. Tarves Community Orchard
21. Banchory Food Trail
22. Huntly Edible Trail
23. Kemnay Community Garden
24. Meshick Community Garden
25. Fraserburgh Secret Garden
26. Pittscurry Environment Trust
27. Stonehaven Farmers Market
28. Banchory Farmers Market
29. Ballater Farmers Market
30. Inach Farmers Market
31. Elton Farmers Market
32. Peterhead Farmers Market
33. Banff Farmers Market
34. Huntly Farmers Market
35. Inverurie Farmers Market

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Scale 1:500000



### Aberdeenshire Potential Growing Sites

1. Inch Recycling Centre
2. Archeolink, Inch
3. Old Port Road, Inverurie
4. Averon Park, Blackburn
5. 25 Blackhall Road, Inverurie
6. Papermill Land, Port elphinstone
7. Shannocks View, Turriff
8. Old Acadeny site, Alford
9. Ladywood Drive, Aboyne
10. Opposite Portlethen Primary School
11. Rear of Public Hall, Hatton
12. Hacklaw Place, Cruden Bay
13. Next to Kirkton Cemetery, Fraserburgh
14. Fields of Waterton, Ellon
15. Next to scrap Yards, Fraserburgh
16. Parnassus Gardens, Fyvie
17. Fair Isle Crescent, Peterhead
18. Old bowling Green, Fraserburgh
19. Market Hill Primary School Site, Turriff
20. Haughs, Turriff
21. Nursery at Daviot
22. Tennis Courts, Aboyne
23. Market Green, Inverurie
24. Opposite co-op, Salmedie
25. Cheyne Walk, Newmachar
26. Meadows, Huntly
27. School Road, Kintore
28. Land adjacent Foveran School
29. Opposite Hillside School, Portlethen
30. Land at Health Centre, Portlethen

- There may be a barrier to community growing and may be impossible, or take much effort to change
- Not a barrier to community land use, may need managing or may be less desirable
- Workable for community land use

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Scale 1:500000





**Kincardine and Mearns Food Forum** - The purpose of the forum is to discuss, share and update on all things food related in the area. This discussion will look at ongoing food insecurity, food waste strategy, food growing projects, local larders and will enable us to look at any gaps that might exist and partnership working opportunities.

### Food Growing

[The Aberdeenshire Allotment Strategy](#) was developed after a wider understanding of allotment demand and user requirements was obtained via the 2018 public 'Greening-Get-Together', 'Garden in your Town' meetings and a resident allotment survey. Currently, the majority of allotment plots are provided by committee-run allotment associations - 193 plots across 6 sites. Aberdeenshire Council provides a further 83 plots across 6 sites.

[The FFA Sustainable Food Plan](#) has adopted the actions of the Aberdeenshire Food Growing Strategy as is currently undergoing a review and update with current consultation work.

A number of food growing projects across Aberdeenshire run by various organisations include but not limited to:

[Aden Country Park](#)

[Camphill School](#)

[Alford and District Men's Shed](#)

[Deveron Projects](#)

[Peterhead Community Garden](#)

[The Haven - Roots to Resilience](#)

[The Caim](#)



[Vertegrow](#) is Aberdeenshire's first vertical farm located in Newburgh, they do not use pesticides and supply only the nutrients that the crops need. Stacked crops minimise the building footprint, freeing up farmland for other uses, like tree planting and re-generation.

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

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

#### Action area A: Tackle food poverty

##### Partnerships & Plans

[Tackling Poverty & Inequalities](#) are a lead partners in FFA and chair the Food Security subgroup, complimenting their aims to improve food security which means better access to healthy and nutritious food across Aberdeenshire.

[The FFA Sustainable Food Plan](#) includes aims to reduce food insecurity and the underlying causes of poverty. The Food Security subgroup has been established to implement actions to reduce the need for emergency food provision.

[The LOIP \(HEAL\)](#) provides a vision, based on agreed local priorities, to which partners work systematically and collaboratively to meet the needs and aspirations of local communities. This includes a priority to increase access to healthy, sustainable and affordable food and were developed following engagement and consultation exercises with a wide range of stakeholders and local communities, as well as academic research and evidence.

[Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan](#) includes preventative actions such as encouraging healthy weight, diet and activity and minimising the impact of poverty and inequality.

[The Aberdeenshire Lived Experience Network](#) is a network of partners that support each other and share information, views, and knowledge.

The aims of the networks are:

- Strengthen partnership working links by raising awareness among partners about each other's work.
- Develop a network data base which can be useful for agencies.
- Ensure that Lived Experiences feedback goes to the right agencies and voices of people are being heard to encourage change.
- Use feedback collectively and hear from those community voices which seems to be missing.

All 6 [Community Planning groups](#) work in partnership with communities to develop projects to support food related activities that link to the Food Strategy. Aims include addressing issues around food insecurity, poverty, employment, social isolation and food growing.

### Food Provision & Dignity

[Aberdeenshire Council](#) provide free school meals for pupils from low-income families and are also eligible for payments during the summer holidays.

[Aberdeenshire North Foodbank](#) developed the End Hunger in Aberdeenshire campaign to reach people before there is the need for them to use a food bank. The aims were to:

- Work with foodbank users to build forums to find out why they are using them.
- Asking users if there are issues that they can help them with before the situation develops further.
- Drive up food donations to ensure that they can exist while still needed.

As part of the Trussel Trust's strategy to 'End the Need for Foodbanks' ANFB are working to change the public's perception of emergency food provision as well as improving referral pathways so that clients are provided with the appropriate support. As part of this strategy, ANFB distributed over [40 slow cookers](#) along with recipe booklets, ingredients and a shopping voucher.

**Dignity Dialogues** – With funding from the Scottish Government, SFP, FFA and Aberdeenshire Council are looking to understand more about people's experience of accessing pantries and gather their thoughts about other dignified responses to food insecurity. Meetings will prepare participants for meeting with local 'decision makers' from the local authority, Health Board, etc to create constructive dialogues to help improve

future local responses to food insecurity within local policy context, including the local Good Food Nation plans and the Cash-First Partnerships Programme.

### Cash First Approach

[Cash First Fund](#) - The Scottish Government has made up to £200,000 available to partnerships supporting people struggling with the Cost of Living. The overarching objective of the Fund is to improve urgent local access to cash in a crisis which can help to maintain dignity for those supported and reduce the need for emergency food parcels.

[Worrying about Money?](#) Is an online platform and leaflet offering advice and support for those struggling to make ends meet as is part of a cash first approach by the Independent Food Aid Network. Aberdeenshire have a customised version to signpost people appropriately.

[CFINE Mobile Pantry](#) is a dignified approach to improve access to fresh fruit and veg to residents of Aberdeenshire with little access to retail outlets at affordable prices. From April 2022 – April 2023 the mobile pantry served an average of 400 customers per month.

### Fair Wages

[Aberdeenshire Council](#) has begun the process to gain Living Wage accreditation and there are currently 70 accredited living wage employers in Aberdeenshire.

### Funding

[The Aberdeenshire Community Food Fund](#) from Aberdeenshire Council is for community or resilience groups seeking funding to tackle food security in Aberdeenshire Communities.

**Action Area B: Promote healthy eating**

## Campaigns

NHS Grampian and AHSCP are supporting the national [Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland Scheme \(BFSS\)](#). The purpose of this scheme is to ensure breastfeeding mums know that if they see the sticker the establishment will make them feel welcome and be supportive of her feeding choice. NHS Grampian and AHSCP offer breastfeeding support at every level. From pregnancy, looking for information, through to moving on from breastfeeding.

[SGF Healthy Living Programme](#) took place in 2021 with 3 Spar stores in the North East (Tarves, Peterhead and Keith) having a selection of fresh fruit, including bananas, apples, and oranges, available at till points and children will be encouraged to take a piece by store staff.

FFA have actioned to develop a campaign in 2024, promoting healthy food, across a series of events and all social media platforms.

