

# 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):

<b>Name of your partnership*:</b>
Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership
<b>Name and contact details of person/people leading on this application*:</b>
Jenny Salter (jenny.salter@fwagsw.org.uk)
<b>Geographic region which this award will represent*:</b>
Gloucestershire
<b>Award you are applying for*:</b>
Bronze

**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.*

### **Gloucestershire's Geography**

Gloucestershire has a population of 645 076<sup>1</sup> and covers a large geographical area of 2653.03 km<sup>2</sup>. It is comprised of 6 Administrative Areas: Gloucester City, Cheltenham Borough, Stroud District, Cotswold District, Tewkesbury Borough, and Forest of Dean District<sup>2</sup>. Governance Functions and Responsibilities are divided between the County, District, and Parish/Town Councils<sup>3</sup>.

#### **Urban Areas**

Gloucester City has the highest population in the county (132 416 or 20.5%) and along with Cheltenham (118 836) is typically urban, with both areas having significantly higher population densities (3267 and 2549 people per km<sup>2</sup> respectively) than the county average (244 people per km<sup>2</sup>). Stroud District is the second most populated district (121 104 or 18.8%) and has a mix of urban and rural characteristics, including the market town of Stroud.

#### **Rural Areas**

Tewkesbury (94 886), Cotswold (90 832), and Forest of Dean (87 004) are more typically rural, with Cotswold having a very low population density of just 78 people per km<sup>2</sup>, meaning it ranks as one of the 10% most sparsely populated districts in England and Wales. It is also the largest rural local authority area within Gloucestershire (covering 1165 km<sup>2</sup>) and closely aligns geographically with the Cotswold National Landscape (formerly AONB)<sup>4</sup>. Rural areas in the county are home to 61% of the population and support 30% of jobs, including significant agricultural and manufacturing sectors<sup>5</sup>.

### **Gloucestershire's Challenges**

#### **Inequality**

Gloucestershire is amongst the least deprived 20% of local authorities in England, however, despite having an overall Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Score of 14.9 (2019), the county experiences

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<sup>1</sup> Inform Gloucestershire (2023). Demography and Migration – a briefing. Available from <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2121771/demography-and-migration-briefing-v3.pdf> [Accessed: 31 July 2023].

<sup>2</sup> Inform Gloucestershire (2023). Demography and Migration – a briefing. Available from <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2121771/demography-and-migration-briefing-v3.pdf> [Accessed: 31 July 2023].

<sup>3</sup> Gloucestershire County Council (2023). Functions and Responsibilities. Available from <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/what-we-do-and-how-the-council-is-managed/functions-and-responsibilities/> [Accessed 29 August 2023].

<sup>4</sup> Cotswold National Landscape (2023) Fact File. Available from <https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/our-landscape/cotswolds-aonb-fact-file/>. [Accessed 03 August 2023].

<sup>5</sup> Collison & Associates Limited (2019) *The Scale and Impact of the Farming, Food, Drink & Rural Economy in Gloucestershire*. [online]. Available from: <https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2019/the-gloucestershire-agrifood-and-rural-economy-final-report-apr-2019.pdf> [Accessed 31 July 2023].

stark regional inequalities<sup>6</sup>. There are 12 LSOAs in Gloucestershire that rank among the 10% most deprived nationally - of these 8 are in Gloucester City, 3 in Cheltenham and 1 in the Forest of Dean (31 LSOAs in Gloucestershire fall within the 20% nationally). Overall, 14.4% of children in the county experience poverty, and in 2021/22 prevalence of obesity in Reception age children was 8.7%.<sup>7</sup> Of particular concern is Tewkesbury which has recently experienced an upward trend in both numbers of obese children and eligibility for Free School Meals<sup>8</sup>.

### **Food and Farming**

Gloucestershire's economy<sup>9</sup> includes an Agrifood supply chain employing over 50,000 people (14.9% of the workforce) and generated a GVA of £1.39billion in 2017, or 8.8% of the local economy. Gloucestershire has a strong visitor economy (most notably in the Cotswolds), and tourists spend £340m annually on Food and Drink. The county is home to significant agricultural anchor institutions, including the University of Gloucestershire, Royal Agricultural University, Hartpury College and University (who collaborate under the Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI)), and Campden BRI. Agriculture in the county supports 6280 jobs and covers 193 000 hectares (2.1% of England's total farmed area), generating £333m per annum (2017). Most of the crop output includes wheat, barley, oilseed rape and fruit, whilst livestock includes beef, poultry, and milk. The county has a significant number of conventional livestock farms<sup>10</sup> yet also a growing number of agroecological farmers<sup>11</sup>. Gloucestershire County Council are responsible for 42 farms (around 7000 acres). Notable regional food businesses include (among others) Cotteswold Dairy and Creed Food Service, whereas larger national and international agrifood groups include (among others) Unilever and Lucozade.

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<sup>6</sup> Inform Gloucestershire (2023) Deprivation 2019 – Fact Sheets – deprivation. Available from <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/deprivation/fact-sheets/> [Accessed 31 July 2023].

<sup>7</sup> Gloucestershire County Council (2023) National Childhood Measurement Programme (NCMP) Obesity Report: Analysing Five Years of Data 2017-2022.

<sup>8</sup> Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (2023) Local Authority Health Profiles for Gloucestershire. Available From: [https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/area-search-results/E10000013?place\\_name=Gloucestershire&search\\_type=parent-area](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles/area-search-results/E10000013?place_name=Gloucestershire&search_type=parent-area) [Accessed 31 July 2023]

<sup>9</sup> Collison & Associates Limited (2019) *The Scale and Impact of the Farming, Food, Drink & Rural Economy in Gloucestershire*. [online]. Available from: <https://www.gfirstlep.com/downloads/2019/the-gloucestershire-agrifood-and-rural-economy-final-report-apr-2019.pdf> [Accessed 31 July 2023].

<sup>10</sup> Compassion in World Farming (2023). Factory Farm Map. Available from: [CIWF Factory Farm Map](https://www.ciwf.org/factory-farm-map) [Accessed 03 August 2023].

<sup>11</sup> The Great Project (2023). Partners. Available from: <https://www.greatglos.co.uk/partners> [Accessed 03 August 2023].

