

## Appendix A.

# Leeds Food Strategy

Our plan to work towards a better food future for all

[Overarching Graphic]

## About the Leeds Food Strategy

The Leeds Food Strategy sets out our vision for the future of how we produce, consume, and dispose of food across the local authority district.

**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 embrace innovation.**

This means that we believe the foods that we eat should reflect our rich and diverse culture, nourish our social connections, enhance our physical and mental well-being, and make our lives better. It means that our food system should enable people, producers, and our planet to prosper. The Leeds Food Strategy sets out what the city can do to work towards this better food future for all.

We will work towards our vision by focusing on three core missions. These missions have been designed to complement our Best City Ambition, whilst also demonstrating how Leeds will work collaboratively to support the aims of the Government Food Strategy and independent National Food Strategy.

## Achieving our vision: our food missions

[H & W Graphic]

### Health and wellbeing

Helping people to eat a safe, healthy, and balanced diet to improve Leeds' health and wellbeing.

[Find out more](#)

[FS & E Graphic]

## **Food security and economy**

Working to give everyone in Leeds access to nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy.

[Find out more](#)

[S & R Graphic]

## **Sustainability and resilience**

Ensuring Leeds' food system is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan.

[Find out more](#)

## **Why we need a Leeds Food Strategy:**

*An introduction by Cllr. Abigail Marshall-Katung, Food Champion at Leeds City Council & Gareth Batty MBE FRSA, CEO at FareShare Yorkshire.*

“Wherever you go in the city, you’ll see that food is central to life in Leeds.

“Food sustains both lives and livelihoods. It nourishes and reflects our rich and diverse culture. No matter where in the world you come from, you’ll be able to enjoy a taste of home here in Leeds. Whether you’re looking for Michelin-recommended fine dining or a little-known independent gem of an eatery, Leeds has a lot of good things on the menu.

“Food plays an important role in our economy too. Thousands of Leeds businesses employ tens of thousands of local workers in the production, selling and serving food. The city’s vibrant food sector supports our thriving visitor economy. It’s really no wonder that we’ve sometimes been called the Foodie Capital of the North.

“Yet while we have plenty to celebrate, we must acknowledge that in 2022 too many people in Leeds struggle to put good food on the table. Everybody should be able to access and afford nutritious food. Nobody should ever have to choose between heating or eating, yet this is the grim reality sadly facing many people that we work with today. Across the UK, the number of people in relative poverty is increasing and has been for more than 10 years. Even before the pandemic, it is estimated that 174,000 Leeds residents lived in relative poverty. Industry data shows that food prices are inflating faster than wages and that those on the lowest incomes are being hit the hardest. Non-financial barriers (like living far away from places that sell affordable, nutritious food) also make the problems

of food insecurity worse for many. Paradoxically, however, we collectively throw huge amounts of good food away—enough to almost fill one in three rubbish bins collected by the council.

“When good food is hard to afford and access, our health and wellbeing suffers. Almost half of adults in Leeds eat fewer than five portions of fruit or vegetables per day whilst five-in-ten adults in the city are classified as living with overweight or obesity. By helping more people in Leeds to eat a healthy, nutritious diet that aligns with the NHS recommended EatWell guidelines, we can save lives and improve quality of life for thousands of people. And because diets that are good for us tend to be better for the planet too, doing so will accelerate our journey to become a net zero city.

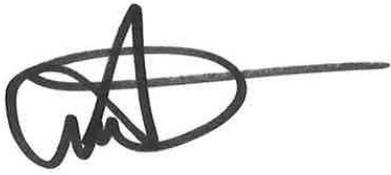
“Until global net zero is achieved, our climate will continue to change and impact harvests everywhere. Climate change will therefore make our economic and health challenges harder to address unless we grow and source foods in a more sustainable and resilient way. British farmers will continue to produce most of the food we eat in the future, but they must be supported as they transition to more sustainable and climate-resilient practices. Leeds City Council has pledged to, by 2030, reduce the carbon footprint of food purchased internally by half, and is the first local authority in the country to make any carbon related food commitments. Leeds City Council has also signed the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, reiterating our commitment to take local action on food and climate.

