



Good Food Lewisham

Three-year action plan: 2024 – 2027



Funded by



The Good Food Lewisham Action Plan covers the six required areas set out by [Sustainable Food Places Network](#) to help us achieve our aim of becoming a diverse and lively community that connects people to healthy, sustainable and affordable food that is grown, produced and prepared locally to promote a vibrant food culture and prospering local economy.

The Action Plan has been put together from engaging with over 350 individuals by:

- Analysing responses to the [Good Food Movement survey](#) (130 responses which includes 41 community groups)
- Discussions from three quarterly network meetings (approximately 120 attendances) from September 2023 to March 2024
- Engaging with groups who are under-represented in survey results
- Ideas from the staff team, volunteers and Good Food Lewisham Steering Group

The survey identified the following top five priorities in order of popularity:

1. More support for growing locally by reducing allotment waiting times and identifying new growing areas.
2. Food procurement to support sustainable local food provision
3. Tackling the climate emergency by supporting locally grown and sourced seasonal food
4. Supporting food growing in schools
5. More action on food waste

These will be our priority areas over the next three years, and the priority actions within the plan for our work.

I am particularly impressed by the level of engagement with partners across the Lewisham food system that informed the development of this action plan. I am pleased that the priorities agreed through this engagement align well with the vision and priority areas of the Lewisham Food Justice Action Plan and that the commonalities between these two plans are acknowledged in this document.

I encourage all stakeholders to support the implementation of the plan over the next three years to continue our progress towards a healthier, more sustainable and more affordable food system in Lewisham that supports a vibrant food culture and our local economy.

Dr Catherine Mbema
Director of Public Health
Lewisham Borough Council



Scan to find out more about our Food Justice Action plan.

Or visit

Lewisham.gov.uk/food-justice

Key for acronyms

GFL – Good Food Lewisham

LL – Lewisham Local

LA – Local Authority

EDI - Equality Diversity Inclusion

WG – Working Group

SG – Steering Group

REDI - Race Equality Diversity Inclusion

FJAP – Food Justice Action Plan

RMUK – Rastafari Movement UK

EMC – Every Mouthful Counts

FJA – Food Justice Alliance

Bold text indicates comments/feedback from the survey or network meetings.

SFP – Sustainable Food Places

VCS – Voluntary + Community Sector (= third sector)

CAL – Climate Action Lewisham; **CAL** – Citizens Advice Lewisham

WWs – Warm Welcomes

LBL – London Borough of Lewisham

CG – Capital Growth

CCL – Community Connections Lewisham

SELCE – South East London Community Energy

Key Issue 1

Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action

Action

Broaden the reach of the partnership.

You said:

About 20% of people who completed the survey chose this as a top-five priority.

Action	Activity	Who/responsibility	Timescale	Indicators of success
1.1 Stronger relationship with partners in all sectors	1.1.1 Strengthen connections with local institutions – e.g., Local Authority (LA), Goldsmiths University, Lewisham College, Hospital, Housing Associations, policy makers – as well as in business / individual / community. Leverage support and collaborations	GFL Staff Team and GFL Steering Group (SG)	Year 1 then ongoing – review specific relationships quarterly.	Track the number of anchor institutions engaged in the network and any outcomes of this work.
Representative and diverse partnership	1.1.2 Work with Food Matters to develop the Sustainable Food Places (SFP) Race Equality Diversity Inclusion (REDI) toolkit. Undertake a review of Steering Group (SG) to ensure it reflects the diversity of the food system and demographics of the local area. Annual review using REDI toolkit at organisational level with the Lewisham Local (LL) EDI working group. Include EDI as a regular slot on SG meetings, newsletters and meetings.	GFL Staff Team, GFL SG and existing partners within network	Ongoing – review as appropriate	Implementation of REDI review undertaken. Review of steering group.

	<p>Work to engage and support LGBT groups in the Network.</p> <p>“Let diverse communities run it.”</p> <p>“Creative education and awareness targeted at African heritage and minority ethnic communities.”</p>			
Inclusive partnership – funding for participation	<p>1.1.3 If funding allows, build our small grants programme to support more community groups and individuals to get involved with the network.</p> <p>“Staying in touch with one another and building partnerships which could submit joint funding bids to potential donors.”</p> <p>“Collaborative funding opportunities and partnerships.”</p>	Lewisham Local and SG partners	Ongoing	Demographic data recorded at event attendance.
Inclusive – movement building	<p>1.1.4 Use Network meetings as a tool to foster community cohesion and movement building by bringing different actors in the food system and residents together at quarterly in person meetings.</p> <p>Encourage individuals and groups to take on or lead on actions/areas of work and report back at these meetings (in a similar way to the Food Justice Alliance).</p> <p>“Food as a theme that has the potential to unite neighbourhoods and create community cohesion.”</p>	GFL Staff and SG	Quarterly network meetings from July 2024	<p>Record the number of community groups that attended and ask groups to record the number of connections made through regular surveys.</p> <p>Record number of actions taken</p>
1.2 Evaluation and data to ensure effectiveness	1.2.1 Develop process for measuring progress on 3-year action plan (learn from Food Justice Action Plan (FJAP) process) and other plans (e.g. Every	GFL Staff Team, SG	From June 2024	M&E processes established