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

**ANSWER:**

The Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership (GFFP) state in their Terms of Reference that; “GFFP is inclusive and respectful of the diverse interests and standpoints of those who have a part to play in Gloucestershire’s food and farming system. It is only through dialogue and mutual cooperation that we enable transformation”. The partnership regularly discusses Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in their Partnership Team and Key Partner Steering Group Meetings, making sure it is a recurrent and frequent agenda item. The partnership is using the Sustainable Food Places REDI for Change ToolKit and Sustain Diversity Style Guide, along with a wider body of reading and research, to help the partnership reflect on, review, and further embed equity, diversity, and inclusion into both the structure and the work of the partnership through both policy and practice.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion is fundamental to the work of our key partners. For example, Gloucestershire County Council include health equity as fundamental to their key public sector organisations and partnerships, including Gloucestershire’s Health and Wellbeing Board and One Gloucestershire’s Integrated Care System’s Health and Wellbeing Partnership. All decisions are made with due regard to their impact on equity, and EDI are embedded across commissioning and delivery. Many programmes, such as GCC’s Healthy Lifestyle Programme have been co-designed with Gloucestershire’s diverse communities to ensure equity of access to support and resources, additionally drawing on the rich food-cultures of the county’s diverse residents to help all residents to connect and learn about food and farming. Gloucester City in particular, is home to highly diverse communities<sup>12</sup>. Feeding Gloucestershire’s work is centred on creating food equity and recognises the need to reach out to diverse communities across the county and have begun a program of outreach through VCSE, NHS, Local Council, the ‘[Know Your Patch Network](#)’, and [VCS Alliance](#) (for example, engaging in outreach work with Carers and Young Carers).

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/gloucester-news/gallery/special-corner-gloucester-70-languages-5415408>

## 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

[Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership \(GFFP\)](#) originated from a 'Lets Grow' Workshop (2018) which engaged over 100 cross sector stakeholders from governance organisations, anchor institutions, supply chain, and farmers, and was convened and funded by the **Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Agrifood Group, Royal Agricultural University** and **Gloucestershire County Council** to initiate work on building a food strategy for Gloucestershire. By 2020 this had evolved into the 'Good Food Revolution' which began the visioning work leading to the **Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership (GFFP)**.

This voluntary partnership has a clear [Terms of Reference](#) and includes a range of [cross-sector partners](#). The GFFP launched a [Vision Document](#) in 2022 to transform our food and farming system to address multiple socio-economic and environmental issues (updated March 2023). The Vision is underpinned by an Action Plan (see 1b) to leverage multiple organisational, community networks and farmer groups, to build an interconnected web and facilitate a systems approach to social, economic, and environmental resilience. The GFFP has adopted an [Integrated Local Delivery](#) approach to better facilitate local action to meet global challenges, and are steered by a [Partnership Team](#) with in-depth experience of different aspects of the food system, including, sustainability, agroecology, Agri-supply chains, and rural enterprise. This team meet monthly to provide coordinate strategic county-wide action on sustainable food and farming ([sample minutes](#)), facilitating the delivery of a co-designed 12-month+ Action Plan (see 1b), and engaging the [wider food](#)

[and farming partnership](#) through additional partnership meetings and events ([Action Planning Workshop](#)) involving 70 participants representing the county-wide cross sector partnership of food and farming organisations ([Workshop Outcomes](#)). In 2022, in collaboration with **Feeding Gloucestershire**, the GFFP joined **Sustainable Food Places**.

In addition to the monthly GFFP Partnership Team Meetings, the GFFP facilitate regular Key Partner meetings (GFFP / Sustainable Food Places Steering Group). Monthly meetings ([sample minutes](#)) are attended by a Steering Group of representatives from the Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership (GFFP), Feeding Gloucestershire (FG), Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC), the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAG SW), Visit Gloucestershire (VG), and Gloucestershire County Council (Public Health).

The Key Partners lead a multi-faceted and continuously growing [wider partnership collaboration](#) through a county wide umbrella campaign **GREAT Food Gloucestershire** (see 2b) which aligns our Food Partnership's work to the Sustainable Food Places 6 key issues framework, links into district level activity, and supports the development of a county-wide Good Food Movement.

Four **Working Groups** have been established as part of this collaborative partnership to enable each organisation to lead on a specific area of interest and expertise. Each working groups meets either bi-monthly, monthly, or quarterly, feeding back to the Steering Group.

- **Healthy Food for All** (lead by FG)
- **Food and Drink Economy** (lead by VG)
- **Catering and Procurement** (lead by GFFP)
- **Food for the Planet** (lead by FWAG SW)

### ***Feeding Gloucestershire***

[Feeding Gloucestershire](#) (FG) formed in 2021, formally launching in 2022, with funding and support from [Gloucestershire County Council](#). Monthly meetings are steered by a [board of cross-sector representatives](#), including District and County Council, Community Food Organisations, and those with lived experience of food issues. Engagement of the wider network of cross-sector community food organisations is facilitated through regular meetings and events held across Gloucestershire. For example, launches in each District throughout [May](#) and [June](#) 2023, cumulatively engaged over 300 people from a wide cross sector of county-wide community food organisations and projects. With support from District Councils, Feeding Gloucestershire have facilitated and supported the establishment of several district level community-based food movements and local food networks (Stroud Food Forum, Good Food Cheltenham, Cotswold Food Network, Food Resilience in the Forest of Dean, Gloucester Food Forum, with ongoing community

development work in Tewkesbury). Feeding Gloucestershire are part of the Feeding Britain Network, provide match funding for the Sustainable Food Places Coordinator, and represent the wider food partnership at the county wide **Enabling Active Communities and Individuals Group (EAC-I)** (which brings together health, local authority, and voluntary sector to collaborate on health and wellbeing priorities reporting back to the Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Board). They have also secured a recurring agenda item at the **Strengthening Local Communities Group** (County-wide District Council Community Wellbeing Officers).

### ***Gloucestershire County Council***

Gloucestershire County Council recognizes and actively support the food partnership in several ways. They have provided core funding for Feeding Gloucestershire (2022/2024), which has included match funding for a Sustainable Food Places Coordinator (2022/2024). The Public Health Manager for Children sits on the board of Feeding Gloucestershire and is also a key member of the GREAT Food Gloucestershire steering group, overseeing the county's work on Sustainable Food Places. Both FG and GFFP work closely with a variety of County-wide District Council Committees (for example, the Rural Task Force, who oversee the County Estate of 42 Farms, and the Climate Leadership Group, who coordinate action on Gloucestershire's Response to the Climate Emergency). Feeding Gloucestershire are actively working in partnership with GCC on Free School Meals (FSM), Enabling Active Communities and Individuals (ENAC&I), the Holiday Activity Programme (HAF), and Healthy Start.

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

The GFFP, working in collaboration with their GREAT Food Gloucestershire Key Partners, have led on the co-design of a **Joint 12 Month+ Action Plan** for the county.

- a) [Action Plan Overview](#)
- b) [Action Plan Partners](#)
- c) [Action Plan Detailed](#)

### ***Creating a Joint Action Plan***

**2018** - Original 'Lets Grow' workshop (held by Gloucestershire's LEP Agri Food and Rural Business Group) attended by over 100 stakeholders from across the county, eventually led to the formation of the **Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership (GFFP)**.

