



NEWCASTLE GOOD FOOD PLAN 2021 – 2024

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1: INTRODUCTION

1.1: FOOD NEWCASTLE BACKGROUND

Food Newcastle was established in 2013 to coordinate food activities across the city and provide an environment for creating a healthier food culture. Food Newcastle became members of the Sustainable Food Places (SFP) Network, established a local network, produced the Newcastle Food Charter and the Good Food Plan, and in 2019, achieved the Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award.



Food Newcastle partners recognise that 'Good Food' underpins the quality of people's lives. Not only is it essential to our survival but the way we eat it, buy it, grow it, transport it, and dispose of it has a profound impact on the city we live in. Food can change the landscape of our city, the strength of our economy, the health and wellbeing of our community, the



environment as well as our culture and social lives. Promoting 'Good Food' is a powerful driver and must be embraced at the heart of any effort to improve people's lives.

In Newcastle, like elsewhere, the challenges in the food system are many: rising obesity, food poverty, health inequalities, the impact of food production and distribution on climate change; and economic challenges for local food businesses. Addressing these challenges will require new creative partnerships across organisational boundaries. It will require communities to be better equipped with the tools and confidence to take control of their own health and happiness. The Food Newcastle Network will play an important role in bringing people together to enable this to happen.

1.2: FOOD NEWCASTLE NETWORK

The Food Newcastle Network is an inclusive group of stakeholders representing all parts of the food system, working together to achieve the aims of the Food Charter and Newcastle Good Food Plan.

The Network is made up of a broad and open stakeholder group which includes anyone with a remit or interest in food, whether in promoting healthy eating, cooking skills, food production, retail, consumption or waste. Stakeholders come together at annual events and activities to discuss the progress and future of the network and members are invited to contribute to the relevant sub-groups established to look at the main themes of the Good Food Plan.

The Network includes a partnership coordinator, independent chair, themed sub-group leads, representatives from Newcastle City Council Public Health team, and many other network members.



The role of the Food Newcastle Partnership is to:

- Co-ordinate the delivery of the Newcastle Good Food Plan
- Ensure evaluation and monitoring is carried out and reported
- Deliver comprehensive communication across the Food Newcastle Network
- Organise networking opportunities and exchange of information, support, and advice
- Support national campaigns and raise profile locally
- Respond to government and local consultations and encourage other organisations to do so
- Maintain the Food Charter and Membership.



1.3: FOOD NEWCASTLE THEMES

Taking direction from Sustainable Food Places (SFP), Food Newcastle identified six key themes on which to focus. Defining these themes helps to focus on important issues, pertinent to the local area while allowing stakeholders to identify where and how they can be involved.

Each of the sub-groups are made up of people with an interest or remit around the relevant aspect of food. The sub-groups are tasked with developing activities or an action plan to deliver on the priorities agreed in the Good Food Plan. There are crosscutting themes between groups, so communication and networking are essential in developing the work to feed into the overarching plan. Some people will sit on more than one group depending on their remit and interests and the group members are expected to identify an appropriate Theme Lead. To ensure sustainability, the groups identify relevant members to provide administration for the group and discuss how this will function in the long term.



1.4: ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION

In 2021, we're aiming to engage with more of the general public. Our network of organisations is well established but engaging with local residents is something we want to do more. We believe that if each individual in Newcastle made just one change to their food habits, we could see huge implications as a city. To re-engage with this stakeholder group, in 2021 we revitalised the Food Newcastle brand to bring more vibrancy and create a contemporary feel. Alongside the branding update a number of new webpages that are more public facing are being introduced

To ensure the website is appropriate for the general population, themes have been simplified into 4 key areas of interest; Support your community, Eat well, Shop local and Waste less. We have aligned our public facing webpages and documents to these areas.

Encouraging people of Newcastle to engage with the partners is an important aspect. Food Newcastle have introduced an interactive [partnership map](#); outlining the organisations in the network, what they're doing to support the city's journey to become a more sustainable food city, and how the general public can get involved with different organisations.



Additionally, providing ways for both individuals and organisations to support the good food movement is an important element of our update. The Food Newcastle Charter has been updated in 2021, along with an interactive method of committing to [take action](#).



1.5: THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLACES NETWORK

Newcastle is part of the Sustainable Food Places (SFP) Network (previously Sustainable Food Cities). The Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain coordinate [Sustainable Food Places](#) which is funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. The SFP approach involves developing a cross-sector partnership of local agencies, businesses, academics and community organisations committed to working together to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where they live.