“Local efforts are already making a real difference. Organisations like FareShare Yorkshire help: in the last year they provided more than 4.2 million meals across the region, preventing nearly 1,800 tonnes of food from going to waste and helping families. But FareShare Yorkshire is just one of many fantastic charities and community groups. Since 2017, FoodWise Leeds has brought together many of these local charities and policy makers to address some of the city’s big challenges and to pursue a better food system. Their amazing efforts—supported by the council—has already seen Leeds given the Sustainable Food Places ‘Bronze’ Award for its efforts.

“All of these issues that we’ve mentioned above are challenges which this ambitious Leeds Food Strategy seeks to address. This strategy includes policies and initiatives to build on our past successes and move towards a local food system that is better for people, producers, and our planet. It’s laid out across three, mission-driven, interlinked sections that tackle each challenge in turn.

“Across the whole document, you’ll see our commitment to abide by three fundamental principles: collaboration across the city’s food system, use of local insight and evidence as the basis for solutions, and the transparent monitoring and evaluation of our work.

“We believe that the Leeds Food Strategy is a recipe for success, but we’ll need the support of the whole city to turn our ambitious vision into a reality. We hope you’ll join us.”



**Cllr. Abigail Marshall-Katung** | Official Food Champion, Leeds City Council

**Gareth Batty MBE FRSA** | Chief Executive Officer, Fareshare Yorkshire

## **Delivering the strategy:**

The Leeds Food Strategy has been co-developed by Leeds City Council and FoodWise Leeds.

FoodWise Leeds formed in 2017 as the city's food partnership to create a healthy, sustainable and fair food system for everyone in Leeds. The partnership is made up of representatives from the third sector, academia, business and the council.

This document is currently a draft version of the Leeds Food Strategy for the purpose of public consultation. This means that its contents may be subject to change based on feedback received. A final version of the strategy will be available from Spring 2023.

Once a final version is published, Leeds City Council and FoodWise Leeds will work in partnership to oversee the review and development of the annual Leeds Food Action Plan that will be key to the strategy's delivery from now until 2030. They will also share and present an update detailing the Plan's progress every year at a public meeting of Leeds City Council.

## **How this strategy was developed:**

The Leeds Food Strategy has been co-produced with individuals and representatives from third sector organisations, business, academia, the public sector and the council to create a shared vision for putting healthy, sustainable, and fair food as central to the city's success.

In 2022, more than 70 stakeholders from the local food system gathered to share their knowledge and collectively develop a vision for what our local food system should look like to help address some of the city's biggest challenges including food insecurity, the cost of living, diet-related illnesses, and climate change. Attendees also celebrated Leeds' many successes such as community gardens and

farming initiatives, the support of community food aid projects, the vibrant indie food scene and the support for children and families offered through the Healthy Holidays program.

Following this meeting, working groups were set up, each co-chaired by both an independent organisation and a council representative, to represent and develop each of the three strategic 'missions' of the strategy into the format you see today.

The Leeds Food Strategy also incorporates the six key issues assessed as part of the Sustainable Food Places award scheme. Our aim is for Leeds to achieve the Silver award in 2023 and the Gold award in subsequent years.

Organisations that contributed to the Leeds Food Strategy steering group include:

- Fareshare Yorkshire
- Food Aid Network
- FoodWise Leeds
- Leeds City Council
- Rethink Food
- University of Leeds

## **Get involved:**

We believe that the Leeds Food Strategy is a recipe for a better local food system, but we'll need the support of communities, businesses and decision makers across the city to turn our vision into a reality. Every action counts.

There are lots of way that you can support this work and help make a difference:

### **Help us shape the Leeds Food Strategy**

The Leeds Food Strategy is currently a draft version for public consultation. We want to know what you think! Whether you like the strategy or think that it could be improved, we want to hear your thoughts. If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions about the strategy then let us know by taking part in our online consultation [URL] or by emailing: [LeedsFoodStrategy@Leeds.gov.uk](mailto:LeedsFoodStrategy@Leeds.gov.uk)

### **Take action to make our food system better**

Whether you're a Leeds resident, a food business owner or part of a local organisation, discover easy ways to become FoodWise and take action to help us create a healthy, sustainable and fair food

system for our city, that tackles social, economic and environmental issues. There's plenty of ways for you to take action and be more FoodWise

**Talk to someone about this strategy**

The more people know about the Leeds Food Strategy, the bigger an impact that it can have. If you think that our approach is interesting, we'd love you to share this document with your friends and networks—and encourage more people to have their say and get involved.