**2021/22** – To create a Vision of Sustainable Food and Farming across the county, GFFP carried out consultations with a wide range of cross sector partners, including a Farmer Survey, [Community Food Survey](#), and [65 Community Organisation Conversations](#). The



latter informing Feeding Gloucestershire's [Statement of Intent](#) and formation of Steering Group.

**March 2022** – This data gathering and consultation process lead to the production of a [Vision](#) for Sustainable Food and Farming for the county created by the GFFP.

**May 2022** – Gloucestershire becomes a Sustainable Food Places Network member.

**Sept 2022** – Feeding Gloucestershire launches.

**March 2023** - The GFFP Vision is updated to include the latest strands of evolving work from Feeding Gloucestershire and the county's Sustainable Food Places Network membership.

**April 2023** – A GFFP [Action Planning Workshop](#) was held to consult with the wider partnership on how the original Vision could be translated into a meaningful Action Plan. This in person event was attended by 70 participants representing a wide cross sector of food and farming organisations from across the county. The [Workshop Outcomes](#) were captured, thematically analysed, circulated to a mailing list of over 160 people and organisations for feedback, and were subsequently used to inform the draft 12 month+ Joint Action Plan.

**May to June 2023** – Feeding Gloucestershire facilitated a series of 6 community engagement events (District Launches) where the views of Gloucestershire's Community Food Organisations were captured in a series of Launch Reports ([Sample from Cheltenham](#)) and integrated into the draft 12 Month+ Joint Action Plan.

**July 2023** – A GFFP [online workshop](#) was held (in collaboration with FWAG SW) to specifically capture the views of 50 Farm Advisers and Rural Facilitators, to help further inform and refine specific actions relating to sustainable food and farming ([Workshop Outcomes](#)) in the draft 12 Month+ Joint Action Plan.

**August 2023** - The draft 12 Month+ Joint Action Plan is live (see links above) and ready for final consultation and feedback from the wider partnership (planned for Oct 2023).

**Monitoring:** The Action Plan is an agile document, it will be published on the GFFP website, and regularly reviewed. It will be continuously monitored for progress by the Partnership Coordinator and regularly reviewed by the GFFP Partnership Team and the GREAT Food Gloucestershire Steering Group.

**Umbrella Campaigns** include Food for the Planet, Every Mouthful Counts, Veg Cities, and are currently planning Good to Grow.

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



### **District Activity**

**Gloucester City Council** recently approved and published a *Nourishing Gloucester – A Food Strategy for All* (2023). This plan was produced for the City Council by Gloucestershire Gateway Trust, the community arm of Gloucester Services (Westmoreland Group).

The roles of both the GFFP and FG are highlighted within the plan as exemplified by the following extract.

*“Supporting Feeding Gloucestershire, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group Southwest Limited (FWAG), and Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership in their ambition for Gloucestershire to become a Sustainable Food County through participation in the Soil Association programme Sustainable Food Places. which focuses on six key issues: - o Promoting healthy, nutritious, and sustainable food to the public. o Tackling food poverty, diet related ill-health and poor food access. o Building community food knowledge e.g., cooking, and growing skills – see The Long Table Case Study in Appendix 13. o Promoting a vibrant and sustainable food economy. o Transforming catering and food procurement. o Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system.”<sup>13</sup>*

### **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**

#### ***Raising Public Awareness of Food, Health and Sustainability***

- **The Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership** have a [website](#), [social media](#) presence and bi-annual newsletter going out to a mailing list of around 160 people ([Spring 2023 Newsletter](#)). As of August 2023, GFFP have the following number of followers on social media: 138 (Instagram), 305 (Twitter), 41 (Facebook), 59 (LinkedIn).
- **Feeding Gloucestershire** have a [website](#), [social media](#) presence and monthly newsletter going out to a mailing list of around 235 people ([May 2023 Newsletter](#)). As of August 2023, FG have the following numbers on social media: 165 (Instagram), 116 (Twitter), 109 (Facebook), 26 (Threads).

<sup>13</sup> Gloucester City Council (2023) Food Inequalities Strategy. p.19. (Draft Available Ahead of Publication at <https://democracy.gloucester.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=40075>)

- The Food Partnership came together in 2023 to launch **GREAT Food Gloucestershire** ([Social Media](#) and Webpage coming soon), a collaborative umbrella campaign to connect and promote all the inspiring work on healthy and sustainable food in Gloucestershire, and enable more active food citizenship. It will also be a digital platform from which to launch and run our joint umbrella campaigns (Food for the Planet, Veg Cities, Every Mouthful Counts and Good to Grow).
- **Key Partners** also have their own websites and newsletters, where they regularly raise awareness of a wide range sustainable food issues. A selection of recent news articles from partners can be viewed via the links below.
  - [Feeding Gloucestershire](#)
  - [Gloucestershire Rural Community Council](#)
  - [Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West](#)
  - [Visit Gloucestershire](#)
  - [Gloucestershire County Council](#)

### **Public Events**

Within the last 3 years, a wide range of free public learning opportunities have taken place across the county's wider partnership to raise awareness of sustainable food.

- **Food Trails**
  - **Visit Gloucestershire** collaborated with **Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership** (GCPR) to create a [Local Food and Drink Pioneers Map](#) (July 2023) that highlights local food pioneers as well as promoting sustainable travel. Highlighting well-defined cycle paths, walking routes, train stations and waterways, the map links green and healthy travel to local food and drink destinations.
- **Food and Growing Festivals Big and Small**
  - **The Mid-Counties Coop Fairness Festival** [May 2023](#) (with by Visit Gloucestershire) including a local farmers market and social enterprise networking event.
  - **GrowFest** – August 2023 (with the [Motherhood Society](#), [RHS](#), and [We Are Project Grow](#)) including 'Climate Storytime' from [Planet Cheltenham](#), a talk from Incredible Edible, and a community plant swap.
  - **Annual Food and Farming Festivals** from across the county include: The Three Counties Show, Food Festival at Daylesford Organic Farm,

Cheltenham Food and Drink Festival, Tewkesbury Food and Drink Festival, Cirencester Food Festival, The Cotswold Show and Food Festival, The Forest Showcase Food Festival, Gloucester Quays Food Festival, and Stroud Festival of Food and Drink.

