FOOD ACROSS SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A report reviewing the local food system and identifying opportunities for making positive change

PRODUCED FOR THE SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE FOOD PARTNERSHIP

May 2025

INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT

This report has been produced for the newly formed South Gloucestershire Food Partnership, in response to the need for a better understanding of what is happening locally around food, and what could be better.

The report will support the Partnership to identify opportunities for improvements, plan future actions, improve collaborative working and make things better for people living and working in South Gloucestershire.

The report aims to:

- Improve knowledge and understanding of what is happening in South Gloucestershire in relation to food provision and consumption (including resident's experiences and ideas)
- Raise the profile of the importance of good food, for financial security, health and wellbeing, and climate and nature
- Inspire local action by identifying opportunities for change, alongside suggestions and examples of good practice from around the UK

Information for this report was gathered and prepared between November 2024 and March 2025. It includes specific information requested by the Food Partnership and therefore does not cover the entire food system in detail.

The words below are used throughout this report. Each box explains what they mean.

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE FOOD PARTNERSHIP

This is a group of local organisations and people who have come together to talk about how food could be better locally. They meet regularly and plan to create a joint action plan.

The Partnership is open to anybody with an interest in local food.

FOOD SYSTEM

This is everything that links to food, from growing or making food, to eating it or throwing it away.

INEQUALITIES

These are unequal opportunities and outcomes. They are fundamentally unfair and impact quality of life and life chances.

CONTENTS PAGE

Kingswood fruit and veg

Thornbury allotments

Patchway local shops

THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD

Food is a central part of all lives. The food system is hugely complex and impacts widely on health, the economy, wellbeing, financial security, employment, climate and nature. The below statistics give a snapshot of some of the key drivers for change.

HEALTH

In South Gloucestershire …

29.1% yr 6 pupils above a healthy weight[1]

59% adults above a healthy weight[1]

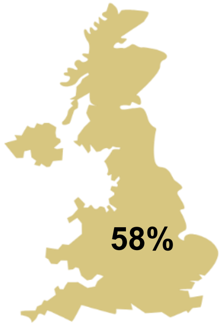
1.5% yr 6 pupils underweight[1]

17.4%

5 years olds have had tooth decay[2]

ECONOMY

13.4% of UK jobs are in food industry[3]



food eaten in UK is produced in UK[3]

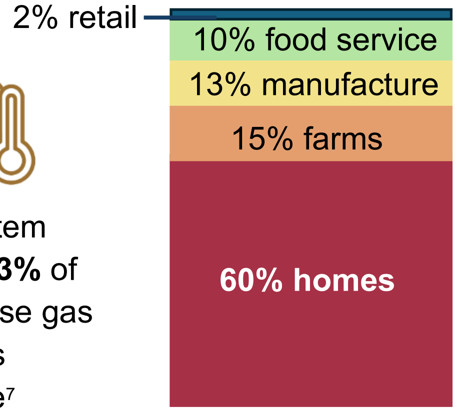
UK food & non-alcoholic drink prices rose by **25%** (2022-2024) In the 10 years prior, they rose by only **9%**[4]

UK household spend on food & drink decreased by **4.9%** (2022-2023)[5]

An average family with children is throwing away £80 per month worth of edible food[6]

CLIMATE

Source of UK food waste[6]



Food system creates **33%** of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide[7]

Data sources: [1]PHE Obesity Profile (2023/2024), [2]PHE Child & Maternal Health (2021/2022), [3]Defra (2022/2023), [4]ONS (2024), [5]Family Food Survey(2023) [6]WRAP (2023), [7]UN (2021)

UNDERSTANDING SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

About South Gloucestershire

South Gloucestershire is a southwest authority with a population of 299,439[8]. It covers 536.5km^2 and is characterised by being largely rural, with a dense urban fringe bordering the City of Bristol. It has several vibrant towns and parishes and eight recognised urban high streets. Sixty percent of the population live in the urban fringe.

Unlike most neighbouring authorities, South Gloucestershire does not contain a city or one central urban hub. Many residents and local businesses have very strong connections to Bristol and for many, the border between Bristol and South Gloucestershire is blurred. This is an important factor when planning action and support for residents.

South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) is the responsible body for strategy and policy across South Gloucestershire but there are also 50 town and parish councils with localised policies and connections to residents covering smaller areas.


Cotswold Edge


Hanham

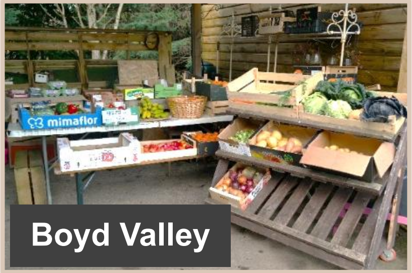
[8]SGC *(2024)*

Developing a coordinated local approach to food

South Gloucestershire Council representatives decided in 2024 that it was important to establish a Food Partnership for the area, with a plan to join the national Sustainable Food Places (SFP) Network. There was recognition across departments and from the Voluntary, Community Sector (VCS), that taking action on food was vital for tackling social, economic, and environmental challenges. The Partnership would be the catalyst for a more coordinated and collaborative approach to improving the local food system.

South Gloucestershire previously had a Food Plan (2018) but the Covid-19 Pandemic forced the local food landscape to change with emergency food aid and support taking priority.

In recent years, a local Food Alliance (established by Southern Brooks and SGC) provided valuable networking opportunities for sharing good practice around food aid initiatives and food growing. It was from here, that the idea for a more cross-sector, South Gloucestershire wide Food Partnership emerged.



Boyd Valley


Yate

THE SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE FOOD PARTNERSHIP

Nationally, there are 113 Food Partnerships that are registered with the Sustainable Food Places (SFP) Network. SFP has been operating for 12 years to drive innovation and best practice on all aspects of healthy and sustainable food in the UK.

SFP is a partnership programme led by the Soil Association, Food Matters, Sustain (the alliance for better food and farming), Food Sense Wales, Nourish Northern Ireland and Nourish Scotland.

Food Partnership launch event Dec ‘24

In October 2024, the South Gloucestershire Food Partnership became an official member of the SFP Network. This enables the Partnership to access advice, support, networking events and to learn from other Partnerships.

