Planning Better Food for Sheffield
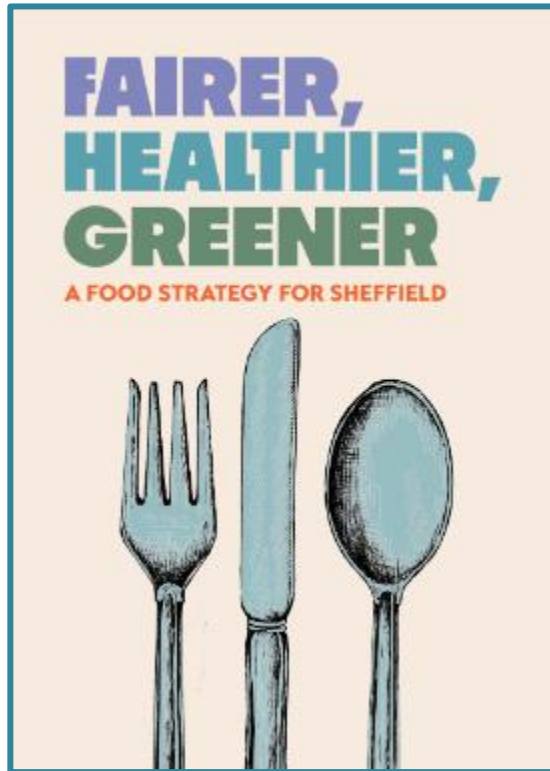
Ben Arnold, Sheffield City Council
Gareth Roberts, Regather

Planning Better Food for Sheffield

- Snapshot of support for food growing

- Local Plan representations

  ○ Hot Food Takeaways

  ○ Food Production

- NPPF Consultation

Fairer, Healthier, Greener - Sheffield Food Strategy

Local food production in Sheffield food strategy priorities

- *"Participate in the Eat Trees Sheffield project aiming to grow edible fruit trees, orchards and agroforestry systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and connect people to regenerative food and farming."*

- *"The Council will work with local communities and partners to identify spaces where food production and provision can be accommodated."*

- *"Consider how we can work strategically with community initiatives that seek to minimise the negative impact of the food system on the environment, for example by redistributing food surpluses or by growing food for local use in order to maximise the positive outcomes."*

Local Food Action Plan for Sheffield

Commitments feed into our local food action plan

Strengthen food networks by developing skills and learning together

- Enhance food growing education for children, young people and adults in Sheffield and facilitate their participation in food growing activities, both at home and in community and educational settings.

Participate in making and delivering ambitious local food policy

- Support delivery of existing food policy commitments as part of Sheffield City Council's Net Zero Agenda.
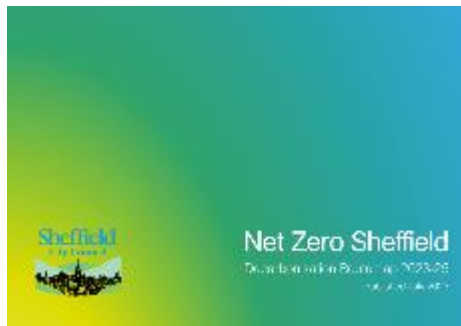
Build an inclusive food movement

- Enhance connections between local food producers and businesses, community-based organisations and social enterprises.

- Support and promote low-carbon, local, Sheffield-based food production.

Leverage spaces for food initiatives

- Assess the feasibility of utilising existing green spaces to increase nature-friendly food growing in and around Sheffield.

- Facilitate connections between landowners and community members searching for land.

Food growing in wider policies and strategies

Sheffield's Decarbonisation Routemap

- **Existing chapter on use of council land**
  - Does not mention food
- **Currently working on: "The Way We Use Our Land"**
  - May not include council-owned land
- **Forthcoming chapter: "What We Eat, Buy and Throw Away**

Sheffield's Draft Local Plan

- **Local organisation (Regather) submitted numerous proposed changes to draft plan to include food growing**
- **All accepted - resulting in six changes**
- **Will help us make the case for food growing in future**

Gleadless Valley Masterplan Refresh

- **Planned £94m regeneration of a large 1950s social housing estate in the south of Sheffield.**
- **Stalled due to rising costs and reduced budget**
- **Using the refresh to find opportunities to increase food growing in the area**
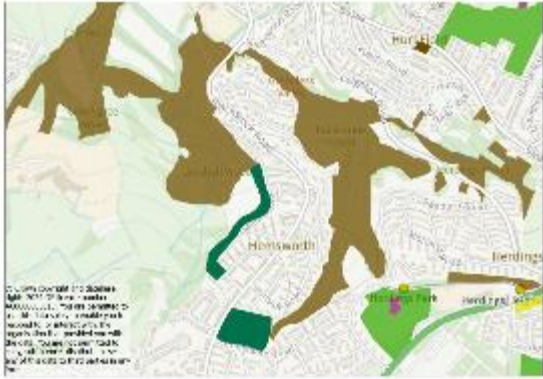- **Low cost and multiple benefits**