- **Agroecological Awards and Events**

- **Open Farm Events** - Free 'farm walks' and 'open farm Sundays' occur regularly across the county. For example; [Puddleditch Farm Open Farm Sunday](#) (June 2023) (a tenanted County Farm with vending machines selling local produce).
- **Sustainable Farming Awards** - [Gloucestershire Silver Pintail](#) is an annual award for farms demonstrating commitment to wildlife conservation and sustainable farming, and the [Kingfisher Award Gloucestershire](#) is an annual 3 day event and award engaging primary school children in agroecology.
- **Agroecological Workshops** – [FWAG SW](#) deliver regular agroecological public engagement events and workshops across the county. For example, ['Working with Trees on Farms and Reducing Inputs'](#) (March 2023).
- **The Great Project** - [The GREAT Project](#) raise awareness of regenerative agriculture in Gloucestershire, offering a range of free and subsidised public [events](#). For example, a [ZeroDig Tour](#) (April 2023) of three county ZeroDig sites (the GREAT Zerodig Project @ RAU in Cirencester, [Oakbrook CSA](#) in Stroud, and [Lower Hampen Farm](#) in Andoversford).

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

### *Establishing a Network of Community Food Initiatives*

#### ***GREAT Food Gloucestershire***

To continue building a county-wide **Good Food Movement** the food partnership came together at the beginning of 2023 to create the umbrella campaign **GREAT Food Gloucestershire** ([social media link](#) and webpage coming soon).



***GREAT Food Gloucestershire unites the Good Food Movement across the county in one space. Raising awareness of sustainable food, running county-wide campaigns, promoting local events, and spotlighting the great work of our county's sustainable food champions. It is a digital platform connecting and amplifying the Good Food Movements across Gloucestershire's six districts, calling to action, and supporting citizens to engage more actively with Sustainable Food and Farming.***

### ***Food Growing Enterprises and Community Food Projects***

Gloucestershire has many Food Growing Enterprises and Community Food Projects. The food partnership has captured and mapped these in a [Food Ladder Mapping of Gloucestershire's 6 Districts](#). These organisations and projects are shared with the public via Feeding Gloucestershire's [Community Food Map](#), [Community Growing Map](#), and [Community Food Bank Map](#). Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP) have also mapped Gloucestershire's Natural Capital opportunities which includes a baseline for [Food Provision](#).

Examples of communities across Gloucestershire accessing land, infrastructure and other community assets for food social enterprises and community food projects include:

- **The GREAT Zerodig Project @ the RAU** (Royal Agricultural University) Cirencester, Cotswolds – Lead by FWAG SW, working with the RAU and other partners, capital funding was secured in 2023 to develop a 7-acre site adjacent to the university into a community growing area, employ a head grower, project manager, and a series of stacked social enterprises. The project promotes Agroecological learning opportunities, which are also integrated into programmes offered at the RAU and the wider Gloucestershire community (via growing courses, volunteering, the WILD campus project, and RAU Sustainable Innovation Village).
- [The Grace Network](#) are based at Brimscombe Mill in Stroud, where they have created a range of sustainable social enterprises for the community on a 'Pay As You Can' basis (including The Long Table, The Great Plate, and Meet and Eat). An [Impact Report for 2022/2023](#) explains how they produced 83, 649 meals across the year and includes testimonials from the people they work with.
- [Wild Acres Project](#) near Berkeley grow edibles, cook healthy, tasty food, practise creative skills, and hold events and workshops for the benefit of the wider community.
- [Blakeney Hill Growers](#) in the Forest of Dean, are an active community garden project producing vegetables, fruit, honey, and goat's milk, on two derelict parcels of land. They sell produce to the public in a veg box scheme and surplus goes to members.

- [Cheltenham is Growing](#) in West Cheltenham Parish, developing market gardens using no dig principles on several sites of unused community land to supply pantries with fresh produce.

**Grants and Advice**

- **Feeding Gloucestershire** delivered a **Small Grants Programme** in collaboration with the Feeding Britain Network in 2022/2023. They also supported a series of [Training Workshops](#) ‘Money Counts’ with the **Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN)** in July 2023 attended by around 100 people, and distributed thousands of bespoke [IVAN Leaflets](#) to each of Gloucestershire’s 6 districts. Access to tools and resources to support community food initiatives are also available via the ‘Get Help’ area of their [website](#).
- **Farming Wildlife Advisory Group SW (FWAG SW)** were lead partner in a project which worked with the GFFP and the **LEP Agri-Food and Rural Business Group** to deliver a broader county-wide **Advice Project** piloting a National Network for Farm Advice. Part of this work included the GFFP delivering a [Workshop for Farm Advisers and Rural Facilitators](#) in July 2023 to update Land Agents, Advisers and the wider Gloucestershire Advice Community about emerging opportunities for climate and nature-friendly farming (as well as to help inform our county Action Plan and [Integrated Local Delivery Animation](#)).
- [The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group SW](#) facilitate 3 Farming Clusters (Farmer Facilitation Funds) in Gloucestershire; [Farmer Guardians of the Upper Thames](#), [Severn Vale Guardians](#), and the [Carrant Catchment Area Restoration Project](#), which offer support and guidance to farmers, helping groups work together to produce food with better environmental outcomes through a Catchment Based Approach.
- The [Gloucestershire Healthy Lifestyles Service \(HLS\)](#) is provided by GCC. The service provides one to one coaching support for individuals wishing to make lifestyle change including managing weight. HLS provides [Making Every Contact Count](#) training to community workers, which includes providing behaviour changing support around healthy eating.

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

***District Good Food Movements***

- **Good Food Cheltenham** (established April 2023) 4+ meetings to date, steering group established, launched Good Food Charter and [Strategy](#), and planning Cheltenham Food Strategy Consultation Event.
- **Cotswold Food Network** (established May 2023) 3+ meetings to date, steering group established, recruited fully funded [Community Food Officer](#) (CDC), and funding for [Cotswold Connected Community and Food Programme](#).
- **Stroud Food Forum** (established May 2023) 1+ meeting to date (including Nosh – Network of Stroud Food Hubs which includes a Stroud District Council funded [Food Coordinator](#)).
- **Gloucester Food Forum** (established Sept 2023) Nourishing Gloucester Project and Feeding Gloucestershire collaboration focusing on the creation of a city-wide food network).
- Emerging movements include a **Forest of Dean** group planning a series of Food Resilience events, and Tewkesbury Community Development Officers planning 3 mini food forums with support from Feeding Gloucestershire.

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

#### Action area A: Tackle food poverty

##### *Feeding Gloucestershire*

[Feeding Gloucestershire](#) is a multi-agency partnership convened in July 2021 to work with organisations across the county to drive systemic change and build food security across all communities in Gloucestershire. They are currently funded by Gloucestershire County Council and have a diverse [board](#) including County and District Councils as well as community organisations and those with lived experience of food issues. Their aim is to partner with organisations across the public, voluntary and community and private sectors, including local and national food aid organisations; parish, town and district councils and Gloucestershire County Council (GCC).

