

SFP Bronze and Silver Awards Application Form 2024

This form is for completing a SFP Bronze or Silver Award application. **If you are considering applying for a Gold Award, please contact the SFP team at 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 2024](#).
- SFP Awards: Activity and Impact: [SFP Awards - Activity and Impact 2024](#)

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

SECTION 1: Information about your partnership and your place

Please complete the following (*= mandatory):

Name of your partnership*: Bury Food Partnership
Name and contact details of person/people leading on this application*: Francesca Vale, Public Health Practitioner for Food & Health, Bury Council, f.vale@bury.gov.uk
Geographic region which this award will represent*: Bury (in Greater Manchester)
Award you are applying for*: Sustainable Food Places Silver Award

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

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

ANSWER:

Bury has a population of 193,849 people across five neighbourhoods (Census 2021). Bury Metropolitan Borough Council is amongst the less deprived local authorities in Greater Manchester, but inequalities vary significantly within and across neighbourhoods. As well as its urban areas, Bury has miles of open green space, from green flag parks to beautiful open countryside and moorland. The Rock and Mill Gate shopping centres are central to Bury retail, and no visit is complete without a visit to the 'World Famous' Bury Market. The borough has developed a reputation for food and drink events across the year, specific to our local heritage and produce.

Bury Food Partnership launched the very first Bury Food Strategy – *Eat, Live, Love Food* in January 2021, following its endorsement by the Health & Wellbeing Board in November 2020. It has since

been integrated as part of the wider Bury Council 2030 Let's Do It Strategy for the future of our borough. Reducing health inequalities and wider social injustices are at the core of the policies within this, and aligning complementary strategies has opened the way for food-related issues to be considered in many areas, such as Anti-Poverty, Climate Action, Cultural and Economic Growth. From the outset Bury Food Partnership has adopted whole systems thinking, and prides itself on being a positive space to connect, challenge and help shape the way Bury sources and provides good food for all.

Through the Partnership, Bury became a Sustainable Food Places (SFPs) network member in November 2021, prioritising applying for the SFP Bronze award, and using SFP themes to collate partner activity across the food system. This process in and of itself acted as a constructive means to track and drive further activity. Bury were delighted to be awarded the Sustainable Food Places Bronze award in 2022 and have since been collectively working towards the SFPs Silver award in 2024. We are passionate about building on this momentum and driving this work forward by seeking out initiatives, policies and campaigns that complement, strengthen, and steer our food culture and food system for the better.

Although working at a time where there are immense pressures on councils' budgets and our local communities, we highly value and advocate tackling challenges through the exchange of ideas and solutions across our food partnership and the SFP networks. This in turn provides innovative opportunities, concepts and policies that benefit our local population.

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

Equality, diversity and inclusion are embedded in all aspects of our work in Bury.

The [Bury Inclusion Strategy](#) promotes equal access and take up of opportunities, to respect and celebrate diversity, to protect and raise human rights of all people across the borough.

Bury's LET'S Do It is a health inequalities strategy with a commitment to drive inclusion across our region, seeking to improve quality of life as measured by inequalities in life expectancy. It addresses many of the important foundations of health, and a wide range of action on health inequalities flows from this. Tackling these inequalities means working across the whole range of diverse groups and communities in Bury. The Health and Wellbeing Board brings system partners together around a model of population health that emphasises action on the building blocks of health, healthy behaviours and lifestyles, healthy places and communities, and healthcare services.

Bury Council launched a new equality impact assessment tool and guidance in February 2024. Equality impact assessments have been carried out considering the equality, diversity and inclusion aspects of planned regeneration, new policies, strategies, and procedures.

During the year Bury celebrates Christmas, Easter, Diwali, Eid, Hanukkah, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur. The Bury Pride festival is the second largest in Greater Manchester.

The Co-Chair of LGBTQI+ Forum and Deputy Lieutenant for Bury is a founding Bury Food Partnership member, bringing expertise and an inclusion lens to our Bury Food Partnership working.

The LGBTQI+ Forum aims to bring together members of the local community with local organisations to increase the awareness and understanding of LGBTQI+ issues and improve the quality of life for LGBTQI+ residents, through drop-in sessions and events tied to national activity. Bury LGBTQI+ has been awarded the [Kings Award for Voluntary Service](#) in November 2023, the highest award possible to a local voluntary group.

Equity, diversity, inclusion and reducing health inequalities are embedded in the work of the Bury Food Partnership and aligned networks. Bury Food Partnership cascades culturally appropriate resources via our networks, and when promoting campaigns and events such as the Bury Food & Drink Festival, we bring the importance of inclusion to the forefront of our planning conversations (see Partnership minutes March 2024).

SECTION 2: Local food activity and impact

Please read SFP Awards: Guidance for applicants: [SFP Awards - Guidance for applicants 2024](#) before completing this section.

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

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

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

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

Key Issue 1 Mandatory Criteria Checklist

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

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

- 1. Have you submitted a current food action plan or food strategy with an action plan?**
 - **Yes** – Please see the Bury Food Strategy (p 20 – 27 for the action plan)
- 2. How are you evidencing this action plan?**
 - Attachment as a Word, PFF, Excel document? **No**
 - Link to an online document? **Yes**
 - If a link place here as well under Key Issue 1
 - Action Plan link: [Bury Food Strategy \(p 20 – 27\)](#)
- 3. Has the action plan less than 6 months to run?**
 - **No**

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

Bury's Food Journey

Cross-sector food partnership

Bury Food Partnership has for four years been a collaboration of positive, proactive partners interested in healthier and sustainable food. A key output of the Bury Food Strategy was to formally establish our Partnership to drive the food agenda forward, delivering on the five-year action plan. Partners have been actively engaged since 2020, many of whom have helped to develop our strategy, with quarterly partnership meetings held since March 2021. Meetings encourage sharing of best practice and collaboration. *"It is a space to connect with professionals and community organisations/individuals across Bury and Greater Manchester to challenge and help shape the way Bury sources and provides food for all."* Lucy Fitzsimon, Neighbourhood Wellness Lead, Live Well Team.

Representation and terms of reference

Partnership membership has substantially grown from a core of 25 in 2020, to 70 members in 2024 from across the food system. Please reference the Partnership minutes to view all participants.

Active representation includes:

Public Health, Health & Wellbeing Board Cllr representation, NHS GM Integrated Care, School Nursing, Health Visiting, School Meals Service, Dietetics, Oral Health Promotion, Fairfield General Hospital, Live Well Service, Older People Staying Well Team, Age UK Salford, Bury Carers' Hub, Bury Adult Learning Centre, Bury Market, Bury Art Gallery, Business & Investment Team, Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Team, Bury Housing, Onward Homes, Morrisons, Tesco's, ASDA Community Champions, Bury Voluntary, Community & Faith Alliance (BVCFA), Bury Community Support Network members (food banks, food pantries and community groups with a community food offer), social enterprise GM Cracking Good Food, Incredible Edible Prestwich & District, The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Climate Action Team and Transport for Greater Manchester.