## Training & Support

[Aberdeen Foyer](#) offer Training Courses including: SQA Elementary Food Hygiene. Participants gain dual certification in SQA and REHIS Elementary Food Hygiene accredited qualifications on completion of training and passing a multiple-choice test.

[AHSCP](#) run cooking workshops with clients using the Fraserburgh larder in response to the increased cost of living. The focus is on reducing food costs and food waste.

[Garioch Community Kitchen](#) is a Scottish Charity that provides practical cooking sessions for members and access to REHIS courses. GCK also run a [Kitchen Equipment Larder](#) which has a large selection of equipment for anyone who requires something.

NHS Grampian and AHSCP have rolled out [Confidence 2 Cook](#) training across Aberdeenshire. This includes building partnerships with partners who will deliver classes to vulnerable groups.

[HENRY](#) provides families with a range of support to help achieve a healthy lifestyle. Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership are working together with Home-Start North East Aberdeenshire to deliver HENRY Healthy Families - Right from the Start - This FREE programme is available to families with children aged 0-5 years; that live in Aberdeenshire and are able to commit to the 8-week programme.

[Online Healthy Helpings](#) is a free NHS Grampian weight management programme which offers a fun, interactive and informative way of finding out more about healthy eating and healthy lifestyle and the best ways to put it into practice in your everyday life.

[Healthy Weight Grampian](#) offers information aimed at helping Grampian citizens achieve and maintain a healthier lifestyle and weight.

[Grow Well Choices Early Years](#) (GWC EY) is available for children learn about the importance of being healthy and making healthy choices. GWC EY has been developed by NHS Grampian and education partners and includes the introduction of an Eatwell Guide.

[Eat Better Feel Better](#) website offers a selection of recipes and healthy snack ideas to inspire busy parents to try some new food choices.

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

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

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

#### **Strategy & Policy**

[The Regional Economic Strategy](#) includes a focus on 'Food, drink and primary industries.

[North East Scotland Food & Drink Strategy](#) (updated strategy to align with Ambition 2030) aims include:

- Expand non-local markets.
- Engage with the research base to innovate.
- Exploit regional spending power.

## Infrastructure

[Seedpod](#), a food innovation hub for businesses, led by Opportunity North-East and scheduled to open in 2022. The £21 million project will put food businesses at the heart of local innovation, sustainability, and the route to net zero.

FFA have begun discussion with subgroups and community planning about the feasibility of Food hubs. [The Buchan Poverty Hub](#) have agreed to become a working to investigate the feasibility of a community-led distribution food hub in the Buchan area. The idea will be to work with local producers who may struggle to find a route to market.

## Training & Advice

[Business Gateway Aberdeen City and Shire](#) offers free expert local assistance and advice. Whatever stage a business is at, their online support, local advisers, workshops and events help with any business situation.

[Opportunity North East Business Growth Programme](#) is designed for small food and drink businesses. The programme, designed and delivered by a Food & Drink team and industry experts, involves a series of workshops and a best practice visit covering a variety of topics designed to provide practical sessions, while encouraging networking between producers.

[Scottish Enterprise](#) offer a host of training, business planning and development support for new businesses.

[Scotland's Rural College](#) (SRUC) Food and Drink Training includes a focused department on Food & Drink. They deliver specific and bespoke training packages. FFA have linked with SRUC to investigate how and where sustainable food and training fit into the curriculum.

[Elevator](#) is Scotland's leading private sector organisation dedicated to supporting the entrepreneurs, inventors, disruptors, game changers and business leaders.

[The Scottish Association of Young Farmers](#) provides a supportive environment in which to discuss these issues and make their views heard by the industry and policy makers.

### Retail Diversity

There are approximately 30 food pantries and larders in [Aberdeenshire](#) with various membership routes. There are 14 farmers markets spread across Aberdeenshire each year with approximately 30 farm shops selling local produce although a full audit is currently in progress by FFA to be completed by March 2024.