**Feeding Gloucestershire** are currently working in collaboration with **Gloucestershire County Council** and the 6 **District Councils** to improve the uptake of **Healthy Start** in the county, delivery of the food element of the **Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) Programme** and are actively involved in a national pilot to increase the uptake and delivery of **Free School Meals (FSM)** (opt out versus opt in). They are also working to establish a **Gleaning Network** in Stroud as a pilot project to roll out county wide. FG worked with the **Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN)** to deliver a [‘worrying about money’ leaflet](#) to

each district in the county and worked with **IFAN and the Trussell Trust** to deliver two [online training workshops](#) to 100 people in July 2023.

### **Community Food Organisations**

There are a large number of **community food organisations** providing food across the county, and in order to collate and track these organisations, FG and GFFP have collectively mapped them by type of provider, district, and rung of the Food Ladder (after Blake, 2018) ([link to Mapping Document here](#)). These organisations are also readily available to the public experiencing food issues via FG's [Community Spaces Maps](#) published on their website.

A selection of examples of **Community Food Providers** in Gloucestershire offering Social Food Provision are outlined below.

- The [Grace Network](#) operate a range of social enterprises across Gloucestershire. An [Impact Report](#) for 2022/2023 explains how they produced 83, 649 meals across the year and includes testimonials from the people they work with. Their Social Enterprises include:
  - [The Long Table](#) – A social enterprise with a community canteen in Brimscombe Mills, Stroud. Using local produce and a 'pay as you can' model where 1694 people claimed a meal paid forward by someone else. They fund 4 community cafes, have freezers of love in 5 communities, and re-purposed 3.32 tonnes of food waste. They also have a Ridan bio digester to compost their own green waste.
  - **The Great Plate** - A social enterprise that provides 400 healthier and more sustainable school meals per day to 4 local primary schools across Stroud. Including curriculum enrichment via hands on classes and freezers in schools for free food for parents and teachers. They also collaborated with **Kick Off Stroud** to provide free Easter holiday clubs for children on free school meals and served 200 HAF meals.
  - **Eat and Greet** – A 4-month pilot project providing a Meals on Wheels service in Stroud.
- **Dean Forest Kitchen** are a non-profit CIC which launched in January 2023, who provide home cooked, nutritionally balanced, and locally sourced, Meals on Wheels to communities across the Forest of Dean, as well as cooking classes, children's, and lunch clubs. The [Forest Voluntary Action Forum \(FVAF\)](#) support local people and community groups in the Forest of Dean by working to



support voluntary and community organisations. They run the Forest Community Pantry and HAF programme for the district, which includes [children's cooking classes](#) (Kids Sow Grow Cook) at [Harts Barn Cookery School](#).

## Action Area B: Promote healthy eating

There is a wide range of activity underway to encourage and enable healthy eating in Gloucestershire. Some examples are given below, but there many more initiatives delivered at local level by community organisations and volunteers.

### *Gloucestershire County Council*

[The Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) and [Interim Integrated Care Strategy](#) both highlight addressing health and wellbeing inequalities as a priority. Gloucestershire County Council's Public Health function has a statutory responsibility to take steps to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and to reduce health inequalities ([Healthy Lives, Healthy Communities](#)).

Gloucestershire County Council has provided core funding to support the establishment of **Feeding Gloucestershire**, and a member of the Public Health and Communities team sits on the Feeding Gloucestershire board.

**Gloucestershire County Council** commission, deliver or support a range of oversee several Healthy Eating and Healthy Weight support services and initiatives:

- [Healthy Start](#) – FG and GCC are collaborating to increase the uptake of Healthy Start Vouchers across the county.
- [Healthy Workplace Gloucestershire Award](#) – supports the development of healthy workplaces, including action to improve food provision and culture within workplaces.
- [Gloucestershire Healthy Lifestyles Service \(HLSglos\)](#) – offers individuals and groups lifestyle coaching support to reduce weight and eat well. Support is tailored to meet the needs of those facing the greatest challenges in adopting a healthy lifestyle. This includes working closely with Feeding Gloucestershire, Feeding Cheltenham, Stroud Community Wellbeing Team, and Forest of Dean Voluntary Action Forum to promote the service to food pantry clients, trialling the use of leisure passes, as well as making HLS coaches referral partners.
- [Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning \(GHLL\)](#) – An umbrella organisation for Gloucestershire Healthy Schools and Gloucestershire Healthy Further Education, launched in 2012 and supported by Leading Teachers who support educational settings to deliver a range of support for children and young people to make positive choices, including eating well, to improve physical, emotional, and

mental wellbeing. GHLL use children and young people’s responses from the biennial Pupil Wellbeing Survey to better understand their eating habits to help direct support.

- **Gloucestershire Children and Young People’s Healthy Lifestyles Service** provided by [BeeZee Bodies](#) is a countywide healthier lifestyles programme which aims to support families with children who are above a healthy weight to make positive sustainable lifestyle changes.
- **The DoF funded Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)** – runs for a total of six weeks during school holidays for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals HAF provides free food and nutrition education. Using additional grant funding, the county council also extends the activities to all children and young people through its Holiday Activities Programme (HAP).

### ***Food For Life***

[Caterlink](#) deliver school meals for Gloucestershire County Council and have been a member of Food for Life for 10 years. In 2023 they retained their [Food for Life Silver Award](#) meaning they serve meat which comes from farms which satisfy UK animal welfare standards, serve over 5% organic ingredients including beef mince and yoghurts, serve sustainable fish, and locally produced and seasonal produce, helping to make healthy eating easier.

### ***NHS Support***

**Gloucestershire Health and Care Foundation Trust** provides joined-up mental, physical health and learning disability healthcare to people of all ages across Gloucestershire. **Integrated Locality Partnerships (ILPs)** form a key part of the NHS’ delivery model and connect the NHS with Local Government and the VCSE Sector ([Integrated Care Strategy](#)). A number of NHS programmes are available across Gloucestershire to support individuals at increased risk of developing a long-term condition, and those with long-term conditions to make positive lifestyle changes including healthy eating. These include the [Healthier You NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme](#) for people at increased risk of developing diabetes and the NHS Digital Weight Management Programme.

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

### ***District Activity***

- **Cheltenham Borough Council** support [Feed Cheltenham and Cheltenham Food Support Network](#) and are collaborating with Good Food Cheltenham on a wider strategy.
- **Gloucester** delivered a Food Inequalities Strategy (Nourishing Gloucester) with [Gloucestershire Gateway Trust](#), the community partner for [Gloucester Services](#) - a service station, farm shop and growing space on the M5 in Gloucestershire championing sustainability and local food, who recently featured in a 6-part Channel 4 television documentary ([A Cotswold Farm shop](#)).
- **Tewkesbury Borough Council** have provided £20K of **grants** for [community based food provision](#) (which includes funding for a new food pantry in Northway Parish).