The SFP model supports local partnerships to achieve bronze, silver and gold awards, in recognition of actions taken to drive change across connected food issues. SFP focuses on 6 key areas that should be considered when planning local Food Partnership action.

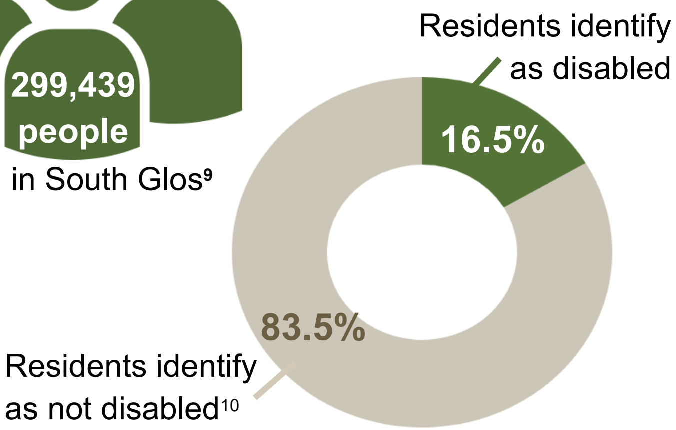
Although these 6 key areas have been considered in this report, it is important to note that they could not all be covered in detail and the local Food Partnership will take ownership of identifying priorities and areas of action.

PEOPLE LIVING IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

In order to understand the local food system and plan actions for improvements, it is important to understand the local population. The statistics on this page focus on demographic data relating to the scope of this report and statistics that link to food access and habits.

DEMOGRAPHICS

299,439 people living in South Glos[9]



ETHNICITY[10]

White – English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British, other	91.2%
Asian, Asian British	3.8%
Mixed, Multiple Ethnic Groups	2.5%
Black British, African or Caribbean	1.6%
Other ethnic group	0.9%

FOOD RELATED STATISTICS

8.4% of households are fuel poor[11*]

11.1% of adults 'struggle' to have enough food[12**]

12.3% households have no car or van[10]

38% of families eligible for Healthy Start scheme are not claiming[11]

(667 families)

29.9% of families eligible for free school meals (FSM) are not claiming them[11]

15.1% of all South Glos pupils are eligible (approx. 6200 pupils)[13]

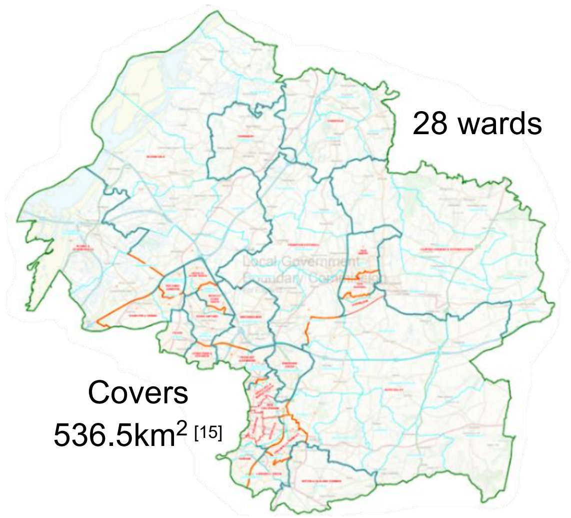
12.5% of waste thrown in black bins is food[14]

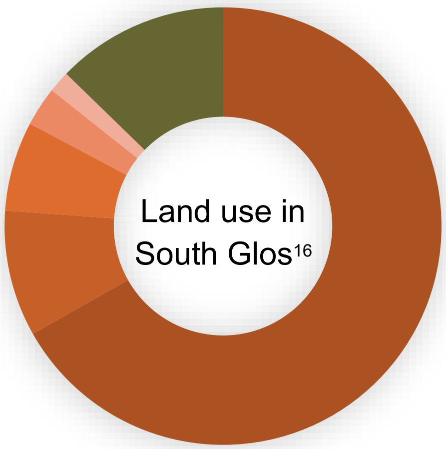
(down from 29% in 2021)

*Data sources: [9] SGC (2024), [10] Census (2021), [11] Financial Security Dashboard (2023), [12] YouGov Food Insecurity (2021), [13] GOV (2023), [14] SGC (2022), *Fuel poor means energy efficiency of home is D or below AND disposable income is below the poverty line, **'Struggle' is skipping/shrinking meals or accessing food help*

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE THE PLACE

Key statistics about the area and land use in South Gloucestershire are highlighted below. These statistics relate to the food system (food production, buying, selling, consuming and food waste) and are all South Gloucestershire specific.





Land use	Area	Sub-category
Non-developed land	66.6%	agriculture – *all types of farming*
	9.3%	forest, open land, water
	6.6%	gardens
	2.9%	outdoor recreation
	1.6%	undeveloped – *often grass, earth, flowers*
Developed land	12.7%	developed – *homes, workplaces, roads, utilities etc.*

520 commercial farms[17]

300 cafes / restaurants[18]

34 supermarkets[18]

114 convenience stores[19]

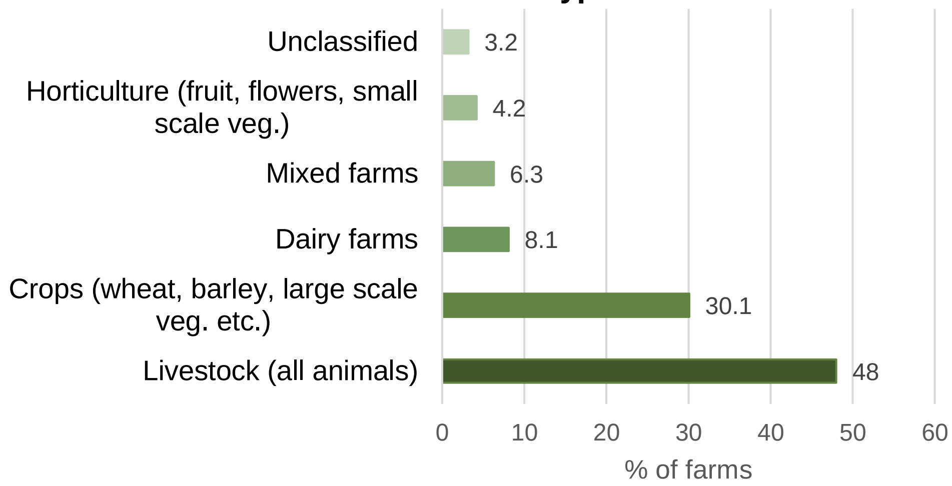
179 takeaways[18]

