



Feeding Progress: The Role of Public Bodies in Advancing Sustainable Food Systems in Wales

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To: Food Division and Tackling Poverty Team, Welsh Government

From: Food Sense Wales

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Contributors: With thanks to food partnership co-ordinators, public bodies' workshop attendees and members

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Summary

The report explores the integration of food-related activities into the well-being objectives of public bodies in Wales, focusing on their alignment with activities on the ground. The establishment of cross-sector local food partnerships has been a notable development, fostering collaboration and public participation in shaping food strategies. Despite progress, challenges such as limited resources, capacity constraints, and a lack of national vision for Welsh food systems remain limiting factors in further advancing sustainable food systems in Wales.

Key Messages

Growing Interest and Participation Local Authorities and public bodies in Wales are increasingly engaging with food systems issues, supported by the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The establishment of local cross-sector food partnerships, involving Local Authorities and Health Boards, signifies a positive and constructive step towards collaboration and public engagement in food strategy development.

Integration with Well-being Objectives Despite the absence of direct food-related, Well-being Goals or National Indicators (under the Well-being of Future Generations Act) there's a growing recognition of the importance of food in public bodies' well-being objectives. More public bodies are referencing food within their objectives, particularly in Local Authorities, but challenges remain in comprehensive integration. Public bodies are mostly focusing on social and economic aspects of well-being and food, with environmental and cultural dimensions so far overlooked.

Local Cross-Sector Food Partnerships and Public Bodies Local cross-sector food partnerships play a significant role in coordinating food activities on the ground, supported by public bodies and third-sector organizations. There is increasing interest in making public food procurement more sustainable, alongside efforts to utilize more public assets, such as land, for food-related activities, which well-being objectives do not capture.

Local Cross-Sector Food Partnerships and PSB Collaboration While some partnerships have established connections with Public Services Boards (PSBs), there's a need for better alignment to enhance collaboration and communication.

Suggested actions

- **Enhanced Integration**: Public bodies should further integrate food-related activities into their well-being objectives and work, aligning with the broader goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- Improved Monitoring and Evaluation: Develop comprehensive indicators and measures to monitor and evaluate food-related activities, facilitating better understanding of their impact on community well-being.
- **Strengthened Collaboration:** Foster stronger collaboration between local cross-sector food partnerships, public bodies and Public Services Boards to encourage mutual learning and sharing of best practices.
- Moving towards preventative, systems-approach: Balance short-term actions of dealing with acute household food insecurity and ill-health with long-term, strategic actions, for example in sustainable public procurement, education or developing national and local food strategies. This needs to be supported by correspondingly long-term and systematic funding.
- Develop a national, long term food vision and strategy for Wales, alongside providing greater prominence to food indicators in Wales' Well-being Indicators: This will support public bodies with a framework in which to guide public bodies to increase the integration of food into their well-being plans.

Introduction

The food we grow, produce, import, cook and eat in Wales is at the heart of human and planetary well-being. The mixture of vulnerability of relying on global supply chains, poverty and rising costs is driving food insecurity, which has a direct impact on people's mental and physical health. Agriculture's contribution to Wales' total emissions increased from 13% in 1990 to 17% in 2018¹.

However, we also know that thriving agriculture and the food sector are essential for the survival of rural communities and Welsh culture and that a growing number of producers are rising to the challenge of growing food more sustainably. Although the causes and solutions of these complex problems may feel outside of Wales and our influence, public bodies need to consider the impact of their local food systems on their communities and their role in addressing them.



According to WWF Cymru report², the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act provides a framework and levers to guide this work. It can facilitate a more integrated approach across the food system, for example, by linking public food procurement with education and agricultural policies. It provides an opportunity to showcase how a systems approach and collaboration between different actors can deliver various economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits under each of the Act's seven well-being goals.

Aims

This report aims to provide an overview of how food has been integrated into the activities of public bodies, and Local Authorities more specifically. It synthesizes the analysis of 2018-19 and 2022-23 well-being objectives conducted by the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (OFGC), a snapshot constrained by different publication timelines.