Third sector representation continues to increase, with supermarket community champions connecting directly, and Wildlife Trust for Lancashire joining. Important third sector groups are represented via the VCFA chief officer, such as Friends of Clarence Park, African and Caribbean Women's Centre, LGBTQI+ Forum, Bury Epilepsy and Bury Blind Societies, allowing the Partnership's work and the voices of these organisations to cascade up and down.

The Partnership collectively wrote and agreed Terms of Reference in 2021 (see submitted supporting documents) articulating shared ownership and expectations around connecting, collaborating, sharing ideas, and operating democratically. Meetings are chaired by an elected Bury Council Health and Wellbeing Board member, with minutes publicly available. The Public

Health Practitioner for Food and Health supports the chair and wider partnership, leading on coordinating agendas and setting meetings, and driving forward the work of the Partnership.

The Partnership formed the Bury Good Food Charter, signature heart shaped logo, and [Bury Food Partnership page](#) where food system information, resources and media articles are shared.

Institutional recognition and commitment

Bury Council have fully endorsed and continue to support the Bury Food Strategy and the work of the Bury Food Partnership, both of which are cited in the [Let's Do It 2030 Strategy](#).

The Bury Council Public Health Practitioner for Food & Health leads on the Bury Food Strategy and Bury Food Partnership, with this remit now built into the role. Their time has also allowed for writing successful grant applications providing critical resource to enhance and embed work underway. We are immensely proud of how much has been achieved by the Partnership since being awarded the SFP Bronze award in 2022, forming the bedrock from which our recent partnership activity has continued to build.

Working groups

In-between quarterly partnership meetings a range of activity is underway. Thematic food system-related updates are shared. Subgroups for key strategy areas are held to connect members' priorities and activity, and bidding opportunities are supported. Regular contributions are fed into aligning strategies such as Climate Action and Anti-Poverty where food issues have been strongly embedded, and we continue to make substantial progression towards influencing and implementing Healthy Planning and Public Procurement policies.

Bury Community Support Network (BCSN) facilitated by Bury Voluntary Community and Faith Alliance (BVCF) brings partners together to focus on working to address food insecurity related issues. Members are independent charities, food banks and pantries who directly support people experiencing poverty. Representation from this network is a key element of the Bury Food Partnership, and indicative our aim of inclusivity. Both the BCSN and Bury Food Partnership feed directly into the Bury Anti-Poverty Steering group.

Funding Opportunities

Bury Food Partnership has embedded the Food Charter into funding frameworks. By ensuring that the third sector via support through the VCFA the Partnership has directly advised and supported policy and guidance on the criteria to access Health Improvement Fund, Household Support Fund, Cost of Living and Climate Action grants. Through this work, it has allowed for the third sector to access other funding opportunities, including European Union Cascade Cities and Clever Food.

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

Food strategy/action plan

We are in the fourth year of our five year Bury Food Strategy - the result of widely researching the food system to understand what works across the UK, and how this transfers to Bury specifically. 2025/6 will see the start of our next five-year strategy, building directly upon the first, and aspiring towards Bury achieving the SFP Gold award.

Partnership agendas, minutes, and actions (see submitted supporting documents) demonstrate our continued collective progress and growing membership. The [Bury Food Strategy](#) is published on the Council website and [Bury Food Partnership page](#), this is frequently referenced by many interconnected services, community groups, local and regional partners.

Food vision and charter

The [Bury Good Food Charter](#) encapsulates our food vision, principles, and ambitions. The Charter asks individuals, businesses, and communities to commit to actions that will help to achieve good food for all. The Charter was formed early in our partnership development and has been cascaded by the Partnership as a key communication tool. The Charter is also shared with new partners to demonstrate how priorities compliment and align.

The Partnership designed our heart shaped logo and Bury Directory Food Partnership page where all key partnership information, resource and [media articles](#) are shared.

Monitoring and review

The Bury Food Strategy is reviewed annually. It has short, medium, and long-term actions, with six key sections reflecting the Sustainable Food Places framework, created collaboratively with partners in a thorough consultation. Collaborations are monitored, encouraged, and widely celebrated. Progression against the action plan is measured at Partnership meetings and in the annual review (see submitted supporting documents for the reports referenced below).

Bury Food Strategy's recent progress has been highlighted within this year's Bury Public Health Annual Report (2024) and is cited in [Bury's Health Inequalities position paper](#) (June 2023) on the Bury [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#).

Ongoing progress is shared via reports and presentations at the Health & Wellbeing Board and Population Health Delivery Partnership.

- Bury Food Strategy Progress Report for the HWB (2023) (see submitted supporting documents)
- Bury Food Partnerships SFP Bronze application was shared with the HWB as a method to update the HWB (2022)
- Bury Food Strategy Highlight Report (2021)

Bury's participation during 2022 in the [My Food Community Leadership Programme](#) greatly enhanced our food leadership skills and confidence to address, frame, and find solutions to our

local food system issues. We were honoured to be invited to share Bury's Food Journey and Partnership progression at the My Food Community [Alumni webinar in May 2024](#).

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

The Partnership continue to expand work across all aspects of the food system, with the Bury Food Strategy outlining future activity across all areas. Within the broader body of work, this year the Partnership prioritised promoting Healthy Start, the role of Bury Market in reducing health inequalities and supporting economic growth, connecting community enterprises, and improving public procurement practices. We actively advocate the work of the Partnership in many forums, and regularly connect for peer learning with food partnerships across the regions on our key areas of activity.

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

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

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

Our Partnership delivers and supports a wide variety of good food movement, awareness raising and inclusive activities. The following is an example of this work in some detail, and many other examples are referenced throughout this application, and should be seen as evidencing the widespread public participation in Bury.

Bury Food Partnership were successfully awarded a Good Food Economy grant (£7,500) from Sustain in December 2022. When activity commenced in January 2023, Bury had 62% Healthy Start uptake, reflecting the national 62.7% uptake. The Partnership saw the potential in a promotional campaign that framed Healthy Start usage as local families supporting the local economy, through being redeemed directly with small local businesses. This had the potential for dual benefit, in increasing Healthy Start uptake whilst supporting a Good Food Economy.

Bury Market, as our flagship local food space, embraced promoting Healthy Start. They adapted their Business Development officer's work plan to incorporate the making of bespoke promotional materials and direct liaison with the stall holders to bring them into the scheme. Of the five fruit and veg stalls within the market, the three largest fruit & veg stalls quickly came fully on board, with a further stall intending where possible to accept Healthy Start cards.

A soft launch was organised, to begin awareness raising and to test Healthy Start cards working in practice with families and pantry members, via a market tour (March 2023). A participant said: "As a mum of a nearly 3-year-old, the market is great for me. My daughter just can't get enough fruit. She

loves it. The market gives me a great choice as well as good quality, and now I know that I can use my Healthy Start she'll be trying even more new fruits."