The Sustainable Food Places Network helps people and places share challenges, explore practical solutions and develop best practice on key food issues. Each year, the SFP Network focuses on a key food issue and works to help members to drive significant change on that issue. To date this has included food procurement, food poverty, sugar reduction, Sustainable Fish Cities and Veg Cities. There are currently over 50 cities, towns and boroughs within the network.

1.6: FOOD NEWCASTLE – SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLACES BRONZE AWARD

The successes of Food Newcastle have been recognised nationally with Newcastle awarded the Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award in June 2019. This was received at the 6th annual SFP conference hosted in Newcastle upon Tyne. More than 180 people attended the event, coming from 63 places across the UK making it the biggest SFP conference to date.

"The Sustainable Food Places Award is designed to recognise and celebrate the success of those places taking a joined up, holistic approach to food and that are achieving significant positive change on a range of key food health and sustainability issues." - Sustainable Food Places



"Food Newcastle has shown just what can be achieved when creative and committed people work together to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where they live. While there is still much to do and many challenges to overcome, Food Newcastle has helped to set a benchmark for the other 50+ members of the UK Sustainable Food Cities Network to follow and we look forward to working with them over the months and years ahead to transform Newcastle's food culture and food system for the better." – Tom Andrews, Director of SFP



2: THEME GROUPS

2.1: DIET-RELATED ILL HEALTH AND ACCESS TO FOOD

Background:

The link between what we eat, and our health and well-being is well documented, and has been amplified during the covid pandemic. A poor-quality diet, along with being overweight or obese increases the risk of coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some forms of cancer. Being overweight or obese can also have negative impacts on emotional well-being.

The prevalence of obesity in Newcastle is one of the highest in the country and childhood obesity is a significant problem in the city. 26% of Reception age children and 39.6% at Year 6 are classified as overweight or obese ([NCMP, 2019/20](#)). Dental health is also a concern in the city with the percentage of 5-year-olds with experience of visually obvious dental decay (24.4%) higher than the national average (23.3%) ([PHE Fingertips, 2018/19](#)).

This theme is led by David Stobbs, Newcastle City Council Public Health, with support from Debora Howe, Newcastle Hospitals' Oral Health Promotion Lead and members include representatives from voluntary and community sector organisations, universities, the NHS, school meal providers and leisure providers.

Within NCC's [Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan \(2010-2030\)](#), NCC show commitment to improving Wellbeing and Health of local people including promoting allotments and controlling unhealthy eating outlets. Additionally, Food Newcastle and the Good Food Plan are acknowledged within NCC's [Build Back Fairer - Public Health Whole Systems Approach on Healthy Weight and Obesity](#), showing that this partnership network is recognised as playing a role in helping promote healthy eating messages.

Key Achievements To Date:

[Sugar Smart Newcastle](#) was launched in November 2018 to meet the priorities identified by consultations on the Good Food Plan. The group have developed an action plan, which covers a wide range of settings and activities, and established a broad membership. Successes include:

- Reduced the sugar in NCC's School Meals
- Newcastle Hospital's Trust removed sugar drinks and moved sugar items from point of sale
- Training with Early Years Health Trainers on sugar and development of a new resource pack

Priority Actions 2021-2024:

The next stage is to develop and expand the group to look at the wider issues surrounding diet-related ill health. Learning and priorities from the pandemic will need to emerge from this network to support people to recover and to become more resilient to future outbreaks. The task for this theme group will be to ensure that messages to support the Eatwell Guide are appropriate for communities in Newcastle and that support is available to help put these messages into practice.

The Diet and Ill Health Group will lead on healthy eating campaigns including breastfeeding, 5-a-day and healthy weight messaging, with the aim to change public behaviours. This will help people recognise the benefits of eating a balanced, healthy diet and the range of conditions this will help to prevent. It will also support national SFP campaigns such as Sugar Smart and Veg Power. It is intended that the work of this group includes developing support for Newcastle's UNICEF UK Child Friendly Status and the delivery of A Weight Off Your Mind programme to provide support and advice for people in the community with mental health issues or learning disabilities around healthy eating.

We aim to encourage promotion of healthy options in retailers, and catering facilities such as hospitals and schools. We will review current policies relating to advertising of food and hope to influence this to reduce or remove 'junk food' advertisements. Additionally, preventing the development of food deserts, with a lack of access to healthy food, and preventing food swamps with domination of fast-food outlets.