To test the findings and understand what activities happen on the ground, in February – March 2024, a supplementary survey, documentary analysis and a workshop were organized, targeting local food partnerships and Local Authorities. LFPs covering 19 Local Authorities responded to the survey, and 35 representatives from health boards, Local Authorities, third-sector organizations and Public Services Boards' (PSBs) participated in an online workshop.

This report is not designed to be a comprehensive mapping exercise but rather an exploration of what is reported in well-being objectives compared to the challenges and opportunities of activities happening on the ground.

¹ Welsh Centre for Public Policy, <u>How could Wales feed itself in 2035 Evidence Pack</u>

² A Welsh food system fit for future generations | WWF

Well-being of Future Generations Act

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 outlines seven well-being goals as a common purpose for public bodies to foster Wales's social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being. Public bodies must set and publish well-being objectives with steps to explain how they will work to achieve them, using five ways of working. Public bodies generally integrate their objectives with overall strategies for the organisations, which means they may run to different time scales and are refreshed at different times. For example, a Local Authority corporate plan may run for five years, whereas health board integrated medium term plans run for five years. All public bodies must, however, report against their well-being objectives every year.

A National Indicators Framework and Milestones also support the Act to understand the bigger picture and monitor progress. The Act also establishes Public Services Boards (PSB), which assess the state of well-being locally, set objectives and produce a plan to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their local area. There are now 13 PSBs. The PSBs must undertake a 'Well-being Assessment' of their area, which in turn informs a Well-being Plan, which contains Objectives and Steps. This cycle occurs every five years, with the next round of assessments due in 2027, and plans in 2028.

None of the seven well-being goals directly address food system issues. Similarly, 50 national well-being indicators lack a comprehensive food system indicator, although some related measures exist (see box below).

In November 2023, Derek Walker, the new Commissioner for Future Generations, established food as an area of focus that sits across the wider five missions within Cymru Can, the new strategy. The Office of the Future Generation Commissioner identified two opportunities around food to help Wales achieve its goals: advocating for the Welsh Government to develop a national strategy supported by the WFGA framework; and to help public bodies and PSBs to integrate food system issues into their well-being plans and on-the-ground activities.

Local cross-sector food partnerships

In 2022, the Welsh Government allocated £2.5 million to develop a multi-sectoral food partnership in every Local Authority. The funding has been provided to

National Well-being Indicators related to the food system

- Percentage of adults/children with two or more healthy lifestyle behaviours (includes fruit and veg consumption)
- Percentage of people living in households in material deprivation (includes household food insecurity measures including food bank visits and going without a meal for a day)
- Concentration of carbon and organic matter in soil

In the past, Welsh Government also reported in their annual Well-being of Wales reports on household food waste and wider food insecurity,

support partnership coordination and a capital budget to tackle food poverty, with attention to the root causes of food insecurity and citizen action. An interim report³ by the University of West England and Sustainable Food Places (SFP) concluded in June 2023 that partnerships are at different stages of development, reflecting different conditions in their area. Food Sense Wales and the SFP framework have been pivotal in developing partnerships, with emerging partnerships able to draw on the experiences of more established ones. Despite the significance of the funding to provide momentum for this work, partnerships are not securely resourced given the scale and complexity of food systems issues they aim to address.

Local Food Partnerships in Wales, Sustainable Food Places Evaluation, Interim Report 2023

Food in public bodies' well-being objectives and steps

Case Study 1 Monmouthshire County Council

Monmouthshire Council is an example of good practice in integrating food actions into their well-being objectives and steps. They take a food system perspective, meaning covering the food value chain, from production to consumption, multiple issues (food poverty, decarbonization, public procurement) and multiple levels of well-being. They also incorporate 5 ways of working in most of their steps.

Well-being objective

A Fair Place to Live: Nobody should be left behind in Monmouthshire or feel their voice does not count. Many of our residents are prosperous and very capable of looking after themselves and their loved ones. However, this is not the case for all and in a rural county inequality is often more hidden than in urban places. We will increase the intensity of our work to help those that need support to live the lives they want.

Examples of food-related steps

- Work with partners to reduce food insecurity and help people access places to keep warm in winter.
- Implement universal free school meals for all primary school children with support in the school holidays for those who need it.