Aberdeenshire also host a variety of retailers striving to run an ethical and sustainable food business. These include:

[Replenish](#)

[Wholehearted](#)

[Waste-A-Weigh](#)

[Butterfly Effect](#)

[Sustainable Roots Kintore](#)

[Bare](#)

[The Greengrocer](#)

[Deeside Refill](#)

[Ethical Gift Shop and Refillery](#)

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

### Promotion & Events

[Visit Aberdeenshire](#) promote information on food and drink experiences, eateries, and other food initiatives online across the North East of Scotland.

[North East Scotland Food and Drink Awards](#) - Delivered in partnership with Opportunity North East. The annual awards celebrate innovation and excellence while rewarding success in the food and drink sector. Free to enter, they are open to food and drink producers based in the North East.

[Scotland Loves Local Aberdeenshire Gift Card](#) - Our Aberdeenshire Gift Card is one of 32 such schemes, unique to each region of Scotland, and can only be spent in businesses located in Aberdeenshire. The Gift Card is a proven way of increasing footfall and spend for participating businesses across retail, leisure, hospitality and entertainment sectors.

[Showcasing Scotland](#) offers three days of carefully curated events which will showcase the very best of Scotland's produce, help to build new trade relationships and secure future business.

[Taste of Grampian](#) is the North East of Scotland's largest food and drink festival. It provides producers with the opportunity to showcase themselves to visitors. This event is very well attended (14,000+ visitors).

[Provenance Festival](#) is a 10-day event, running from 30 September to 9 October, gives you unique opportunities to get behind the scenes and hear first-hand the stories behind our iconic and sustainable food and drink from the people who make it.

[Bothies & Bannocks](#) provides foodie tours and adventure activities in the North East of Scotland.

[Foodie Quine](#) is a Scottish food and travel writer based in Aberdeenshire who has been blogging her edible adventures since 2012 and supports local produce and food businesses.

[The Kilted Chef](#) (Craig Wilson) serving high quality food using the finest local ingredients at [Eat on the Green](#). Craig has been honoured to cook for many high-profile celebrities including Sir Sean Connery, Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Patrick Stewart. In 2014, Craig was selected by VisitScotland to travel to New York as an ambassador for Scotland's food and drink, as part of Scotland Week. Craig continues to demonstrate



how to cook with local sustainable produce across Aberdeenshire and featured at this year's Taste of Grampian alongside celebrity chef James Martin.

### Veg Box Schemes

[CFINE](#)

[Castleton Farm](#)

[Bridgefoot Organic Co-op](#)

[Aberdeenshire Larder](#)

[Jamieson's Farm](#)

[Replenish](#)

[The Greengrocer](#)

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

[Brewdog](#) - BrewDog is a multinational brewery and pub chain based in Ellon, Aberdeenshire. With production of over 800,000 hectolitres, Brewdog has become an international brand and putting Aberdeenshire on the food and drink map. Brewdog produce a [Sustainability update](#) and use renewable solar energy, 99% plastic free packaging on online deliveries are now carbon neutral. They also offset through the very best planting schemes worldwide and are working on a very own BrewDog 'Lost Forest' coming in 2023. Brewdog is the world's first carbon negative brewery.

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

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

#### Strategy & Policy

Aberdeenshire Council has adopted a '[Sustainable Food Procurement and Community Benefits Policy](#)'. This policy lays out their commitment to securing meaningful environmental, social and economic value in procurements and to work with all sectors of the business community to achieve increased prosperity. Aberdeenshire Council procurement is managed by the [Commercial and Shared Procurement Service](#).

Procurement Guidance Note 10, the sustainable procurement policy, notes:

"[C&PSS aims to] Proactively work with all sectors of the business community to:

- (i) Support sustainable, inclusive economic growth.
- (ii) Identify leverage opportunities (including social, economic, and environmental value) aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities; and
- (iii) Maximise opportunities for the local supply chain, SMEs and the third sector to the full extent permitted by law"

NHS Grampian produce an annual [Procurement Report](#) and is one of few NHS Scotland Healthboards with shortened supply chains in butchery, fish, and pre-packaged sandwiches, accessing supply from local business.