45 orchards[20]

317 fruit trees on SGC council land[20]

37 allotment sites[21]

South Glos Farm Types[22*]



Data sources: [15]SGC (2021), [16]GOV (2022), [17]GOV (2022),[18]FSA (2025), [19]GEOLYTIX (2025), [20]Tree plotter (2024) [21]SGC (2025), [22]GOV (2021)
**it is important to note that farm types are often dictated by land type/conditions in the area*

THE INEQUALITIES IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

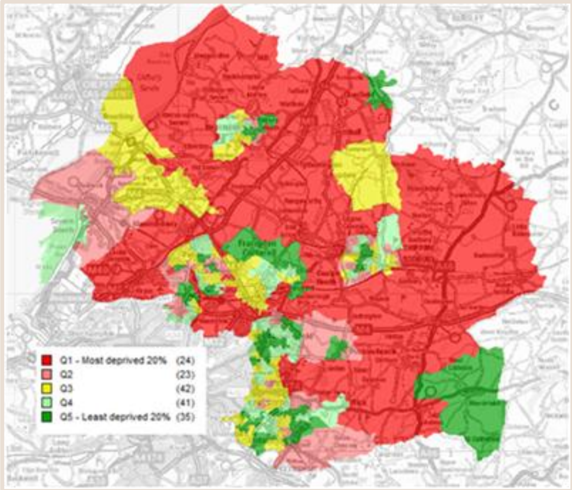
Various inequalities in South Gloucestershire directly and indirectly impact on residents' access to food and their food habits. The following two pages outline geographical and socio-economic inequalities that impact food access and habits, as well as food-related inequalities experienced by different Protected Characteristic groups (these are not a full list and include only the key inequalities-related information gathered for the development of this report).

DEPRIVATION

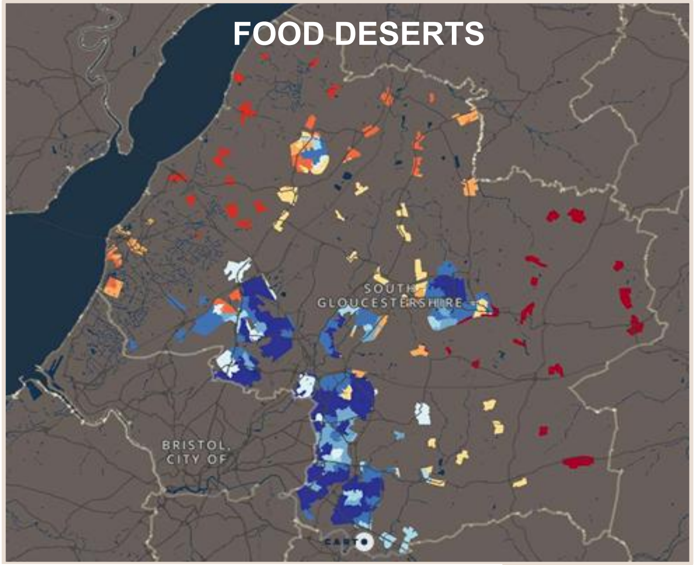
Economic deprivation and financial inequality exists across South Gloucestershire, with higher concentrations of this deprivation in the urban fringe.

South Gloucestershire features particularly high deprivation in terms of 'Barriers to Housing and Services'. This measure is judged based on distances to main services (including shops) and housing (including affordability).

Red shaded areas are in the 20% most deprived areas nationally for 'Barriers to Housing and Services'[23]



These types of deprivation create inequalities for some residents, such as having less access to affordable food, being less able to afford a variety of food types, increased transport costs and more time spent food shopping.



The national E-Food Dessert Index measures the extent to which neighbourhoods lack food shops, transport/access to shops and lack food delivery services, plus socio-economic and demographic data.

Red areas are greatest Food Deserts in UK with most limited food access

Data sources: [23]Indicies of Deprivation (2019),

THE INEQUALITIES IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

There following statistics focus specifically on the inequalities related to the scope of this report and are centred around financial security and health. Each inequality is impacted by or impacts on food access and habits.

In South Gloucestershire, 12.3% of children live in low-income families

In Patchway Coniston this is 18.4% (highest level)

In Frenchay & Downend this is 7.1% (lowest level) [24]

In South Gloucestershire, 11% more men are above a healthy weight than women[25]

In South Gloucestershire, the proportion of children eligible for Free School Meals has almost doubled between 2017 – 2023 from 8.1 to 15.1%[26]

Disabled children and children with White Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Black Caribbean, and Mixed/Multiple (White & Black African, White & Black Caribbean) ethnicities, are disproportionately over-represented in this eligibility data[27]

In South Gloucestershire, the percentage of pupils above a healthy weight at year 6 is

38.7% in the most deprived areas

27.5% in the least deprived areas[28]

