

Leeds Food Strategy 2023-2030

Vision: ‘At the heart of this strategy is our vision for Leeds to have a vibrant food economy where everyone can access local, healthy, and affordable food that is produced in ways that improve our natural environment and embraces new techniques and technologies’



Key Indicators

- % of adults consuming 5 portions fruit and vegetables per day.
- % of year 6 children recorded with a healthy weight, comparing least to most deprived.
- % of adults living with Diabetes, comparing least to most deprived.
- Number of health promoting and sustainable community food projects.
- % of hot food takeaway applications refused.
- % of families accessing the healthy start scheme.
- % of families accessing free school meals.
- % of food aid providers supporting people with food security.
- Number of food/drink businesses supported by regional business support services.
- Number of hospitality/food/drink businesses engaged with employment skills service.
- Number of compost collective sites and % household capacity supported.
- Volume of surplus fruit and vegetables diverted to food aid.
- Number of new ‘grow your own’ community initiatives (Incredible Edible)
- Number and % of Council premises using the carbon calculator.
- Number of contracts supported by the council procurement guidelines.
- Volume of domestic and non-domestic food waste collected (2025).

Ensure people of all ages know how to access and eat food that supports their health and wellbeing.	Work across sectors to improve knowledge and awareness of Eatwell recommendations and adapt these to individual lives. Work across sectors to give people the skills and opportunities to overcome barriers to buying, preparing, and eating healthy, nutritious, and affordable food.
Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating.	Raise awareness of, and celebrate, community-led food initiatives in Leeds and the impact they have Support community-led food initiatives to identify new funding opportunities. Encourage and enable better co-ordination and sharing of best practice between groups.
Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing	Work with interested organisations that provide or sell food to encourage them to prepare and promote healthy and nutritious food more prominently Prevent the over saturation of high fat, sugar, salt food and drink products (HFSS) in the Out of Home Food environment with planning policy and guidance. Explore opportunities to advertise and promote healthier and sustainable eating.
Develop a skilled workforce with the offer of targeted support for people most likely to develop diet-related diseases.	Continue to invest in prevention and treatment programmes that reduce the impact of diet-related ill health in the people most at risk. Provide training opportunities to support a skilled workforce to deliver consistent, holistic, and evidence-based information on healthier eating
Mission B: Food Security & Economy <i>Working to give everyone in Leeds access to nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy.</i>	
Tackle factors limiting people's ability to afford the food they need	Champion actions and initiatives that help address poverty and food insecurity, including fair wages and financial support. Raise awareness of how residents can increase their incomes, including helping them to access any financial support they may qualify for. Develop and sustain programmes that improve access to healthy food for people on low incomes
Help those in need of support to access affordable and inclusive food initiatives	Work together with partners to improve, and make more inclusive, affordable food initiatives so that everyone can access the help they need. Connect food aid providers with other free, impartial, and confidential support services to help residents access information and support to prepare and afford healthy meals. Develop and promote a new Leeds Food Aid Charter setting out consistent key principles and best practice for local food aid providers to follow.
Support and unlock opportunities for local food businesses and workers	Help food businesses grow and support jobs by connecting them to relevant support and advice Create and expand pathways to market for locally produced food. Promote opportunities for recruitment, workforce development, and apprenticeships in the local food sector. Support innovation and research that promotes the viability of local food enterprises.
Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city - celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture.	Work with the food sector to increase visitor demand for local food and drink across the city. Celebrate the culture and diversity of Leeds by promoting the local food offer available in different parts of the city.
Mission C: Sustainability & Resilience <i>Ensuring the Leeds food system is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan.</i>	
Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food	Promoting ways to reduce food waste, working with partner organisations and businesses. Redistributing surplus food to those in need, working with partners, organisations and businesses. Expanding domestic food waste collections (expected to be from late April 2026, in line with national policy and dependant on government funding). Expanding community composting initiatives to more households and areas of the city.
Raise awareness of how we can eat nutritious foods that are good for the planet.	Introducing carbon labelling at council food venues, such as with café and school menus. Promoting 'grow your own', community and urban growing.
Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient commercial food production.	Work with national, regional, and local partners to support best farming/ growing practice including explore opportunities to influence land use planning policies, through Leeds Local Plan updates by engaging with policymakers, decision takers, and farmers/ growers in Leeds. Explore opportunities to promote Leeds as a destination city with the focus on consumption of local produce by businesses and institutions.
Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient food buying.	Working with suppliers to better understand - and reduce - the environmental impact of the food purchased by Leeds City Council in line with the LCC food procurement guidelines commitments Explore sustainable and resilient food consumption by embracing and showcasing robust supply chain and buying systems to encourage the city's biggest organisations (through the Leeds Anchors Network Climate Sub-Group) to join Leeds City Council in their procurement commitments of the benefits of consuming local and seasonal produce.