Well-being objective

A Green place to live: we recognise the outstanding beauty of Monmouthshire. As custodians of this stunning place, we need to encourage residents and visitors to enjoy it, protect it and conserve it. The natural world in all its guises is the backdrop to our tourism and visitor economy. We will work with others to promote access to our special places whilst protecting the environment, support nature recovery, reduce our carbon emissions, reduce the risk of flooding and promote the circular economy.

Focus

Sustainable local agriculture and farming practices with public services and residents consuming more local and seasonal produce

Examples of Food-related steps

- Promote community access to land for growing food
- Promote the benefits of local food and reduce food waste
 Increase the use of local produce in schools and care homes
- Work with Food Monmouthshire, the County's sustainable food partnership, suppliers, processors and logistics to support the development of the local supply chain and reduce our reliance on imported food
- Support initiatives to help farmers to increase carbon sequestration and adopt sustainable and regenerative farming practices.

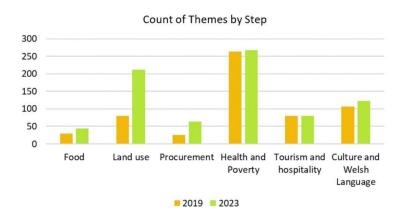
More public bodies are referencing food within their well-being objectives and steps now than in 2019, which suggests recognising the importance of food and food systems on well-being. Four out of seven health boards reference food⁴, and two of the three national parks.

In health boards, a key focus is on the role of food and nutrition in obesity prevention (and other non-communicable diseases, e.g. diabetes) and weight management. The latest plan from the Bannau Brycheniog details involving farmers and land managers as part of their strategy to increase the health of ecosystems.

Most steps referencing food are found within Local Authorities; however, less than half of them have integrated food

into their well-being plans. In 2023, this number decreased from 10 to 8. Food insecurity and the cost of living continue to be a key focus, with Local Authorities taking steps to make healthy food accessible to people on low incomes, especially through improving school food provision (including during holidays). This may reflect increasing food insecurity and the Welsh Government's Universal Primary Free School Meals policy.

The second key theme was supporting local food businesses and tourism. Although the focus on cultural and environmental well-being is largely missing, more Local Authorities are now taking a system-approach to food compared to 2019.



Outside any direct measures, there was a substantial increase in terms indirectly related to the food system, which may indicate an increasing interest and an opportunity for public bodies to integrate food more closely. For example, the use of 'nature' in well-being steps increased tenfold, alongside procurement, tourism and hospitality. On the other hand, there was no mention of vegetable and fruit consumption or diet.

⁴ It is not possible to see trends between years because not all health boards updated their objectives in 2022-2023.

Food in Public Services Boards' well-being objectives and steps

In 2022 – 23, 8 out of 13 PSBs (Anglesey and Gwynedd, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Conwy and Denbighshire, Cwm Taf Morgannwg, Powys, Vale of Glamorgan) integrated food directly into their well-being plans. Key themes **include promoting healthy lifestyles and healthy weight or progressing food coordination**, for example, by establishing local food partnerships and strategies. Food systems-related issues also feature **indirectly**, for example through steps promoting Real Living Wage, environmentally friendly land management, and local services and goods procurement. The interest of PSBs in these areas indicates opportunities for food systems issues to become the focus of these steps. A diagram below shows examples of PSB objectives connected with food according to well-being goals; the indirect ones are highlighted in italics.

For some PSBs (Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Powys, Gwynedd and Anglesey), this was the first time food was openly considered, which indicates a growing interest in working systematically with food issues. In contrast, Wrexham and Flintshire PSB's 2023 well-being objectives lack the food focus that was present in their 2018-9 objectives of Wrexham and Flintshire PSBs. Similarly, although food has been integrated to a varied extent into Torfaen and Monmouthshire's Local Authorities' well-being objectives, this is not reflected in Gwent PSB's objectives⁵. Both PB and PSB's food-related well-being objectives lack a focus on Globally Responsible Wales.

