

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**CABINET EXECUTIVE/CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM
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**REPORT TITLE: Bwyd Powys Food – A Food Vision, Strategy, and
Action Plan for Powys (2024-2028)**

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This paper is to provide an update to Cabinet on the ongoing work of Bwyd Powys Food, of which Powys County Council is a key partner, and to ensure that Cabinet are aware of the *Food Vision, Strategy, and Action Plan for Powys*, which was launched in July 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1. Bwyd Powys Food is the Sustainable Food Partnership for Powys, and it has the key aim to transform our local food system. Established in March 2022, the Partnership brings together key stakeholders¹ to promote sustainable, healthy, and locally sourced food. A member of Sustainable Food Places and Food Sense Wales, the Partnership is guided by the six Sustainable Food Places goals:
- Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action.
 - Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement.
 - Tackling food poverty and diet-related ill-health and increasing access to affordable healthy food.
 - Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy.
 - Transforming catering and procurement and revitalising local and sustainable food supply chains.
 - Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste.
- 2.2. Bwyd Powys Food seeks to create a sustainable and healthy food system in Powys, and through strategic partnerships, community engagement,

¹ Bwyd Powys Food is a partnership comprising of Bannau Brycheiniog, Black Mountains College, Cultivate, Natural Resources Wales, Neath Port Talbot Group of Colleges, Powys County Council, Powys Teaching Health Board, and Social Farms and Gardens.

and a focus on local food culture it aims to make good food accessible to all, whilst supporting the environment and the local economy.

- 2.3. The partnership meets quarterly, and task and finish groups are established where appropriate drive change. Following extensive public consultation and engagement throughout 2023, culminating with the Powys Food Summit, the Partnership launched the first Food Strategy for Powys, *Food Vision, Strategy, and Action Plan for Powys*² at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show in July 2024.
- 2.4. Powys is deeply rooted in agriculture, and produces some of the finest and most sought-after produce in Europe. Our landscape has great potential for increasing sustainable food production. However, the challenges of our county are well documented. Our geography, demographics, and economy present challenges in terms of access to affordable and healthy food, and it is difficult for new entrants to enter the agricultural sector. The *Food Vision, Strategy, and Action Plan for Powys* aims to address these challenges and to increase the opportunities for everyone in Powys to have access to good quality, locally produced food.
- 2.5. The overarching vision of Bwyd Powys Food is to ensure “Good food for Powys”. This means promoting a food system where local, sustainable, and healthy food is accessible to everyone, supporting the well-being of communities, individuals, and the environment.
- 2.6. In order to achieve the vision, Bwyd Powys Food has identified four strategic outcomes:
 - **Opportunities to engage people about food culture and heritage, seasonal eating, health and nutrition at all levels including schools.** For example, promoting the rich food culture and heritage of Powys through educational programmes and community events, and through integrating nutrition education into schools and community programmes to foster healthy eating habits from a young age.
 - **Sustainable, supported and rewarded producers and growers.** For example, through encouraging local food producers and growers to adopt sustainable farming practices, and through ensuring that local producers are fairly compensated for their efforts which helps to sustain the local economy.
 - **Improved community health and wellbeing.** For example, through enhancing the health of the community by promoting better food choices and increasing access to nutritious food, whilst at the same time reducing food insecurity.
 - **Create a good food policy context for Powys.** For example, through ensuring that the policies of Bwyd Powys Food partners support a sustainable food system, and advocating for policies and activities that promote local food production, sustainability, and public health.

² The full Food Vision, Strategy, and Acton Plan for Powys can be accessed at:
<https://www.cultivate.uk.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/BPF-R4C-English-Final.pdf>

- 2.7. These strategic outcomes are designed to create a holistic approach to food that benefits the entire community, from producers to consumers, and will support a resilient and sustainable food system for the future. Within these strategic outcomes there are a total of 46 actions (aligned to the Sustainable Food Places Goals), of which a number of partners have been identified as responsible for delivering in collaboration. These actions need to be considered by the appropriate partners and service areas during the integrated business planning process accordingly. Actions are regularly discussed, monitored and evaluated at the quarterly partnership meetings.
- 2.8. All Bwyd Powys Food members provide the bi-annual action updates to the Partnership, and a formal progress report will be produced annually ahead of a celebration event at the Royal Welsh Show.
- 2.9. The *Food Vision, Strategy, and Action Plan for Powys* takes a systems thinking approach to change and aims to ensure that all aspects of the food system (growing, producing, manufacturing, supplying, and consuming) in Powys is fit for future generations.
- 2.10. Food, and therefore the local work of Bwyd Powys Food compliments, and has interdependencies with a number of key strategic plans:
- **Stronger, Fairer, Greener** – Powys County Council’s Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan has three core objectives all of which the *Food Vision, Strategy, and Action Plan for Powys* supports. *Stronger, Fairer, Greener* aims to improve people’s awareness of services, support good quality education and training opportunities, and to so tackle poverty and inequality. A strong and sustainable food system is critical to the success of these objectives.
 - **A Fair, Sustainable and Healthy Powys** – the Powys Public Service Board (PSB) Wellbeing Plan identifies three steps to deliver on its wellbeing objectives, step two of which is taking a whole systems approach to healthy weight. The plan emphasises the importance of the availability of healthy food and cooking skills to public health and wider wellbeing. Additionally, the plan outlines a desire to, in partnership with other PSB members to create a resilient and sustainable food system in Powys, improving health outcomes, supporting the local economy and protecting the environment. The PSB’s Climate work also interlinks with this area, as local food supply chain has emerged from initial research as an area to focus efforts on decarbonising Powys systematically.
 - **Cymru Can** – The seven-year (2023 – 2030) strategy of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales places a significant emphasis on the food system as being a crucial element in achieving the goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015. The strategy emphasises that collaboration between public bodies are wider stakeholders is critical to create a food system that not only meets the nutritional needs of the population, but also supports environmental sustainability, cultural heritage, and economic resilience.
 - **Sustainable Powys** – There are opportunities in building community capacity and place making as part of the core areas model to ensure

that food is a central theme, and represented accordingly as a priority area.