Healthy Start at Bury Market was officially launched in May 2023 with a partnership wide celebration cooking demonstration. Among those taking part were the Mayor of Bury, Cllr Walmsley, Cllr Tariq (HWB lead), Cllr Fitzgerald (Food Poverty portfolio), Cllr Frith, Bury Market team, Healthy Start traders, Bury Schools Catering, Public Health, Bury Adult Learning Service, FGRS Community Hub and Trust House families. The public engaged very well with the event, with some going on to enrol on Bury Adult Learning courses.

The connectivity of the Partnership then allowed for multiple promotion points for the campaign to generate further engagement, demonstrating the power of partnership working and building something that is transformative. Although there is no single easy solution this local, networked approach is innovative in tackling its aims.

Healthy Start at Bury Market activity:

- Digital artwork on screens located on the main high street, dual carriageway, GP practices, Market Food Hall, and Bury Adult Learning Centre.
- Bury Market Facebook posts reaching new audiences.
- Market tours with community groups, with some now accepting Healthy Start within their own settings.
- [GMCA HS training video](#) shared.
- HS promotion with families registering births with Bury Registry Office.
- HS promotion during community cookery courses.
- HS QR codes embedded onto menus and letters (School Meals Service and Holiday Activity and Food Programme).
- Through engaging with this campaign Bury's Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) now embed Healthy Start into their electronic questions asked when carrying out Universal Credit initial claimant meetings across all Bury job centres, a groundbreaking step forward. Bury shared and advocated this approach with all the Greater Manchester DWP leads in October 2023.

Bringing this valuable nutritional safety net to Bury Market has been beneficial to everyone involved. Bury has experienced increases locally in uptake despite the eligibility shrinking nationally, demonstrating the success of promotional strategies and partnership working. Healthy Start uptake in Bury has increased to 69 % (June 2024) and is higher than the national average of 66.1%. Please see the following articles: [How Bury is putting money back into people's pockets article](#) and [Bury Market now a Healthy Start destination | Sustain \(sustainweb.org\)](#).

We presented our journey of making Bury Market a Healthy Start destination at the Sustainable Food Places conference in 2023. This led to further connectivity with regional food partnerships,

and the Soil Association visiting and sharing their experience in the [Bury Changemakers: a place-based approach article](#).

It was a privilege to showcase Bury at Parliament in Westminster in 2023. Four partnerships were chosen (one from each nation) as panel speakers from a possible eighty. Bury being chosen demonstrates the high regard in which our work is held, as an example of connecting, supporting, and celebrating communities and businesses through food.

Bury presented our approach at the GM Healthy Start Task Force, which led to Manchester, Tameside and Bolton councils requesting to join a market tour. This tour was also attended by Bradford Market team, Leeds Public Health, Leeds University and London University Centre for Food Policy. Positive feedback from attendees validated the hard work and commitment the Partnership have given to this cause. The huge momentum generated from our small but important scheme has been immensely rewarding, observing a ripple effect as regional partnerships are replicating Healthy Start in markets within their own areas.

Community cookery events continue to expand, with work directly within local environments via Bury Adult Learning, as well as demonstrations and events by Friends of Clarence Park and Cracking Good Food. Cookery linked to ingredient growing in allotment schemes and underused spaces has also developed, in projects like those funded by the Climate Action Fund, partnering with groups such as Creative Living Centre and Asian Development Association of Bury. Please also see Section 2B (below) outlining key growing activity underway.

Our Partnership website has been created since achieving the bronze SFP award. This forms a single location to communicate our activity to members and beyond. News events (such as the Bury School Catering Food for Life Served Here Silver Award 2024) are highlighted, to be cascaded to members. Nutrition reports, key references, videos and a host of good food information resources are all available here through links. Our Bury Good Food Charter is also highlighted, as a mechanism for people to get involved in the Partnership's good food activity. The page is one of the most well used on the Bury Directory, and we are intending to promote the website and its content via a press push on the back of a potential silver award.

Plans are also developing for a Public Health Podcast, featuring members of the Partnership discussing current good food topics. This is being planned with the wider Public Health team, and is an exciting development harnessing new and diverse communication methods for the public to engage with.

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

The Partnership itself meets online quarterly as a whole group. These meetings are well attended. Guest speakers are chosen for each meeting, drawn from the Partnership itself and beyond, showcasing inspiration, ideas, and resources. Bury Food Partnership prides itself on providing and promoting opportunities to celebrate good food, growing, and climate action initiatives; much of which is brought to fruition by the strength and passion of the voluntary sector.

Please see examples demonstrating connectivity and activity across the system.

In 2022 the Climate Action Fund (£100,000) funded 12 [new projects across Bury](#), which included generating new community activity on: plant-based cookery classes from surplus food, hosting a community Green Day event to promote environmental action, working with small businesses to commit to becoming plastic free, tree planting, and increasing the number of volunteers involved in conservation. All of these areas are part of the Partnership activity.

Friends of Clarence Park are a community group using good food and innovation at the heart of their projects. Please view [an interview with Friends of Clarence Park](#) demonstrating their impact. They hosted a cookery demonstration and sharing of a delicious meal with the visiting groups, and Bury's first Kitchen Kit Giveaway, funded by a Cost-of-Living grant and working with social enterprise [Cracking Good Food](#). This event provided free preloved kitchen equipment to neighbouring community groups and their visitors (see Partnership minutes, September 2023). This event built on from the successful Friends of Clarence Park Community Recipe Book funded by Bury's Health Improvement Fund (see Partnership minutes, June 2022). Due to popular demand, 400 additional copies were printed and shared via multiple community groups, community cost of living events, and winter warming packs in December 2023.

Incredible Edible Prestwich & District (IEPD) are founding Bury Food Partnership members. IEPD host the largest branch in the UK, and are involved in many growing activities and events such as [Prestwich Clough Day](#) (May), Good to Grow week (April), and Apple Day at Philips Park (October). Please view the variety of [fruit and vegetable growing projects](#) in local parks and places around Prestwich, Whitefield, and Radcliffe. Bury also has [20 allotment sites](#) and [11 new community orchards](#).

IEPD connectivity within the Partnership has promoted donations of surplus harvest to local food banks and pantries. IEPD are involved in many green social prescribing projects across the borough, via GPs and other prescribers from the sector. IEPD also formed a new alliance at the Partnership with [the Sunnywood Project](#) and their initiative [Fit For Purpose](#) combining physical activity with social action to improve fitness, community cohesion and wellbeing.

The Partnership are presently considering how the Right to Grow could make it easier for our community groups to access unused public land, and how to advocate support to explore this further as part of Bury's emerging Health Planning Policies (see Partnership minutes, March 2024). This work has been shared at the Incredible Edible [Right to Grow Learning Network webinar](#) in March 2024. For the first time community growing mapping across Bury is underway. We hope this insight will help gain political support and buy in from the Health & Wellbeing board, with an aspiration to launch in spring 2025. This priority aligns well with the first [Greater Manchester State of Nature report](#) (March 2024) which provides a review of the city-region's wildlife, spaces for nature and wider environment.