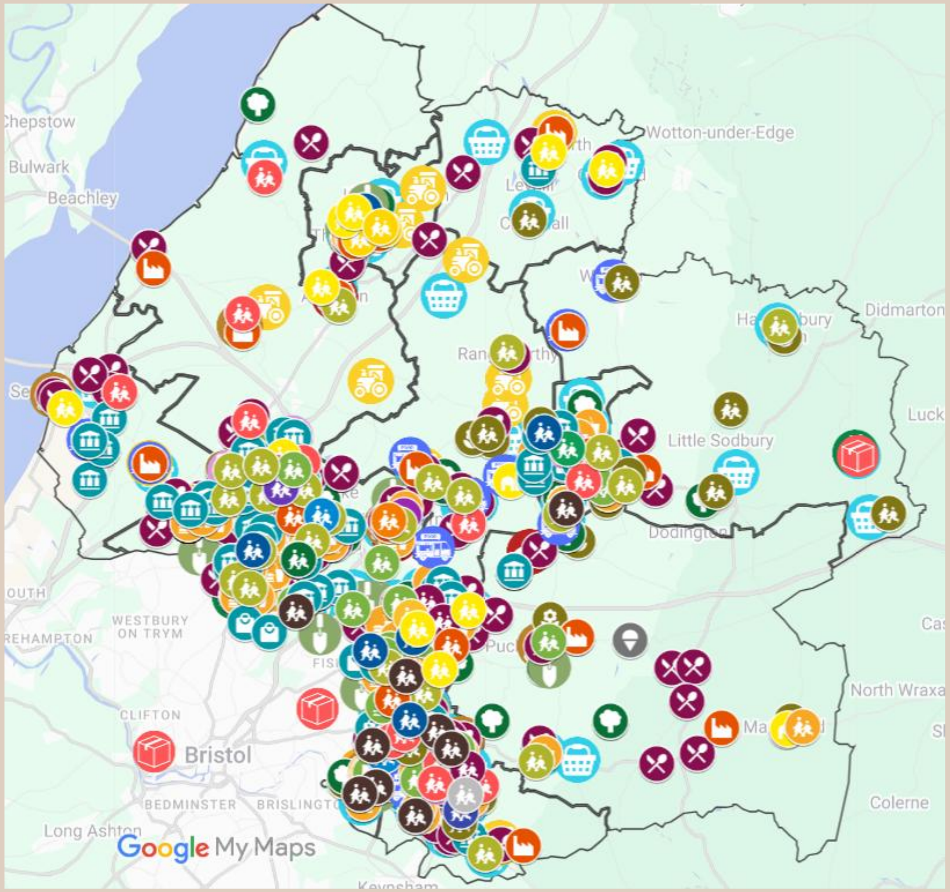
In the UK, adults from 'Black' ethnic groups and 'White British' ethnicity are more likely to be above a healthy weight[29]

In South Gloucestershire, 8.4% of households are fuel poor. The highest levels of fuel poverty are in Severn Vale at 18.7% and the lowest are in Emersons Green at 2.8% of households[30]

Data sources: [24]OHID (2021), [25]PHE (2022/2023), [26]SGC (2023) [27]GOV (2022/2023), [28]SGC (2022/2023), [29]SGC(2024), [30]Financial Security Dashboard (2021)

MAPPING OF FOOD PROVISION AND SERVICES

As part of this report, the South Gloucestershire Food Partnership requested a map of local provision and services that link to food. This map has been developed and populated with initial information. The plan is for the Partnership to develop this map and add to it over time. The map will be used alongside the insights from this report, to identify gaps and opportunities.



Provision and services that have been mapped include:

- Convenience stores
- Small, medium and large supermarkets
- Specialist shops such as grocers, butchers, health food stores, delis
- Farms shops, food box schemes and food markets
- Culturally diverse food stores
- Community food banks, fridges/larders
- Cafes, restaurants, takeaways, mobile food trucks
- Food processors
- Allotments, orchards, food growing spaces and growing projects
- School catering providers
- Local business staff canteens

As this map is very detailed, it should be viewed online by clicking the below link:

South Gloucestershire Food System Map

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

As part of this report, it was important for the Food Partnership to get experiences, feedback and ideas from residents, local food businesses and other stakeholders such as town/parish council reps, SGC council reps and VCS organisations.

The following pages outline the methods and findings from those consultations.

Discussion at Food Partnership launch event in December 2024

The total number of people who fed into this report was 1559, through a range of different opportunities, as outlined below:

Group	Numbers	Methods
Residents	1312	Completed online or paper food survey
	173	Took part in community conversations in local venues
Food businesses/ organisations	33	Completed online survey
	5	Contributed to conversations at Food Partnership event
Other stakeholders	24	Contributed to conversations at Food Partnership event
	12	Contributed through meetings and 1-1 conversations
TOTAL	**1559**	**PEOPLE**

Demographic data was collected for the resident survey only. The data below gives an overview of residents completing the survey, but not of those who were included in community conversations, as these were informal. Community conversations were specifically targeted to include underrepresented groups from the survey.

18-24yrs	0.5%
25-30yrs	1.8%
31-39yrs	8.1%
40-49yrs	12.4%
50-59yrs	15.1%
60-69yrs	22.3%
70-79yrs	18.1%
80+yrs	4.9%
Unknown	17.0%

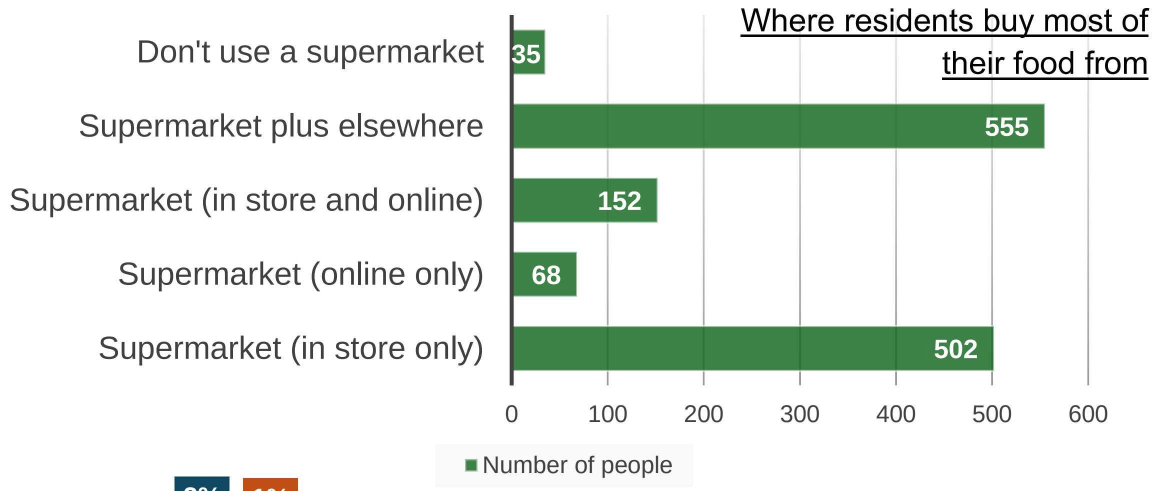
Female	62.8%
Male	18.8%
Other	0.5%
Unknown	17.8%