2.2: GOOD FOOD FOR ALL – TACKLING FOOD POVERTY

Background:

The Food Poverty Network Group was established in response to the Newcastle Good Food Plan, and the need to improve coordination and awareness of support for people experiencing food insecurity. Newcastle is a relatively poor city, with high levels of unemployment and child poverty. Newcastle has pockets of relative poverty and food poverty is symptomatic of wider poverty, with high levels of unemployment and child poverty, key statistics include:

- Newcastle residents live in the 23rd (out of 317) most deprived local authority area in the UK ([IoD, 2019](#))
- In 2020, 31.8% of pupils are entitled to and claiming Free School Meals, compared to the national average of 17.3% ([NCC, 2020](#))
- In Newcastle 20,626 children live in poverty, equivalent to 45% in Central Newcastle, 33% in North Newcastle and 38% in East Newcastle ([End Child Poverty, 2019/20](#))

The Food Poverty Network Group meet on a bi-monthly basis and has representation from a range of agencies including third sector organisations, the public sector and universities. This theme is led by Neil Munslow and Clare Fish, Newcastle City Council Active Inclusion.

Key Achievements To Date:

There is a strong network of community organisations delivering free and low-cost food services in Newcastle, which have been mapped on Newcastle City Councils Information Now website; [emergency and low-cost food provision](#) and on the Food Newcastle website, to ensure people of Newcastle know where to access support. NCC saw 12,378 unique visits to their foodbank webpages in 2019-20. Food Poverty was added to the city's Financial Inclusion action plan, and financial advice has been delivered to support people working in emergency food provision.

Supported by Food Power, we have engaged with local residents with lived experience, to provide them with an opportunity to raise awareness. We have a strong relationship with some Byker residents. The project provides a platform for local people to have a voice and raise awareness of the issues people have in affording food.

Established in 2019 and funded by the Department of Education, 'Newcastle's Best Summer Ever' supports the city's young people during school holidays through a combination of sport, play and nutritious food. In 2021, our food and activity programme was extended to include Easter and Christmas breaks.

Priority Actions 2021-2024:

The network group have identified main priorities to work towards. Including to understand, coordinate and identify gaps in the provision of emergency and low-cost food provision in Newcastle and to support organisations responding to food poverty by looking for opportunities to align money-related advice and support services to help respond to the underlying issues for residents experiencing food poverty. We aim to better understand the demand for food poverty responses by identifying how many people are accessing services, in what circumstances and their characteristics so that we can improve outcomes for such households.

We need to ensure children are given the opportunity to thrive during the school holidays, through building on our successful holiday provision programmes. Ensuring that children have a food offer during the school holidays, that includes more healthy options, more hot food options, and food education offers.

The network aim to work with Newcastle City Councils' Food Champion, Councillor Paula Holland to support the [Right to Food motion](#).



2.3: BUILDING COMMUNITY FOOD KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, RESOURCES AND PROJECTS

Background:

There is a strong community food sector in Newcastle particularly around cooking skills, healthy eating, nutrition, and food growing. To encourage and develop this Food Newcastle seeks to help build community food knowledge, skills, resources, and projects. We also encourage community food projects to join our Community Food Network.

Food Newcastle aims to inspire and guide individuals, communities, and organisations to make positive food changes by sharing information, skills, resources, and projects.

From August 2021, a Newcastle Community Food Network evolved from the Food Support group initially set up as a response to the impact of Covid-19. This network will be assisting community food organisations to take a truly collaborative approach to community engagement, service design and delivery. The network is chaired by Joanna Lacey, Food Nation, with attendance of many VCS organisations.

Key Achievements To Date:

Community Food Grants, funded by Newcastle Public Health, have been running in Newcastle since 2001. Since 2012, these have been distributed via Food Nation, and became a part of the Good Food Plan in 2017. They started at just £2,000 and over time increased to £10,000. In total over £68,000 had been distributed to more than 80 community projects across the city, including cookery skills, food growing, food waste prevention, community orchards, food shopping and budgeting skills, and developing a toddler friendly allotment. This funding came to an end in 2020 when Newcastle Public Health's 'whole system approach' to healthy eating was adapted.

Using this network, during the pandemic Food Newcastle in partnership with Food Nation, delivered a successful [recipe kit project](#), which involved providing ingredients, a recipe card and a link to an online tutorial. This project improved the cooking skills, and sustainable food knowledge, of local residents. Through partnering with local VCSE organisations, a number of community hubs were developed in order to collaboratively reach the most in-need beneficiaries.