#### **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**

#### ***Economic Development Strategies***

The **GFirst LEP** funded the creation of an on-line digital food and drink directory for Gloucestershire – [MADE in Gloucestershire](#) (more in Section 4b). They also have a sub-group, the [Agri, Food and Rural Business Group](#) which meets regularly to support sustainable rural businesses, leading on Skills and Advice to business, assisting in the implementation of the Local Industrial Strategy’s Agri-tech strand, and recently helped shape the Food and Farming elements of the county’s new Economic Strategy. This group collaborate with rural food and farming organisations and explicitly promote the work of [Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership \(GFFP\)](#) and the county’s Sustainable Food Places membership. The newly formed [Gloucestershire Agri-tech Partnership \(GAPT\)](#) are also looking at how innovative sustainable technology businesses can support more sustainable food and farming.

#### ***Food and Drink Visitor Economy***

- [Visit Gloucestershire](#) is the county’s Strategic management Organisation (SMO) established in 2020 to support the visitor economy in Gloucestershire. They have a [‘Food and Drink’](#) strand with a dedicated lead working with artisan food and drink businesses and hospitality. They support local food retail and communities, including:
  - **A Sustainable Food Trail** showcasing Local Food and Drink Pioneers ([Map](#)) (collaborating with Gloucestershire Community Rail

Partnership). The [Summer Edition](#) showcases 12 local food and drink pioneers and encourages people to spend money in rural communities (a Christmas edition is planned for Autumn).

- A **Food Summit** is planned for 2023/24 to build upon the ‘Meet the Producers’ Workshop held (in collaboration with the GFFP) in Autumn 2022 ([link](#)) which engaged 24 businesses.
- A **Carbon Free Menu Project** is underway with the University of the West of England to create a series of 6 case studies (due to be published in Autumn 2023) including; **Memsahib’s Lounge, Hotel Du Vin, Cheltenham Racecourse’s Jockey Club, The Long Table, GL50**, and the **Cheltenham Trust**, to explore innovative initiatives.

### ***Planning Policies***

- Planning within Gloucestershire is the responsibility of the District Councils which adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework (2021). [Green Infrastructure Mapping from Natural England](#) shows current ‘allotment and community growing space’ provision across the county. Each District’s Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents outline their approaches to Green Infrastructure (which includes allotments and community growing spaces). One example is [Cheltenham Borough Council’s Local Plan \(2020\)](#) which emphasises the importance of Local Green Space (p. 82) and identifies 18 allotment sites across the borough, stating their importance as a low-cost food source.

### ***Sustainable Food Infrastructure***

- **Farmers Markets**: Gloucestershire is home to a large number of well-established Farmer’s Markets (Stroud, Cirencester, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Stow-on-the-Wold, Nailsworth, Dursley, Wotton-Under-Edge, Tetbury, Minchinhampton, Winchcombe, Bourton-on-the-Water, Moreton-in-Marsh).
- **Environmental Land Management Phase 3 (ELMs)**: lead by FWAG SW in collaboration with the [Sustainable Food Trust](#), Gloucestershire is piloting the adoption of the [Global Farm Metric](#) as a sustainability assessment with 50 farmers to identify a baseline for ‘ecosystem services’.

### ***County Estate***

Gloucestershire has 42 [county farms](#) covering around 7000 acres. **Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership (GFFP)** provided support to retain the county farms in a recent consultation on their future ([GFFP response to county farm debate](#)) and met with the **Rural Estates Task Force** (August 2023) to collaborate on how the Food Partnership and

County Estate could work together to promote more sustainable food and farming within the county ([presentation](#)). County farms can showcase at all levels the opportunities for a new systems approach to food and farming. There is potential for the county's tenanted farms to join the ELM Phase 3 trial with the county estate pioneering sustainability metrics in the county.

### ***Agri-Business Innovation***

[The Innovation Village at the Royal Agricultural University](#) is supported by the Department of International Trade (DIT), Gloucestershire County Council, and GFirst LEP, and is a £100m project to support industry, food producers, farmers, and landowners in developing sustainable solutions for healthy land and nature, food production, and resilience in rural communities. This builds upon the Alliston Centre (2016) which houses [Farm491](#) (an Agri-tech incubator).

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

### ***Local Food Directories***

- [MADE in Gloucestershire](#) is a **local food and drink digital directory** championing local food and drink producers, funded by Gloucestershire [GFirst LEP](#) (Local Enterprise Partnership) and supported by the **Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership (GFFP)**, **Visit Gloucestershire (VG)** and **Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)**, among others. In March 2023 there was a growing number of [members](#) (94) and [affiliates](#) (32), and the website totalled 4.3K users. Marketing events included a radio campaign, the [Gloucestershire Foodie Awards](#), and the [Three Counties Show](#) (Gloucestershire, Worcestershire & Herefordshire).
- Another digital food directory [Shop Cotswolds](#) focus on local, independent, and sustainable producers across the Cotswold National Landscape (formerly AONB).

### ***Food and Drink Awards***

There are several Food Awards in Gloucestershire including; Cotswold Life Food and Drink Awards, [Glos Foodie Awards](#) (with categories sponsored by MADE in Gloucestershire), and [SoGlos Lifestyle Awards](#) (co-sponsored by MADE in Gloucestershire and Visit Gloucestershire).

### ***Sustainability Champions***

Visit Gloucestershire run a [Sustainability Champions Programme](#), launching with a Sustainability workshop in 2022 in partnership with the University of Gloucestershire, to help the visitor economy become more sustainable. With [Sustainability Champions](#) (Stroud Brewery) winning the SoGlos Lifestyle Awards.

### ***Sustainable Businesses***

Gloucestershire has several prominent business enterprises which actively promote sustainable food. Examples include [Forest Green Rovers](#), [Soil Snack](#), [Stroud Brewery](#), [Cotswold Lakes Brew Company](#), [Gloucester Services](#), and [Cotswold Beef](#) among many others.

### ***Meet the Producers Workshop***

**Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership** in collaboration with **Visit Gloucestershire** facilitated a [‘Meet the Producers’ workshop](#) at Gloucester Rugby Club in Sept 2022, where 24 Gloucestershire businesses explored local opportunities across the supply chain, to better understand circular purchasing and carbon minimising menus. This will be followed up with a further Food, Hospitality and Sustainability Event in Oct 2023.