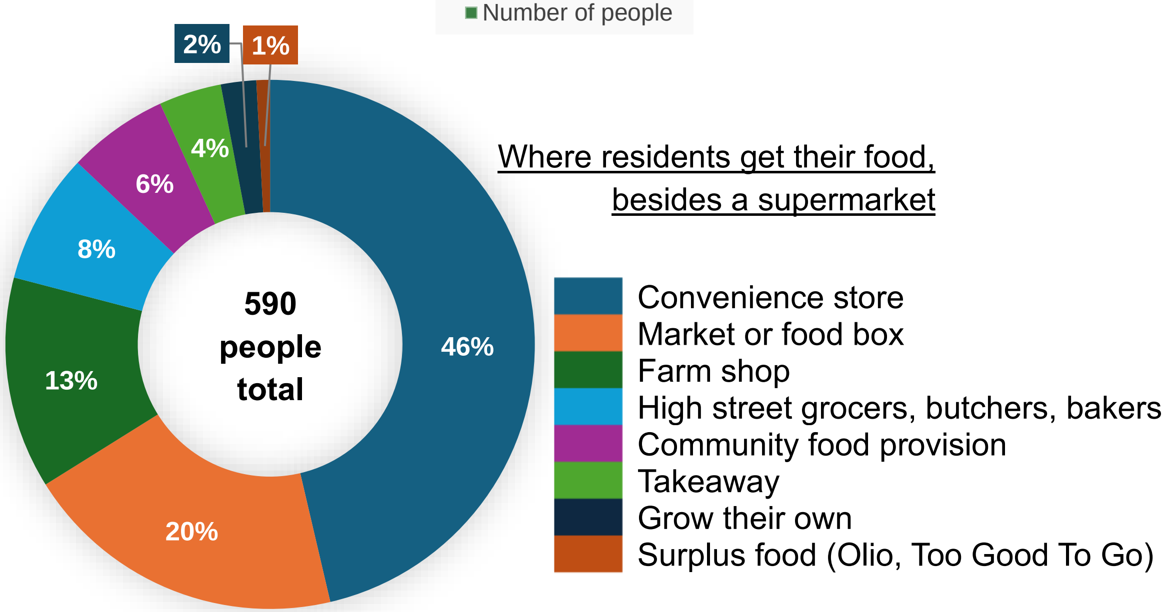
Disabled	16.9%
Not disabled	63.3%
Unknown	19.7%

White (English/Welsh/Scottish/ Northern Irish/British, other)	78%
Asian, Asian British	1.6%
Mixed, Multiple Ethnic Groups	0.8%
Black British, African or Caribbean	0.3%
Unknown	19.3%

KEY FINDINGS – RESIDENTS' FOOD SHOPPING

The findings on this page are from the resident food survey.





When asked how important these things are when choosing food …

93% of residents said it was important that food appears to be **healthy**

94% of residents said it was important that food was **good value** for money

71% of residents said it was important that food had a **long 'use-by' date**

32% of residents said it was important the food would be **low cost to cook**

74% of residents said it was important that food was in **sustainable packaging**

55% of residents said it was important that food was **grown or made locally**

KEY FINDINGS – RESIDENTS' WORRIES

When asked how residents feel about these food related things …

61% are worried about the cost of food

16% are worried about running out of food before they can afford to buy more

20% are worried about getting access to a food shop they can afford

10% are worried about getting food for a specific diet e.g. 'free-from', halal, kosher

3.5% are worried about a lack of cooking facilities at home

31% are worried about the cost of cooking at home (gas, electric)

57.5% are worried about the impact of food on the environment

There are significant inequalities amongst those residents worried about running out of food before they can afford to buy more

31% of people who consider themselves **disabled** are worried about running out of food

11.5% of people who **do not** consider themselves disabled are worried about running out of food

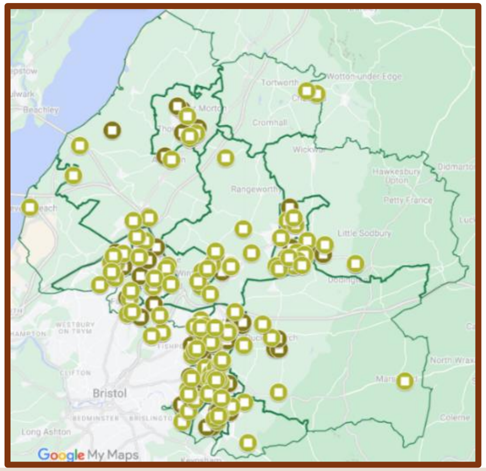
18% of all working people surveyed are worried about running out of food

7.4% of all retired people surveyed are worried about running out of food

25% of all non-working* people surveyed are worried about running out of food

Residents aged 31-59 are more worried about running out of food, than other age groups.

This map shows the geographical spread of those who are worried.



*Includes students, unemployed, carers, long-term sick

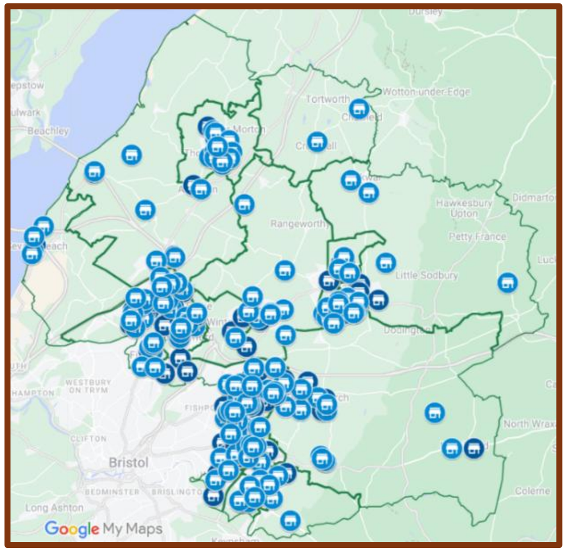
KEY FINDINGS – RESIDENTS’ WORRIES

In the resident survey responses, several inequalities have been identified where people sharing characteristics or living in certain areas of South Gloucestershire have higher levels of worry.