DRAFT

# Leeds Food Strategy: Health and wellbeing

Our mission is to help people to eat a safe, healthy, and balanced diet to improve Leeds' health and wellbeing.

[Overarching Graphic]

## Why is it important?

Food is essential for health and wellbeing.

It is estimated that more than 800 lives per year could be saved in Leeds if we all ate diets consistent with the NHS-recommended Eatwell Guide. Eating a safe, healthy, balanced diet is protective of a wide range of health conditions including: malnutrition, obesity, coronary heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and even some cancers.

Knowing what to eat, understanding dietary recommendations, and having the practical skills required to prepare healthy balanced foods are all skills that we believe should be universal.

Food choices are key, but our choices are not made in isolation. Evidence shows that eating well and healthy is influenced by our environment. In practice there are many barriers to eating a satisfying and balanced diet. For some residents, good food is less visible in their daily lives and might be harder to afford or even physically access. These barriers are not equally experienced and are often related to existing inequalities present in our city.

[Infographic - % of Leeds a healthy weight]

Together we can improve health and wellbeing by working with our citizens, and those who care for them, to find solutions and at the same time remove barriers, improve quality of life, and help reduce social isolation through food.

By supporting more residents to eat a healthy and nutritious diet that aligns with the Eatwell Guide, the Leeds Foods Strategy aims to give children in Leeds the best start and help people to live healthy, independent lives for longer.

Diets that are good for us tend to be better for the planet too. Meeting these objectives will accelerate our city's journey to achieving net zero carbon—ultimately helping to reduce the future health impacts that we know climate change will cause.

## **Our plan:**

### **Objective 1: Ensure people of all ages know how to access and eat food that supports their health and wellbeing**

[Icon/Graphic]

The first step to eating a healthier diet is understanding what to eat, how much of it, and having the practical skills required to buy and prepare good food. This understanding also needs to be tailored to an individual's culture, faith, income, community, and stage of life.

The NHS-recommended Eatwell guide shows how much of different food groups are needed to achieve a healthy, balanced diet—except where a health professional has advised otherwise. Other tools, such as the School Food Plan and 5 A Day campaign, also exist. Helping more people to understand these recommendations will empower individuals to eat healthier.

In addition to boosting awareness and understanding of dietary recommendations, we can also help individuals to eat healthier by improving their capability and opportunity to do so. For example, working across sectors to teach effective skills like meal planning, budgeting, and food preparation.

#### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Working across sectors to improve knowledge and awareness of dietary recommendations and adapting these to individual lives.
- 2) Working across sectors to give people the skills and opportunities to overcome barriers to buying, preparing, and eating healthy, nutritious, and affordable food.

### **Objective 2: Change our city environment to help make healthier food more available and appealing**

[Icon/Graphic]

Our environment influences what we eat. In practice, there are many barriers to eating a healthy and satisfying diet. For some residents, good food is less visible in their daily lives and might be harder to physically access. It is important to ensure that everyone can make healthy food choices where they live, work, study or relax.

Organisations and businesses advertising, providing, or selling food have a role in promoting and offering affordable, healthy, and nutritious food more prominently—positively influencing the demand

for good food. Those buying, making, or serving food could adopt the best practice Government Buying Standards for Food to make their food healthier, higher quality, and more sustainable.

Workplaces—where most of us spend a lot of our time—should also recognise their key role. In many workplaces, information and access to healthy food can be limited and this impacts people’s ability to consume a healthier diet.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Work with interested businesses and organisations that provide or sell food to encourage them to prepare and promote safe, healthy, nutritious food more prominently. Leeds City Council will lead by example within its own venues.
- 2) Work with employers to recognise their role in helping to create a food environment that improves access to, and encourages, healthy eating.