Five [Bury projects](#) have been funded by the Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund in February 2024. Bury Food Partnership member Radcliffe Growing Together, received £40,000 funding. Tina Harrison MBE, community volunteer lead, shared with the Partnership how the projects will encourage residents to use green space and help improve mental health and wellbeing. The project aims to improve a deprived urban area of approximately 6 hectares, with Radcliffe

Football Club, Radcliffe Primary School, Radcliffe Anglers, and Growing Together Radcliffe. The project will focus on four areas: Redbank lodges to create natural spaces that feels safer and more welcoming, the football club to create a community garden, the school to engage children and families and offer the first steps into accessing their local spaces, and Milton Road field where a reduction in fly-tipping and wildlife diversification is being sought to encourage greater use by residents.

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

Bury has developed a reputation for food and drink festivals across the year, specific to our local heritage and produce. [Ramsbottom Chocolate & Cheese Festival](#) (April 2024) and Heaton Park Food Festival (next held in Aug 2024) attract many residents and tourists to the Borough, bringing a welcomed increase in footfall and boost to the local economy through a strong good food movement.

The Partnership were delighted to support Bury's inaugural [Food and Drink Festival](#) in May 2024. During this celebratory three-day event, Bury Town centre was packed full of pop-up food markets, artisan stalls, music and live entertainment showcasing the best food and drink Bury has to offer. Vendors included vegan, vegetarian, and artisan stalls, located around the Golden Mile, Bury Market, Kay Gardens, The Haymarket, and The Rock shopping Centre. Bury Food and Drink Festival has been much anticipated, building on previous years events such as Bury Vegan Market, and So Hong Kong a 2-day event dedicated to Cantonese, Japanese, Korean and South Asian cuisine during 2023. The festival has acted as a pilot scheme within the new Culture Strategy, with the intention to further expand, invest, and roll out wider across all the regions' neighbourhoods. Bury Food Partnership are directly involved in, promote, and celebrate all these events and continue to support a diverse cultural food offer representative of all communities.

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

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

Action area A: Tackle food poverty

Multi-agency partnership

Bury is a member of the [GM Food Security Action Network](#) and attends events aimed at co-designing Greater Manchester's food security response. Within this network there are 4 taskforce groups focusing on:

- increasing uptake of Healthy Start and Free School Meals
- providing greater support to ensure no child goes hungry
- helping those accessing emergency food to escape financial hardship

- maximising food sustainability

Bury Community Support Network facilitated by [Bury Voluntary, Community & Faith Alliance](#) (Bury VCFA) brings partners together locally to address food insecurity-related issues and the underlying causes of poverty. Members include independent [food banks, pantries, and charities](#) who directly support people experiencing poverty. [24 of these community groups](#) are funded to support Bury communities via Cost-of-Living Grant in 2023.

Bury VCFA supports capacity building to strengthen the sector, sharing of best practice, peer support, funding and governance support. They gather insights that influence strategic decision making and promote the work of members directly into Bury's Anti-Poverty Steering group. The [Bury Volunteering Strategy](#) and organisational support offered by the Bury VCFA is essential. *'This strategy brings together insights gathered from VCSE sector groups, partners, and volunteers. It provides our key commitments to enable volunteering to continue to flourish in Bury and the starting point for how we will work together as Team Bury to create a place where people are inspired, supported, and empowered to volunteer.'* Helen Tomlinson, Chief Officer, Bury VCFA.

Social food provision

Bury Food Partnership develops and cascades social food provision information across the food system, for instance the [Infant Experiencing Food Insecurity flowchart](#) in April 2024, and Healthy Start vitamins promotional materials in May 2024.

[Bury's Holiday Activities and Food Programme offer](#) provides food and activities during school holidays for children who are eligible for free school meals. BCSN shares funding opportunities such as [Nourish the Nation – Forever Manchester](#) to support our communities with food and holiday activities. Partnership connectivity has additionally strengthened working relationships between services, leading to the procurement of Food for Life Served Here accredited food.

Bury Food Partnership champions malnutrition prevention by sharing [N&H programme materials and training opportunities](#). 51 local organisations and 200 Nutrition & Hydration Champions have been trained since 2018 to recognise and combat the signs of malnutrition in older age. Many organisations have now successfully embedded Nutrition & Hydration prevention pathways within service level agreements, job descriptions and training requirements. The Older People Staying Well Team update the Partnership on Nutrition & Hydration twice per year, and actively raise awareness all year round.

Collaboration with [Porch Boxes](#) led to the distribution of nutrition bags for those leaving hospital with a risk of malnutrition (see Sustain's [Home from Hospital Guide](#)). Nurse's quote: *'A gentleman came to Discharge Lounge following admission for a fall and UTI. The patient was fit for discharge but vulnerable and did not have his usual support network in place. It's unlikely he had much food in the house. We offered him a nutrition bag. The patient was really emotional, close to tears. He offered to pay for the food and would not let go of the bag even for the ambulance crew to carry. This experience has been shared with all the team here and highlights the importance of this scheme.'*

Bury's Citizens Advice Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, funded by the Household Support Fund, provides much needed community-based income maximisation support. [Cost of living support](#) and [Bury Money Advice Referral Tool](#) are shared across all networks. Charities such as

[Brick by Brick](#) redistribute essential household items to partner organisations, and community groups support families (who often just miss out on eligibility for government support) to make cost savings through running pantries and school uniforms shops.

Bury Food Partnership developed [A Path to Pantry](#) with [Trust House](#) in 2022 via a My Food Community grant. The film and resource have acted as a catalyst to support our local groups move towards sustainable food models and has been viewed 288 times to date. Trust House opened in 2019, working with over 700 individuals to tackle, food poverty, fuel insecurity and mental health. They were successfully awarded National Lottery funding in 2024, securing their next three years of delivery. Trust House shared that their involvement with My Food Community and the Good Food Enterprise project has assisted in their development which helped lead to securing this funding.

[Fishpool, Goshen, Redvales, Springs](#) (FGRS) Community Hub located in Bury Football Club, opened in 2022, and rapidly moved from a food bank to a pantry model. 47 families visit the pantry weekly paying £3 for 12 items. Healthy Start is promoted, recipe cards are shared, and you do not need to be on benefits to access the pantry (see Partnership minutes Sept 2023). Alongside the pantry they run a uniform shop, both are run completely by volunteers.

Remarkably, the uniform room has so far supported over 3000 children with school uniform items, sports kit, and equipment bags set up for high school.