There are significant inequalities amongst those residents worried about getting access to a food shop they can afford

41% of people who consider themselves **disabled** are worried

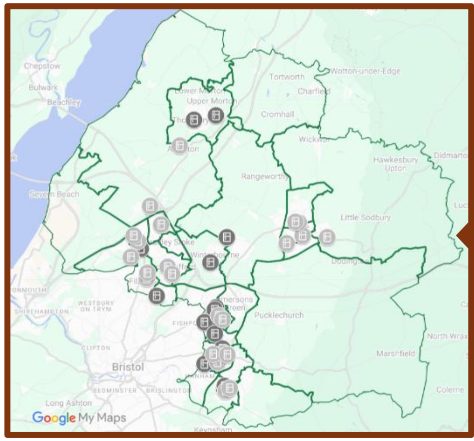
14.5% of people who **do not** consider themselves disabled are worried



This map shows the geographical spread of those who are worried.

In rural areas, there is more worry about ‘access’ than about other factors.

Worry about the general cost of food is slightly higher amongst residents aged 40-49 but worry is present across all age groups and geographical areas.



The greatest worry about lack of cooking facilities is amongst working females aged 40-49, who have children, and live in the urban fringe bordering Bristol, in Yate and in Thornbury

Worry about getting food for a specific diet is highest amongst people not employed (30.5%), with worry amongst retired people (7.8%) and employed people (16.5%) significantly less

These residents are spread across urban and rural areas

KEY FINDINGS – RESIDENTS' WORRIES EXPLAINED

In the food survey, residents were given the opportunity to explain their worries in more detail. Over 450 residents did this. Additional information was also collected through community conversations. The word cloud below highlights the words most mentioned by residents when explaining their worries. The larger the word, the more times it was mentioned. The smallest words were mentioned at least 12 times to be included in the cloud.

The worries have also been analysed, and key recurring themes have been identified in the boxes below. The themes in the purple boxes were most mentioned.

COST

Cost of food causing switch to lower quality, household food budget easiest to cut, less use of oven

LOCAL ACCESS

Lack of independent food shops, lack of fresh produce in convenience shops, poor transport links, food shop hard without a car

LOCAL PRODUCE

Unsure where to buy local produce, not clear when things are local, local produce costs more, UK imports too much food, food miles an issue, lack of understanding about seasonal

PACKAGING/WASTE

Pre-packed sizes too large, lack of loose items, too much plastic packaging, too much food wasted, buying too much and wasting, drive for 'perfect' food, use of 'best-before' date

HEALTH

Unhealthy/junk food is cheaper, can't afford healthy food, reducing quality food due to cost, too much fast food, supermarket deals on unhealthy food

UK FOOD PRODUCTION

UK imports too much, not enough support for UK farmers, cheaper food from abroad, environmental damage from food production, chemical use, animal welfare

SPECIAL DIETS

Cost of 'free-from' food, availability of halal and other specialist food

KEY FINDINGS – RESIDENTS' FOOD HABITS

In the food survey, residents were asked to select activities that they currently do, and then select those they would like to either start doing or do more of in the future. The results are demonstrated below.

46% residents are growing food at home

38% would like to start or grow more

78% of residents cook from scratch most days

28% would like to do this more

85% of residents try not to throw food

25% would like to do this more

55% use food labels to choose healthier food

18% would like to do this more

8% grow food away from home*

14% would like to

3% of residents are involved in community food activities**

18% would like to be

**allotment, community garden, school etc., **cooking group, growing club etc.*

KEY FINDINGS – RESIDENTS' IDEAS FOR CHANGE

In the survey, residents were given the opportunity to share their ideas about what could help make food better locally. Over 500 residents made suggestions, and alongside ideas from community conversations, these have been grouped into key themes below.

The word cloud demonstrates the words most mentioned by residents when explaining their ideas. The larger the word, the more times it was mentioned. The smallest words were mentioned at least 10 times to be included in the cloud.

PROMOTE LOCAL PRODUCE

Advertise local produce, more food grown locally, local producer markets with more seasonal & less packaging, help to find local produce, promote local in shops/restaurants and incentivise sellers/buyers, local produce highlighted in shops/supermarkets, overview of local box schemes, mobile food shop/van

PROMOTING HEALTHIER EATING & FOOD EDUCATION

Ideas for healthy eating on budget, education about where food comes from, promote seasonal food, support food growing with ideas/resources, more food education in schools

MORE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

More community growing, community cooking events, community gardens, support to grow more at home, food co-ops, community shoppers (who shop for others), more space for food growing, maps of community fridges/larders/support

PACKAGING & WASTE

More 'loose' food, refillable shops, more soft plastics recycling, more education on food waste

ACCESS TO FOOD

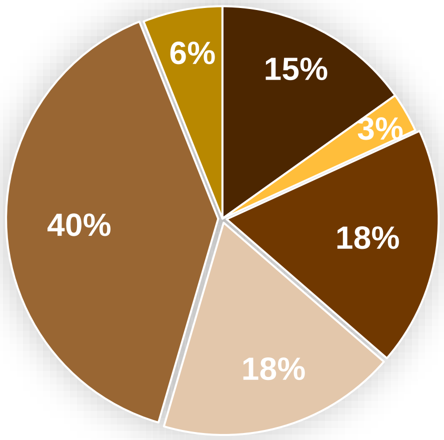
Better, cheaper parking, better transport connections