Aberdeenshire Council is implementing the recent [Healthy Eating in Schools](#) policy in all schools across Aberdeenshire. This includes new standards on red and red processed meat, drinks and fibre (increasing fruit and veg availability, standards on higher fibre bread products).

[Free Water refills](#) are offered at sites in Aberdeenshire located at Aden Country Park, Cruden Bay's Harbour Street, and Fraserburgh beach as part of Scottish Water's network of Top-Up Taps

A number of towns and villages right across Aberdeenshire have achieved and renewed [Fairtrade](#) status including Stonehaven, Inverurie, Alford, Huntly, Mid Formartine and, Peterhead and Buchan. The council also supports Fairtrade Fortnight every year with publicity and staff events. Aberdeenshire also has a number of Fairtrade schools.

### Food Accreditation

Aberdeenshire Council achieved [the Food for Life Served Here \(FFLSH\) Bronze award](#) in 2014. It serves 14,200 Bronze meals every day across its 151 primary schools and 4 ASN schools.

All NHS Grampian hospital Aroma-eateries [Healthy Living Awards](#) certified with schools and care homes also included in the recipients of this award.

Sustainable Fish – Aberdeenshire have contributed to the Aberdeen City [Sustainable Fish Cities](#) campaign with all primary and secondary schools as well as hospitals pledging to buy and serve only sustainably certified fish. The Bay Fish and Chips, Grant Arms Hotel and The Shack, all located within Aberdeenshire were amongst the first food businesses to sign the pledge.

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

### Networks & Groups

[North East Food & Drink Network](#) support the growth of the region's food and drink with networking and dining events. These events are important communication channels to impart topical or specialist information. They also help producers to identify customers and suppliers and to share best business practice.

[Supplier Development Programme](#) offers expert training, support and information to help Scottish SMEs and third sector organisations interested in working with the public sector. This is all offered free and will help them win work and grow their businesses.

Buy North East aim to get the issue of local procurement firmly on to the agenda of private, public and third sector organisations in the region, providing stimulus, case studies and practical advice to both buyers and sellers with the result that more business is done between companies based in the city and Aberdeenshire.

[Aberdeenshire Council Environmental and Climate Change Policy](#) includes aims to:

- Promote sustainable procurement throughout the supply chain and encourage innovative solutions to positively benefit the environment.

[Public Contracts Scotland](#) is a portal launched in August 2008 is a vital ingredient in enabling the Scottish public sector to:

- Increase competition and support 'Best Value'
- Provide valuable free contract information to suppliers
- Support the Public Sector to achieve a more transparent tendering process and adhere to EU rule
- Build stronger communication links with buyers and suppliers
- Stimulate growth in Scotland

[Slow Food Aberdeen City and Shire](#) is committed to promoting the principles of good, clean and fair food for all. They reconnect producers and growers with customers to develop a sustainable food system, raise awareness of local and global food issues whilst also defending biodiversity, small-scale agriculture and artisan food production. They host food events and encourage those involved in private and public food sectors to 'buy local, eat seasonal' whether dining in or out.

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

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

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

### Strategy & Policy

[Aberdeenshire Council Environmental and Climate Change Policy](#) includes aims to:

- Reduce use of energy, water and natural resources in support of circular economy principles and zero waste.

[NESCAN](#) support and develop community led climate action throughout Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire. To support communities to be a part of a just transition to a sustainable North East Scotland, contributing to local, regional and national policy setting & decision making.

[Climate Ready Aberdeenshire](#) is a cross-sector initiative to create a climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy for Aberdeenshire. It brings together the views and expertise of a range of diverse stakeholders from communities, public, private and 3rd sector organisations, to set out how we can work collaboratively to meet the challenges of a changing climate within Aberdeenshire.

[Open Space Strategy](#) - The overall vision of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is to: “provide high quality multi-functional open space that is easily accessible, safe, welcoming, rich in biodiversity and sustainably managed for the future; which encourages a sense of belonging, and enhances the quality of life of those people who live, work in and visit Aberdeenshire”. Food related aims include:

- Ecosystem services as a material consideration
- Pollution and pesticide use, especially recent EU legislation
- Economic issues, including food security
- Public awareness
- Legislation

### Sustainable Food Production

[Castleton Farm](#) aim to farm profitably, but in an ethical and environmentally sustainable way. Their sustainability agenda takes the best of traditional agricultural practices and merges them with the technological advances that will help to minimise the impact on the environment.