"I am a single mum (in full time employment) with 4 boys all in high school. Over £600 on school uniform before bags and shoes. I was embarrassed to ask but the ladies were so lovely and welcoming. They helped me so much. I got uniform for my boys for a donation. Absolutely lifesaving! Took away my sleepless nights. Thank you so much. "

The Partnership secured a Good Food Enterprise grant (£5.5k) from Sustain in May 2023. Trust House, Radcliffe Food Club, FGRS Community Hub, Bury Food Club, and St Andrews Pantry took part in the Connecting Community Food Enterprises project. These groups came together to discuss sustainable food sources and models of operation, with the hope insights would strengthen the sector and support the groups to attract social investment. Bury linked with Brighton & Hove, Waltham Forest and Liverpool partnerships through this project. Bury networked, visited and hosted, and shared a wealth of practices across the regions. Radcliffe Food Club are a shining example of one of our groups who have developed their model of delivery in direct response to involvement in this project and visit to the Hornbeam Cafe in Waltham Forest. The Food Club is run by a team of 20 volunteers, nine of whom initially joined the Club as members. Please see a film case study [interview with Radcliffe Food Club](#) and [article](#) which is featured in the Sustain [Connecting Community Food Enterprises Toolkit](#).

Fair wages

Bury Council is a Real Living Wage employer and a member of the [Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter](#) giving direct increases in earnings for over 4,000 local people involved in Council services, whilst encouraging other employers to join. This is a key priority within the Let's Do It Strategy.

[Bury NeighbourHub](#) opened in 2024 within the Millgate Shopping Centre. This is an innovative project between Bury Works, Bury Council and [Ingeus](#), working with residents, and employers to help create lasting employment.

[Bury Business and Investment Team](#) neighbourhood events help to build relationships to identify a resident's needs and the best way to assist with employment, skills, debt support and health support.

Action Area B: Promote healthy eating

Bury Food Partnership launched Bury Market as a Healthy Start Destination in 2023. Please see Key Issue 2 for a full account.

[The Golden Apple Award](#) recognises early years childcare providers who wish to improve nutrition, hygiene, and oral health. Run in collaboration by Bury Council and the NHS since 2006, settings complete assessments evidencing healthy policies, and the promotion of the schemes' core principles. There are 46 Gold accredited Golden Apple nurseries, as well as 67 nurseries taking part in a [Supervised Brush Bus Scheme](#). All [oral health promotion resources and Oral Health Training](#) are held on the Bury Directory. [Oral Health Campaigns](#) are promoted by the Partnership across the year, with special focus during National Smile Month.

[Essential Parent](#) - a new digital information service, offers evidence-based content, across conception, pregnancy, birth, babies, toddlers, children, and teenagers. Community services who work directly with children and families have been trained to use this platform. Partnership members have embraced this tool as a method to share nutrition, [breastfeeding support](#) and Healthy Start materials directly with families.

Bury Schools Catering Service caters for 16,000 children, the service committed to achieving the Food for Life Served Here Award within their service plan. To achieve this, seasonal menus were developed, and sustainable procurement prioritised. This key activity was showcased in Sustain's [Every Mouthful Counts Report](#) (December 2023), and in April 2024 fifty five primary schools were successfully accredited with the Food for Life Served Here Silver award and Green Kitchen award. Alongside serving high quality locally procured food, regular food themed promotion days such as [Eat them to Defeat them campaigns](#) are promoted.

Bury actively supports the call for auto enrolment onto Free School Meals (FSMs) and is a member of the GM auto enrolment taskforce and advocates all the benefits of FSMs (support with wider costs, free milk, Holiday and Activity Food Programme, Pupil Premium funds).

Bury Adult Learning Centre (BALC) adapt their offer to suit community need. What's Cooking is a free course run throughout the year for parents, grandparents, or carers to improve their confidence in the kitchen and learn to make healthy family meals. Courses are delivered from the centres' purpose-built cookery classroom, and in community settings incorporating the use of microwaves and slow cookers. Housing Association Onward Homes collaborated with BALC to purchase slow cookers, where courses have run in partnership with local pantries. BALC also

deliver Food Safety courses, and a range of food related wellbeing courses: Bake Yourself Happy, Curry & Chat, Improve Your Mood Through Food.

The Bury Food Partnership took part in the Real Picture Survey on children's healthy weight (Dec 2023). This GM-wide consultation provided an opportunity to capture public views on factors influencing childhood obesity. There were 460 responses from Bury (3rd highest number of responses in GM). The GM Integrated Care Partnership are producing a report for each locality and an overarching report that will inform the development of a strategic framework to tackle childhood obesity.

The impact of obesity across the life course was presented at the Health & Wellbeing Board in March 2024. The Board recognised the ongoing Partnership activity in addressing this agenda, and also in tackling food poverty, promoting healthy eating, good food procurement and climate and nature friendly foods as all issues are closely intertwined.

How we communicate about children's health and food matters. The term 'food-related ill health' has been adopted by the Partnership to boost support for action, through illustrating the role our surroundings play in shaping our health.

Bury Food Strategy is cited within the development principles of our town's [Masterplan](#), in relation to improving health and wellbeing, and supporting growth. The Partnership have made substantial progression on aligning Bury Food Strategy priorities with emerging planning policies. The much awaited Greater Manchester Combined Authority [Places for Everyone](#) document was formally adopted by Bury Council in March 2024. Bury are now in a position to refresh the Local Plan and associated Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), with a much greater scope around health systems. Bury Policy Planners and Public Health have drafted a potential Fast Food Take Away SPD where any new fast-food applicant within 400 metres of any school could not open a venue. Planning will include this as part of wider SPD for Health themes, with the plan to go to Cabinet in Autumn 2024.

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

Families identified from [National Child Measurement Programme](#) are signposted to the [Bury Live Well Service](#). Health coaches within the service provide personalised weight management support, health checks and wellbeing drop-in sessions in community settings.

[Bury Community Dietetic Service](#) provide advice on diets for specific clinical conditions. [BDA Food Facts](#), Nutrition & Hydration materials, and [While You Wait](#) information is also provided. Dietetics have formed a network of 30 Nutrition Community Link Workers (allied healthcare professionals), who share nutrition updates within their own teams. Bury Food Partnership updates are cascaded via this network (see Partnership minutes March 2024).

As part of exploring innovation within weight reduction programmes for men (to increase participation), Bury commissioned [MAN v FAT Football](#) in April 2024 at Radcliffe Football Stadium. 33 men have joined the initiative (men with a BMI above 27.5 looking to lose weight). At the start of a session, players are weighed to assess weight loss progress across a week. Games of six-a-

side football then take place with an extra goal bonus awarded to teams based on their collective weight loss. A team's combined weight loss and match scores then contribute to its league position within a club. Friendships are formed, and players benefit from improved mental wellbeing and physical health.