	Mouthful Counts (MFC) toolkit) - can be connected to 1.2.3 .			
Measuring the action plan and other progress – plus review	1.2.2 Horizon scanning work to understand what the opportunities are to influence (e.g., which policies are being worked on etc., may otherwise miss policy windows). Process started with meeting with procurements that have taken place. PH Officers will be influencing policy within council. Examine mailing list and SG/WG membership list and invite/engage relevant officers. Feed our data and evidence in to these.	GFL Staff Team, SG, WGs	Ongoing	Record number of policies inputted/ influenced and any outcomes from this work
Strategies/plans/policies – making sure these promote healthy, sustainable food and a just food system	1.2.3 Campaign to influence local policy makers in ensuring a 'food justice and the good food agenda' is adopted in policy making decisions and implementation - councillors and MPs.	GFL Staff Team, SG, FJA, Network members, Lewisham Council	From July 2024	

Key Issue 2

Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement

You said:

Food as a theme that has the potential to unite neighbourhoods and create community cohesion.

Action	Activity	Who/responsibility	Timescale	Indicators of success
2.1 Building public awareness and involvement – increasing practical engagement	2.1.1 In person outreach (take GFL to people) – deliver four quarterly network meetings, two business breakfast meetings per year, one growing network event, attend six summer festivals and pop-ups throughout the year, attending/helping/promoting 12 external events through the year e.g., Earth Friendly Family Day, collaborative events like Food Oasis. Continue with hyper local organising and garden tours for quarterly network meetings.	GFL Staff Team, volunteers, broader network partners	Four quarterly network events starting July 2024	Record number of community events attended and promoted
	Continue with mutual aid ethos where groups support each other and learn from each other at these events through eight food giving group	Staff Team, network partners	Growing network meetings in 2024/2025 – six engagement	Record new initiatives organised

	<p>network meetings per year and four wider network meetings.</p> <p>Organise a sustainable food festival – something fun with cooking/sharing food and taking action on food waste.</p> <p>“Keep networking event, we learn from each other.”</p> <p>“I would like to see the Green Wave Festival in Lewisham in the next three years, which would be dedicated to microalgae spirulina and other superfoods. This event could include master classes from chefs, lectures from experts on healthy eating, a food fair, a recipe contest and interactive booths.”</p>	GFL Staff Team, volunteers	<p>events during the year</p> <p>By March 2025</p>	
Streamline and broaden online reach	<p>2.1.2 Increase blog posts (including from guest contributors), make newsletters less frequent e.g., 6 weeklies, coordinate 6 WhatsApp groups, email bulletins, Community Events Calendar, socials (Instagram, X, Facebook). Increase content in stakeholder’s publications. Set up a Rise-up list for food growing to increase engagement and communication. Assess viability of setting up new socials to reach new audiences e.g., LinkedIn. Review Sustains Diversity Guide and Food Ethics Council Communications toolkit to enhance effectiveness.</p>	GFL Staff Team	Ongoing	Number of blog posts published, number of Whatsapp groups, numbers on the GFL mailing list
Resources	<p>2.1.3 Enhance existing resources and create new ones. Utilise Business Charter and develop individual and organisational charters/pledges to engage residents to act on the food agenda, update the gardens list and map (online and printed), develop food list (improve design and organise by</p>	GFL Staff Team	Ongoing. New charter – summer 2024	Individual charter/pledge developed

	day and location), general GFL physical flyer. Promote LL community groups directory.			<p>Numbers of individuals signed up</p> <p>Reviewed gardens list.</p> <p>Log times promoting community groups directory</p>
Improve marketing and comms strategy	2.1.4 - With input from LL Fundraising and the Communications Coordinator. Add capacity to the team re comms e.g., train newsletter volunteer(s), get training where needed internal and external e.g., on dynamic content and video making, make comms more efficient by coordinating with groups and using photos etc. to promote GFL network at the same time as individual projects.	GFL Staff Team, LL, broader network partners	Update strategy by December 2024	<p>A comms strategy in place</p> <p>Number of volunteers helping with comms</p>
2.2 Supporting and developing sustainable food community networks	<p>2.2.1 Food giving – organise minimum eight monthly online sessions with four trainings requested and/or offered by the network in a mutual aid fashion, the other four more informal support.</p> <p>“Facilitating partnerships between groups- encourage more groups to do this – more networking”</p>	GFL Staff Team, broader network partners	Ongoing, from October 2024 onwards, quarterly	Number of meetings organised, attendances and annual survey for outcomes
Food growing	2.2.2 Organise minimum three garden visits/ garden tours through the year, signpost to trainings e.g., CG, regular events online and offline.	Coordinator and growing WG/partners	First meeting by October 2024	Record number of garden visits/tours
Business	2.2.3 Signpost to business and social enterprise support including at network meetings. Organise minimum two business breakfasts meetups focusing on emerging needs and opportunities identified by partners.	CDW and LL Business Coordinator	Summer 2024, then winter 2024	Number of business network meetings and attendances