**Objective 3: Offer targeted support that helps people most likely to develop diet-related diseases**

[Icon/Graphic]

Healthy eating is important for everyone, but some people are more at risk of developing health conditions and require additional support. Malnutrition is a major driver of diet-related ill health conditions including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease (heart diseases) and stroke, and some cancers. Living with these health conditions can be life changing and lead to premature death. Managing them costs our NHS more than £6 billion per year.

We can reduce diet-related deaths, improve the quality of life for those diagnosed, and save NHS resources by offering targeted support to help people most likely to develop these diseases. These ‘at risk’ individuals include those experiencing food insecurity or who live in a more deprived area.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Continuing to invest in prevention and treatment programmes that reduce the impact of diet-related ill health in the people most at risk.

**Objective 4: Champion community food initiatives that support healthier eating**

[Icon/Graphic]

Alongside working with partners, community-led initiatives will have a vital role to play in furthering the objectives of the Leeds Food Strategy.

They enable people to develop cooking skills, grow food, and share food as part of activities like cooking skills, luncheon, and family clubs. But they also bring people within communities together which has huge social benefits.

There are already many great community-led initiatives taking place across Leeds. However, many of these projects currently face challenges with funding and co-ordinating their work—limiting their potential impact.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Raising awareness of, and celebrating, community-led food initiatives in Leeds and the impact they have.
- 2) Supporting community-led food initiatives to identify new funding opportunities
- 3) Encouraging and enabling better co-ordination and sharing of best practice between groups.

**Objective 5: Develop a skilled local workforce that works collaboratively to advocate for healthier eating and changes which enable it**

[Icon/Graphic]

Many organisations in Leeds already promote information on eating well, but this can sometimes be complex due to the variety of information sources available and doesn't always take into account the wider role of a person's individual context—such as culture, income, and environment—to influence their food choices.

By developing a local workforce with all the skills necessary to advocate for, promote, and support healthier eating, we can empower professionals to have an even greater impact.

We believe that workforce development should include providing consistent information and support which is tailored to their audience and appropriate for their role.

Training opportunities shouldn't be provided in isolation. Workers should also be equipped to identify and support opportunities that influence behaviour such as changing the food environment where they work.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Providing a range of training opportunities that support the local workforce to deliver consistent, holistic, and evidence-based information on healthier eating.

# Leeds Food Strategy: Food security and economy

Our mission is to ensure everyone in Leeds has access to affordable, nutritious food as part of a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant food economy.

[Overarching Graphic]

## Why is it important?

Tackling poverty and inequality and improving the quality of life for everyone who calls our city home is at the heart of the Leeds Food Strategy.

Food security (by which we mean the ability of our residents to fill shopping bags, pay for them, and prepare nutritious meals) is essential to the foundations of a healthy, inclusive, and sustainable economy.

A lack of food security and poor nutrition has been shown to harm an individual's educational attainment, health, and limits their ability to contribute economically, environmentally, socially, and culturally to society.

Unfortunately, across the country increasing numbers of people are experiencing poverty. Leeds is no different. Too many of this city's residents struggle to put food on the table. Food bank use is currently at an all-time high after an unacceptable and unsustainable year-on-year increase.

## [Infographic – 1/10 gone without food]

Local charities and community groups in Leeds—often working in partnership with the council—are already making a real difference every day to help those most in need. Programmes to distribute food aid and give emergency food parcels will continue offering a lifesaving service, but people shouldn't have to rely on these services to get by.

Ultimately, we need to tackle the causes of food insecurity and not just its impacts. This means helping to ensure that people can and know how to access, afford, and prepare healthy nutritious food—without compromising their ability to meet other basic needs.

At the same time as the need to improve access to affordable food, there is also a need to tackle food insecurity by doing everything within our powers to help people become financially secure and independent. We can nurture our economy (including our vibrant food sector) to become more successful, innovative, and diverse whilst also making sure that it is fair, pays well, and works for everyone. If we are all able to choose local and regional food producers more often we could help local businesses to create more jobs and keep more money within Yorkshire.

By working collaboratively with partners across the city to reduce food insecurity and grow an inclusive food economy, the Leeds Food Strategy aims to improve the quality of life and financial resilience of Leeds households. We're proud that Leeds has some of the best food in the country. With our plans, we hope that every resident will soon be able to enjoy it.