[Bury VCFA Beacon Service](#) supported over 3000 clients to access support and activities in communities across Bury since its formation in 2020. 80% of referrals found themselves visiting their GP and/or the Hospital less frequently after speaking to a social prescribing link worker. Top reasons for referral included: loneliness and isolation, better mental wellbeing, and access to physical activities to improve physical wellbeing. From March 2024, the Beacon Service has moved to the [Bury GP Federation](#). Provision includes green social prescribing opportunities and food provision. Please also note there are 7 accredited [Active Practices](#) in Bury making positive changes in their surgeries to boost staff and patient wellbeing.

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

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

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

The food economy is a critical foundation of Bury's future development. Significant changes are being undertaken to make Bury Market a true exemplar and flagship of this. £20m of Levelling Up funding secured in October 2021, combined with £4.6m of Council funding will grow the market through supporting infrastructure, diversity of product, and community identity. The [Bury Town Centre Masterplan](#) is integral to this market development funding and will have an important role to play in promoting the town, attracting further development and inward investment. The Bury Food Strategy is clearly referenced as a key policy within this Masterplan, influencing its implementation (p59). A brand-new Market Flexi Hall will host social and cultural events, directly linked to food producers and combined offers. Bury's Economic Strategy, Regeneration Plans for the Town Centre and Bury Market are cited within [Bury's Regeneration Journey](#). This exciting development is an example of joined up strategies across Bury leading to genuine positive change.

Bury Market are a founding member of the Bury Food Partnership. Bury Market has [280 independent stalls](#). It is a popular tourist destination attracting 3000 coaches per year and winning a succession of national awards, placing local healthy food at the heart of our town's identity.

Bury Market was [voted Britain's Favourite Market](#) by visitors, and nationally acclaimed for its innovation and quality at the National Association of British Market Authorities Awards in February 2022. This success is driven by close collaboration between the Council and retailers, where local independent food suppliers work together to benefit from a large customer footfall with an impressive 150,000 visitors per week.

The Market management team understand the significance of being a front-line service, and the purpose of holding and promoting events. Leeds University showcased Bury's Market management style within the [Markets 4 People Project](#) and this activity has also featured in Sustain's [Managing a Market](#) blog in May 2024.

Bury Market plays an important community role being well-used by low-income families and older demographics and drawing in newer audiences by hosting cultural events and Youth Markets. Through the Partnership taking part in the Connecting Community Food Enterprises project (see Key Issue 3) community groups have participated in Bury Market tours, strengthening relationships with the Market team and local traders.

Within the [Bury Culture Strategy](#) there are several initiatives and plans to increase and develop the culture offer across the borough, a key example being the Bury Food and Drink Festival in May 2024. The festival increases the diversity of the culture offer within Bury through food, drink, and entertainment. It also brings an opportunity to improve equality and inclusion by ensuring community representation through this medium. The Bury Food and Drink Festival is a collaboration between Bury Council, the Bury Business Improvement District (BID), The Met Theatre, and includes many of the town centre partners: food and drink retailers, the Millgate Shopping Centre, the Rock Shopping Centre, Bury Market – including market food traders, the Hong Kong and Vegan Food Festival traders and Youth Food Market.

Through our work with YPO, we implemented Food for Life Served Here criteria, to allow for smaller, independent high-quality suppliers (such as Organic North) to enter the supply chain infrastructure for the first time. Changing scoring systems to include distance between supplier and customer, decarbonisation and fresh, high-quality produce is allowing us to pilot these new, smaller suppliers across schools from September 2024, with a view to expanding this approach, bringing a good food approach directly into the supply chain.

Our Partnership recently were asked to speak at the Northwest Public Health Sustainability Collaborative, sharing our approaches and concepts around sustainable procurement, focussing on positive influences local councils can have on supply chains, sustainability requirements, and use of local suppliers.

Independent retailers such as [Village Greens and Plentiful Wholefoods & Organic Veg Box Scheme](#) (see Section 6A) are seen as examples of a good food approach – the principles on show in these locations are aspirational, and their work with the environmental forum gives a platform for other retailers to emulate. We are asking them to join the Partnership as representatives of quality local retailers.

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

In the fourth year of the Bury Food Strategy, the Sustain-funded Healthy Start at Bury Market campaign demonstrated an approach where advertising a health campaign could also significantly promote our independent food businesses. Over the course of a year, digital billboards and high street screens ran a coordinated advertising campaign highlighting Healthy Start, but specifically advertising Bury Market and its stall holders. This promotion across our town was invaluable, and

communicating how the scheme is good for local families and local traders has been well received. (Please see Key Issue 2 for a full account on this).

Bury Market and the Council via Partnership members works closely with the Business Improvement District which support increased footfall generation into the town centre. This collaboration directly impacts the access to local food provision within Bury Market and supports the diversity of offer making the market more sustainable and meeting the goals of the Food Strategy and the overarching Bury Council Corporate Plan to reduce health inequalities and to support economic growth.

The Market team received funding in 2022 to roll out the [Virtual High Street](#) - an online platform to support and promote market traders and retail outlets in Bury. This platform promotes greater consumer spending in local independent and sustainable food businesses through an event and loyalty scheme section on the website.

Bury Food Partnership formed and launched the [Bury Catering Guide](#) in February 2024 with the intention to support local food businesses celebrate healthier and sustainable practices, and to share supporting information. The Bury Catering Guide aligns with the Council's Climate Action Plan, hosted on the Partnership page, and promoted via the Bury Business & Investment and Environmental Health teams. This Guide is now referenced and promoted to caterers and small businesses at food hygiene inspections, aligning mandatory inspections with aspirations for good food environments. The Guide has been created within the Partnership branding approach, linking the two. Bury Adult Learning also promote this Guide during their delivery of the food hygiene qualification courses and other food course offers. Around 50+ participants from the food sector can be expected to access these courses. This will support skills development and an increase in knowledge about health and sustainability. It has created strong links within the business community including the newly formed Bury BID and the wider town centre. Adoption of the Food Charter across this sector is growing, with businesses highlighting the benefits of their involvement.

Bury's food and drink events across the year also include the [World-Famous Black Pudding Throwing Competition](#), Dining with Distinction on the East Lancashire Railway, Bury Beer Festival (with a focus on local homegrown food), and Head for the Hills Festival which incorporates local food vendors. Bury Market featured in [Rick Stein's BBC2 Food Stories](#) in February 2024, and the [Visit Bury tourism page](#) promotes local restaurants, cafes, coffee shops, farm shops and tea rooms demonstrating the breadth of local produce that can be found.

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

--

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

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

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

Bury has prioritised the localisation of producers and suppliers for School Catering, as a key strand of its decarbonisation strategy. The decarbonisation strategy falls within the Operations Directorate, which is responsible for Bury Market and Schools Catering, making it easier to implement and progress actions.

Bury School Catering is a £5.6 million service, with around £1.6 million being spent on food and 10,000 meals served daily. The service achieved Food for Life Served Here Bronze status in 2022, and the Partnership celebrated this accomplishment (see Partnership minutes Dec 2022). Over the last two years they have been working towards the Food for Life Served Here Silver award, with the support of the Partnership, to set higher standards using commitments to decarbonisation and localised procurement contained within the Climate Action and Food Strategies.