**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.**

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

*Explanatory Note: Gloucestershire County Council work with Caterlink Ltd to provide Internal Catering and School Meals in Gloucestershire. The Gloucestershire NHS Procurement Shared Service is hosted by Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHNHSFT) and is set up to provide procurement services and advice to three organisations: the Trust, Gloucestershire Hospitals Subsidiary Company Limited (GMS), and Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (GHC). Catering in Cheltenham General Hospitals and Gloucestershire Royal is provided by GMS serving 1500 patient meals and 750 meals for staff and visitors per day.*

### ***Food For Life***

[Caterlink](#) Ltd (South & South West) deliver the county school meals contract for Gloucestershire County Council and have been a member of Food for Life for 10 years and in 2023 they retained their [Food for Life Silver Award](#), meaning they are serving meat which comes from farms which satisfy UK animal welfare standards, serve over 5% organic ingredients including beef mince and yoghurts, serve sustainable fish, and locally produced and seasonal produce, helping to make healthy eating easier. National Trust Regions have two food outlets in the county with Food for Life Bronze Award. 3 schools are part of the Food For Life Award Scheme, and 3 Early Years Settings are part of the Early Years Award Scheme.

### ***The Great Plate***

The [Grace Network](#) run a range of social enterprises across Gloucestershire. An [Impact Report](#) for 2022/2023 explains how they deliver school meals through **The Great Plate**. A social enterprise that provides 400 healthier and more sustainable school meals per day to 4 local primary schools across Stroud. Including curriculum enrichment via hands on classes and freezers in schools for free food for parents and teachers. They also collaborated with **Kick Off Stroud** to provide free Easter holiday clubs for children on free school meals and served 200 HAF meals. They have also started an initiative called **Eat and Greet** – A 4-month pilot project providing a Meals on Wheels service in Stroud.

### ***Dean Forest Kitchen***

[Dean Forest Kitchen](#) are a non-profit CIC which launched in January 2023 providing home cooked, nutritionally balanced, and locally sourced, Meals on Wheels to communities across the Forest of Dean, as well as cooking classes, children and lunch clubs. The [Forest Voluntary Action Forum \(FVAF\)](#) support local people and community groups in the Forest of Dean by working to support voluntary and community organisations. They run the Forest Community Pantry and HAF programme for the district, which includes [children's cooking classes](#) (Kids Sow Grow Cook) at [Harts Barn Cookery School](#).

### ***GL11 Community Hub***

[GL11 Community Hub](#) are a charity, as part of a larger body of work, they provide 60 healthy and nutritious Meals on Wheels across the G11 postcode area of Cam, Dursley, Uley and North Nibley.

### ***GFFP Collaboration with CCRI***

Delivered a feasibility study to the Marches around possibilities for adopting Dynamic Food Procurement. This project created opportunity for significant learning on how to



move forward in Gloucestershire, and GFFP subsequently met with CCRI to bring together previous research. GFFP work in Gloucestershire is building a robust evidence-based approach to a very complex question and it is essential to understand our baseline to build incremental changes (see 5b for more detail).

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

### ***Meet the Producers Workshop***

**Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership** in collaboration with **Visit Gloucestershire** facilitated a [‘Meet the Producers’ workshop](#) at Gloucester Rugby Club in Sept 2022 where 24 Gloucestershire businesses explored local opportunities across the supply chain, to better understand circular purchasing and carbon minimising menus. This will be followed up with a further Food, Hospitality and Sustainability Event in Oct 2023.

### ***Research and Development***

**Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership** met with the [Countryside and Community Research Institute \(CCRI\)](#) to learn from experts in the field of Sustainable Food Policy the barriers and opportunities around local procurement. Research and Development in this area is currently ongoing but the GFFP have formulated a [policy document](#) outlining the current landscape, learning garnered from leading experts to support policies in more local and sustainable procurement, and strategies for overcoming barriers to more local procurement. (GFFP participated in a feasibility study in the Marches exploring Dynamic procurement (see 5a for more info)).

### ***Gloucestershire County Council***

Internally GCC Sustainability Team meet Quarterly with the Caterlink Catering Teams to discuss food sustainability, and recently provided food waste bins to all catering outlets, as well as requesting caterers to provide more sustainable options.

### ***Community Food Survey***

GFFP with Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group SW (FWAG SW) conducted an online survey in 2021 of parish and town councils, alongside a second survey open to anyone resident in Gloucestershire, to explore issues around food security, food access, and food equality. In total 70 responses were received to the parish and town council survey and 370 responses were received for the residents’ survey, which were analysed in depth in a [report](#).

***Farm Produce Survey***

GFFP and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group SW (FWAG SW) conducted an online survey of around 60 farmers across the county in order to find out what they were producing, how much, where they were selling produce, and if they were interested in public procurement or more local sales, and the barriers to either of these (this data fed into the GFFP Vision Document).

**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**

***Gloucestershire County Council***

**Gloucestershire County Council** declared a [climate emergency in May 2019](#) and the [Climate Change Action Plan](#) aims for Gloucestershire to be carbon neutral by 2045. Key achievements are communicated through the [Greener Gloucestershire Climate Change Dashboard](#). **Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP)** have been commissioned to deliver the [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (LNRS) for Gloucestershire and are currently consulting farmers, landowners and farm advisers via a series of [workshop events](#). **Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund (GN+CF)** has been established by GLNP and the GFirstLEP to help landowners and farmers diversify their income, reduce climate impacts, and enhance nature on their estate. **GCC** have a [Wild Gloucestershire](#) initiative which includes the promotion of ‘own food growing’ to boost local biodiversity, reduce carbon footprints and food waste, and they employ a county-wide Climate Change Coordinator promoting the work to net zero through their **Greener Gloucestershire** campaign.

***Cotswold National Landscapes***

**Cotswold National Landscape** (CNL) has published a [guide](#) on how to get the Cotswolds to net zero by 2050, in which greenhouse gas emissions from Food and Drink, as well as through Land-Use and Management, are measured. CNL also offer Farming in Protected Landscape (FIPL) grants from £2,500 to £250,000 for a wide variety of farmer-led projects that will deliver outcomes for climate, nature, people, and communities.

## ***County Estate***

**Gloucestershire County Council** supports their tenant farmers to apply for the government Countryside Stewardship and Sustainable Farming Incentive schemes by funding access to farm advisory services. There is potential for the county's tenanted farms to join a Gloucestershire trial to provide a baseline sustainability assessment (Global Farm Metric) for the county estate. (GFFP are actively engaging on the County Estate, for more details see 4a).

## ***Agroecological Learning and Facilitation***

**FWAG SW** coordinate this strand of the Food Partnership's work. They regularly deliver a number of county-wide [agroecological projects](#) and [regular free events and talks](#) on a wide variety of agroecological topics (e.g. agroforestry, Herbal Lays, and Integrated Pest Management) (See 2a for more detail).