## **Our plan:**

### **Objective 1: Tackle the causes of food insecurity**

[Icon/Graphic]

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, pay hadn't been keeping up with the rising cost of living for a while and many people had little job security. Currently around 20% of Leeds employees earn below the real living wage.

On top of that, public sector funding cuts and welfare reform has reduced much of the support available to people in poverty. Barriers including a lack of awareness or difficulties accessing financial support prevents some residents from receiving what they do qualify for.

All of these factors combine to mean that fewer people can afford good food, which is the biggest expenditure for households after housing, fuel, and energy. Official statistics show that low-income households currently spend twice as much of their earnings (19% in total) on food, and this situation is expected to worsen.

To tackle the root causes of food insecurity, we need to reduce poverty and economic inequalities. We need to encourage more organisations to pay the real living wage and help businesses (including in our food sector) to create good new jobs that mean more people can live happier and healthier lives.

#### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Championing actions and initiatives that help address poverty and food insecurity, including fair wages and financial support.
- 2) Raising awareness of how residents can increase their incomes, including helping them to access any financial support they may qualify for.
- 3) Developing and sustaining programmes that improve access to healthy food for people on low incomes.

## **Objective 2: Improve access to, and inclusivity of, affordable food initiatives to help more people in need of support**

[Icon/Graphic]

With more people experiencing food insecurity and sometimes having to choose between heating and eating, rising numbers of people are turning to food aid services.

Local organisations—often working in partnership with the council—are making a real difference to help those most in need. Leeds has a wide range of food aid provision available including emergency support via food banks, the Local Welfare Support Scheme, food pantries, and community cafes. Last year it's estimated that more than 64,000 food parcels were distributed via food aid providers.

We believe that food aid provision could help people further if providers in Leeds were better connected with each other and with other financial advice or support services. We could also help more people if these services were made more inclusive of different cultural and dietary requirements.

### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Working collaboratively with city partners to improve access to, and inclusivity of, affordable food initiatives so that everyone can access the help they need.
- 2) Connecting food aid providers with other free, impartial, and confidential support services to help residents access information and support to prepare and afford healthy meals.
- 3) Developing and promoting a new Leeds Food Aid Charter setting out consistent key principles and best practice that local food aid providers should follow.

## **Objective 3: Continue to build a strong partnership approach across all sectors and with the people of Leeds**

[Icon/Graphic]

Leeds prides itself on its well-established partnership approach to tackling food insecurity. Currently this includes Leeds Food Aid Network which brings together a wide range of food aid organisations—including FareShare Yorkshire, Rethink Food and FoodWise Leeds—all working in collaboration with the council, universities, businesses and the third sector.

This partnership approach increases awareness, efficiency, and effectiveness of all the good work being done across the city. It was crucial throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when Leeds providers experienced an unprecedented demand for emergency food aid.

We need to continue building and strengthening this collaborative, partnership approach across every sector and with the people of Leeds to unite efforts towards the missions of the Leeds Food Strategy.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Developing the Food Aid Network and Leeds Food Insecurity Taskforce to raise awareness of our approach to food aid and improve citywide coordination and collaboration.
- 2) Ensuring public participation in, and engagement with, the Leeds Food Strategy.
- 3) Work with organisations to promote goods and services from local producers.
- 4) Working in partnership with the public, voluntary, education and private sector to collaborate on actions that further the objectives of the Leeds Food Strategy.

**Objective 4: Support inclusive growth within Leeds' food economy**

[Icon/Graphic]

By supporting retail, food and drink, and social entrepreneurs to start-up and grow successful businesses we can facilitate inclusive growth within our local economy. This means creating new and better jobs, contributing towards reduced poverty and inequality in the city, and nurturing the food culture we want.

We can support businesses by connecting them to relevant advice and support helping entrepreneurs to start up, grow, and develop innovative businesses. We can also explore and support new opportunities for innovative and sustainable food production.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Helping food businesses grow and support jobs by connecting them to relevant support and advice.
- 2) Working to create and expand pathways to market for locally produced food.
- 3) Promoting opportunities for recruitment, workforce development, and apprenticeships in the local food sector.
- 4) Supporting innovation and research that promotes the viability of local food enterprises.