Bury are a founding member of the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) which have a Dynamic Purchasing System covering 10 local authorities. We were able to identify local suppliers and wholesalers that were not already involved in these frameworks and recommend they join.

Bury uses the Food for Life Served Here criteria to determine which suppliers to work with and create seasonal menus. Having these principles in place make approaching suppliers in the framework more straightforward. Prior to implementing these standards there were concerns staff would have to be entirely retrained and that there would be reduced capacity in the aftermath of the pandemic, however these concerns were not realised.

The local economy has been positively impacted as we have been able to drive business to local suppliers. The distance of delivery for all schools catered for has been reduced from over 50 miles away, to less than 10. Not only does this support our economy, but it reduces the amount of carbon needed to produce and deliver. It also supports local skills development as cooking from scratch was prioritised (Schools Catering employ over 280 people). Our selection of local seasonal produce demonstrates high quality, and confidence has been gained from being externally certified.

The momentum gained from this activity has been positive, and through the work outlined above Bury have now been awarded the Food for Life Served Here Silver and [Green Kitchen Standard](#) awards in April 2024. Bury are only the second council in the UK to achieve Green Kitchen Standard using [Cool Food Pro](#) a carbon calculator to reduce environmental impact. Bury's practices have been showcased within Sustain's [Sourcing local food in public catering and procurement webinar](#) in July 2023, and featured as a case study within [Sustains Every mouthful Counts Report](#) in December 2023.

Bury Food Partnership were selected in November 2023 to join the EU funded [Food Trails Cascade Cities Learning Programme](#) to learn from the 11 cities involved in the project. Through sharing our work at Connecting Communities and following on from our work strands with Bury Market, Cardiff University encouraged us to apply, and as a town we were delighted to be successful.

Bury were excited to be partnered with [Copenhagen](#) - world leaders on public procurement. During a peer learning visit in May 2024, we strengthened our understanding of how the public meal is a lever for many different policy agendas and is key to futureproofing the food system by utilising buying power.

Copenhagen has a trailblazing public procurement approach, encompassing organic food, purpose-built Food High Schools, respected skilled kitchen teams, chef-led cookery by the children for their peers, and farm visits, all championed at a Mayoral level. All these elements enable good quality food reaches the plate, and citizens are connected to and respect where their food comes from. This visit was truly inspirational, demonstrating the power and true value of food. Bury learned many new innovative approaches from this visit, helping to drive our activity forward in 2024/25. These include a food policy action canvas, weighting methods on the tender process and carbon impact measurements tools. We intend to share these insights at the Partnership meeting in June 2024, and cascade learnings to our local leadership team, Greater Manchester, London Combined Authority and SFPs networks.

The Group Head of Sustainability (Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust) leads on the Greener NHS Sustainable Procurement Pathway. The [NHS Net Zero Supplier Roadmap](#) and [NHS Carbon Reduction Plan](#) feed into the Bury Climate Action Plan. Sustainability and Climate Change are embedded within tender specifications, evaluations, and future contract management through sustainable/climate change Key Performance Indicators.

Vending machine guidance aimed at reducing sugar at Council owned leisure facilities (two sites) have been adopted since 2015. Tap water and tooth kind policies are adopted by settings such as the Bury Adult Learning Centre, and early years providers through the Golden Apple Award. The [Refill](#) campaign connects people with locations where they can eat drink and shop with less waste. There are over 50 Bury Refill venues listed on the Refill App and map.

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

As discussed in Key Issue 5A, Bury are a founding member of YPO. As a lead council in YPO, Bury have influenced how YPO attracts and retains suppliers with a focus on sustainability with scoring to include distance between supplier and customer, and promotes 'just in time' delivery which supports decarbonisation and fresh, high-quality produce.

The way Bury have procured suppliers using the YPO framework and working to the principles of the Food for Life Served Here award, has allowed other organisations to use it as a 'Best Practice' model.

Following the principles Food for Life and using new procurement techniques and 'Best Practice' members of the Partnership showcased to the Northwest Public Health Sustainability Collaborative, the True Value of Food / procurement policy and practice, which identified and

supported external organisations to procure ethically and identified the wide-ranging benefits of sustainable procurement. This ranges to highlighting the benefits of sustainable farming, how ethical food procurement can support the local economy, social value, reduce carbon footprint and provide more healthier, sustainable and seasonal produce.

From this presentation, links to local NHS partners were formed to support them with creating a sustainable and ethical food procurement policy, which in turn has supported local partners to be involved in the European Procurement Network (led by partners from Copenhagen which involves partners from Bologna, Milan, Brussels, Warsaw and Birmingham). Across Bury these conversations and opportunities are being facilitated through our bespoke sustainable and ethical food procurement group. Our work on procurement has led to an invitation to speak at the European Union Cascade Cities conference in Brussels in October 2024.

In addition to this, the Partnership are working with the Local Government Association (LGA), to advise them on ethical and sustainable food procurement and the True Value Food.

A member of the Partnership has been invited to join the Northwest OHID/DHSC climate change / sustainability and is developing work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority where it is hoped it will impact on procurement across GM and exploring links with healthcare providers (this includes ten local authorities and a combined population of approx. 2.8million).

The Partnership presented our journey of making Bury Market a Healthy Start destination at the GM Healthy Start Task Force. This led to Manchester, Tameside and Bolton councils requesting to join a market tour in 2023. The tour was also attended by the Bradford Market team, Leeds Public Health, Leeds University and London University Centre for Food Policy. Momentum generated from this activity is encouraging regional partnerships that in turn support local supply chains where suppliers and procurers overlap.

Bury School Catering Service menus have a range of sustainable plant-based items, developed in recent years with input and support from suppliers via their agreed supplier procurement framework. School Catering Service actively seeks to bring in smaller suppliers into the YPO framework such as [Organic North](#).

Bury achieved the Food for Life Served Here Silver and Green Kitchen awards in April 2024. Building on from this successful partnership working with local supply chains, we were selected to host the North-West regional Food for Life Served Here Suppliers in person training in June 2024 with approximately 30 suppliers, caterers, supply chain and logistics specialists.

Bury is a designated Fairtrade Town recognised by the Fairtrade Foundation, and this is built in the procurement process.

Bury Council has a Social Value Policy. This requires commissioners and procurers to include social value considerations when we procure, part of this includes supporting local producers.

Inclusion of sustainability criteria within procurement awards in the NHS, along with an emphasis on SME's, forms part of a desire to open larger scale procurement markets to smaller providers.

Bury has a Request to Quotation process within [The Chest Portal](#) for lower value procurement opportunities, which requires purchasers to consult the Bury Supplier Database, and invite at least one Bury-based company to submit a quote if relevant suppliers exist locally.