Rural Estate Management Plan

- **Details the rural land owned by SCC – 3,000ha**
- **Highlights competing demands on land use: net zero, flood prevention, water quality and biodiversity – no specific mention of growing food**
- **Recognises need to work collaboratively with tenants to deliver environmental improvements**

Other activity supporting food growing

Land mapping

- **Getting to know the data we hold**
  - SCC land
  - Parks and greenspaces
  - Allotments
  - Local Plan policy zones
  - Housing sites
  - Local Land and Property Gazetteer
- **Combining and interrogating mapping layers**

Selling the benefits for Sheffield

- **Making the case for food growing in Sheffield**
  - Climate change
  - Biodiversity
  - Food security
  - Access to healthy food
  - Economy
  - Jobs and skills
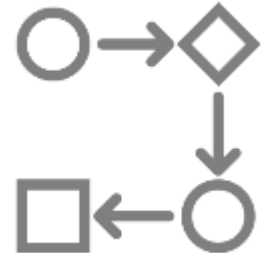 - Health and wellbeing
  - Community cohesion

Discussions with stakeholders

- **Local Food Partnership**
- **Planning**
- **Parks and Countryside**
- **Estate Management**
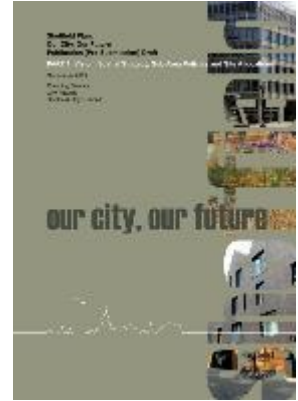- **Allotments**
- **Commercial Services**

Testing the process for community food growing

- **Identify community group looking for land or suitable candidate areas of land**
- **Identify the steps required to allow a group to grow on the land**
- **Develop a process for future use**

Local Plan: Hot Food Takeaways

- Learned from other local authorities who had been successful in adopting policies

- Included as a priority action in our food strategy

- Engaged Planning colleagues early in the process

- Worked with Planning to research the issue and produce sensible wording for the policy

- Provided advice and feedback for response to Planning Inspector questions

- Intend to have Public Health representation at the in-person hearing in November, to help support the policy

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POLICY NC12: HOT FOOD TAKEAWAYS

a) New hot food takeaways, extensions to, or increases in the opening hours to existing hot-food takeaways, will not be permitted where the application is within 800 metres of a secondary school and where it would be open for business anytime between 8am and 5pm.

b) New hot food takeaways (or extensions into adjoining units) will not be permitted in a District or Local Centre where existing hot food takeaways already make up more than 25% of the units within the centre

All hot food takeaways should provide suitably sized, screened waste storage systems, appropriate extraction systems for the removal of odours and public waste bins when these are lacking within the vicinity.

Local Plan: Food Production

Collective effort, made possible by long term systems thinking & collaboration

- Context - policies & strategies supporting food growing
- Advice - from Gillian Morgan at Sustain, navigating the process & documentation
- Capacity - created by Urban Agriculture Task Force at Regather, funded by TUoS
- Prompt - wide range of local actors, esp. Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust
- Awareness - from Fringe Farming at Sustain, and Urban Agriculture Consortium
- Learning & Time - Fran Halsall & Gareth Roberts at Regather, late nights, long weekend!

Ref. 1	Document	Ref. 2	Proposed amendment
LS11	Part 1	Objectives	Add **'provide sufficient land to facilitate sustainable food production.'** to Objectives for a Green City
SV6	Part 1	Policy BG1	Add **'support local food production'** to Policy BG1
GD10	Part 2	Paragraph 8.2	Add **"food production"** to paragraph 8.2
GD9	Part 2	Paragraph 8.5	Add reference to **"community gardens and urban farms"**
GD6	Part 2	Policy GS1	Add "**or of food growing**" to part c)

NPPF Consultation

- Planning coordinated Sheffield City Council's response

- Public Health provided details for relevant questions

- Using Sustain's submission as a guide, we took the opportunity to raise the importance of food growing and wider food environments

- Commented in relation to: defining the grey belt; public access to green space; promoting healthy communities; tackling climate change; and availability of agricultural land for food production.

- Example:

Question 83: Are there other ways in which we can ensure that development supports and does not compromise food production?

Public Health response: Land for food production should be a consideration in any new development, be that allotments, community gardens, market gardening or larger scale agroecological production. This would bring benefits around health, access to food, community cohesion, the economy, wildlife and the climate. This should include supporting infrastructure, such as storage facilities, composting sites, polytunnels and access, and encouraging a diversity of retail outlets supplying healthy and nutritious food.