Connect with Early Years	2.2.4 Connect with more early years settings and add to network. Link in schools to existing food growing network.	GFL with LA	By autumn 2024	Number of partners on WhatsApp groups.
Climate	2.2.5 Set up a new climate and food working group to bring different climate networks together to work on shared actions e.g., Climate Action Lewisham (CAL), St. John's Society to collaborate on food agenda, as at present there isn't enough joined up work on this.	GFL Coordinator/ climate partners	Begin work September 2025	Working group established, number of attendees
Community Spaces	2.2.6 Legacy of LL's Warm Welcomes (WWs) projects over last two winters, build on LL's Community Food Projects Directory to map available community kitchens + other community assets, connect food groups with spaces, continue to support Rastafari Movement UK (RMUK) and others around developing new food hubs that offer more than food. “Organisation to get people inspired to keep on maintaining community spaces already established.”	GFL Staff Team, volunteers, LL Team	By December 2024	
Support network engagement and outreach	2.2.7 Establish an outreach/comms/movement WG with a variety of stakeholder representatives to support network engagement and outreach, such as building capacity around our newsletter. Link with 1.2.3 - make quarterly meetings more participatory – ask network to choose themes/campaigns they want to work on. “Work with and engage communities that are not already involved, and close gaps where there is no similar/existing offer in Lewisham area. We want to seek and support historically marginalised or socially excluded people and	GFL Staff Team	By December 2026	Working group established, attendance and outcomes

	work with projects involving marginalised communities in the design and delivery of its activities either formally or informally.”			
2.3 Supporting food initiatives through workshops, training and volunteering opportunities	2.3.1 - Organise one ‘Volunteer with Food’ campaign. Organise one in person event around volunteer support.	GFL Staff Team, Volunteers, LL Volunteer Coordinator	By 2026	
Fundraising	2.3.2 Signpost to LL community fundraising resources (e.g., Friday Fundraising Club and associated trainings and one-to-ones) via LL Community Fundraising colleague to enable groups and individuals to continue with their projects and participate in GFL.	GFL Staff team, LL Team	Ongoing	Number of groups signposted
Training	2.3.3 Organise three group capacity training sessions per year e.g., social media, comms, campaigning, lobbying via LL Black Infrastructure Support Project. Link with 2.1.4 e.g., many groups are doing great work but don’t have the skills to showcase well on socials.	GFL Staff Team, network partners	Ongoing	

Key Issue 3

Tackling food poverty and diet-related ill-health, and increasing access to affordable healthy food

Note: This work should align with and support Lewisham’s Food Justice Action Plan.

You said:

Move away from foodbanks to pantries, social supermarkets and cash-first approaches to access affordable food

Action	Activity	Who/responsibility	Timescale	Indicators of success
3.1 Food Justice Alliance and Food Justice Action Plan	<p>3.1.1 Integrate vision and key priority areas of FJAP into all areas of GFL's work. Provide input into the FJA work specifically for the following actions and as required:</p> <p>1a, 1c, 1f, 1g, 1k, 1o, 2b, 2c, 2h, 3a, 3b, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3k,</p>	GFL Staff Team, SG, FJA, Council	Ongoing	Evidence where GFL is leading and supporting on actions within the plan
Tackling obesity	<p>3.1.2 Support action under the Healthy Weight Alliance (previously known as the Obesity Alliance) which takes a whole systems approach to tackling obesity. Actions will be defined as workstream develops.</p> <p>“I think it’s important not to place all the responsibility on individuals but make the system easier to make healthier choices.”</p>	GFL, Lewisham Public Health	As Healthy Weight Alliance is relaunched	Number of HWA meetings attended
3.2 Social Food Provision and Healthy Start	<p>3.2.1 Encourage and support community meal provision, particularly for residents who are experiencing homelessness or are on a low-</p>	GFL Staff Team FoodCycle Lewisham	July 2024 - April 2025	Number of community meals and new

	income. Highlight gaps in geographical spread and timings of meals to support fair distribution, provide resources and training where appropriate. Refer to FJAP action 3g.			initiatives supported. Mapping of food provision.
Community Food Retail projects	3.2.2 Support the successful and sustainable delivery of existing Community Food Retail projects in Lewisham through providing fundraising and capacity building support, links to wholesale and food supply and network opportunities and support more food banks/aid providers to become social supermarkets. Refer to FJAP action 4a. “Need to work towards a food system that is empowered and not dependent on charity”	GFL Staff Team	April 2025 - 2026	Number of social supermarkets supported, and groups supported to transition
Healthy Start	3.2.3 Continue to promote the Healthy Start Initiative as a cash-first approach in line with actions identified within the Food Justice Action Plan. Organise monthly briefings on the Healthy Start scheme. Refer to FJAP actions 2e-2h. “Support single parents like me with food or give out food vouchers at least to help us more.”	CDW	Ongoing, up to October 2024	Monitor take up of Healthy Start in Lewisham
3.3 London Living Wage	3.3.1 Encourage businesses to sign up to LLW. Promote London Living Wage to Good Food Businesses through network, newsletter and working in partnership with LA Economy, Jobs and Partnerships Team. Link with 4.3.3.	CDW, LA Economy, Jobs and Partnerships team. Lewisham Council, businesses	Ongoing. Annual event in November	Number of businesses signed up to LLW. Number of LLW events participated in.
3.4 Training for food giving network	3.4.1 Organise a minimum of eight sessions in our online programme of peer-learning and invited partner presentation sessions for food giving	GFL Staff Team, Lewisham Cost-of-Living Programme,	Yearly and as new groups join the network.	Number of sessions, event sign ups, annual

