

March 2026

Status of Local Food Partnerships in 2026

By Pearl Costello
Food Sense Wales



Ariennir gan
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Welsh Government



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Report Contributors:

Pearl Costello, Siân-Elin Davies, Katie Palmer, Will Barker, Matthew Horwood, Dafydd Owen. The report was designed by Rebecca Ingleby Davies

Food Sense Wales

Food Sense Wales aims to influence and impact on how food is produced and consumed in Wales, ensuring that sustainable food, farming and fisheries are at the heart of a just, connected and prosperous food system.

Founded in 2018, Food Sense Wales was established to drive forward a cross-sector approach to the food system in Wales.

Food Sense Wales works with communities, organisations, policymakers and Government across Wales to create a food and farming system that is good for people and good for the planet.

Read more about Food Sense Wales [here](#).

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Foreword

Pearl Costello

Sustainable Food Places Manager

Food Sense Wales



It has been a significant year for Welsh food policy. In April 2025, Food Sense Wales published the first [Status of Local Food Partnerships in Wales Report](#), and at the same time, the [Future Generations Commissioner's Annual Report](#) was published, as was the Welsh Government's [Community Food Strategy](#). These documents all laid the groundwork for catalysing and enabling the developing good food movement in Wales to progress the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of the nation through food. The 1st of January 2026 saw the commencement of the [Sustainable Farming Scheme](#) to support farmers to produce world class, high-quality, food whilst caring for the environment, tackling and adapting to climate change and building resilience.

Alongside policy developments, the grassroots movement for healthy and sustainable food systems, one that has been growing for over a decade, is maturing into an indispensable national infrastructure. [Local Food Partnerships](#) have been funded by the Minister for Social Justice since 2022, recognising that cross-sector food partnerships can help to tackle inequalities, mitigate the root causes of poverty and help to build community food resilience. We now have [22 Local Food Partnerships](#), one in every local authority area in Wales, each one served by a dedicated coordinator demonstrating strategic leadership. With these foundations in place, co-ordinated food action is happening at pace.

The Future Generations Commissioner's report advocated for a host of food related actions, including the development of a National Food Resilience Plan; the continued support for Food Partnerships as well as further support for horticulture, fruit and veg voucher schemes and Food Literacy. Following the publication of this report, The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and Food Sense Wales co-produced [guidance for local authorities in Wales](#) on how they can work with Local Food Partnerships to improve local food systems.

Fifteen of Wales' twenty-two councils responded to the Future Generations Commissioner stating that they accept they should develop a food resilience plan. Of those who responded, four have requested support from the Commissioner's Office and Food Sense Wales to start formulating their plans.

[The Child Poverty Strategy](#) and the [Community Food Strategy](#) together committed to support Local Food Partnerships with £2million funding in 2025-26, including a multi-year commitment to fund coordinators across Wales from the Social Justice portfolio. This has enabled Local Food Partnerships to build capacity and deliver a range of tailored food projects directly responding to the needs of their communities. As part of this, the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, and the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, have collaborated to develop a joint set of objectives and indicators which bring together the ambitions for both portfolios, including creating community food resilience and tackling food poverty, and increasing the supply and diversity of local food.

Later in the year, collaborative working in Wales was highlighted at the 2025 [Wales Real Food and Farming Conference](#) (WRFFC). The 2025 WRFFC, in association with Food Sense Wales, combined two key annual gatherings: the WRFFC and the Food in Communities event. This partnership was reflected in the 2025 theme: **Communities, Food and Farming: Working Together**. With nearly 400 attendees, 30 sessions and 100 speakers across two days, the Conference explored sustainable food and farming, and brought together farmers and other food businesses, environmentalists as well as people involved in public health, food education, food sovereignty and social justice. It also hosted the 2025 Sustainable Food Places Awards for Wales, which recognised the seven new places that achieved Bronze and Silver Awards as well as the two new members.

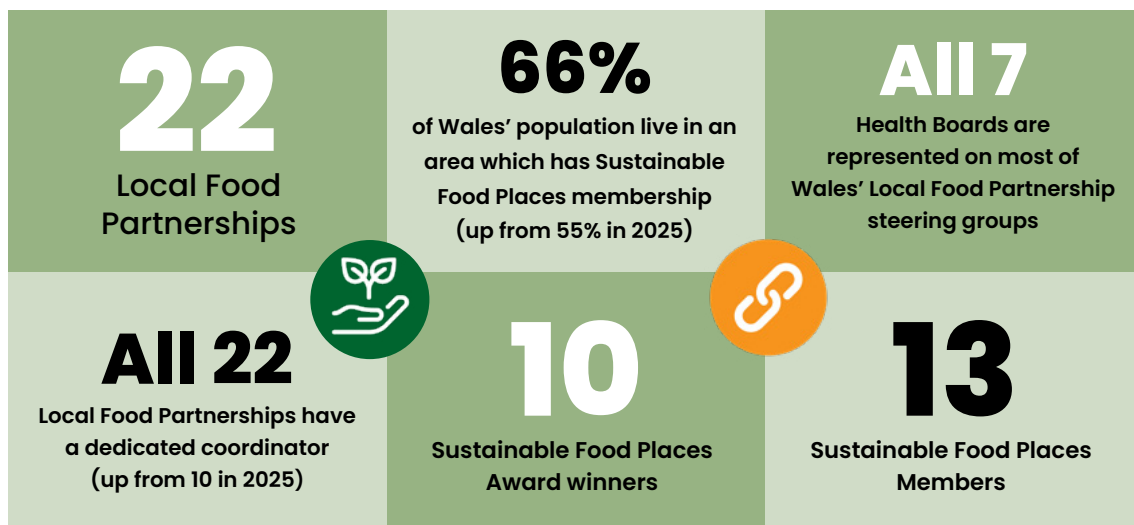
Despite this progress, challenges still remain. Office for National Statistics [data](#) shows that 95% of adults in Great Britain reported an increase in the price of their food shopping in November 2025, and that low-income households are most affected by increasing food prices. With global instability set to continue due to geopolitical conflict, climate change and other shocks, investment in rebuilding local and regional food supplies is critical to ensuring affordable food for all.

Over the course of 2025-26, the Local Food Partnerships have been working hard in their communities, aiming to ensure there is good food for everyone, forever. This vision for 'good food for everyone, forever', came up frequently during a two-day intensive leadership workshop for Local Food Partnership coordinators in February 2026, as did the concept of 'delicious resilience'. This workshop demonstrated this unique movement that exists in Wales and the importance of building on this momentum over the coming years. We're excited to see how this continues in 2026 - 2027.

Pearl Costello

Sustainable Food Places Manager
Food Sense Wales

Local Food Partnerships at a glance



In Wales, there are 22 [Local Food Partnerships](#), one in each local authority area, promoting innovation and best practice in healthy and sustainable food systems.

[Local Food Partnerships](#) bring together partners from a range of different sectors to help tackle social, economic and environmental issues, working together to ensure good food for everyone, forever. Partnerships include public bodies such as Health Boards and Local Authorities as well as citizens, voluntary organisations, charities, food businesses, retailers, wholesalers, growers and farmers.

Each Local Food Partnership's vision and work is tailored to its local area, and responds to its specific needs. But collectively, the Local Food Partnerships are a social movement happening across Wales, working to create a food system which has **delicious resilience** – combining the joyfulness, pleasure and fun that food brings with food security, equity and fairness.



Delicious adjective

1. appealing to one of the bodily senses especially of taste or smell
2. affording great pleasure

Resilience noun

1. the capacity to **withstand** or to recover quickly from difficulties; **toughness**.
2. the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.