2.11. Some examples of activities undertaken and supported by Powys County Council to date which contribute to the *Food Vision, Strategy, and Action Plan for Powys*, include:

- **Rural Enterprise Dwellings for Small-Scale Horticulture Planning Guidance** – new planning guidance developed in collaboration with Bwyd Powys Food and other partners to support and assist small-scale horticultural enterprises in the preparation of a planning application for a rural enterprise dwelling. Making it easier to get planning permission for a house where a grower needs it to be close to their crops.
- **Welsh Veg in Schools**³ – in partnership with six other Welsh local authorities and Castell Howell, three high schools in Powys were supplied with Welsh vegetables from small scale growers (via Castell Howell) as part of the pilot project in 2024. Our catering service has completed an expression of interest to take part in the scheme for 2025, providing organic Welsh grown vegetables to eight of our schools during the summer Food and Fun programme. A partner of the Welsh Veg in schools' scheme, providing organic broccoli is Langton's Farm in Crickhowell. The pilot is currently being evaluated and refined for 2025.
- **Cooking Counts**⁴ – United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funded six-week cookery course aimed at enhancing nutrition, numeracy, and cooking skills through hands-on activities and group demonstrations. 45 individuals completed the course, with 100% of those completing the course stating they their cooking skills had improved, and they felt knowledgeable about preparing safe and healthy meals.
- **Eat Smart, Save Better** – one off group sessions aimed at encouraging residents to eat healthy and on a budget, offering practical advice and tips for creating nutritious and cost-effective family meals. These sessions held across 32 locations were attended by 226 individuals.
- **Food and Fun**⁵ - Food and Fun, previously known as School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) is a school-based education programme, administered by the WLGA that provides food and nutrition education, physical activity, enrichment sessions and healthy meals to children during the school summer holidays. In 2025 we will be supporting this programme with organic vegetables via the Welsh Veg in Schools scheme.
- **Sarn Farm/Future Farm** – funded by the UKSPF and ACPW3, Powys County Council are working with Our Food 1200 to pilot the creation of three new farms (on Council land) to support new entrants to farming,

³ [Welsh Veg in Schools](#)

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYAQ3D9yJs>

⁵ [2024 Food and Fun Evaluation Report](#)

to grow food in a way that addresses the climate and nature emergency, and to support the foundational economy.

3. Advice

- 3.1. Powys County Council continue to engage with the work of Bwyd Powys Food Partnership, and Service areas across the Council consider the Action Plan as appropriate.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1. The Council is a committed member of the Bwyd Powys Food Partnership. Some actions within the Action Plan could be delivered by business-as-usual activity, and should be planned during the annual business planning cycle. However, additional resources may be required to fully deliver the aspiration of the Plan, which may rely upon currently unknown base or grant funding. These will be presented as and when a decision is required to Cabinet accordingly to understand how the Council can progress these activities.
- 4.2. The Head of Finance acknowledges the report and comments as follows: With the financial pressures facing the council any proposal requiring additional base budget would need to identify tangible benefits for the council and align with the Sustainable Powys programme. Use of grants or redirecting existing budgets should be prioritised, and with this in mind the recommendation is supported.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1. Legal: the recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 5.2. The Council's Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer has considered this report and comments: "I note the legal comment and support the recommendation.

6. Climate Change & Nature Implications

- 6.1. The Food Strategy and Action Plan has an emphasis on local food production and shorter supply chains, supporting the reduction in food miles and the carbon footprint associated with transporting food. Additionally, it promotes sustainable farming practices, including regenerative agriculture, managing land in a manner which supports biodiversity and to reduce the environmental impact of food production.
- 6.2. Education and engagement are key elements of the Food Strategy and Action Plan, including the reduction of food waste, promotion of sustainable food habits, food and nutrition classes, and the redistribution of food, all of which help to reduce the environmental impact of food production and consumption.
- 6.3. Climate and nature is at the heart of the Food Strategy and Action Plan, and all the actions collectively aim to create a more sustainable and resilient food system for Powys benefiting both the environment and our communities.

7. Data Protection

- 7.1. The proposals in this report do not involve the processing of personal data. However, individual actions and decisions within the Plan may identify the need for a data protection impact assessments or information sharing protocols, which will need be navigated as appropriate.

8. Comment from local member(s)

- 8.1. Comments from local member(s) have not been sought, as this report relates to all areas of Powys.

9. Impact Assessment

- 9.1. An Impact Assessment for the Food Strategy has not been produced by the Council. However, individual actions and decisions within the Plan may identify the need for an impact assessment, which will be undertaken as appropriate.

10. Recommendation

- 10.1. That Cabinet notes the contents of the report.

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