	<p>groups, which includes promotion of cash-first approaches and explanations of signposting. Additional trainings where needed. Ensure projects know which organisations can provide support to their members. (Use data insights and recommendations from Lewisham Council's Data insight Team research to inform the programme.)</p>	GFL and Alliance Partners		survey to assess support needs and impact
	<p>3.4.2 Inform all community food giving organisations regarding registration requirements with Lewisham Environmental Health Team and food standards requirements. If particular needs are identified these should be flagged to the Environmental Health team.</p> <p>Share best practice toolkits and guides via GFL website, provide nutritional guidance resource for new projects, and provide personalised support where approach to projects with development needs.</p> <p>“Regular food hygiene training (face to face not online) for community cooks who are practical food handlers but may lack the literacy and digital skills required for online training.”</p>	GFL, Lewisham Environmental Health	From July 2024 onwards	<p>Number of resources on website</p> <p>Number of 1:1 support sessions</p>
<p>3.5 Dignity – promote general principles and practical actions</p>	<p>3.5.1 Publish the Dignity Principles and Charter for Dignified Food Support on GFL website. Share these, and continue to share other dignity resources, such as the recommendations from the Appreciative Inquiry, with food giving groups. Encourage at least 4 more established food giving groups to sign up to the Charter.</p> <p>“Dignity as a core value - creating initiatives that enable people to preserve dignity in their access to food.”</p>	GFL Staff Team	<p>Resources - By April 25</p> <p>Sign-ups – by end of 2025</p>	<p>Dignity principles published and shared</p> <p>Research identified</p>

Cash-first approaches	3.5.2 Support research into and delivery of cash first approaches and support council with implementation.	Public Health Lewisham	August 2024 onwards	Number of cash first approaches introduced
	3.5.3 Provide culturally appropriate nutritional advice for food aid providers to support with parcel provision. Cross reference with section 3.7.3	GFL	August 2024 onwards	Nutritional guidance produced
	3.5.4 Map retailers selling culturally appropriate, affordable and healthy food and add to the Good Food Lewisham Directory. Continue to promote the 'UP! UP!' a tier two weight management service for people of Black African Caribbean Heritage and other targeted services endorsed by Public Health. “Creative Education and awareness targeted at African heritage and minority ethnic communities.” “Better guidance and mapping of where cheap, healthy fresh food is available for the tens of thousands of Lewisham residents who need better diets.”	GFL Staff Team	Jan 2025 onwards	Number of retailers in the directory Number of briefings provided
3.6 Healthy eating campaigns to promote healthy lifestyles to all Lewisham residents	3.6.1 Run at least one Water Refill Campaign and one Healthy Eating campaign per year.	All	Two per year	Number of campaigns delivered
Focus on young people	3.6.2 Engage with young people to increase awareness of healthy eating. Work on FJAP actions (together with the FJA) relating to young people e.g., promote HAF and breakfast clubs and 2I and 2k “Children (and their families) taught how to budget and shop for, plan and cook easy delicious and nutritious meals. Skill for life.”	Public Health Team, Young Advisors Team	Ongoing	Number of initiatives delivered to increase healthy eating with young people

<p>3.7 Promote and create healthy eating services and initiatives</p>	<p>3.7.1 Improve community cookery offer (cookery classes and community meals) - Increase provision of community cookery courses and identify community kitchens that can be used for community meals and cooking by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping available kitchens for hire/use • Help community-based cookery providers find sources of funding • Assist the public health team to identify specific needs around community cookery programmes. <p>“Accessible kitchens for charities.”</p> <p>“A community commercial kitchen available to hire at peppercorn rent for local charities.”</p> <p>“Finding funding for a network of community cooks who can move around various community kitchens.”</p>	<p>Public Health Team with support from GFL Network</p>	<p>Ongoing from 2024</p>	<p>Number of kitchen spaces identified Number of community cookery providers supported</p>
	<p>3.7.2 Promote tier 2 weight management services for CYP and adults. SW/UP UP/HENRY under 5s and over 5s. Signpost to Family Hubs for further support. Utilise other evidence-based resources e.g. Food for Life resources</p>	<p>GFL Staff Team, Public Health Team</p>	<p>Ongoing from 2024, utilise regular newsletter, socials etc.</p>	<p>Number of services promoted</p>
	<p>3.7.3 Provide information to food aid providers so that food parcels are nutritionally balanced and can provide suitable foods for people managing long term health conditions such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease. Cross reference with section 3.5.2.</p> <p>“Better understanding and availability for those with medical food restrictions.”</p>	<p>Public Health Lewisham, GFL, network partners</p>	<p>Ongoing from August 2024 (monthly food giving sessions)</p>	<p>Number of briefings and guidance produced</p>

Key Issue 4

Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy

You want:

25% more support and promotion for local good food businesses

Action	Activity	Who/responsibility	Timescale	Indicators of success
4.1 Showcase and recognise Lewisham Good Food Businesses. Increase visibility and awareness of Lewisham as a Good Food Retail borough.	<p>4.1.1 Improve and promote Lewisham Local's online Good Food Directory – using our Business Charter, newsletters, socials. Increase number of businesses signed up to the Charter and featured in the Directory. Include search option for providing cheap, healthy fresh food.</p> <p>“Better guidance and mapping of where cheap, healthy fresh food is available for the tens of thousands of Lewisham residents who need better diets.”</p>	GFL Staff Team	March 2025	Number of businesses who have signed the Charter
Lewisham Local Card	4.1.2 Encourage local food businesses to join the LL Card scheme and promote widely. Promote and encourage Lewisham citizens to support the local economy, using the LL card scheme to shop locally as well as Lewisham Council's Shop Local Campaign.	All stakeholders	Promotion every quarter via newsletter and social media	Number of food businesses that sign up to the Lewisham Local Card

