

Food Cardiff is a city-wide partnership of individuals and organisations, representing the population of Cardiff. It acts as a hub for connecting the people and projects working to promote healthy, environmentally sustainable and ethical food across the city; it acts as a voice for wider change.

Food Cardiff believes that the food we eat has a huge impact on life in Cardiff – not just on people's health, but on communities and businesses, farmers and food producers, and the environment too. Good food creates strong, healthy, resilient communities.

Food Cardiff was established in 2014 as one of the founding [Sustainable Food Places](#) in the UK. During the last seven years, it has developed and grown significantly, making a recognisable impact at a citywide level. In 2021, Cardiff achieved Silver Sustainable Food Places status, becoming the first place in Wales and one of only six places in the UK to achieve the prestigious accolade.

Food Cardiff is hosted by the Cardiff & Vale Health Charity and Cardiff & Vale Local Public Health Team.

Overall, we agree with the proposal for a Food (Wales) Bill, which will bring together different Government Departments, with a focus on a local and sustainable food system. There is a need for legislation in this remit to ensure governance and accountability. We agree with the subsequent need for a Food Commission and local Food Plans.

The primary food goal lays out a firm strategic aim for the draft Food (Wales) Bill. We are pleased to see that the primary and secondary food goals recognise the systemic nature of the food system. If set in legislation, we look forward to the further outline of the targets to be set by Welsh Ministers in order to measure the success or otherwise of the legislation.

Within the primary food goal, or the health and social secondary food goal, it could be advantageous to include a reference to ensuring access to culturally appropriate food. Culturally appropriate foods represent the traditions, beliefs, and practices of a geographic region, ethnic group, religious body, or cross-cultural community.

These also reflect Food Cardiff's [Good Food Strategy](#) for the city which sets out five food goals - a healthy Cardiff; an environmentally sustainable Cardiff; a thriving local economy; a fair and connected food system; and an empowering food movement. This strategy was co-produced by almost 2,500 individuals and organisations in Cardiff and the results from our [Cardiff citizen survey](#) may be useful to inform the Food Bill.

Food Cardiff's work shows the value of an overarching strategy which takes a systems approach to food.

It was this partnership that pioneered Food and Fun, the school-based education programme which is now a Welsh Government funded programme running in all local authorities. Through Food and Fun, thousands of children across Wales benefit from food and nutrition education, physical activity, enrichment sessions and healthy meals during the school summer holidays. The programme's impact includes health & social, education, economic, and environmental benefits.

During 2021/22 Food Cardiff worked with 15 partners to deliver a multi-stranded approach which covers a significant number of root causes and contributors to food insecurity. By working across the system through a well-established Food Partnership, the project whole was much greater than the sum of its parts.

This approach is also reflected by Cardiff Council and Cardiff & Vale UHB. Cardiff Council became one of the first UK local authorities to publish its own [Food Strategy](#) in 2019. Recognising the need to work

across portfolios, Cardiff Council have appointed a dedicated Food Officer and host a cross-departmental Steering Group. The [Move More, Eat Well Plan](#) led by Cardiff & Vale University Health Board and approved by both PSBs includes a health communities' priority area, committing to the continued development of sustainable food partnerships.

Overall we believe that the Food (Wales) Bill would significantly strengthen the work which is happening on a local level to create a better Welsh food system. It would ensure that local initiatives are aligned with national commitments and vice versa, avoid duplication and increase efficiency.

If the draft Food (Wales) Bill does become legislation, further funding may need to be made available for local organisations such as Local Authorities and Health Boards in order to be compliant with the primary and secondary food goals.