SURPLUS FOOD

Pooling of surplus food from farmers/producers

KEY FINDINGS – ORGANISATIONS' CHALLENGES

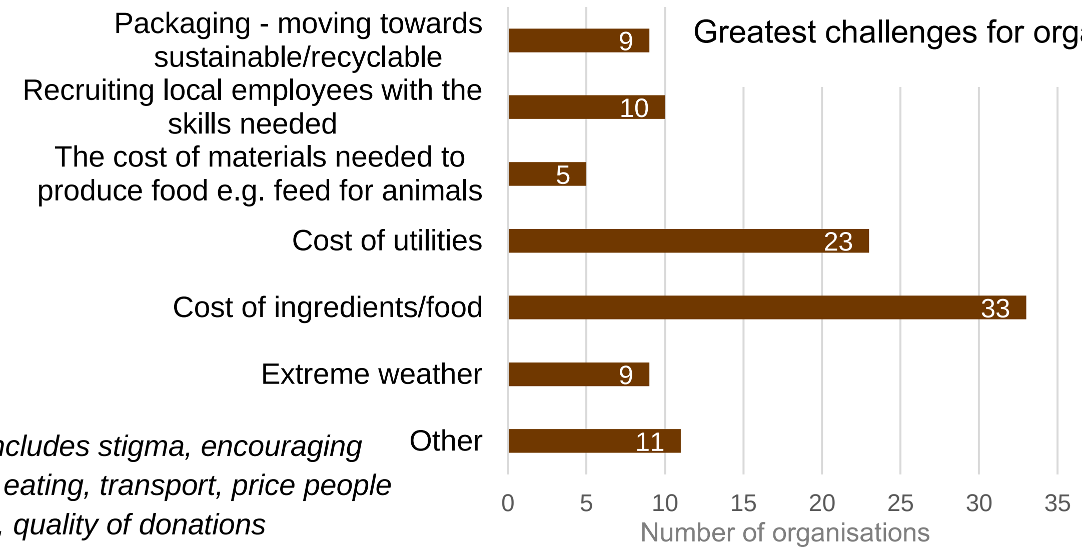
The findings on this page are from the organisation survey.



Percentages of respondents from each sector completing the organisation survey

- Food producer e.g. farmer, grower
- Food processor/manufacturer
- Food buyer/user e.g. school, care home
- Food seller e.g. café, shop, b&b
- Community food provider e.g. fridge, food bank
- Other (waste processing and councils)

Greatest challenges for organisations



Other includes stigma, encouraging healthy eating, transport, price people will pay, quality of donations

Key themes were identified in the challenges being faced by organisations:

Costs - model/business not viable with increased food costs, utilities, business costs, National Insurance

People - recruiting reliable volunteers, paying staff enough to keep them, finding skills

Parking/access - new local parking charges reduce customers, can't compete with supermarkets, rural location limits collaboration/deliveries

Variety/reliability - lower quality donations, unpredictable surplus foods

Changing need – more demand for food support, more people struggling but not eligible for benefits

KEY FINDINGS – ORGANISATIONS' SUGGESTIONS

From the organisation survey and from local conversations, the following ideas and suggestions have been made for things that the South Gloucestershire Food Partnership could do to help organisations that are producing, buying, selling or using food.

NETWORKING AND SHARING

- Build a stronger network – encouraging collaboration plus sharing who is doing what, what works well, resources, solving challenges together
- Create a directory of local producers/suppliers
- Raise the profile and importance of good food
- Share funding opportunities

PROMOTING LOCAL

- Promote a culture of 'supporting local'

  Incentive, promote, celebrate buying local
- Create a local scheme/network to collect and distribute local produce e.g. from allotments, community gardens, orchards, business surplus
- Support shorter supply chains – connect local organisations and people

EMPLOYEE SUPPORT

- Create a register of volunteers
- Support the local training and recruitment of staff
- Provide training and support for organisations/businesses to diversify, adapt, increase revenue

WASTE

- Encourage more recycling, less food waste and more composting

KEY FINDINGS – LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS' VIEWS

Local stakeholders are people who work, volunteer or are interested in the food system in South Gloucestershire. 24 stakeholders attended a Food Partnership launch event in December 2024 and others have shared opinions and ideas through the process of pulling together this report.

In total, 36 stakeholders have shared their views from organisations including SGC and town and parish councils, VCS organisations, community groups, farms, support organisations and equality and diversity groups or networks. Their feedback has been analysed and grouped into the key themes below:

WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

- Good community food support including lunch clubs, foodbanks, larders/fridges, meals
- Strength of interest and will amongst the new Partnership to make food better
- Strong local food service with a range of shops/food outlets on high streets
- Positive action being taken on the Climate Emergency with local strategy, annual plans and action taken
- Exciting opportunity to strengthen local food system and benefit communities through the Food Partnership
- Rural landscape means agriculture and food growing potential on the doorstep

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

- Lack of strategic approach to food and disconnect between parts of system
- Rural disconnection from shops, services, transport
- Supermarkets dominate food market – hard for local shops to compete and cover costs
- General lack of understanding about food system across services/organisations and why we need improvements
- Motivating people to engage in this agenda when capacity is stretched, and other priorities dominate
- Reliance on unreliable surplus food and unsustainable volunteer network

KEY FINDINGS – LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS' IDEAS

Stakeholders also shared views on what they would like to see happen in the future, to improve the food system for the land and people of South Gloucestershire. Those views have been summarised below:

SUMMARY – LOCAL STRENGTHS

Throughout the consultation and conversations that formed this report, many strengths have been identified which are important to capture, summarise and celebrate to build on moving forward.

CURRENT STRENGTHS OF THE SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE FOOD SYSTEM

FOOD PARTNERSHIP

The newly formed Partnership has gained great momentum with over 30 partner organisations.

The Partnership has successfully registered as a Sustainable Food Place.

The Partnership is keen to work together the create an action plan and make local improvements.

RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

Resident response to the survey and community conversations was very positive with good geographical coverage across South Gloucestershire. Many residents took the time to explain their answers and add additional comments and ideas.

NEIGHBOURING AREAS

South Gloucestershire's closest neighbour with a very similar population and landscape is Gloucestershire. Gloucestershire has a strong Food and Farming Partnership to learn from.

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) have existing strong connections across many local service areas. The BNSSG Food Network provides an opportunity for collaboration and support.

DECLARED CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY

In 2019, South Gloucestershire Council declared a Climate Emergency which has led to the development of a Climate Emergency Strategy and action plans (2020-2030) with the aim to being carbon neutral by 2030.

STRONG FOOD SECTORS

South Gloucestershire has a diverse landscape with diversity of food production, a strong food service industry and strong community food support at a local level.