	<p>Work with LL business colleagues on improving the card e.g., digitisation, better marketing will help us get the card out to thousands of council and hospital workers in the near future.</p> <p>Work on two business related campaigns per year with the Economy, Jobs and Partnerships Team and/or Southeast London Chamber of Commerce and similar bodies alongside ongoing promotion to access and share support opportunities with our business network</p> <p>"Support local independent businesses."</p>		<p>From October 2024</p> <p>Two campaigns a year from Autumn 2024</p>	<p>Number of LL Card sign-ups</p> <p>Number of campaigns</p>
Awards	<p>4.1.3 Work with the Economy, Jobs and Partnerships Team to develop the Business Awards to include focus on good food retailers as part of the awards. Work with Climate Action Lewisham to do another green restaurant award and identify other business awards to promote locally.</p>	GFL Staff team, LL Giving Team, broader network partners	November 2024	New categories that focus on good food retail
Meet the Producer	<p>4.1.4 Organise one Meet the Producer event per year. Promote existing members of Better Food Traders (Sutton Community Farm Veg Box Scheme, Good Food shops x 2); promote the scheme by holding a Better Food Traders event to encourage more Lewisham businesses to join.</p> <p>"Support of local enterprises to produce good food. This is important for the development of the local economy and job creation. The support of local farmers, producers of honey, cheeses, fruits and vegetables will help strengthen the food security of the region. Events aimed at promoting local products, such as farmers' markets, food festivals and</p>	Economy, Jobs and Partnerships Team, GFL Staff Team	One per year starting February 2025	Number of events organised

	<p>cooking contests, can help promote these products.”</p>			
<p>4.2 Strengthen the business network – both existing members and encouraging new businesses</p>	<p>4.2.1 Organise a minimum of two business breakfast meetings per year and attend two Council Business Networking opportunities; include food related offers from the Lewisham Community Exchange (e.g., offers and requests for kitchens) in every newsletter alongside showcasing minimum 6 businesses per year via newsletter features, network meetings and social media. Include information on support and activities on good food retail on GFL and Lewisham Council’s website.</p> <p>“Greater support for small businesses making their businesses more sustainable that is to improve the impact they have on people and the planet while remaining profitable.”</p> <p>“Support for independent food and hospitality businesses to survive in the current economic climate.”</p> <p>“Keeping the market as a way to buy affordable fruit and veg for the majority of working people.”</p> <p>“Ensure maximum use of Lewisham Market, best and cheapest in S London, for those in food poverty and health need.”</p> <p>“Continued multi cultural choices like the Mediterranean and Caribbean food stand in the precinct”</p>	<p>GFL Staff Team, Economy, Jobs and Partnerships Team</p>	<p>Network meetings by October 2024 and March 2023 then 2 per year</p> <p>Information on GFL website by September 2025</p>	<p>Business support mentioned on GFL website</p> <p>Number of network meetings for businesses</p>

	<p>“Keep networking event, we learn from each other.”</p> <p>“Creating opportunities to learn from each other in skills”</p>			
	<p>4.2.2 Support to set up more social enterprises and local good food retail enterprises, such as the Cooperation Town model, by organising one workshop per year on good food retail models. Work with partners (HA, Council, groups) to develop an asset register of suitable, affordable premises including kitchens. Support development of more social supermarkets by running one session on social supermarkets models per year. Use Sustain’s brand new Growing Community Food Enterprises Toolkit and associated case studies.</p> <p>“More food co-ops.”</p> <p>“I would like to see a shop open as a food pantry so members on low income or who work but still need help can shop for food at low prices as it will help food waste too and it be open every day like a normal shop something like Peckham Pantry.”</p> <p>Many people in the survey said something about wanting:</p> <p>“More 'healthy food' takeaways and restaurants.”</p> <p>“Affordable rent so that small independent food businesses stand a chance of survival.”</p>	<p>GFL Staff Team, broader network partners</p>	<p>Workshops commencing in January 2025</p>	<p>Number of workshops delivered and groups supported</p>

	<p>“More sustainable local food shops especially with variety of international foods to value traditional dishes worldwide. This will, I believe with help when it come to a get together community and be more social.”</p> <p>“Bakeries where I could get good quality sourdough bread and occasional treats of cookies/cakes; fishmongers that I could trust to sell truly good quality fresh fish; butchers with good quality meat and chicken who would also be good at advising about cooking them.”</p>			
Good Food Retail Hubs	<p>4.2.3 Support opening of food and Good Food Retail Hubs by working with a minimum of two projects per year. Develop a wholesale/supply/market/ethical suppliers directory for good food retailers. Set up a database of suitable venues for meetings. Connect businesses with opportunities as they arise and address emerging needs through six monthly network meetings and 1:1 support.</p>	GFL Staff Team, Economy, Jobs and Partnerships Team.	Directories by March 2026	<p>1 database of venues developed</p> <p>1 suppliers list developed and shared</p> <p>Number of needs addressed/businesses supported</p>
	<p>4.2.4 Add markets to Lewisham Local’s Good Food Directories to promote, support and sustain fresh fruit and veg markets. Run quarterly promotional campaigns of existing markets.</p> <p>“I would like to see are more opportunities for people to buy fresh healthy ingredients locally through portable schemes whereby local people can purchase fresh produce from an affordable food stall that moves around different areas where access to food shops is poor and where people are forced to buy sub-standard expensive food from corner shops.”</p>	GFL Staff Team, Economy, Jobs and Partnerships Team.	<p>Promotion once per quarter from July 2024</p> <p>Markets added by June 2025</p>	<p>Number of markets featured on LL directories</p> <p>Number of promotional campaigns</p>