Priority Actions 2021-2024:

The Community Food Network aim to increase food education and cooking skills to improve knowledge and skills of local residents. We need to celebrate good work that is taking place, understand and share what works, provide easily accessible information and develop a shared voice for the sector. We aim to increase knowledge of;

- Food education opportunities including cooking skills, shopping skills, food health & safety
- Awareness of sustainable food including ethical trade and food waste solutions
- How to access food growing spaces including allotments and community gardens

The network aims to foster strong communication between partners with the sharing of knowledge, valuable information and resources, whilst developing more partnerships and simply discussing what's happening on the ground. This network is being opened up to community food organisations or any group, project or organisation that helps to build people's food skills and knowledge – so anyone involved in delivering or promoting cooking skills, food growing and more. Collaboration between organisations can help share best practice and provide a solution to helping the general public engage with multiple opportunities.

The network will also establish further partnership funding opportunities for existing organisations to use the expertise of the network to reach the wider community through shared service delivery.



2.4: STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY

Background:

Food Newcastle are strategically working across the North-East to support local food and drink producers and retailers. Newcastle city is an urban, densely populated area with limited space for food growing and production, in comparison to neighbouring areas of Northumberland and County Durham. Supporting the local economy on a regional basis ensures a large variety of produce and provides additional opportunities for collaboration. We believe this region offers something truly unique and that it's worth shouting about. The North-East is witnessing an unprecedented surge in innovation, from artisanal craft producers and niche products to established names and entrepreneurial premium brands. We believe the time is right to come together, focus our efforts, share knowledge and get the word out.

This theme group is led by Chris Jewitt, CEO of Food and Drink North-East (FADNE), with a network of local producers, suppliers and retailers.

Key Achievements To Date:

[FADNE](#) launched in February 2020 in a bid to support the growing food and drink industry. Since launch, the network have hosted DEFRA whilst contributing to the National Food Strategy, developed a strategic partnership with the Food and Drink Federation and supported them with a SME roundtable on building a more robust local food economy.

Kick-started at the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, FADNE launched the '[Local Heroes](#)' virtual market initiative, connecting local people to local food, through establishing an online market for local businesses large and small. In 12 months, FADNE generated £50K+ worth of sales and donated over £5K of fresh eggs and milk to the West End Foodbank as part of a community premium built into each purchase.

FADNE launched [GRUB Productions](#) as an outlet for storytelling, marketing, and promotion. To date, Grub has created over 30 regional food stories, told using creative short films showcasing some of the best local products, including the local fishery in North Shields and Doddington Dairy in nearby rural Northumberland. Through both the 'Coping in a Crisis' and 'Coming Home' campaigns, GRUB have helped business owners explain how they adapted to the covid crisis to meet consumer demands.

In addition to this over 50 local businesses have benefited from specialist business support through their '[Speaking from Experience](#)' training, and a pilot 'Producer Pitch' initiative which showcases producers and products to various stakeholders. FADNE recently inherited the North-East England Farmers Market resource, a 'go to' directory promoting regional food markets and help build connections between producers and market managers.

Priority Actions 2021-2024:

We aim to build a vibrant and engaged community that champions positive trade, promotes a sustainable, circular economy and acts as a collective and inclusive voice for the regions food and drink sector. We aim to continue to build strategic partnerships with national organisations such as DEFRA and the Food and Drink Federation, National Farmers Union and Soil Association as well as key regional policymakers and influencers across government, social enterprise and the private sector.

We will provide further training opportunities for local enterprises to help strengthen the local economy. We aim to communicate messages around health and sustainability to Food and Drink producers, suppliers and retailers, and through our social media platforms, we will promote local sustainable food businesses to encourage local people to support local food and drink enterprises., including promotion of many food markets across the North-East region.



2.5: TRANSFORMING CATERING AND FOOD PROCUREMENT

Background:

With nearly 50% of all food eaten outside the home, catering and procurement offers one of the most effective ways to drive large scale changes in healthy and sustainable food. The public sector spends around £2.4bn per annum procuring food and catering services, which is around 5.5% of UK food service sector sales.

Organisations serving or selling foods to adults can enable positive changes to the diet of the nation by reducing foods high in saturated fat, salt and sugar and increasing provision of higher fibre foods, fruit, vegetables and oily fish.