A more equal Wales Conwy and Dengbishire Stimulate and support community groups to help people remain resilient; for example, supporting healthy lifestyles, or providing help with cost of living pressures. Vale of Glamorgan Support work to tackle food poverty recognising and raising awareness about the close links to environmental well-being and health; Provide information and support to assist our communities and our staff to deal with the impacts of the costs of living e.g. rising food, energy and travel costs..

A prosperous Wales

- Gwynned and Anglesey; Conwy and Dengbishire Enact socially responsible public procurement, benefitting the local supply chain and promoting a circular economy locally
- Carmarthenshire Through procurement, organisations of the PSB will maximise the use of local suppliers for its goods, services and works; To increase Real Living Wage Accreditation amongst PSB members and promote Real Living Wage locally
- Cardiff Implement the Real Living Wage across the public and private sectors and by November 2025

A healthier Wales

- Neath Port Talbot A whole system approach to Healthy Weight (objective)
- Vale of Glamorgan Improve health and well-being across the Vale with a particular focus on prevention and levels of physical activity, diet, vaccine take up and screening.
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Promote healthier lifestyles in our communities so that fewer people, particularly children, are obese
- Carmarthenshire To support the delivery of the Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales programme
- Cardiff Increase the percentage of children, young people and people (adults) with a healthy weight and increase physical activity levels, particularly in the more deprived communities, through the delivery of the Move More, Eat Well Strategy 2020-2023.
- Powys A whole system approach to Healthy Weight (well-being objective with comprehensive steps)

A resilient Wales

- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Understand how we can all use resources more sustainably so that we see improved management of our land and coastline to reduce carbon emissions and increase carbon capture
- Ceredigion Seek to protect and improve the health and resilience of our ecosystems to tackle the nature emergency and support the implementation of Welsh Government's sustainable farming scheme within Ceredigion.
- Vale of Glamorgan Participate in a more integrated approach to the public sector estate (buildings and land holdings) to improve service delivery and our work on climate change and nature.
- Cardiff Embedding carbon sequestration, tree planting and environmentally responsible land management protocols in estates' strategies; Work together to reduce the carbon impact of PSB members' procurement activities and move to a circular economy.; Increase the opportunity to absorb emissions and improve biodiversity with green infrastructure. This includes exploring the use of public sector land to increase tree planting to increase carbon sequestration and improve biodiversity.

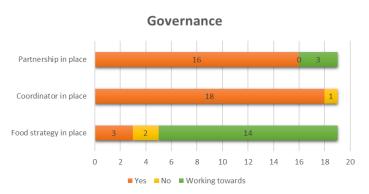
Governance

- Cardiff Promote healthy, local, and low-carbon food and support Food Cardiff's bid to become the first Gold Sustainable Food Place in Wales
- Carmarthenshire To prepare and publish a Carmarthenhsire Food Strategy; To work towards developing an Integrated local food system
- Ceredigion Develop a Local Food Partnership across Ceredigion to address issues of food sustainability, access and affordability whilst also
 acknowledging the additional wellbeing benefits that community food initiatives/growing schemes can bring.

⁵ However, a workshop participant suggested that the work of food partnerships needs to be better linked with the prevention of ill health agenda within the Marmot principles which is in the Gwent PSB plan.

Food system activities on the ground – learning from survey and workshop

Although less than half of Local Authorities integrate food into their well-being plans, most now have a local food partnership with a coordinator. Local Authorities also host just under half of partnerships - with other partnerships being hosted within health boards or the third sector. Most partnerships are working towards a food strategy co-designed with public bodies⁶, especially Local Authorities and Health Boards. Nine partnerships are members of Sustainable Food Places, with seven others working towards this goal.



Seventy percent of partnerships have financial support beyond March 2024, with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund cited as a key source in addition to Welsh Government funding. This funding has facilitated coordinator roles and various food system projects, such as healthy cooking workshops in Caerphilly, enhancing local food production in Carmarthenshire, and increasing volunteer engagement in community growing in Swansea. Hosting by public bodies appears to provide more resilience against funding loss. Two-thirds of partnerships hosted by third sector organizations are facing a funding cliff edge come March 2025.