<p>4.3 Influence strategy, bigger projects, increase knowledge on circular economy, change business culture</p>	<p>4.3.1 Horizon scanning work to understand what the opportunities are to influence Council strategies and policies such as the Lewisham Shopping Centre and market development. Improve relationships with relevant council teams by setting up introductory meetings with relevant teams we have year to work with e.g., planning and meetings with minimum two new networks e.g., Coops UK. Work with Economy, Jobs and Partnerships Team and Public Health Lewisham to inform local Good Food Retail planning.</p> <p>“More affordable places to get fresh good quality organic food.”</p> <p>“Community food market.”</p> <p>“Healthy vegan food market.”</p> <p>“Greater access to fresh, cheap, and locally grown produce, via smaller markets throughout the Borough.”</p>	<p>GFL Staff Team, various Council teams – Planning, Public Health, Economy, Jobs and Partnerships Team.</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>Number of strategies and policy contributions</p> <p>Number of networks engaged</p>
<p>Circular economy</p>	<p>4.3.2 Improve knowledge on the circular economy by sharing resources e.g., Ellen MacArthur Foundation videos and podcasts quarterly in newsletters and organising a minimum of one event on the topic. Campaign with ReLondon for Circular Economy Week 2024: https://ceweek.london/ and other related events/info. Organise one session on circular economy together with local groups.</p> <p>“Build a sustainable local food economy working with schools, business and community groups and organisations.”</p>	<p>GFL Staff Team</p>	<p>Session organised by November 2025</p>	<p>Number of events organised and resources shared</p>

	4.3.3 Promote London Living Wage - Organise annual activities to promote LLW Week. Raise awareness of LWW and encourage more businesses to sign up. Use Business Charter. Connect to 3.3.	GFL Staff Team, SG, Economy, Jobs and Partnerships, business network	Annually from November	Number of campaigns Number of businesses signed up to LLW
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Key Issue 5

Transforming catering and procurement and revitalising local and sustainable food supply chains

Note: This was the second most popular choice in the survey with 39% of the vote.

You said:

Food procurement supports sustainable local food provision in hospitals, schools, universities and colleges

Action	Activity	Who/responsibility	Timescale	Indicators of success
5.1 Build knowledge, capacity and cross-sector procurement organising; influence policies	5.1.1 Build Capacity - Participate in the Council's Lewisham Strategic Partnership Procurement Group. Encourage people with procurement and farming knowledge/experience to join the GFL SG.	GFL SG, LA	Begin September 2024	Minutes and attendances at meetings SG members
Lewisham Local Card	5.1.2 Organise and Influence Strategy/Policy - Encourage LBL to join up to the London Food Purchasing Commitment (Food Flagship Initiative, London Councils' One World Living Programme and Sustain), and participate in the associated Circular Food Procurement Working Group: https://relondon.gov.uk/circular-food-procurement . Influence strategies via council Strategic Partnership Procurement Group. Add food procurement as a standing agenda item across departments where appropriate.	Climate Resilience Team, GFL SG, GFL Staff Team, LBL Procurement colleagues	Begin July 2024	Number of strategies inputted into Council joins the London Food Purchasing Commitment and Procurement Working Group

	<p>Work with the Council to add food to the upcoming Sustainable Procurement Strategy which will be renewed in April 2025. Utilise locally relevant recommendations from the May 2024 Independent Review into Public Sector Food Procurement, such as “Build a network of champions to promote innovation and best practice” engaging procurement colleagues and involving with GFL.</p> <p>Identify a minimum of three key actions from the Every Mouthful Counts toolkit relevant to procurement and work with LA to implement.</p> <p>“Embed long term change through changes at a strategic/policy level”</p>		<p>April 2025</p> <p>Start July 2024</p>	
Build knowledge	<p>5.1.3 Learn from other boroughs and case studies from further afield e.g., Plymouth and Liverpool have local social enterprises delivering school meals e.g., Food for Thought. Hackney has recently done high level catering contract mapping (as part of the LFPC).</p> <p>Undertake a review of best practice and share one good practice case study from the borough per year– e.g., independent schools, Horniman Museum and Gardens. Connect with cooperative networks e.g., Coops UK/workers.coop. Research dynamic procurement / cooperative supply initiatives e.g., Plymouth food partnership.</p> <p>Find out what research has already been done into large private caterers and get support around implementing recommendations from the Independent Review mentioned above (both via Sustain). Share learning and baselines from</p>	GFL Staff Team, SG broader partners	From March 2025 onwards	<p>One research review undertaken</p> <p>Number of case studies from Lewisham published and shared with partners</p>