Public sector partners, including sustainability, procurement and catering managers from local universities, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle Hospitals NHS Trust, Compass Group, North-East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) have formed a group that are seeking to transform catering and procurement with a focus on the Social Value Act.

Key Achievements To Date:

A sustainable catering and procurement network has been established in 2019, to provide a platform for members to share challenges and work together to discuss best practice to overcome these.

Newcastle City Council's commitment to the Social Value Act goes beyond government requirements to include goods and works, not just services. NCC recently published its 'Commissioning and Procurement Plan' which sets out how the Social Value Act will be applied locally. Newcastle City Council Cabinet has agreed a Social Value Commitment based on four domains of social value:

- Thinking, buying and supporting Newcastle
- Ensuring community focus
- Showing ethical leadership
- Being green and sustainable

Priority Actions 2021-2024:

The Catering and Procurement Network aim to deliver a shared vision for the procurement and catering of healthy and sustainable food, through use of local, seasonal and ethical ingredients. We seek to develop a citywide sustainable food procurement policy that can be adopted by other organisations across the city.

We aim to impact local Public Sector policy and procedures to provide healthier and more sustainable food options. This includes continuing to encourage use of Fairtrade, encouraging meat and dairy products from UK farms that meet high animal welfare standards and sustainable sources of fish.

Food Newcastle have begun exploring the potential to develop the group on a North-East level by linking with our neighbours e.g. SFPs in Durham, Middlesbrough, Carlisle, and Northumberland County Council's 'Produced in Northumberland' to bring together NE representatives from catering, procurement, and sustainability from across the region.

The Catering and Procurement Network presents an opportunity for cross-theme collaborations, including with our Diet and Ill Health Network supporting implementation of healthier choices within the catering facilities, our Food Economy Network introducing the 'Producer Pitch' events to introduce local businesses to public sector procurement opportunities, and our Environmental Network providing awareness of methods of reducing food waste within the catering facilities.



2.6: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY – REDUCING FOOD WASTE

Background:

Working in partnership with Food Newcastle, [Project Bind](#) (Jess Miller and Duncan Fairbrother) is the lead partner for driving forward this theme of the Newcastle Good Food Plan. Bind is Newcastle's not-for-profit food waste hub that uses positive, creative approaches to reduce food waste and drive behaviour change. Project Bind collaborates with local private, public and third sector organisations to deliver consistent, effective projects to reduce food waste.

Food waste is one of the biggest contributors to climate change. It exacerbates food inequalities and wreaks havoc with the economy. It is one of the biggest environmental and social challenges we face on the planet.. We see preventing food waste as a unique opportunity to save money whilst helping the planet, and through enjoying food we can engage people to make real change.

NCC show commitment to a reduction of carbon emissions by applying the waste hierarchy of prevention, preparing for reuse, recycling, other recovery and safe disposal within the [Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan \(2010-2030\)](#), including commitment to composting food waste. Additionally, within NCC's [Net Zero 2030 Plan](#) NCC encourage local people to show locally, including using local zero waste shops, reduce meat consumption, and conserve water and energy. Within this plan Food Newcastle and our Environmental network are referenced as one of the ways Newcastle are working to become more sustainable.

Key Achievements To Date:

Bind and Food Newcastle consulted with Newcastle City Council Waste Commission and the Food Waste Strategy group. Bind produced a [scoping document](#) in December 2018, which maps out existing work on food waste in our city and sets out a strategy for future action.

Through its project 'Eat Smart', Bind found that the six primary schools it has worked with so far were wasting an average of £37,000 worth of food each year. Through engaging the pupils and staff this was reduced by between 25-40% and has led to the formation of a working group with NCC's school catering service which is now trialling interventions to be rolled out in schools across the city.

In 2021, the city centre [Magic Hat Cafe](#) was launched, after working in pop-up locations for the previous 6 years. The Magic Hat provides a great, accessible eating experience whilst raising awareness on food waste. The café rescue surplus ingredients and show guests that with a little love they can be transformed into fresh, colourful and delicious meals and drinks.

The North-East Gleaning Network of volunteers harvest surplus produce from farms that would otherwise be wasted. The produce is redistributed through a variety of channels to make sure it is eaten.

Priority Actions 2021-2024:

The Food Waste Network aim to measure and significantly reduce food waste in private and public sector organisations, through increasing awareness of food reduction methods and surplus food projects. Through working with university researchers and encouraging businesses and public sector organisations to share food waste data.