[Bridgefoot Organic Co-op](#) use minimal plastic and no chemicals are used. They promote soil fertility, through humus builders (decomposing organic plant), which also helps prevent the erosion of soil microbes without damaging plant matter, thus creating a healthy tillable land and an eco-system which helps earthworms and other creatures to thrive. The crops are on long rotation plans, which creates a much more complex system and enhances diversification.

Other notable sustainable and organic producers include [Cushnie Farms](#), [Forest Farm The Organic Dairy](#), [Coldwells Organic Farm](#), [Wark Farm](#) and [Tap o' Noth Forest Garden Farm](#).

### **Support & Resources**

[Zero Waste Scotland](#) provides free guidance and training for businesses on how to reduce energy, food waste, packaging and water. Zero Waste Scotland also host a database of business where information on food waste can be shared.

Delivering place-wide campaigns to promote a mainstream shift to sustainable food – including (but not limited to) Veg Places (SFP), Food for the Planet (SFP) and Fair Trade campaigns.

[Climate Week North East](#) - A week packed full of fun, inspiring and interesting events, designed to raise awareness of climate change but, more importantly, show what we can all do to make a difference and reduce our carbon footprint in a fun way.

[Aboyne Climate Group](#) provide a range of educative talks and invite everyone to get involved in local projects that enhance our area and provide resilience to climate change.

[North East Biodiversity Partnership](#) - Following the recommendations in the report 'Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan', the North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership was established with members drawn from local government, environmental organisations, wildlife charities and hosted by what is now the James Hutton Institute.

## Community Approaches

[Sustainable Kintore](#)

[Tarland Climate Crisis](#)

[The Barn](#)

[Sustainable Ellon](#)

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

### Strategy

[The Aberdeenshire Council Waste Strategy 2019 to 2023](#) for Aberdeenshire was approved by councillors in January 2019. This is a 5-year strategy that aims to maximise reuse and recycling. In addition to providing more information to residents about what and how to recycle, the strategy also involves changes to the kerbside collection service and the recycling centres. To develop the strategy, the council consulted the public through the Big Recycling Challenge survey and focus groups were run in February 2018 to get feedback on some of the proposals. A public consultation on the resulting draft waste strategy was carried out in September 2018.

### Recovery & Redistribution

[Keenan Recycling](#) provides food waste collection services for businesses including, restaurants, hotels, care homes, hospitals, and prisons. Also collect food waste on behalf of waste management companies, brokers, and councils. With the use of high-end technology, we make the most of any food waste by taking it to anaerobic digestion plants, where it is converted into biogas that can be used for electricity, heat or even biofuel for transport.

[Greener Kemnay](#) is a group of residents (& friends) aiming to promote a green agenda in Kemnay through supporting community gardening and composting at Birley Bush and improving the local path network around the village.

[Ballater Climate Action Now](#) promote use of available free food on a Wednesday to initiate the use of the Toogoodtogo app

[Huntly Food Pod](#) is run by Aberdeenshire North Foodbank and is a drop in centre for anyone needing to access emergency food provision as well as reducing food waste and social isolation. Relationships with local retailers and producers have been established to redirect food surplus for free distribution amongst local residents.

[Newburgh Worms](#) collect food waste for their worm farm to produce high quality environmental compost.

There are a number of projects across Aberdeenshire aimed at redistributing food surplus from supermarkets to those facing food insecurity including:

[Zero Waste Deeside](#)

[Number One Banchory](#)

[Cromar Food Waste](#)

[Deeside CAN](#)

Community Café

[Udny Community Shelf](#)

[Inchmarlo Brathens and Glassel Community Council](#)

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

**FOR PANEL USE ONLY**

**Comments from the panel on your application:**



<b>Outcome of application:</b>
<b>Recommendations for onward progress:</b>