## **Objective 5: Promote Leeds as a vibrant food city—celebrating our independent food, drink, events, and culture**

[Icon/Graphic]

Leeds offers one of the best independent restaurant, café and bar scenes in the country.

We enjoy a diverse and innovative food hospitality sector featuring everything from world-class fine dining to mouth-watering street food. You can enjoy familiar cuisines from all over the world or sample something new here in Leeds. We're proud of our impressive food heritage too.

This varied food offer supports Leeds' thriving visitor economy by helping to draw people and investment into the city and supporting inclusive economic growth. In turn, this generates opportunities for creative, enthusiastic food and drink entrepreneurs to launch and grow their businesses in the city. The many independent food businesses in Leeds help keep money circulating within our local economy.

As you'd expect, food is already celebrated in the city. For example, Leeds Indie Food brings together thriving independent enterprises and runs an annual indie food festival, while farmers markets, cookery classes and food pop-ups can be found across the city.

We will continue to build on what Leeds already does well to support the city's local food economy. We will proudly celebrate our food culture, heritage, and diversity, and work to raise the city's profile as a vibrant food city.

### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Working with the food sector to increase visitor demand for local food and drink across the city.
- 2) Celebrating the culture and diversity of Leeds by promoting the local food offer available in different parts of the city.
- 3) Champion the economic, social, and environmental benefits of consuming locally and sustainably produced foods to residents, businesses and institutions.

# Leeds Food Strategy: Sustainability and Resilience

Our mission is to ensure the way Leeds produces, consumes, and disposes of food is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan.

[Overarching Graphic]

## Why is it important?

Our climate is changing. Warmer temperatures, changing rain patterns, and more extreme weather events are already affecting food security across the world—and will increasingly do so until global net zero is achieved.

Leeds has declared a climate emergency and, as part of our climate action plan, the council's ambition is to achieve net zero carbon emissions as quickly as possible and to boost our city's resilience to the changing climate.

Yet as well as being vulnerable to the impacts of climate change our food system is also partly responsible, currently accounting for around one-fifth of all the emissions in our national carbon footprint.

We can enable the transition to a net zero compatible food system by wasting less food, making healthier food choices, and producing food in better ways. Leeds is one of the biggest cities in one of the world's richest countries. Leeds can't change the food system alone, but we can have real impact if we lead by example. Every action counts.

Energy used to transport and process our food contributes to the food sector's carbon footprint, so we will reduce these emissions by transitioning to zero emission transport and power as part of other strategies.

However, most greenhouse gas emissions from food are released before it even leaves the farm gates because of factors like land use change, fertiliser use, and the methane emissions from livestock. Therefore, we must consider what foods are grown and how they are grown—not just how far foods have travelled.

[Infographic – GHGs from food production]

Food production is essential, and the agricultural community has made great strides in reducing its impact on the environment. However, farming uses a lot of land and, dependent on how it is done, can be detrimental to nature. This includes the very bees and other pollinators that play a vital role to make foods more affordable and abundant.

The growing of food across the globe will be increasingly impacted by our changing climate, damaging harvests that disrupt supplies and raise food prices. By creating a resilient food system and sourcing produce from a wide range of geographically diverse suppliers, we can reduce the impact of supply disruption when it occurs—especially for those in food poverty.

Ultimately, ensuring the way we produce, consume, and dispose of food is fit for the future and supports our climate action plan is not only necessary and beneficial long-term, but will also help us to improve the quality of life for residents right now.

## **Our plan:**

### **Objective 1: Empower residents to choose healthy diets by raising awareness of choices that are good for the planet**

[Icon/Graphic]

Some types of food will always be more resource intensive to produce than others. Yet most people are unaware of what impact their food choices have on the environment. Every meal we eat is an opportunity to make a difference.

We recognise that some people in the city struggle to access the right food to keep themselves healthy and the Leeds Food Strategy aims to tackle this food insecurity. Considering how food impacts the planet might seem daunting, but many food choices that are better for the environment can be better for your budget too—such as using local and seasonal ingredients.