'It feels like we've made a really good start, organisations and public services have been collaborating on project in ways that have not happened before,[...]. It's really frustrating to see that now all disappear again, because there won't be a coordinator to hold it all together.'

Third sector-based food partnership

Local authorities are increasingly appointing dedicated staff for sustainable food systems, alongside partnership coordinators. Examples include roles like Food and Farming officer (Vale of Glamorgan), Food Resilience team (Torfaen), Food Development officer (Carmarthenshire)

and Sustainable Food System
Engagement (Monmouthshire). LFPs
also involve representation from
different council departments, including
catering, procurement, regeneration,
community well-being, development,

education, employment services, and net zero initiatives. Collaboration progress between council departments was discussed in the workshop, acknowledging challenges like resource scarcity, capacity issues, and cross-departmental alignment and lack of shared values.

When developing food strategies, continuous funding, robust governance structures, diverse membership, and meaningful public engagement were

"How are we squaring local food strategies with wider objectives? There are tensions between the needs to have less dairy and meat on the plate, whilst agricultural policies are still supporting predominantly industry. Are you able to resolve that at a local level? Or do we need some other, national strategy?"

Health board official

highlighted as crucial. However, concerns were raised about local strategies' efficacy in addressing broader food system issues tied to regional, national, or global contexts.

⁶ Only one participant mentioned a separate Local Authority strategy (Cardiff Council), in addition to a partnership strategy co-designed by or with the public body.

Measures and indicators

Just under half of participants have established measures and indicators to monitor and evaluate their work. Among those who do, the focus is primarily on quantifiable metrics such as the number of participants or organizations involved, most linking evaluation to funding requirements or internal scrutiny.

Despite the prevalence of quantitative measures, some participants value case studies for deeper insights into outcomes and impacts. Collaboration in data collection, particularly involving partners like food banks, was deemed important. Participants from health boards suggested drawing from tools like the Maturity Matrix in public health evaluation. Some participants without indicators felt it's premature given the early stage of their partnership.

Delivering food system activities

There is some alignment between well-being objectives and foodrelated activities in local authorities. This involves a focus on tackling **food insecurity and healthy eating**, such as supporting

community food projects through Small Grants or Direct Food Support and collaborating with health boards on cooking workshops and through the wider Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales agenda.

However, as examples of activities and achievements in Appendix 1 demonstrate, there is also increasing interest in making **public food procurement** more sustainable (especially school meals), alongside efforts to utilize more **public assets**, such as land, **for food-related** activities, which well-being objectives do not capture. Although they mention general sustainable procurement and land use management, there is more potential to align them with the food work already happening on the ground.

Participants in the survey and workshop highlighted collaboration across different public bodies and third-sector organizations as critical for the delivery of food system activities:

'We've been working with Powys Council to review their farm estate to make it accessible for small-scale horticulture.' Third sector official 'Collaborating on Welsh Veg for Schools supply chain investment' Local Authority official 'I will continue to work with food partnerships across Hywel Dda to link the ongoing Healthy Weight work.' Heath Board official

Examples of indicators used

- Number of participants and organizations involved, jobs secured, allotments and decarbonization plans created
- Carbon emissions in procurement
- Pledges and sign-ups to Food Charter
- Percentage of residents who feel there is a movement for good food in local area
- Fruit and Veg Consumption
- Percentage of residents who feel confident in buying food that is produced in an
- environmentally friendly way
- Percentage of residents experiencing food insecurity

Working with Public Services Boards

Despite their ties to local authorities and health boards, **only a third of partnerships** have an established relationship with their PSB, leaving some feeling disconnected.

'Link with food partnership objectives and PSB feels disjointed. PSB is happy to include statements such as 'access to healthy, affordable and sustainable food' little evidence of how we might implement the SFP framework, transforming catering, procurement and the local food economy.' - Local authority official

Those working with their PSB highlight **joint governance** and **implementation** as key success factors. Having a representative on both the PSB (including any sub-groups or working groups) and LFP steering group facilitates efficient communication and information sharing. Formal reporting to PSBs is rare, with informal relationships such as attending events together or sharing office space also considered important. Some health board representatives see themselves as potential connectors between PSBs and partnerships.