SUMMARY – RISK AND THREATS LOCALLY

The South Gloucestershire Food Partnership members are keen to consider risks when planning local action. In the short to medium term, the risks below should be embedded into planning, and mitigation taken to avoid or overcome potential issues.

RISKS/THREATS	MITIGATION
Capacity to drive the Food Partnership and forthcoming action plan forward	• Identify a core, committed administrative group of people to support the organisation of events, communications and Partnership actions • Build diverse representation from different parts/sectors of the food system and communities into the core administrative group and the wider partnership (outside SGC) and pool resources/funding • Engage several residents in the Partnership, who can be representatives of different communities and localities, and use their skills and expertise to support development • Work on funding for a 2 or 3 year post for a dedicated Food Partnership coordinator and agree as a Partnership where this role will be hosted
Profile of the importance of food	• Share and celebrate the work of the Food Partnership and the partners involved e.g. building local case studies, having in-person events twice a year, encouraging updates to be shared in SGC resident's newsletter and Town/Parish Council communications • Engage with senior leaders and councillors in South Gloucestershire to get buy-in and representation on the Food Partnership
Capacity, commitment and ownership over the action plan	• Identify a manageable number of actions in first year • Only identify actions where there is a dedicated person/organisation to take it forward • Develop actions across the food system (not all in one area), based on insights from this report • Take a collaborative approach to actions, where possible e.g. 3 organisations working together
Demonstrating meaningful impact of the work	• Build in evaluation as part of the early stages of action planning and include it on the action plan • Identify clear and manageable methods for capturing change and impact e.g. numbers reached, before and after photos, behaviour change, positive change in residents' feelings
Overlap/confusion around work in urban fringe bordering Bristol	• Liaise with key Bristol partners such as Bristol Food Network and Feeding Bristol to understand what is currently happening and where, and coordinate future action

SUMMARY - OPPORTUNITIES

Over the remainder of 2025 and during the first years of the Food Partnership action planning, there will be national and local opportunities which should be considered, embedded into the work and used to both support and accelerate the positive profile of the work.

New National Food Strategy 2025

The government have announced that a new UK Food Strategy will be launched in 2025.

Find out more from Sustain.

Sustainable Food Places (SFP) Network

Home | Sustainable Food Places

Access to a huge library of guides, toolkits, resources, networking events and good practice examples.

Feeding Britain

A national charity supporting local partnerships to ensure nobody goes hungry. Access to a wide library of resources and support from the Feeding Britain team and other local Partnerships:

Home - Feeding Britain

Home - Feeding Gloucestershire

Home - Feeding Bristol

Local strategies and plans

Food spans across many policy areas and local workstreams and the Food Partnership should make connections into existing policies and plans:

Tackling Inequalities Plan 2024-2028

Climate and nature emergency in South Gloucestershire | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council

Sustainable Community Strategy 2016

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25 | BETA - South Gloucestershire

BNSSG Food Network

This new food network is drawing together stakeholders working on improving food across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

The network has initially focused on sharing expertise and pooling resources to improve food equality.

SUMMARY – TIPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is hoped that the contents of this report will provide the South Gloucestershire Food Partnership with some context about the local food system and a detailed overview of experiences and ideas from residents, food organisations and local stakeholders.

It is intended that the Food Partnership now work together to review the feedback and ideas provided in this report, alongside the Food System Google Map. The Partnership should take ownership over identifying specific actions that are felt to be priority and that are also manageable and meet the needs of local people/organisations.

These final two pages of this report contain tips for the next stage of the Partnership's action planning and then recommended actions.

TIP 1	Ensure the Partnership and action plan is inclusive and representative of the area, of the residents, and of the local food system.
TIP 2	Take a **systems approach** – working in a joined-up way (rather than isolated interventions), addressing underlying issues, tackling structures/policies/environment and with sustainability/scalability in mind.
TIP 3	Showcase and build on what is already working well.
TIP 4	Go where the energy is (where there is will and enthusiasm).
TIP 5	Encourage connections and collaborations between organisations and workstreams.
TIP 6	Embed addressing inequalities into the action planning.
TIP 7	Build in evaluation from the action planning stage.

SUMMARY – ACTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

This report is finishing with some specific recommended actions for the Food Partnership to take over the coming months and throughout the first year of the action planning process. Although the detailed actions of the action plan should be developed by Partnership members, it is important that steps are taken to ensure the Partnership's resilience and ensure that the work is given the best chances of driving positive change.

SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

ACTION 1	Build the 'core administrative' Partnership group and then the wider group, with representation from different organisation types (including those outside SGC) and representing different communities.
ACTION 2	Develop a Food Partnership action plan, based on the feedback within this report (to be started at the Partnership event in May 2025) and further input from diverse community and food sector representatives. Embed monitoring and evaluation, to demonstrate impact and gain future funding and support.
ACTION 3	Give feedback/updates to residents and colleagues about this report and the Partnership's plans (using a range of channels including resident newsletters, town/parish councils, Age UK, South Glos Race Equality Network, South Glos Disability Network etc.).
ACTION 4	Agree a host website, and clear purpose for the Food Systems Google Map. Consider how it will connect into the SGC Find Information web pages. Plan how the map will be kept up to date.
ACTION 5	Make connections with local partners working in neighbouring areas, to aid collaboration and avoid overlap (Feeding Bristol, Bristol Food Network, Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership).
ACTION 6	Look ahead with a view to, in the future, identifying key themes for the Food Partnership to focus on (with potential working groups) and develop an engaging Food Charter or equivalent overview, to raise the profile of the work.

This report has been produced alongside accompanying documents, to help the South Gloucestershire Food Partnership to build on what is already working well, to plan future action, and to learn from other areas doing similar work. The documents below have been created to support this report, and they will all be explored in further detail at the Cross Sector Food Partnership Event in May 2025.

Accompanying documents:

- Online mapping of local food producers, sellers, providers and users (reference and link on page 10 of this report)
- Case studies of local provision, projects and initiatives
- A bank of support ideas and initiatives working well in other UK areas, with a focus on those areas statistically similar to South Gloucestershire

For more information about this report or about any of the above documents, please email climate.emergency@southglos.gov.uk

This report was produced for the South Gloucestershire Food Partnership by Laura Flanagan at localfoodsystem@outlook.com