Diet is an individual choice. Some people may choose to eat plant-based diets. Others may choose to eat meat, fish and dairy too. But as a population, our collective health and the health of the planet would improve if we ate a balanced diet consistent with the NHS-recommended Eatwell guidelines. For some people, this may mean eating less (but better quality) meat and more plants. Simply adopting the Eatwell guidelines is estimated to reduce the average person's carbon footprint from food by almost a third.

Organisations and food businesses can also help by making it easier for individuals to choose healthier, more sustainable foods.

#### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Introducing carbon labelling at council food venues
- 2) Raising awareness of the environmental impact of different food choices.

## **Objective 2: Tackle waste by reducing, redistributing, and utilising surplus food**

[Icon/Graphic]

It doesn't matter what kind it is, throwing any food away feeds climate change and wastes land, water, money and energy. 25 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year are emitted from the food wasted by households and businesses in the UK. Meanwhile, many families in Leeds experience food insecurity and depend on food aid.

Did you know that the average household in Leeds throws away 196 kgs of food a year? By buying only what we need and using our leftovers, we could reduce the largest source of post-farm gate food waste. Together we can all do a little more and make a big difference.

Retailers, manufacturers, and farmers all have a big part to play in tackling food waste across the system too. For example, supermarkets and their suppliers can help consumers to reduce food waste, through better product information, design, and packaging.

### **Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Promoting ways to reduce food waste, working with partner organisations and businesses.
- 2) Redistributing surplus food to those in need, working with partners organisations and businesses.
- 3) Expanding food waste collections (in line with national policy and dependant on government funding) and community composting initiatives to more areas of the city.

## **Objective 3: Champion environmentally sustainable and resilient procurement**

[Icon/Graphic]

We can all help shape the way that food is made and sold for the better by voting with our wallets to raise standards, cut carbon, and support local producers.

Organisations can make an even bigger difference than those who buy only for their family. For example, Leeds City Council buys more than two thousand tonnes of food every year. The council has produced a set of food procurement guidelines to be followed to ensure that any food purchased by the council is aligned with the commitments made in this strategy

Buying local also supports higher animal welfare and quality agriculture, keeps money in our Yorkshire economy, and boosts the resilience of our food system too.

Taking time to find out where food comes from is important. Even if you don't buy local all the time, simply choosing to buy foods that are seasonal to the place they're grown can be cheaper and can make a positive environmental difference.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Serving more quality, sustainable, regional produce that is certified to higher production standards in Leeds City Council venues and services.
- 2) Working with suppliers to better understand—and reduce—the environmental impact of the food purchased by Leeds City Council.
- 3) Encouraging anchor organisations to join Leeds City Council in their procurement commitments

**Objective 4: Support local farmers to transition to resilient and profitable agriculture which improves the environment**

[Icon/Graphic]

British farmers already produce some of the most environmentally friendly and highest animal welfare food in the world and they are now on a journey to become even more sustainable as part of the national Agricultural Transition Plan.

It will be important that we support local farmers as they transition to sustainable agricultural practices that are profitable and suited to our changing climate as quickly as possible. Yorkshire's farmers have a proud history and their future success is essential for our food security.

**Actions to support this objective:**

- 1) Work with national, regional, and local partners to support best farming practice through lobbying, helping to remove barriers to the agricultural transition faced by local farmers.
- 2) Explore opportunities to influence land use planning policies to enable the better use of land for agriculture.
- 3) Help local farmers get a fair price for quality products using public procurement.
- 4) Work to make it easier for local farmers to sell produce locally.

## **Objective 5: Encourage and enable innovative and community-led food production**

[Icon/Graphic]

Like many cities, Leeds collectively consumes far more food than we produce. This fact might not be surprising as a major city district. However, this fact could make the city more vulnerable to future food price rises and supply chain issues. Going forwards, we will work to make this difference between production and consumption as small as possible.

Fortunately, food growing doesn't have to be limited to farms. Allotments, gardens, balconies, windows, greenhouses, urban farms, community spaces and innovative systems can all contribute to Leeds' food security, improve community wellbeing, and help to create employment opportunities.

### **Action to support this objective:**

- 1) Promoting 'grow your own', community and urban growing.
- 2) Work with partners to raise awareness of, and support, cutting-edge innovative food production.