Local Food Partnerships at a glance: March 2026

[Click here to access an interactive map of the Local Food Partnerships](#)



MEMBER



BRONZE



SILVER



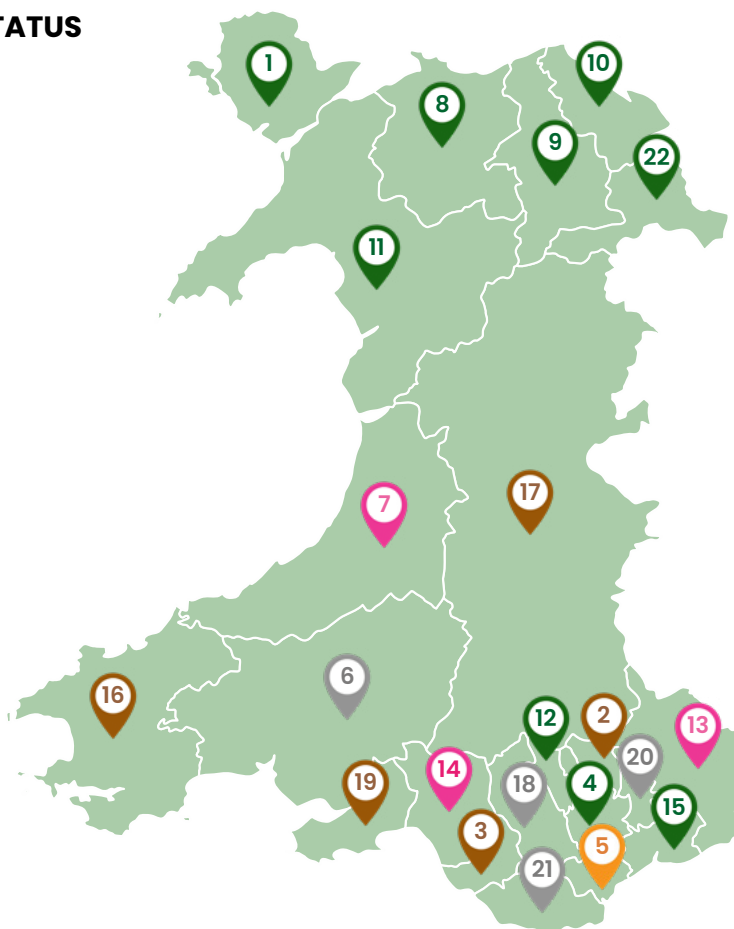
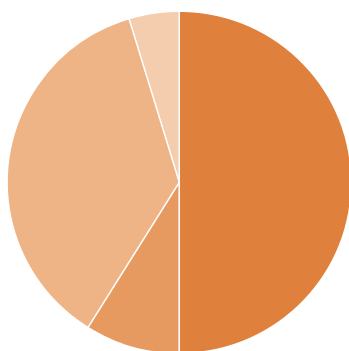
GOLD



NEITHER

AREA / MEMBERSHIP STATUS

1. Anglesey
2. Blaenau Gwent
3. Bridgend
4. Caerphilly
5. Cardiff
6. Carmarthenshire
7. Ceredigion
8. Conwy
9. Denbighshire
10. Flintshire
11. Gwynedd
12. Merthyr Tydfil
13. Monmouthshire
14. Neath Port Talbot
15. Newport
16. Pembrokeshire
17. Powys
18. RCT
19. Swansea
20. Torfaen
21. Vale of Glamorgan
22. Wrexham



HOST ORGANISATION TYPE

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 11 | Public Sector, Council |
| 2 | Public Sector, Health |
| 8 | 3rd Sector/Social Enterprise |
| 1 | Housing Association |

Local Food Partnerships at a glance

Sustainable Food Places

Cross-sector food partnerships were first pioneered by Sustainable Food Places, a partnership programme led by the Soil Association, Food Matters, Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming, Food Sense Wales, and Nourish Scotland. Food Sense Wales is Sustainable Food Place's national partner in Wales and supports Wales' 13 current members.

In order to become a Sustainable Food Place member Local Food Partnerships need to demonstrate they have a cross-sector food partnership that is collaboratively developing and delivering a local food plan or strategy. Following the Sustainable Food Places framework or becoming a member is not requirement for Local Food Partnerships, but many places value being part of this successful UK network.

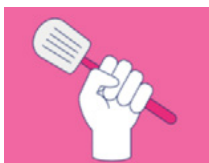


THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLACES FRAMEWORK



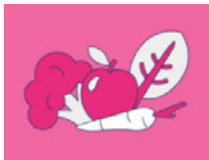
1. Food Governance and Strategy:

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



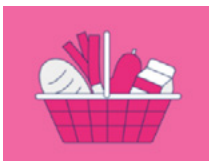
2. Good Food Movement:

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



3. Healthy Food for All:

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



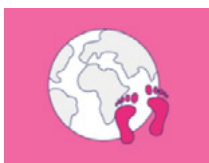
4. Sustainable Food Economy:

Creating a vibrant, prosperous, and diverse sustainable food economy



5. Catering and Procurement:

Transforming catering and procurement and revitalising local supply chains



6. Food for the Planet:

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

Local Food Partnerships at a glance

Sustainable Food Places members can also apply for Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Wales is proud to have Bronze, Silver, and Gold award-winning Sustainable Food Places food partnerships – a testament to the hard work and collaboration happening across the country.

Nine of the following places (denoted with a *) were awarded Membership or Awards in 2025, and their achievements were celebrated at the [Sustainable Food Places Awards](#) during the 2025 Wales Real Food and Farming Conference.



Cardiff
Gold



Carmarthenshire
Silver



RCT
Silver



Vale of Glamorgan
Silver



Torfaen
Silver



Blaenau Gwent
Bronze



Bridgend
Bronze



Pembrokeshire
Bronze



Powys
Bronze



Swansea
Bronze



Ceredigion
Member



Neath Port Talbot
Member



Monmouthshire
Member

Read more about the 2025 Awards [here](#)



The role of Food Sense Wales

Food Sense Wales is dedicated to building strong and interconnected local food systems that enhance economic, environmental, and social prosperity across Wales. We promote collaboration and inclusivity, with Local Food Partnerships playing an integral role in instigating significant, positive transformation in communities across Wales, from Anglesey to Monmouthshire.

Food Sense Wales is a partner of the Sustainable Food Places programme and works with the Welsh Government and other stakeholders to support the development of food partnerships in Wales. We support and nurture the food partnerships; bringing them together, providing leadership as well as opportunities for collaboration.

Food Sense Wales' activities to support Local Food Partnerships in 2025–26 have included:

1. Continuing to develop a Community of Practice for Local Food Partnership co-ordinators. This is a monthly online meeting for Local Food Partnership co-ordinators to come together, share learning, problem solve and collaborate.

"The community of practice that Food Sense Wales has developed with Food Partnership Coordinators across Wales is one of the most inspirational and nurturing peer support groups I have encountered in my many years of community work. It allows us to share best practice and troubleshoot challenges on the ground in our own areas, while still feeding upwards to inform regional work and national policies. It's an extraordinary group of people, and provides so much hope in difficult times." Local Food Partnership Co-ordinator

2. Providing direct support to Local Food Partnerships, including attending Food Summits, facilitating steering group workshops and offering mentoring.

"Food Sense Wales' guidance and support has been essential at times when I've worried that our partnership wasn't progressing as quickly as it should, and they've helped me to stay focussed, confident and connected." Local Food Partnership Co-ordinator

3. Working with Welsh Government to co-produce and deliver £2 million funding for Local Food Partnerships in 2025–26, and securing longer term funding, as part of the Child Poverty Strategy and Community Food Strategy. The funding enables partnerships to develop infrastructure, create new local supply chains and continue to tackle household food insecurity. (See Appendix 1 for the full list of grants).