	research with relevant partners to encourage transition to more suitable contracts who reflect good food procurement values. e.g., with independent, local, ethical suppliers.			
5.2 Focus on schools' procurement	<p>5.2.1 Support schools to work towards evidence-based healthy eating initiatives e.g., Utilise research e.g., ongoing research in Aberdeen around what recipes work / what waste children leave. and Wales courgette pilot, Chefs in Schools and share on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>“I've worked as a primary teacher for ten years and think that food education and engaging local schools is the way to go to enthuse and push the good food agenda.”</p> <p>“Have lived in the area for over 40 years and have worked locally as a teacher am disappointed at the availability of locally grown food in my area (to buy and eat) School dinners were cooked by a team in their own kitchens and served on plates Meals were not rushed.”</p>	GFL Staff Team, Educational Estate Compliance & Contracts Team. Procurement Team	From 2025	<p>Number of awards in Lewisham</p> <p>Number of initiatives and best practice shared with procurement leads.</p>
5.3 Map /research: institutions /current contract/main contacts /suppliers and make progress in each area or choose a few areas and do more work on those initially	<p>5.3.1 Map the catering providers for the largest employers, public food providers for education and publicly funded non-for-profit organisations i.e., libraries/museums and health and social care. Build a data base of key contacts and include them into the food business network. Showcase what good looks like locally. Baseline: is any food sourced from permaculture and agroecological production?</p> <p>Institutions: (1) Nurseries / children's centres / three new Children and Family Centres</p>	GFL Staff Team, SG, broader partners e.g. Sustain	Mapping undertaken by March 26	<p>Database produced</p> <p>Number of catering suppliers identified</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (2) Primary schools (3) Secondary schools (4) SEN schools (5) Lewisham College (6) Other FE institutions (7) Goldsmiths Uni (8) Hospital – link with food bank there (9) Council – break down into departments (10) Care homes (11) Libraries (12) Museums / theatres (13) Meals on wheels (14) Workplace canteens (15) Smaller scale catering outlets (16) Any other relevant institutions <p>“The public domain of hospital and student nutrition is essential.”</p>			
	<p>5.3.2 Through our business network and Business Charter, encourage and support individual public sector bodies, services, restaurants and other small-scale catering outlets to improve their food offering by joining national accreditation schemes and adopt healthy and sustainable food policies e.g. Food for Life Served Here, Green Kitchen Standard, Marine Stewardship Council, Compassion in World Farming awards, Sustainable Restaurants Association or through local schemes such as the Healthy Catering Commitment.</p> <p>Share information of these schemes with the business network minimum once a year, one representative invited to network meeting per year to share information.</p>	<p>GFL Staff Team, SG, Economy, Jobs and Partnerships team, broader partners</p> <p>GFL Team</p>	<p>Yearly from January 2025</p> <p>By March 2027</p>	<p>Number of businesses/ institutions that have joined accredited schemes</p> <p>Number of award representative presentation</p>

	<p>Map businesses in Lewisham who have commitments - Use preexisting catering accreditations as a benchmark such as Food Made Good rating from the Sustainable Restaurant Association, commitments to Chefs Manifesto and Guardians of Grub, Food Waste Action Map and Courtauld Commitment, Living Wage Employers throughout the supply chain.</p> <p>Map which food businesses have a food policy and procurement strategy.</p>			1 database of accreditation produced
<p>Showcase and support suppliers and local supplier directories</p>	<p>5.3.3 Build our directory of local suppliers. Work with council to promote and use these, promote examples of good practice in sustainable procurement through a minimum of one blog post per year.</p> <p>Attend Economy, Jobs and Partnership's local supplier and procurement events e.g., 'meet the supplier'. Encourage council and other event organisers to use local suppliers by promoting the local supplier and catering list on Council staff intranet.</p> <p>Work with procurement and supply stakeholders over a larger geographic region to develop a more strategic approach – build London wide food partnership network.</p> <p>“Small producers do not have the clout or production to negotiate contracts with (e.g.) a hospital, and so will need a borough-wide intermediary to find suppliers and maintain consistency of supply.”</p>	<p>GFL team</p> <p>GFL team with Economy, Jobs and Partnerships team</p> <p>GFL Staff Team, SG, Economy, Jobs and Partnerships, other council teams</p>	<p>By March 2026</p> <p>Yearly events</p> <p>Ongoing starting in 2024</p>	<p>One directory published</p> <p>Number of events attended</p>

	<p>“Support for independent food and hospitality businesses to survive in the current economic climate.”</p> <p>“Support Black-led groups to be funded to develop with local colleges, school and universities.”</p> <p>“Support of local enterprises for the production of good food: This is important for the development of the local economy and job creation. The support of local farmers, producers of honey, cheeses, vegetables and fruits will help strengthen the food security of the region. - Events aimed at promoting local products, such as farmers' markets, food festivals and cooking contests, can help promote these products”</p>			
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Key Issue 6

Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste

You said:

More support for growing locally by reducing allotment waiting lists and identifying new growing areas

Action	Activity	Who/responsibility	Timescale	Indicators of success
6.1 Support, increase and improve food growing in the borough – allotments, community gardens, households, schools (organic / permaculture / nature friendly etc.) – training/ resources / space for this – build the network	6.1.1 Build Lewisham Growing Network – work to secure funding for more capacity.	GFL Staff Team, Growing Network and WG	Start in summer/autumn 2024	
Lewisham Local Card	6.1.2 Undertake review of Task and Finish Group recommendations to identify which actions GFL, together with a potential new Community Food	Council – Parks Team, new Community Food Growing Officer,	Once new officer in place	Number of strategies inputted into One review meeting