Some examples of joint implementation of the food system activities are showcased below. Apart from Swansea and Neath Port Talbot PSBs, all of them have also integrated food into their well-being objectives to some extent. Most of these examples come from PSBs that have a single Local Authority and the experience may be different for PSBs that have merged..

Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan PSBs have developed a Move More, Eat Well plan to improve the food and physical activity in their communities. The plan has been developed and implemented with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, third sector organisations, educational settings and LFPs.

Swansea and Neath Port Talbot PSBs commissioned Bwyd Abertawe and 4the Region (key Bwyd Abertawe member and Chairperson) to deliver a series of 'Public Food on Local Plate' workshops for public sector officers in Neath Port Talbot and Swansea to explore localization of public food procurement. Bwyd Abertawe also aims to share their 5-year sustainable food plan with Swansea PSB.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB identified a wide interest across partners on working on sustainable food systems. Food came up in their well-being assessment and they are building relationships with LFPs. There is a lot of activity happening on the ground, both in public bodies (e.g. Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board work on sustainable food procurement, Local Authorities' work on school meals) and in the civil society. This work is place-based, but PSB has an opportunity to bring these activities together, learn from each other and build on what's already happening.

Carmarthenshire PSB collaborates with public bodies and the local food partnership to develop a county-wide food strategy, a key well-being objective. To facilitate this, Carmarthenshire Council appointed a full-time Food Development Officer, initially funded by the Rural Development Programme and later extended through council core funding for an additional six months.

PSB support also significantly enhances the effectiveness of the local food partnership's efforts. It is a mutually beneficial relationship - PSB members and member organizations attending LFPs steering group created a focus around the six key themes of SFP, resonating with PSB's strategic objectives.

Simultaneously, LFP successfully campaigned for food system resilience actions as part of the PSB's Local Wellbeing Plan. The skills and resources that each PSB member brings can mutually support effective interventions at the community level (e.g., access to public land for community growing coupled with health and wellbeing improvement, and at a strategic level public land to public plate with a focus on supporting wider local primary producers to access short supply chains).

<u>Draft strategy includes</u> a comprehensive suite of indicators and measures aligned with PSB's well-being objectives.

Nevertheless, Public Services Boards, Public Health Wales and health boards are also involved in food-related work beyond local food partnerships, including delivery of Healthy Weight Systems Based Approaches and forthcoming Shaping Places for Well-being in Wales Programme.

Conclusion and suggested actions

Wales has seen a growing interest in food systems issues among local authorities and public bodies, in general supported by the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The development and Welsh Government support for local cross-sector food partnerships has been a positive step, promoting collaboration and public participation in food strategy development and implementation. However, challenges such as limited resources, capacity, and the lack of national vision for Welsh food systems remain constraining factors.

Existing activities on the ground need to be suitably anchored in the well-being objectives, covering all dimensions of well-being. The current health, food security and economic angles need to be complemented by capitalising on cultural and environmental steps public bodies are already taking elsewhere, for example through public procurement, fair work, education and land use. Using a systems-approach to food and well-being can deliver multiple benefits – whether it is engaging young learners in new skills, supporting cohesive communities by increasing opportunities about their own and other cultures, or encouraging rural economies.

Good food practice is also emerging in Public Services Boards through joint governance and joint implementation as well as through more informal relationship building and sharing learning. Alongside other factors, Welsh Government support for local cross-sector Food Partnerships and their work have helped to put food on the agenda for some PSBs.

To progress with food systems work in public bodies, suggested actions are:

Local cross-sector food partnerships

- Share learning about collaboration, system-approach to food and public engagement with PSBs to inform their work now and future Well-being Assessments (2026-27) and Well-being Plans (2028)
- **Ensure** local food strategies are supported by indicators and measures, to understand what interventions work, for whom and where, and to share learning and celebrate the work they do.