The Network aim to increase public awareness of food waste and methods to reduce food waste at home. Including plans for the introduction of household food waste collections by NCC are now being discussed, which will not only reduce the amount of food going to landfill but it will also increase the awareness of food waste in Newcastle homes and enable accurate measurement of domestic food waste. We look to increase awareness of existing food waste reduction activity in the city through sharing of blog posts, and social media posts. Publicly sharing organisations accepting surplus food donations, and organisations redistributing surplus food such as OLIO and Too Good To Go.



3: THE FUTURE OF FOOD NEWCASTLE

3.1: KEY ACTIONS

Using the updated branding and webpages, the Food Newcastle website will establish itself as the main source of information and networking around food issues in the city. This will also include an effective social media presence which all partners and theme groups will be encouraged to link into and promote, e.g. #FoodNewcastle, @FoodNewcastle to be prominent on all platforms, with the use of the updated branding available for partners to use.

Food Newcastle will aim to further establish itself as an independent body to lead on and support the development of food activities and networks in the city. The partnership needs to be seen as the voice for food related work and campaigns in the city. This includes representing the views of all partners in any government or national consultations around food, sustainability and health.

Food Newcastle needs to identify long-term funding to enable the partnership to continue and be seen as independent of any individual organisation. This will be in association with partners such as Newcastle City Council and will build on the success that has already been achieved.

This plan will help identify priorities for the work of Food Newcastle and the theme groups. It will also be important for Food Newcastle to effectively communicate its achievements and impact to the wider network of stakeholders and beyond.

The Newcastle Food Charter will be aligned to the Newcastle Good Food Plan to ensure consistency, and as a method of sign up. The refreshed Food Charter will be re-launched to encourage organisations and individuals to become active members of the partnership. The wider community needs to be involved, and the partnership needs to develop mechanisms for broadening and engaging people in the 'good food' conversation.

Covid Recovery:

Like elsewhere, the covid pandemic had devastating implications on food insecurity. In Newcastle, the number of households on Universal Credit in Newcastle increased by an additional 12,840 households, between March and November 2020, to a total of 35,872, and Newcastle West End Foodbank saw an increase in demand of 250%. However, collaboratively organisations worked together to provide access to free or affordable food for the people who needed it most. In 2021, we aim to support organisations in establishing more sustainable food provision, such as a pantry-style model.

The pandemic also had a huge impact on local food businesses, with many forced to close or operating at a reduced capacity. Encouraging people of Newcastle to support local businesses is key for our covid-recovery. Working in partnership with Food and Drink North-East, we are implementing new methods to support local businesses, including online ordering, and introducing into public sector catering.

Covid also highlighted the impact obesity has on health status, and ensuring we continue to support organisations offering healthy food is important to us, alongside continuing to amplify public health messages.



3.2: SILVER ASPIRATIONS

Following the success of the Food Newcastle partnership receiving the Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award in 2019. We aim to submit our application to Silver in spring 2022.

In order to achieve Silver, we need clear evidence that the current activities and achievements are building year on year. Healthy and sustainable food must be actively promoted through city-wide policies and strategies. Food Newcastle needs to ensure that an enthusiastic and engaged network continue to work together across all areas and that the Good Food Plan be a document which supports and guides the efforts of everyone in the Partnership.

The Award may be a celebration of success, but it is action that really matters – the ongoing positive changes we can all make to address the food-related challenges across the city are for the benefit of Newcastle, not just for the badge.

Sustainable Food Places have provided guidance on achieving the Silver award which aims to recognise both the totality of food-related activity and continuous improvement year on year. Silver and gold awards are given where there is clear evidence that such activity and achievements are building year on year.

We will follow advice in the SFP Framework, and meet key criteria based on 6 issues:

1. Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action
2. Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement
3. Tackling food poverty and diet related ill-health and increasing access to affordable healthy food
4. Creating a vibrant, prosperous, and diverse sustainable food economy
5. Transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local and sustainable food supply chains
6. Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food & farming and an end to food waste

We have also committed to:

- Provide evidence that the partnership links effectively with other agencies and networks in the city
- Provide evidence of formal recognition of the role of the partnership by Local Authority and other bodies
- Meet as a partnership at least 4 times a year and provide evidence that meetings are leading to implementation
- Formally publish a publicly accessible Good Food Plan containing key objectives for the next three years
- Provide a summary report on progress against action plan targets for current and previous year(s)
- Provide evidence that the action plan is formally reviewed at least every two years
- Provide evidence that healthy and sustainable food is being 'actively promoted' through city policies and strategies

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