The Bury Means Business Team run networking events for businesses from all sectors and have included events around green agendas and opportunities for local supply chains as part of climate agendas. These networking events are supported and promoted by the [Business Improvement District](#) (BID) with information being shared between all town centre businesses, including hospitality and catering venues. This has increased the awareness and benefits of being involved with the Bury Food Partnership.

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

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

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

Bury Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 with a target to be carbon neutral by 2038. Bury's Climate Action Board meets quarterly, and includes representatives from organisations and groups across Bury, lead by the internal Climate Action Team.

The Climate Action Team and Bury Food Partnership worked in collaboration to include a dedicated Food Section in the Climate Action Strategy in 2021. Bury's Sustainable Food Places Bronze award in 2022 is referenced within this documentation (p45) and progress across all priority areas can be viewed here: [Bury Climate Action Plan Update 2022-23.](#)

Working with our local agricultural sector to help reduce impacts upon the planet is an action cited within the Climate Action Plan. As discussed within Key Issue 5, Bury's procurement practices are beginning to nurture new opportunities to support this.

Our locality supports predominantly beef, sheep, and dairy farms. As our Partnership membership continues to grow, we hope to form ties with local farms.

Multi-generational family run [Park Farm](#) shared they are connected to the British Farming Forum, NFU Clitheroe branch and the farming charity [RABI](#) who seek to empower the worth and wellbeing of farming people. This farm is well known and popular for its farm shop, tearoom, and delivery of its local produce in the area, and the Partnership is continuing discussions with them to learn more about the challenges to farmers in the region.

During our peer learning visit to Copenhagen, we discussed the benefits of school trips to farms as an important method to enhance the food system. Children gained understanding of the effort

and resources needed to grow food, which leads to greater respect for farmers and enhances the conversation on the importance of avoiding waste. After these visits the children are provided with kits to grow their own organic potatoes to harvest. Bury Food Partnership aspire to replicate this activity.

Bury Market Stall Allocation Strategy actively encourages traders to use local suppliers. Most traders source local produce as a means of retaining food quality and ensuring competitive prices, which supports access to locally sourced affordable produce at a high standard. Examples include a third generation butchers [Albert Matthews](#) who source high quality meat produce from selected North West farms, such as native Dalesbred lamb reared at Deep Clough Farm which are grass fed.

In response to the pandemic Bury Market stall holders started to and have continued to deliver fruit & veg box schemes. Pete's Fruit & Veg stall is a prime example of this adapting model, please see the following [article](#) highlighting their journey. Pete's are also one of the first stalls to accept Healthy Start and went further by offering 10% off to Healthy Start recipients.

[Plentiful Wholefoods & Organic Veg Box Scheme](#) based in Ramsbottom, host an online delivery service and collection option from their shop. They offer organic veg, herbs and spices, nuts and seeds, grains, beans and pulses, plastic free wholefoods, and source from Lancashire and Yorkshire's certified organic farms. The shop continues to attract footfall at a time when many smaller independent shops and restaurants have struggled in recent years. They have a popular Instagram following, and recently posted that they accept Healthy Start.

[Village Greens](#) is a community owned co-operative with sustainability as a key focus, offering an organic seasonal fruit & veg box scheme in Prestwich. They additionally support the community with a community fridge in Prestwich Library and are member of Prestwich Environmental Forum. This Forum empowers individuals, groups, and organisations to protect nature, wildlife, and sustainable environments. Recent community posts include wildflower & veggie seeds giveaways, No Mow May, feeding into Prestwich Regeneration Planning, and celebrating new community groups and organisations who have gone plastic free. Ramsbottom has been awarded Plastic Free Community status, with Prestwich and Bury in progress status to achieve this.

Bury has a mixture of green belt and urban land, and there is a strong sense of community around these spaces, with most parks being maintained by local voluntary groups. There are several sites within the borough which grow food and engage with local communities to reconnect with nature. Incredible Edible have sites across the borough with the largest in Philips Park. Organic, sustainable gardening to support biodiversity is at the core of their delivery. As raised within Key Issue 2, the Partnership have advanced the Right to Grow movement and alignment with Bury's emerging Health Planning Policies.

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

Bury's waste is jointly managed along with eight Local Authorities in Greater Manchester as part of a collaborative approach to waste reduction. Section 4 of the [Bury Climate Action plan](#) looks at

impacts on waste and consumption. Bury aims to encourage people to buy less, waste less and recycle more. There has been a year-on-year reduction in the total tonnage of household waste collected in the above plan, 54 % of Household Waste was recycled, and the Council achieved 98 % of waste being diverted from landfill.

Bury Food Partnership held a [Love Food Hate Waste cooking demo](#) with Bury Adult Learning Centre on Bury Market in August 2022 with support from our local councillors, and promoted Love Food Hate Waste action week in March 2024.

Bury Food Partnership formed and launched the Bury Catering Guide in February 2024 with the intention to support local food businesses in addressing recycling, packaging and waste, through celebrating healthier and sustainable practices, and sharing supporting information.

Bury School Catering have invested in a new kitchen management system to support strong communication between children, parents, kitchen, and school. The system promotes sustainable food and reduces food waste as children can order their preferred food with their parents, directly informing the kitchen of exactly how much food to order and prepare. Bury Schools Catering achieved the Green Kitchen Standard in April 2024 which recognises caterers that are making positive steps to manage their energy, water, and waste. Using the [Cool Food Pro carbon calculator](#) supported Bury to monitor and to reduce our environmental impact.

To support carbon literacy a climate change e-learning course was introduced for all council employees in August 2022. By the end of September 2023, 1355 employees had completed the course. As a mandatory course, all employees will eventually undertake this training.

There have been many projects supported by the Climate Action Fund as discussed within Key Issue 2B. One example is the Asian Development Association of Bury (ADAB) who delivered climate awareness training to 386 people on how to reduce their emissions. The [Bury Climate Hub](#) directory shares a wealth of Climate Action information from across the borough.

As discussed in Key Issue 2B, Incredible Edible Prestwich & District are founding Bury Food Partnership members and are involved in many growing activities, events and the Right to Grow movement, growing produce at a hyper-local needs-based level.

Many of our community groups have found support from supermarket community champions (in the form of food donations, arranging collections of food that is surplus to purpose, and promoting community grant opportunities) and the organisations who try to reduce food wastage by donating food surplus such as CO OP Food Share, Neighbourly and FareShare.

Bury Food Partnership promotes schemes such as Kitchen Kit Redistribution events (to upcycle preloved equipment), the sharing of recipes and use of seasonal produce (referenced in Key Issue 2B). Waste reduction is part of all Partnership members' activity and is referenced in our [Good Food Charter](#). It takes many forms, as seen at community group Trust House - "At Trust House we link what we cook in our community café with what we offer in our food pantry, meaning that visitors can see how they can turn their raw ingredients into healthy and cost-effective family meals. We produce recipe cards for our visitors to take away with them so that they can duplicate the meals at home." (Katie Jenkinson, Trust House Manager).

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

--