Local Authorities and Health Boards

- Integrate SMART food system well-being objectives and steps into their well-being plans to support work already happening on the ground and encourage more integration and long-term focus.
- Move towards preventative, systems-approach, balancing short term actions of dealing with acute food
 insecurity and ill-health with long-term actions in sustainable public procurement and developing food
 systems strategies.
- **Ensure** local cross sector food partnerships and other key food system stakeholders are sufficiently resourced in order to be able to attract a variety of different funding opportunities, as seen through established food partnerships securing Shared Prosperity funding.

Public Services Boards

- Integrate SMART food system well-being objectives and steps into their future well-being plans to support work already happening on the ground and encourage more coordination and long-term focus
- **Have** a dedicated food systems representative to sit on both Public Services Board (or its working groups/subgroups) and local cross sector food partnership(s) steering group(s) to ensure effective communication and sharing learning.
- **Build relationships** with local cross sector food partnerships to enhance mutual learning in collaboration and public participation

Welsh Government

- Support public bodies through continuous, long-term funding mechanisms (both revenue and capital) dedicated to food systems work
- Guide public bodies and local food strategies through a co-created, long-term national vision for the Welsh food system. Public bodies are currently developing food related well-being objectives without being able to connect these objectives to a national food strategy and its absence may also account for the reason why many public bodies have not integrated food into their current well-being plans. The strategy should be co-produced with all actors in the food and drink supply chain from food producers and land managers, through to manufacturing, retail, large-scale purchasers (e.g. health-boards, schools) and consumers. Crucially, this would ensure that public bodies and PSBs are given direction on how to align their plans to national ambitions aiming to tackle root causes of food system problems, and local efforts are not fragmented or duplicate each other.
- Convene in collaboration with partners (Food Sense Wales, OFGC, WLGA and others) a space for PSBs and others to share learning about best practice, opportunities and challenges of systems-based approach to food. This could also include a direct guidance about how food can deliver against all well-being goals, for example, how fair and ethical supply chains or international learnings deliver against 'a Globally Responsible Wales'.
- Consider how to give greater prominence to food or diet related indicators within Well-being Indicators. These indicators can provide a greater steer to public bodies as they set and assess their well-being objectives and greater prominence of food indicators, alongside a national food strategy, may encourage more public bodies to consider the integration of food in their well-being plans.

Appendix 1

Local Authority	Examples of activities and achievements
Blaenau Gwent	Healthy eating: Improving uptake of Healthy Start with food partnership and Health Board
	Food security: Encouraging community groups to adopt a more sustainable model (such as
	Pantry/social supermarket) during the recent round of Direct Food Support Fund (DFSF)
	Healthy eating: Promoting Nutrition skills for life for frontline community food workers
	Public assets: Exploring Community Asset Transfer processes to enable more food growing on public
	land (Case study)
Bridgend	Public procurement: Bridgend Council aims to increase the % of local food in their school food
	procurement by including it in the core specification through social value measures
Caerphilly	Healthy eating: Collaborating with health board to develop healthy cooking on budget programme –
	Community Cooking Champion;
	Public procurement: Lead procurement team managing national procurement framework,
	incorporating social value in specification and monitoring. Council's social value policy and monitoring
	is related to 7 well-being goals. Also part of Welsh Food For Schools collaboration
Cardiff	Public procurement: Part of Welsh Food For Schools and Welsh Veg in Schools (collaboration including
	a health board) work aiming to increase Welsh produce in school food procurement
	Governance: Food Cardiff sits on the Council's steering group for the Council's food strategy and was
	involved in helping develop this document
	Public procurement: Developing 'A Future Generations' menu to align school meals with the aims of
	WFGA.
Carmarthenshire	Public assets: repurposing a council farm to increase local food production for public plate and
	support rural initiatives (<u>Food Systems Development Project</u>)
	Public procurement: involved in a sustainable food procurement hub pilot to procure local food for a
	primary school and a nursing home.
Ceredigion	Small grant scheme: administered by the partnership, the scheme supported 14 collaborative
	projects, e.g. community food projects working with Flying Start and NHS dietitians to deliver healthy
	food cookery classes.
Conwy	Public procurement: Part of Welsh Food For Schools collaboration, aiming to increase the volume and
	range of Welsh produce in school food procurement
	Public assets: Exploring potential to increase land available for growing, with a focus on Council owned
	buildings/services/leisure facilities.
Denbighshire	Governance: well-established Strategic Partnership Board and an Operational Steering Group for the
	food partnerships, including Local Authority teams, health board and PHW
	Public assets: increasing availability of land for community growing in Rhyl and Denbigh
Flintshire	Public procurement: Part of Welsh Food For Schools collaboration, aiming to increase the volume and
	range of Welsh produce in school food procurement
	Public assets: working collaboratively towards a food strategy and identifying land available for
	growing
	Healthy eating/food insecurity: collaborating with <u>Can Cook/Well-Fed</u> on nutritious, environmentally
	sustainable school and residential food
Gwynedd	Public procurement: Part of Welsh Food For Schools collaboration, aiming to increase the volume and
	range of Welsh produce in school food procurement, building on their previous work in this area.