"The funding allows investment and a local directed response individual to each locality, and I firmly believe that Wales would be in a far worse position within the food sector had it not been for the intervention of Food Sense Wales, Welsh Government and other Public Service Boards working together."

Local Food Partnership Co-ordinator

4. Co-producing **guidance** with the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales for local authorities on how they can work with Local Food Partnerships to improve local food systems.

“Food Sense Wales have liaised with key national partners such as the Future Generations Office to emphasise how food is a key challenge for us in Wales and develop guidance to help local authorities identify key opportunities to influence their local food systems.” Local Food Partnership Co-ordinator

5. Connecting Local Food Partnerships with other programmes of work, such as the **Welsh Veg in Schools** scheme, and with national policy development.

“Through schemes such as Welsh Veg In Schools, Food Sense Wales have also started to put in the necessary infrastructure and operational processes to support more local supply chains and produce going into school meals.” Local Food Partnership Co-ordinator

6. Championing the work of Local Food Partnerships, for example by collaborating with the Wales Real Food and Farming Conference on the theme Communities, Food and Farming: Working Together.

“Food Sense Wales leads and strategically champions the sustainable food systems change in Wales, which in turn enables real impacts at local level via the respective Local Food Partnerships” Local Food Partnership Co-ordinator

7. Continuing to foster peer-support among Local Food Partnerships and supporting the co-creation of a collective vision for Local Food Partnerships as a social movement.

“Food Sense Wales is the central and essential link between all of the Local Food Partnerships in Wales. Food Sense Wales and associated programmes of work enable regional and national impacts, and the Local Food Partnership collective to make tangible steps towards securing the great potential sustainable food offers the people of Wales; via positive health, local economy, and environmental resilience outcomes”

Local Food Partnership Co-ordinator





Bringing Wales' Local Food Partnerships together

In February 2026, Food Sense Wales brought together Wales' Local Food Partnership co-ordinators for a 2.5 day residential workshop near Aberaeron. The aims of the workshop were to reflect on the Wales Local Food Partnership community journey to date; to begin building a collective vision for the future of Local Food Partnership movement in Wales; and to provide an opportunity for peer-to-peer learning and exchange between the co-ordinators and Food Sense Wales staff to support wellbeing and food system work.

Representatives from twenty of the twenty-two Local Food Partnerships were in attendance (although all did want to attend), and during the residential, the co-ordinators took part in activities that explored mindfulness; creativity; leadership; social movements; reflection; identifying areas for co-operative working; food heritage; language, and culture.

At the end of the workshop, all Local Food Partnerships agreed that they'd like to work towards delivering a vision of "Delicious resilience: Good food for everyone for ever". Together, participants co-created a proposed model for organising the Local Food Partnership movement in Wales, and co-ordinators committed to shaping and strengthening this model in the months ahead.

All food partnership co-ordinators reflected on how valuable the workshop had been and supported the idea of an annual/biannual workshop.

"I really appreciated the space and time provided to be there. I enjoyed the opportunity to get my head up from my workload and explore some thoughts, topics and discourse on my favourite subject. The whole thing was full of empathy and I felt valued."

Local Food Partnership Co-ordinator

"Hearing from other coordinators really helped me feel part of a bigger movement of action and inspired me with ideas to help tackle tricky issues in our partnership."

Local Food Partnership Co-ordinator

"Being able to meet and share ideas with people who have both shared job visions but also values is invaluable." *Local Food Partnership Co-ordinator*

The Local Food Partnership funding schemes

In 2025/26, all twenty-two Local Food Partnerships in Wales were awarded funding through the Welsh Government's [Community Food Strategy](#) and [Child Poverty Strategy](#) enabling them to build capacity and deliver a range of tailored food projects responding directly to the needs of their communities.

Since June 2022, the Welsh Government – specifically, with the support of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice – has committed to funding cross-sector food partnerships in Wales as part of a series of intervention packages to help alleviate poverty. This year, the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, along with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, collaborated to support the Local Food Partnerships. The Ministries and their respective teams developed a joint set of objectives and indicators, bringing together the ambitions of both portfolios, including creating community food resilience and tackling food poverty, and increasing the supply and diversity of local food.

This reinforced the Welsh Government's commitment to supporting all twenty-two Local Food Partnerships until March 2028, helping to strengthen local networks and drive forward community-led solutions.

The funding schemes included a continuation of the scheme to build resilience in local food networks through the coordination of on the ground, food-related activity and helping to tackle the root-causes of food poverty. It also included a new scheme to enable partnerships to develop infrastructure, create new local supply opportunities and support growers entering horticulture. This funding was allocated to twenty-two smaller scale projects enabling them to deliver innovative practice in local authority areas across Wales. Two larger scale collaborative projects involving multiple Local Food Partnerships were also funded.

Case studies

As well as showing a snapshot of current status, this report also delves into more detail through five inspiring case studies, illustrating the two regional collaborative projects as well as providing a focus on the work happening in the Local Food Partnerships in Denbighshire, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Pembrokeshire. Appendix 1 contains the full list of Local Food Partnership Small and Collaborative grants awarded.

Each of the written case studies is complemented by a short film produced by Will Barker and images taken by Matthew Horwood and Dafydd Owen.



Click on the arrows to watch the films



CASE STUDY:

The RCT Food Partnership: Connecting communities through good food



The RCT Food Partnership is a network of organisations, community groups, food businesses and public bodies united by a shared vision: to ensure that everyone in Rhondda Cynon Taf can access healthy, affordable food that's good for people and the planet. The partnership is hosted within Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Recently awarded a Silver Sustainable Food Places Award, the partnership has grown into a dynamic, county-wide movement that links local organisations, shares best practice, signposts funding opportunities and supports community-led action. Its quarterly network meetings and specialist Growers and Pantry subgroups bring people together around common challenges and shared ambitions.

A collaborative approach

Partnership Co-ordinator Rhiannon Edwards describes the network as “a group of organisations, individuals, businesses and public services brought together to make RCT the most sustainable place it can be when it comes to food. There's lots of different people and organisations involved... doing amazing things all across the county.”

This collaborative ethos runs through every project the partnership supports. Rather than imposing solutions, it strengthens what already exists, enabling communities to design the changes they want to see.



CASE STUDY: THE RCT FOOD PARTNERSHIP: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH GOOD FOOD



Cynon Valley Organic Adventures: Growing skills, confidence and community

Cynon Valley Organic Adventures works with young people who don't always thrive in school. Through long-term placements, they gain experience, develop confidence and develop valuable transferable skills. But the impact goes far beyond employability.

Janis Werrett, who helps run the project, explains: "We bring in young people who don't fit into mainstream education. They learn how to grow food, gain qualifications, and we support them onto next steps."

One young participant, Emily, describes the impact: "It's a lot of fun here because it's just peaceful and it helps you a lot. It really helps people get out and have reason to get out of bed in the morning"

The project not only develops employability and confidence, but also grows food for the wider community, increasing access to affordable food, whilst strengthening local cohesion and resilience.

"We do have a massive community engagement level....it's very much the centre of the community. But we found that certain cultures were reluctant to engage. So what we've done this year, we've been working on a multicultural polytunnel where we are encouraging people of different cultures to come in to share recipes with us, to cook with us and teach us the type of foods that they would cook. We're growing food from all over the world too."

Janis adds, "The food partnership for us....it's brought us all together. We all do similar things, but where we all come together on a regular basis and those meetings give us the opportunity to share knowledge, to share resources."