	<p>Growing Officer at the council and the Parks Team, can undertake and integrate appropriate actions into this action plan e.g., Identifying underutilised spaces such as concrete hardstanding's in housing estates that can be ideal for 'straw bale' growing. provide a list of community gardens for Parks team to signpost people to community gardens while they're waiting to get their own allotment.</p> <p>Provide support for domestic growing – private gardens, shared space including gardening in small spaces by holding one workshop per year and info shared quarterly through network newsletters.</p> <p>Build more connections between allotments and food giving projects e.g., promote the 'Sow a row' and 'Grow to give' initiatives, attend the annual self-managed allotments' AGM, organise tours of allotments (adding to our tours of community gardens).</p> <p>“More food growing in parks, food intersecting with more diverse greenery.”</p> <p>“Open allotment sessions, like ‘open houses’”</p>	<p>independent allotment associations, Housing Associations, neighbourhood and ward groups, SG, Growing Network and WG</p>	<p>review by GFL by March 2025</p>	<p>Number of actions integrated and actioned</p> <p>One community garden list created and shared</p>
	<p>6.1.3 Promote community gardens – existing and new – through regular blog posts, garden visits and updating the gardening and growing directory. Support gardens through 1:1 sessions where appropriate and one training workshop per year.</p> <p>Build growing network – share funding and capacity building opportunities via newsletter and</p>	<p>GFL Coordinator, new council officer, growing network, Capital Growth, Community Food Growers Network, WildCat Wilderness LL Colleague</p>	<p>Once new officer in place in 2024</p>	<p>One directory updated by June 2025</p> <p>Number of 1:1 support sessions and trainings delivered</p>

	<p>WhatsApp group, get advice from more developed networks by inviting speakers to at least one event, share resources around ecological methods like permaculture and agroecology at least twice per year. Encourage and organise mutual support and visits between gardens, at least two per year. Organise garden tours and walks, at least two per year.</p> <p>Strengthen relationship with LL's community garden project WildCat Wilderness by holding at least one network meeting at the site per two years. Promote 12 volunteering opportunities at gardens per year.</p> <p>“All Ages in Lewisham Borough should have the opportunity to grow, cook and eat produce from within Lewisham.”</p> <p>“Expand locally grown organic food.”</p>			<p>Number of resources shared</p> <p>Number of times advice given</p> <p>Number of visits between gardens</p> <p>Number of garden tours/walks.</p> <p>One event at Wild Cat by March 2026</p>
Schools	<p>6.1.4 Provide info, support from CG, School Food Matters Grants, linking to the Food Growing Network, setting up a schools' growing network (if wanted). Link with 2.2.5.</p> <p>“I've worked as a primary teacher for ten years and think that food education and engaging local schools is the way to go to enthuse and push the good food agenda.”</p>	GFL Coordinator, Schools, new council officer, council officers, growing network, Capital Growth, School Food Matters	By end of 2024	Number of schools involved in network
6.2 Reduce food waste and reduce related waste (e.g., packaging) for individuals, businesses,	6.2.1 Share resources and arrange one training per year on using resources such as Guardians of Grub resources and Eat Like a Londoner to reduce business food waste. Identify which community gardens need compost and share list with business network to direct food waste for compost.	GFL Staff Team, Business WG, SG, council business network, food giving network	Winter 2024	<p>Number of workshops held</p> <p>List produced of gardens needing compost</p>

organisations – refill / community composting etc.	Continue to connect local businesses with local food projects to redirect surplus food from going to waste by featuring minimum one campaign per year in the LL Business newsletter.			Number of businesses linked to community food projects
Lewisham Refill Campaign	6.2.2 Organise an annual Lewisham Refill campaign, promote local refill options via the directory featuring through GFL newsletters a minimum of twice a year, share practical information and case studies on how individuals can reduce food packaging and waste including donating surplus produce to local food aid providers through one blog post per year.	GFL Staff Team, LL Giving Team, Council Waste, Climate and Parks Team	Ongoing, annual refill event	Number of refill campaigns, Number of businesses signed up to Refill
Food collection	6.2.3 Improve domestic food waste collection and community composting by delivering two info sessions with council compost person for GFL network. “Share knowledge on composting in growing network and re parks compost heaps.”	Council Waste Team, Food Growing Network + WG, broader partners	By Dec 2025	Number of sessions delivered
	6.2.4 Organise one sustainable and surplus food event	FJ Alliance, GFL Staff Team, broader partners	By March 2025	One event delivered Number of attendances
	6.2.5 Run a yearly anti food waste campaign to engage local residents	GFL Staff Team	March 2024 onwards	Number of campaigns and outcome
6.3 Influence policy and higher-level strategy on climate emergency to ensure the good food agenda is mentioned in all relevant places. Support national	6.3.1 Work with Lewisham Council to deliver a minimum of three actions identified within the Every Mouthful Counts toolkit	GFL Coordinator, Council Climate Resilience Team	By March 2025	Number of actions delivered

and local campaigns and make these more visible to get more local engagement.				
	6.3.2 Feed into new strategy and policy consultations as they arise including developing a council-wide food use strategy to minimise food waste according to the food waste hierarchy. Link with local examples of best practice e.g., Horniman Museum and Gardens' work on climate and ecology	GFL Coordinator, Council Climate Resilience Team	By March 2027	Food use strategy in place Number of consultation and strategies influenced
	6.3.3 Work on one local and one national campaign with grassroots, community groups, charities per year e.g., promoting vegan and other sustainable diets, local Right to Grow campaign, Veg Cities, food for the planet, fair trade.	GFL Coordinator, Set up Food for the Planet WG, local climate groups, national campaigns	Two per year from Jan 2025	Number of campaigns joined/promoted

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