	Public procurement: proactive conversations with suppliers to understand challenges and
	opportunities in localizing supply chains for food procurement. Using TOMs social value tool and
	differentiating the definitions based on products.
	Public procurement: Part of Welsh Food For Schools collaboration, aiming to increase the volume and
Isle of Anglesey	range of Welsh produce in school food procurement
	Food insecurity/community growing: Channeling Welsh Government 'Tackling Food Poverty and
	Insecurity Funding' into creating sites to grow local produce to supply community food
Merthyr Tydfil	Research: commissioned research into food insecurity and affordable food provision
Monmouthshire	Public procurement: Working with Size of Wales on <u>a deforestation-free menu</u> for Monmouthshire
	schools and training teachers.
	Food production: Establishing Talk Farm Regen Monmouthshire farmer discussion group and events;
	setting up and supporting regenerative agriculture mentoring scheme
	Public assets: Supporting community groups with access to land for community growing
	Public procurement: Part of Welsh Food For Schools and Welsh Veg in Schools (collaboration including
	a health board) work aiming to increase Welsh produce in school food procurement
	Community engagement: Running Food Assembly and Cook & Share community engagement events
Neath Port Talbot	Community growing: directed Welsh Government funding to a Community Growing Fund
Newport	Governance: Steering group has representation from Health Board and Local Authority
Pembrokeshire	Governance: Partnership has representation from a Local Authority
Powys	Public assets: reviewing farm estate to make it accessible for small scale horticulture
	Healthy eating: launched "Eat Smart Save Better" campaign in collaboration with a Powys Teaching
	Health Board and local food partnership.
	Public procurement: involved in a local procurement pilot through Powys Food Hub
	Healthy eating: d elivered "Nutrition Skills for Life" courses to members of the community with food
	partnership and Powys Teaching Health Board.
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Food security: Distributing Community Grants to support community organizations in delivering food-
	related projects locally
	Public assets: A robust Community Assets Transfer process is in place and recently supported <u>a large</u>
	community horticultural project through leasing public land for 25 years.
	Public procurement/healthy eating: Working with the health board in their food-related projects such
	as community growers linking with 'Food and Fun' activities during the summer
Swansea	Public procurement: Catering team supported a pilot of Gower Field to Fork
	Food production: Networking opportunities and <u>feasibility studies</u> to support local food supply chains
	Food production: WG funding channeled to Bwyd Abertawe supported 11 sustainable food projects.
	Food insecurity: hosted a Food Poverty Network and administered Direct Food Support fund
Vale of Glamorgan	Public procurement: The food partnership has hosted a healthy and sustainable working group in
	collaboration with Food Cardiff, Health Board, Universities, Colleges and Local Authorities.
	Public procurement: Council-owned catering company have reduced their food miles and carbon
	footprint by switching to a local dairy supplier.
Torfaen	Food security: administering Direct Food Support grant
	Governance: developed the Food Charter and held a Food Summit in Feb 2024
	Healthy eating : working with the Health board and other Food Partnerships in Gwent has lead to an
	increase in uptake in Healthy Start Vouchers within Torfaen.
Wrexham	Public procurement: Part of Welsh Food For Schools collaboration, aiming to increase the volume and
	range of Welsh produce in school food procurement
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