Down to Zero: Fresh local produce on the doorstep

Based in Mwyndy Cross near Talbot Green, Down to Zero is a community benefit society and social enterprise. A subsidiary of a Community Housing group, it helps tenants, staff and the wider community improve their access to local, healthy, seasonal food and offers volunteering opportunities; skills and knowledge development, as well as a veg box scheme.

"While a big part of what we do here is to help plug that skill gap and give people green growing skills, the other part is that we want it to be a part of the solution in providing that produce as well," says Holly Cookston-Williams, the Food and Nature lead at Down to Zero.



CASE STUDY: THE RCT FOOD PARTNERSHIP: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH GOOD FOOD



"We've got two agricultural sites, one in Pontyclun and the other in Mountain Ash and we also run a vegetable subscription service called the Llysh Bocs," continues Holly.

The Llysh Bocs scheme is coordinated by Kevin Edwards, who grows, packs and delivers veg boxes in an electric van across RCT. "I like working

outdoors. I like growing. I like to see the veg being produced — the Llysh Box is my little thing. I'm really passionate about it."

Talking of being a part of the food partnership, Holly adds: "It's about working with other people that are really inspiring and we're working towards the same cause. I think individually sometimes we know very little, but collectively we actually know quite a lot... we can work collectively to find a solution."

The Treherbert Initiative: Food access shaped by local voices

In Treherbert, the partnership played a key role in developing a community-led response to food accessing challenges. Conversations with residents revealed limited availability of fresh produce and the difficulty of accessing affordable fruit and veg.

Rachel Reed, a Health Practitioner at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board is involved in the initiative and explains how the project came about: "The local medical practice wanted to look at Treherbert to try to find out what they could do to enhance health and wellbeing in the area. As we know, there are high rates of chronic disease, obesity, hypertension – and they really wanted to do something for the area. So we started by talking to people in the community, including local organisations, schools, groups and so on, asking them what would help them live long and healthy lives."

Rachel continues by stating how important the Local Food Partnership is in the success of this work. "The food partnership is vital.....without it, we wouldn't be able to offer the low-cost fruit, vegetables to the residents here....it's really paramount. It's an enabler."

The main ask from all the residents was better access to good quality, affordable food so the Local Public Health Team, alongside the food partnership and Grow Rhondda, decided to set up a fresh fruit and veg market in Grow Rhondda's cafe in Treherbert.



CASE STUDY: THE RCT FOOD PARTNERSHIP: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH GOOD FOOD

David Harris from Grow Rhondda describes its impact: “It gets really busy. The community are invited in, and they can access fresh fruit and vegetables at a cost-effective price. People have to travel out of the area for fresh food... so we bring it directly into the community – nothing costs more than £1.50.”

The aim is simple: to reduce health inequalities by making good food both accessible and affordable.



Claire Turbutt, the Systems Lead for Healthy Weight at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board emphasises the community-led approach: “What’s different is that this is a response to what the community has told us. It’s not top-down. We take the food to where people are, designing around what we hear. What we’re trying to do is look



at the root causes of the issues that we see in our communities.....people have told us, that they find it very difficult to access fruit and vegetables so we’re trying to tackle that underlying cause.”

Claire continues by acknowledging the enthusiasm of the food partnerships that she works with across South Wales. “The partnerships are full of people that really want to make this a better place to live, and make it easier for our population to raise their children

to be healthy weights and live healthy lifestyles, and have those long, fun successful lives. Through the food partnerships, we have the opportunity to do more for the next generation – to create an environment where people will grow up and be happy and healthy.”

Coming together around food

Through community-led design, inclusive growing projects, and accessible food initiatives, the partnership is building a more resilient, equitable, and connected sustainable food system rooted in people and place.

“The work in Treherbert, Mwyndy Cross, and Abercynon are all pockets of greatness,” adds RCT’s Food Partnership Co-ordinator, Rhiannon Edwards. “The exciting yet challenging next step is getting everyone to continue to work together to change the food environment, to ensure that everyone can access the food they want. It’s about building on what communities across RCT want from the food partnership and creating a sense of belonging. Food is the best way to bring people together....there’s nothing better than talking about food.”



CASE STUDY:

Joining the dots: How the Pembrokeshire Food Partnership is helping to build a thriving local food system



The Pembrokeshire Local Food Partnership (PLFP) brings people, producers, and organisations together to strengthen the local food system. Hosted within Planed, its aim is to make good food accessible and affordable, and celebrates food across the county, supporting communities, encouraging local growers, and fostering a thriving food culture.

By connecting ideas, projects and people, the partnership is helping to build a more sustainable and thriving food environment for the whole county.

Connecting food and community across Pembrokeshire

For Sue Latham, the Co-ordinator of the Pembrokeshire Local Food Partnership, the work is rooted in collaboration. As she explains, "it's a complete overview of food across the county - from community organisations to commercial producers to groups, as well as individuals who have an interest in food. It's about joining the dots between food across the county to make it more sustainable and to create a thriving food environment for everybody."

Sue's role enables individuals and groups who might otherwise be working in isolation to connect, collaborate and share knowledge in ways that strengthen the county's food resilience.



CASE STUDY: JOINING THE DOTS: HOW THE PEMBROKESHIRE FOOD PARTNERSHIP IS BUILDING A THRIVING LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

Growing food, tackling food poverty and building stronger communities

In Narberth, a growing project at Cilrath Acres is contributing fresh produce directly to the town's food bank while building meaningful connections amongst its volunteers. As Dina from the project explains, "We've got about 65 growing beds and a polytunnel where we're growing lots of winter salads and spring onions. Outside, we've got, a small orchard and beds full of potatoes and brassicas. We're always looking for something new to try.... experimenting whilst also growing lots of delicious food."

Volunteer Co-ordinator Karen highlights the importance of community engagement. "We've got about 25 regular volunteers they get involved in all aspects of the growing here." She also describes how the project links into the wider Pembrokeshire food network. "We hosted a growers' gathering with the food partnership in 2023 and that brought together the community gardens from across the county. There's now a growing network that runs beneath the Local Food Partnership and we host some of their meetings. Some of the other community gardens come to our workshops to learn some new skills.....I think there's strength in numbers and a lot of knowledge that can be shared by people from their experience."



PATCH Milford Haven: A food bank and a community hub

During a visit to PATCH in Milford Haven, Manager Dave Golding shared insight into the organisation's work and the realities of working in a food support role in Pembrokeshire. "We are a food bank, predominantly, but it's more of a community thing for me. We're based in Milford Haven and a lot of people know us. We are in the community. For the community. A lot of people come in and see it as a safe space and downstairs, in our charity shop, we've got a community fridge that's open to anybody, any member of the public."



Dave goes on to describe how the partnership has directly supported PATCH's work. "I say this all the time to people in the food sector in Pembrokeshire....the food partnership is amazing! With their help, we started a veg box scheme and they also helped us get a community fridge. The best thing is their knowledge.....the sharing of knowledge, sharing of resources, and I think it's about the people as well, being passionate about what they do."

CASE STUDY: JOINING THE DOTS: HOW THE PEMBROKESHIRE FOOD PARTNERSHIP IS BUILDING A THRIVING LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

Eco Dewi and the Peninsula Food Hub: Connecting people with local producers

Eco Dewi is a community-focused social enterprise in St Davids that has benefited from the support and connectivity offered by the Local Food Partnership in Pembrokeshire. Explaining the origins of their Peninsula Food Hub, Jeremy from Eco Dewi says: "It's all about connecting local people with local food producers. Making sure that people are aware that there is amazing local food being produced here, and being able to connect the two together to help the local producers with the sales. We're a not for profit that focuses on community and environmental projects and it's really all about local people fixing local issues that benefit the local environment."