## ***Agroecological Projects***

There are a wide range of agroecological projects taking place across the county, some examples include:

- **Farming and Land Management Advice (FALMA)** – Offering farmers one to one advice on local habitat priorities, countryside stewardship, training, and helping support farmers.
- **Farmer Facilitation Funds** (Farmer Guardians of the Upper Thames, Severn Vale Guardians and Carrant Farmers) - Farmer clusters offering free events to engage and support farmers, for example on the new Sustainable Farming Incentive ([link](#)).
- **ELM Phase 3** – FWAG SW and the [Sustainable Food Trust](#) are collaborating on a pilot project with 50 farmers across Gloucestershire testing the feasibility of a 'on farm' sustainability metric (Global Farm Metric).
- **Kingfisher Award** - An annual 3 day event to engage children in agroecology. The [Kingfisher Award Gloucestershire](#) was held at Puddleditch Farm, Berkeley, Glos (a tenanted County Estate Farm) in July 2023.
- **The GREAT Project** – (Gloucestershire Regenerative Environment and Agriculture Transition) grew from the county's food partnership work and aims to join the dots between farmers, advisors, growers, mentors, and their communities to facilitate change. [Partners](#) include Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group SW (FWAG SW), Farm-Ed, Royal Agricultural University, Ruralink, Pasture-Fed Livestock Association (PFLA), Community Supported Agriculture Network (CSA), Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) and GFFP. Includes free and subsidised public [events](#) (For more details of **GREAT Zerodig Project @ RAU** community growing site and events see section 2b).

- **Advice Project** – A county-wide Advice Project piloting a National Network for Farm Advice (see 2b for more detail), and [Integrated Local Delivery \(see animation\)](#)

### ***Community Growing***

There are a number of Community Growing Spaces and Projects across Gloucestershire offering community learning, volunteering and engagement events in agroecology. These include the [Wild Acres project](#) near Berkeley, [Oakbrook Community Farm](#) and [Common Soil](#) in Stroud, [Blakeley Hill Growers](#) and [Yorkley Village Garden](#) in the Forest of Dean, among many more (see section 2b for details and view mapped community growing spaces [here](#)).

### ***Water Quality***

Projects specifically related to reducing the environmental impacts of intensive agriculture and improve local water quality include the [Thames Water Catchment Fund](#) and [WEIF Env Agency Funding for the Westbury Brook](#) in the Forest of Dean. A catchment-based approach is used to engage neighbouring farmers along a river catchment in fertilizer and pesticide run-off reduction to improve the condition of aquatic habitats.

### ***Education and Skills***

The University of Gloucestershire, the Royal Agricultural University, Hartpury College, and Cirencester College all provide courses linked to Agroecology, for example Cirencester College teach the new [T-Level in Agriculture Land Management and Production](#).

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

### ***Gloucestershire County Council***

Gloucestershire County Council have a [Waste Strategy](#) and a number of campaigns to promote behaviour change on tackling climate change and food waste, including [reducing food waste](#), [growing your own](#), [links](#) to Love Food, Hate Waste and Meat Free Mondays, [composting](#), and [plastic packaging reduction](#). GCC promote the [Refill](#) campaign and run a [Food Waste Action Week](#) around Christmas, and have a Master Composters Group of volunteers, with community composting available at Bisley, Thrupp and Leckhampton.

### ***Food Waste, Its All Adds Up***

GCC also conducted 'door knocking' related to the 'Food Waste, It All Adds Up' campaign to talk about food waste with residents ([executive summary](#)). The purpose of the canvassing was to increase food waste recycling in areas of lower participation as part of the 'Food Waste, It All Adds Up' campaign. 8256 doors knocked (approximately 3% of the 268k households in Gloucestershire), 3071 conversations with residents on the doorstep (37% of doors knocked), 8314 leaflets delivered to houses.

Key findings included:

- 63% of residents who were spoken to stated that they were already using their food waste recycling service,
- Of the 628 residents who gave a reason for not participating in the service already 25% stated that this was because they did not have the correct bins.
- The second most popular reason given for not participating in the food waste recycling service was that residents compost all food waste and the third most popular reason for not participating was that they didn't waste anything.
- 453 food waste caddies were ordered through the canvassers as part of the project.

### ***Anaerobic Digestion***

An [Anaerobic Digestion Plant](#) at Bishop's Cleeve in Gloucestershire provides an environmentally sound way of disposing food waste for both Gloucestershire County Council and a wide range of local businesses and schools. The 34,000 tonnes of food waste capacity per annum produces biomethane that is injected directly into the gas network.

### ***Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI)***

Gloucestershire participated as a **Living Lab (LL) in the ROBUST** (Rural-Urban Outlooks – Unlocking Synergies) **research project** funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme, which finished in 2021. A range of stakeholders came together within the Gloucestershire Living Lab, including Gloucestershire County Council, CCRI and wider stakeholders from the Gloucestershire community. The Gloucestershire team focussed on three key themes; 1) Sustainable Food Systems: Reduce food and materials waste in the food sector via supply chain management 2) Ecosystem Services: Develop more integrated approaches to water resource management 3) Circular Business Models (CBMs): Introduce shared learning about circular economy and natural capital.

### ***Zero Waste Shops, Food Waste Apps and the Circular Economy***

There are an increasing number of Zero Waste Shops across Gloucestershire (13 listed on [Action On Plastic](#)) including The Grocer in Tetbury, Tewkesbury Refill, Foodloose

Cheltenham, Over Farm Gloucester, Loose Stroud, and Forest Friendly in Lydney. An increasing number of local food businesses also participate in food waste apps (such as Too Good To Go) or distribute surplus food to [Fare Shares South West](#) and local food banks and pantries (for example, Godsells Cheese in Stroud provide surplus cheese to [NOSH](#) (Network of Stroud Hubs) to redistribute to the community). Nosh and Feeding Gloucestershire are also collaborating on the introduction of a pilot [Gleaning Network](#) in Stroud to roll out across Gloucestershire. Increasing numbers of businesses are mimicking natural circular systems by integrating waste products from one industry as a resource for another (for example [Cotswold Lakes Brewery](#) use surplus bread from the hospitality trade to make local beer).

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

***District Activity***

In addition to the declaration made by Gloucestershire County Council, all Gloucestershire District Councils have declared a [Climate Emergency](#), with [Stroud](#) and [Tewkesbury](#) also declaring **Ecological Emergency**. Cotswold District Council lead the county-wide [Climate Leadership Group](#). Cheltenham Borough Council have established the [Cheltenham Zero Partnership](#) with [Vision 21](#) to support the goal of net zero by 2030. Cheltenham Zero has a [Pledge](#) that individuals and businesses can sign to acknowledge the climate emergency and join the Cheltenham Zero Partnership, as well as [funds](#) to support community groups delivering projects which can demonstrate measurable improvements in energy efficiency. Forest of Dean District Council have a [Climate Emergency Community Partnership](#) (FOD Climate Action Partnership), and have linked their climate ambitions into all funding applications. Gloucester City Council are delivering a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and accompanying Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.

**FOR PANEL USE ONLY**

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

**Outcome of application:**

**Recommendations for onward progress:**