He continues by saying, "We've got 40 local producers in total and Car y Môr are one of these amazing producers. They're based in St Davids itself so they're one of our most local producers. Our customers are really, really supportive. They love the fact that most produce is within fifteen miles and there's a real appetite for supporting local businesses, building up a bit of food resilience in the area."

Meg from Car y Môr, Wales' first seaweed farm says, "I think it's really important for people to eat food that's produced locally in their area. Being part of the Peninsula Food Hub has been an absolute dream because they've brought us all together, and it means that it's one less thing for us to do because it runs itself and it lists your products; people will come online and buy those products. It just aids our visibility locally and it's just a really lovely way for everyone to understand who's producing food in the area, and for the producers to have a platform."



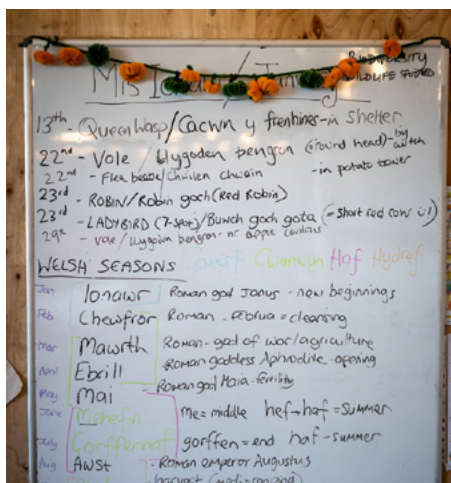
CASE STUDY: JOINING THE DOTS: HOW THE PEMBROKESHIRE FOOD PARTNERSHIP IS BUILDING A THRIVING LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

Jeremy reflects on the support Eco Dewi has received from the partnership: “The Local Food Partnership has been brilliant supporting us as an organisation. I think it’s great to collaborate with more people doing similar things.....to know there are others going through similar problems, similar struggles, because it’s not easy. Having an overarching organisation to connect us all together, to share ideas, and share a bit of funding, definitely helps.”

A stronger, more connected Pembrokeshire

Across the county, the Pembrokeshire Local Food Partnership is supporting ambitious projects, nurturing local food production and fostering greater community resilience. By supporting community fridges, connecting growing projects, strengthening local production or helping residents access affordable local food, the partnership is proving the value of collaboration.

By “joining the dots,” the partnership is helping Pembrokeshire build a local food system defined by shared passion, practical support and a commitment to ensure good food for all.





CASE STUDY:

COGOG: Supporting and strengthening community food action across Denbighshire



COGOG is Denbighshire's local multi-agency food partnership that is made up of community groups to reduce food waste, tackle food poverty, and develop sustainable food initiatives across the county. Since its launch, the partnership – which is hosted within Denbighshire County Council – has supported its members with practical guidance, collaboration, and funding to help deliver community-led food projects.

Building a connected network of community food initiatives

COGOG is the name used to define the Local Food Partnership in Denbighshire. As COGOG's Co-ordinator, Nikki Jones explains, "COGOG brings together all of the community food initiatives we have across Denbighshire. Those initiatives offer everything from food crisis provision, food banks and free food tables, right through to allotments, growing spaces and community cafés."

With strong community roots and a network that spans the whole of Denbighshire's large and diverse landscape, this collaborative initiative is helping to support and build confidence and capacity throughout the county.



CASE STUDY: COGOG: SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY FOOD ACTION ACROSS DENBIGHSHIRE

Tŷ Gwyrdd, Denbigh: 'More than a shop'

One of the businesses supported by COGOG is Y Tŷ Gwyrdd in Denbigh.

Y Tŷ Gwyrdd offers an inclusive and welcoming space for the local community, to celebrate and promote the inspiring people and enterprises in Denbigh, and the surrounding area. It helps reduce the community's impact on the environment by offering affordable and accessible zero-waste options and opportunities to facilitate a circular economy.

"It's definitely more than a shop," explains Margi Pearce, the Manager at Y Tŷ Gwyrdd. "It's become a place where people come in, put the world to rights, and share how they're feeling. We celebrate local work and meet amazing people – staff, volunteers and customers. That's what keeps you going."

Margi goes on to describe the impact of being part of the network and how it's helped her in her work. "Through COGOG, we now have a contact that we can speak to, to ask for advice, so it's been invaluable in that sense. Being part of COGOG gives you confidence in what you're doing. Sometimes you can feel overwhelmed and isolated, so having a wider network makes you feel stronger and that's key to making things happen."

Margi has now moved up from the steering group and is looking forward to contributing to setting the food partnership's strategic direction. "I've been asked to sit on the strategic group so that's going to be a different kind of input, a new way I can be involved which is another exciting opportunity. It's an incredible group, and to have that resource, that support for organisations like us, reminds us that we're all in a similar boat"



CASE STUDY: COGOG: SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY FOOD ACTION ACROSS DENBIGHSHIRE



Supporting food access in Rhyl

David Jones, Campaign Manager at Rhyl Food Bank, has worked closely with COGOG to improve local residents' access to fresh fruit and vegetables.

"We're based in Rhyl, the most deprived ward in Wales, so we see a lot of homeless people as well as families and pensioners. We run the food bank for emergency crisis support, and operate a Food Club too."

David goes on to describe the support they've received from COGOG. "We've worked with the food partnership for the last four years and they help us with sustainability, and we've had grants from them in the past. They're great to work with.....it's also a great way of hearing what everyone else is doing in our area – it motivates and inspires you to do more. It also makes you realise that you're not doing it alone, because it can overwhelm you sometimes. Having a partnership with other food providers and projects shows that we're in it together, and that motivates you to carry on."

Community connection in South Denbighshire

Sally Lloyd-Davies, Chief Officer of the South Denbighshire Community Partnership, highlights how the network strengthens collaboration.



"Our work is all about the community," says Sally, "We bring people together and make sure they can access services locally. We run a lunch club for older people, family sessions during the school holidays, meals on wheels, a food bank, a pantry and now a community fridge."

Having recently received funding from COGOG to deliver a cookery project, Sally describes the impact the food partnership has on their work. "The COGOG network in Denbighshire is really valuable," continues Sally.

CASE STUDY: COGOG: SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY FOOD ACTION ACROSS DENBIGHSHIRE



“We connect, share ideas, and sometimes work together. Recently, funding from COGOG has enabled us to deliver a new project offering cooking sessions for families, men-only groups, and people experiencing mental health challenges.”

A growing movement with community at its heart



COGOG's co-ordinator, Nikki Jones reflects on the growth and future of the network and highlights how the partnerships' work reflects the needs of the county's communities.

"I'm really proud of the number of community food initiatives we now have, and extremely proud of the volunteers working in their communities. By working with groups embedded in local areas, we're getting closer to residents and building on evidence of need coming directly from them."

Nikki continues: “As a network, we’re coming together to share ideas. It’s about access for all – affordable, nutritious food available to everyone. Knowing I’m representing the community voice, and that I’ve gained their trust and respect, means we can only build on that. It’s really positive.”





CASE STUDY:

Building civil food resilience across Dyfed-Powys



The Civil Food Resilience Project is an innovative collaboration bringing together the four Local Food Partnerships operating in Dyfed-Powys, led by Bwyd Powys Food, and involving Bwyd Sir Gâr Food, Bwyd Ceredigion and the Pembrokeshire Local Food Partnership. One of two large scale initiatives in Wales funded through the Welsh Government's Community Food Strategy, this project was designed to develop a regional food resilience strategy and take practical action to support communities during both everyday pressures and major shocks.

The work, led by Bwyd Powys Food, included an Innovation Lab to co-design solutions; research into vulnerabilities; mapping of critical infrastructure; investment in shared facilities; and the convening of a regional Food Security Summit where findings were shared with stakeholders.

Defining food resilience

From the outset, the project team recognised the need for a shared understanding of food resilience. As Chloe Masefield from Bwyd Powys Food explains: "This was one of the first things that the project had to try and define, because there are so many different ways of understanding it - and for us - we're using the definition where everybody has access to food, no matter what the conditions are."



CASE STUDY: BUILDING CIVIL FOOD RESILIENCE ACROSS DYFED-POWYS



However, defining the concept was only the first challenge. Gathering the data needed to assess resilience proved more challenging. As Chloe notes, "one of the big issues we're facing is the lack of information. We've commissioned Miller Research, but it's actually very difficult to find baseline data. Deciding what level of resilience we currently have and how that might react to different shocks is really challenging."

Collaboration across the region

A major strength of the project is the collaborative model working across all four counties in the Dyfed-Powys Local Resilience Forum area. Augusta Lewis from Bwyd Sir Gâr Food describes the partnership as groundbreaking. "This is a really exciting collaboration between the four counties. We think this is a really trailblazing project in which we can look at connectivity across the counties to create civil food resilience."

Augusta goes on to highlight the shared rural characteristics and the need for local responsiveness. "Dyfed-Powys is made up of largely rural, large counties so we have some similarities across the area... but also our own unique place-based perspectives. As county-based food partnerships we can be responsive to what's actually happening locally as well as the wider collaboration that can create something larger."



"We're also really lucky in Wales that we have the Well-Being of Future Generations Act which has created Public Service Boards, which bring together public services to be more than the sum of their parts, and work collaboratively," continues Augusta. "The Local Food Partnerships then add value to that by bringing together citizens, and community level action and activity, and also private sector action and activity. We're bringing together, farmers and food producers;

logistics and distribution providers; health boards; councils, and associations of voluntary services. So we're really looking at that very holistic approach and how we can use food as a cross-cutting theme, to enhance wellbeing and security of businesses – from the macro factors such as potential disruptions to global food supply chains from geopolitical shifts, and changes in allegiances; to failed harvests from climate change; to political activity like Brexit; pandemics and a whole host of other potential vulnerabilities in those long supply chains; as well as global responsibility and fair access to food in other developing countries."

Rural challenges in Ceredigion

Ceredigion faces very specific challenges linked to its remote geography and food economy. Ann Owen of Bwyd Ceredigion explains the paradox of being a rural, agricultural county where residents still struggle to access fresh food. "Rural people find it often quite hard to get fresh food. Even though it is a rural county and there's lots of agricultural produce, it's mainly cattle and sheep so we're encouraging farmers and growers to diversify into horticulture."

Ceredigion's position at "the end of the supply line" makes resilience an urgent concern. "If the trucks stopped rolling, if the trains stopped rolling – fuel shortages, strikes, weather, pandemics – we're the first to feel it. We often find empty shelves in supermarkets. We've put our faith in big retailers, but there's not much diversity in how food gets to people."

For Ann, the project's broad benefits are clear. "It's a win-win. While addressing food security and resilience, we're also looking at equitable access to healthy food, community cohesion, local economy revitalisation. It delivers on multiple strategic objectives at once."



CASE STUDY: BUILDING CIVIL FOOD RESILIENCE ACROSS DYFED-POWYS



Preparedness in Pembrokeshire

For Sue Latham from Pembrokeshire Local Food Partnership, the project offers reassurance for residents. “I’m excited about the research. We’ll have good, solid data so we know what we’ve got to work with. It means we can be more prepared in the future for shocks and interrupted food supply.”

Emphasising the importance of public confidence, Sue adds: “Residents need comfort and confidence that work is being done to make sure they won’t have an interrupted supply of food – that food will always be available to the best of our ability.”

Research and evidence

Tom Bajjada from Miller Research has been leading on the project’s research element and describes this as central to shaping a future resilience strategy. “The whole point of this work is to inform a food resilience strategy for the Dyfed-Powys region. The first area that we’ve been looking at is assessing the current state of food resilience – breaking it down into supply, demand, governance, community – and looking at all these different elements, and asking how resilient Dyfed-Powys is at this current moment to withstand shock. That could be anything from cyberattacks or the impacts of climate change.”

“We know from a supply side that there are vulnerabilities in terms of how much fruit and veg we import, and how much we produce, and the diversity of supply. From a



demand side, we know, the availability of nutritious food is a challenge. I think what this research project does is really highlight what those key challenges are, what are the key vulnerabilities and what the next steps should be to address that at all levels.”

Even though this work is based on the Dyfed-Powys region, Tom believes the findings could have national relevance. “Afterwards, it can be adopted

CASE STUDY: BUILDING CIVIL FOOD RESILIENCE ACROSS DYFED-POWYS

potentially in other regions in Wales. It's quite a far-reaching study.... there's so many different stakeholders in the food system so getting lots of different perspectives and viewpoints together to compare notes and to share knowledge is quite a rare thing. It's definitely an opportunity to take things more widely in terms of a potential model that can be adopted elsewhere in Wales."



Co-Designing solutions: The Innovation Lab

The project's Innovation Lab, facilitated by the Centre for Alternative Technology, has played a vital role in bringing people together. Rachel Tuckett, who leads the Lab, describes the importance of working "across boundaries to get the people who are actually in the system to contribute insights to the data."

Highlighting the breadth of participation, Rachel adds, "the people that we've got participating have come from right across the food system in Dyfed Powys, and that's everybody from primary producers, growers – people who have got their hands in the soil, people who are taking time out of difficult livelihoods to come and give the their voice to this project – all the way through to people in logistics, to people who are working with food skills, food education. We've got representation from Welsh Government here. We've got the Future Generation Commissioner's office involved. So we're trying to get a really holistic picture of what's going on in the food system in one place, and we're trying to make sure we're bringing in voices wouldn't always be thought of in relation to the food conversation."

In terms of resilience, Rachel stresses the need to think about a range of different scenarios that could affect how we access food. "We need to have thought about what are the risks coming down the track. How might that interact and create what we call cascading impact. Have we got the contingency plans? The backup plans? The



CASE STUDY: BUILDING CIVIL FOOD RESILIENCE ACROSS DYFED-POWYS

community networks? The communication between different levels in the system to be able to respond effectively and keep feeding everybody well in a crisis?”

She sees the work as vital and democratic. “The value of this work is that people from right across the system are participating, are having their voice heard and are taking an active democratic role in the decisions that actually affect them.”



Voices from the Farm

Farmers are absolutely central to food resilience, and Sophia Morgan, a dairy farmer from Ceredigion, was pleased to be able to share her perspective. “Food resilience for me means being able to continue to look after the landscape and my animals,” says Sophie. “It means continuing to produce food for the people who live nearby, as part of a system that enhances rather than degrades.”

Explaining the very real pressures that farmers face, she adds: “Year on year we are affected by rolling droughts. Hay making is becoming harder. Grain prices fluctuate.”

Sophie really values the project’s commitment to supporting producers directly, adding: “The thing that I find exciting about this particular project is that the people that I’ve worked with are really passionate about transferring some of that funding wealth directly to farmers and money into the hands of people who are really producing food.”

Shaping resilience

The Civil Food Resilience Project is not just identifying vulnerabilities — it is nurturing collaboration, strengthening local supply chains, empowering communities and creating a model that could help shape food resilience across Wales. Above all, it’s amplifying the voices of those who grow, distribute, prepare and rely on food every day, ensuring they are central to shaping the region’s future.





Case Study: **Growing the horticulture sector in North Wales through collaboration**



Four Local Food Partnerships in North Wales – Ynys Môn, Gwynedd, Conwy and Denbighshire (COGOG) – have joined forces to develop a co-ordinated approach to grow the horticulture sector across the region.

At the heart of this initiative is the creation of a machinery ring accessible to small growers and farmers across North Wales. By providing access to specialist equipment that is often costly or difficult for individual growers to obtain, the machinery ring will enable farmers to trial and use new technologies that could help them diversify, increase production, and access new markets – including public procurement.

This project is one of two large-scale initiatives in Wales funded through the Welsh Government's Community Food Strategy, designed to deliver community-responsive food projects that address local needs.

Building a collaborative foundation

The project is led by David Wylie, Food Manager at Menter Môn, who oversees the work of the Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Food Partnerships. "Working collaboratively with Local Food Partnerships across North Wales has been vital in developing this approach," says David. "Input from local authorities



CASE STUDY: GROWING THE HORTICULTURE SECTOR IN NORTH WALES THROUGH COLLABORATION



and food partnership co-ordinators has helped shape a project that genuinely targets growers across the region. Each partnership has a co-ordinator engaging directly with farmers and growers to identify equipment they may not otherwise be able to afford or access. The vision is that the machinery ring will purchase those items and make them accessible to all.”

Early discussions focused on how to help growers scale up production to meet local demand, and while long-term ambitions include investing in chillers and cold-storage infrastructure, David notes that the region must first increase the volume of produce grown locally.

“We had to take a step back and ask: how do we support growers to scale up? The machinery ring is a crucial starting point.”

He adds that local authorities are increasingly keen to source more Welsh fruit and vegetables for their menus, offering growers and farmers greater market opportunities. By integrating this work with policies such as Universal Primary Free School Meals, there also are social benefits, such as tackling issues around child poverty and diet-related health inequalities.

Supporting growers to expand and diversify

Horticulture Consultant Debbie Hadley has been working closely with the food partnerships to shape the machinery ring and engage growers across the region.



“My role is to bring growers together – to find new growers and support them to reach a point where they can contribute and supply into public procurement,” says Debbie. “That might mean training, help with organic conversion, or support to meet supplier standards. Working with Lantra, we aim to prepare growers for new opportunities, and the machinery ring will then help them access new markets or diversify into horticulture.”

CASE STUDY: GROWING THE HORTICULTURE SECTOR IN NORTH WALES THROUGH COLLABORATION



Debbie notes that horticulture in North Wales is made up of predominately small and medium-sized enterprises. “There aren’t many large-scale growers in the region, so the hope is that this project will help small farms grow their businesses and access new opportunities.”

Growers welcome the opportunities ahead

Two North Wales growers — Claire Crook from Tyddyn Teg and Paul Gordon-Roberts from Growing for Change CIC — are optimistic about the impact the machinery ring will have.

Tyddyn Teg

Located at the foothills of Yr Wyddfa, Tyddyn Teg is a 30-acre farm currently transitioning to organic status.

“I think the machinery ring’s an exciting development, especially for horticulture in Wales, but particularly in North Wales. I feel like as a sector, we’re very under-resourced. And having access to the machinery ring means that smaller scale growers can start to scale up. They can try out those bits of machinery that they don’t have access to otherwise. I’d really like to see a big expansion of the horticultural sector in this area, and I’d like to see more small to medium scale farms growing lots of veg that gets sold locally, even going into the supermarkets.”



CASE STUDY: GROWING THE HORTICULTURE SECTOR IN NORTH WALES THROUGH COLLABORATION



Growing for Change CIC

Based at Moelyci Farm outside Bangor, Growing for Change is an Organic Market Garden supporting people in recovery from substance misuse.

"We grow high-value crops in a small area and already supply into local restaurants, but we'd love to scale up to supply local schools and the public sector," says Paul, the head grower at Moelyci. "We would like organic, nutrient-dense food to be for everyone."

Talking about the machinery ring, Paul says, "It's a fantastic idea. We've had to buy some quite expensive equipment and have probably only used it for one, two weeks of the year. So if we could share that fairly it just makes a lot more economic sense. It means the prohibitive costs of starting to farm can be reduced massively."

Local Coordination and Community Impact

Aled Pritchard, Co-ordinator for the Gwynedd Food Partnership, sees his role as ensuring the project meets the needs of growers.

"My role is to share information about the machinery ring and ensure the project is shaped around the challenges and opportunities in Gwynedd. Growing is complex – having the chance to try something new without financial risk is invaluable. It



CASE STUDY: GROWING THE HORTICULTURE SECTOR IN NORTH WALES THROUGH COLLABORATION



encourages farmers and growers to experiment; to learn and to share knowledge with the great community of growers that we have here in Gwynedd.”

Nikki Jones from the the Denbighshire Food Partnership, COGOG, highlights the value of working together across local authority area boundaries. “We are trying to take it regionally now....something I’ve wanted to do since starting the food partnership in Denbighshire – to work across the border and the boundaries of counties. I feel the machinery ring project is going to be extremely positive for growers because it’s something that hasn’t been on offer for them in Denbighshire previously.”

Liz Gordon, Co-ordinator at Conwy Food Partnership, echoes this enthusiasm: “Our collaborative project will be really important to Conwy.....it will help us to engage with growers in the area, which we’ve not been able to do much of yet as a food partnership. It will really open up doors for our communication with those local growers, and it will be good to see some local Conwy veg getting into Conwy schools.”

A Step Toward a More Resilient Regional Food System

The North Wales Collaborative Project is laying essential groundwork for a stronger, more resilient horticultural sector. By enabling growers to access equipment, expand production and enter new markets, including public procurement, the project is helping build a food system that benefits farmers, communities and public services across the region.

It represents a clear and practical example of how local collaboration, strategic investment and community-focused innovation can reshape Wales’ food future.



Appendix

Summary of Local Food Partnership Small Grants and Collaborative Grants 2025/26

All 22 Local Food Partnerships in Wales have been awarded funding through the Welsh Government's Community Food Strategy, enabling them to deliver a range of tailored food projects that respond directly to the needs of their communities.

To date, 22 small-scale projects have been awarded grants of up to £22,500 to deliver innovative practices and build the capacity of the Local Food Partnerships in local authority areas across Wales.

In addition, two larger collaborative projects have also received funding of up to £240,000 with multiple Local Food Partnerships working together to deliver on regional priorities already identified.

Successful Local Food Partnership Small Grants 2025/26

N.B. This table outlines the proposed Small Grant projects, some of which have evolved during the year. There is a variation in the scale of the projects awarded, as some food partnerships have secured additional funding from other sources.

Local Authority Area	Project Summary
Anglesey	Strengthening the Ynys Môn Food Partnership's capacity and governance, alongside specific initiatives to support local organic growers, tackle food poverty, and deliver cross-sector events and case studies.
Blaenau Gwent	Blaenau Gwent Food Partnership is delivering a comprehensive programme to strengthen community food resilience, using a Cash First approach and framing work through Food Ladders. The programme includes a local shop voucher system to complement cooking skills courses, emergency food parcel services, and debt advice.
Bridgend	Embedding public health dietetic expertise into Bridgend's Food Partnership to support leadership, coordination, and upskilling within local food initiatives. This includes delivering Level 2 Community Food and Nutrition Skills and Get Cooking programmes, strengthening community capacity, and improving access to affordable, healthy, local food.
Caerphilly	Developing a clear vision and Food Charter to guide the future growth of the partnership, improve reach and collaboration, and expand focus across the whole food system in Caerphilly. This includes co-creation workshops, engagement events, business breakfasts, and the publication of a Food Charter forming the foundation for a future Food Strategy.

Local Authority Area	Project Summary
Cardiff	Food Cardiff will expand access to healthy, sustainable food through the Planet Card pilot and a 'pay it forward' scheme. It will connect partners through networking events and a Good Food Summit, while a digital campaign promotes local good food initiatives. A refreshed Cardiff Good Food Strategy will start to be co-produced through a city-wide survey and stakeholder consultation.
Carmarthenshire	Bwyd Sir Gâr Food is strengthening community food networks by funding a new Community Food Officer to drive inclusive engagement, peer learning, and local access to healthy, sustainable food; for example, through structured volunteering, engagement, and learning opportunities at Bremenda Isaf County Farm. The partnership is also working with Hywel Dda Health Board in focus areas across the county to foster healthy and sustainable community food initiatives.
Ceredigion	Partneriaeth Bwyd Ceredigion is running a focused project to expand edible horticulture in the region, including mapping existing and potential fruit and vegetable production, creating a working group of farmers, and organising school farm visits.
Conwy	Conwy Food Partnership is strengthening its foundations and broadening its reach by hosting community food events, forums, and summits; creating a branded engagement campaign; and engaging citizens and stakeholders through surveys and interactive activities.
Denbighshire	Strengthening Denbighshire's food system through locality-based roundtables, peer-learning microgrants, food supplier engagement, and building inclusive coordination and strategic insight for future resilience.
Flintshire	Flintshire is piloting a family-friendly meal box delivery service to support families and individuals living in temporary accommodation/supported living while tackling food insecurity by ensuring access to hot, nutritious meals.
Gwynedd	Gwynedd Food Partnership is building on insights from a recent Behaviour Change Report that informed the partnership's focus on food insecurity. The project includes delivering food-focused summer activities with local community initiatives and food suppliers, strengthening cross-sector collaboration through networking events, and supporting local growers transitioning to organic methods.
Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil is creating an up-to-date Food Poverty Strategy to increase access to affordable food, raise awareness of locally produced and sustainable options, and maximise income through uptake of food schemes. The strategy development includes a baseline assessment, public and stakeholder engagement events, and piloting quick-win projects.

Local Authority Area	Project Summary
Monmouthshire	Monmouthshire Food Partnership is strengthening governance and community connections through events that engage local residents and businesses, and by planning Monmouthshire's first Food Summit. The partnership will also deliver two markets in Monmouth to promote collaboration between producers, businesses, and the wider community.
Neath Port Talbot	Neath Port Talbot Food Partnership is delivering a suite of projects to build on current initiatives, including a recent schools and food survey, farmer and producer engagement activities, a community cooking pilot programme, and wider collaboration with public sector partners.
Newport	Newport Food Partnership is delivering a new governance structure, including the establishment of a Food Strategy Group responsible for creating an action plan and sub-groups to support delivery.
Pembrokeshire	Pembrokeshire Local Food Partnership is facilitating the formation of a Community Growers Network connecting community growers with local businesses such as greengrocers and restaurants. The network also supports training in nature-friendly growing methods.
Powys	Bwyd Powys Food is working with the Council health protection team and local growers to support families at two Flying Start settings to access local, sustainable, and healthy food. The pilot provides weekly subsidised veg boxes from local farms, free monthly cooking classes and shared meals.
Rhondda Cynon Taf	RCT Food Partnership is running a multi-stranded project to increase access to healthy, sustainable food. Activities include piloting a farmers' market in Pontyclun, hosting growing workshops and events, and conducting behavioural insight research into consumer choices.
Swansea	Bwyd Abertawe Food is continuing and expanding engagement with low-income communities, schools, and farmers. This includes seasonal cooking and growing activities, helping schools to get growing and developing relationships with well established and new generations of farmers; to explore shortening supply chains as well as maintaining or increasing food production locally.
Torfaen	Torfaen Food Partnership is delivering two complementary projects promoting healthier, more sustainable food choices for children and families. The first is an early years programme encouraging families to explore, taste, and engage with fruits and vegetables that they will find on the School menu at Primary School, this will be delivered in nursery settings. The second involves analysing school menu carbon emissions, utilising a "Good for the Planet" logo assisting pupils to make sustainable food choices. Both projects will be filmed to promote the work and goals further.

Local Authority Area	Project Summary
Vale of Glamorgan	Food Vale will support local growers to deliver 'Food & Nature' sessions in schools across the Vale, building pupils' and teachers' understanding of sustainable, local food while strengthening links between Food Vale, Vale Council, Healthy Schools, Eco Schools, the Local Nature Partnership, and local growers.
Wrexham	The Wrexham Food Partnership is becoming fully established with a coordinator to work across the local food system, creating a work plan informed by stakeholders, businesses, and residents. This includes research and mapping, stakeholder events, and planning workshops.

Successful Local Food Partnership Collaborative Grants 2025/26

Collaborative Grant 1: Regionally coordinated supply chain local vegetables in North Wales

Local Food Partnerships Involved

- Ynys Môn Food Partnership (lead)
- COGOG (Denbighshire) Food Partnership
- Conwy Food Partnership
- Gwynedd Food Partnership

Project Aim

This project aims to establish a machinery ring which will create a robust, regionally coordinated supply chain for fresh and frozen local vegetables for use across Ynys Mon, Gwynedd, Conwy & Denbighshire, through local authority school catering, care and hospitality sectors across all four local authorities.

Activities Involved

1. Investing in key capital equipment to enhance processing and harvesting capacity which will be managed as a shared resource or equipment library.
2. Explore the development of a social enterprise model to coordinate the supply chain, manage logistics, and reinvest surplus into community food initiatives.
3. Providing training and support to catering staff to manage any additional preparation time associated with fresh-frozen local produce.
4. Promoting sustainable horticultural practices among participating growers, including crop rotation, organic methods and reduced chemical impact.

Collaborative Grant 2: Delivering food resilience in the Dyfed–Powys region

Local Food Partnerships Involved

- **Bwyd Powys Food (Lead)**
- Bwyd Sir Gâr
- Partneriaeth Bwyd Ceredigion
- Pembrokeshire Local Food Partnership

Project Aim

The purpose of this project is to begin developing a pioneering comprehensive food resilience strategy for the Dyfed–Powys area while delivering activity to start to address this challenge on the ground.

Activities Involved

1. An ‘Innovation Lab’ to generate locally developed theories of change to build food system resilience to shocks. This participatory approach helps build shared understanding of the current system across diverse groups and actors, explore possible future scenarios, co-create collective visions and co-design interventions and pathways to achieve desired change.
2. A scoping study on civil food resilience in the context of short, medium, long and intermittent disruptions highlighting priority areas – including key enablers, legislative guidance, population growth patterns over 20 years, and Critical Path Analysis that highlights single points of failure, and recommendations for effective household, community and public sector level planning for resilience building under differing scenarios.
3. Critical infrastructure asset mapping based on sampling across the four counties with modelling on how this would be deployed under different scenarios.
4. Development of infrastructure including new and expanded machinery rings, development of temperature-controlled storage and conversion of a barn at a county farm to allow for aggregation of produce and health and safety compliant shared processing infrastructure.
5. A Food Security Summit to share the findings.



For further information on the Local Food Partnerships in Wales please visit

www.foodsensewales.org

For further information on the Sustainable Food Places scheme please visit

www.sustainablefoodplaces.org



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