

Food Work in Existing Council Policies

One Stockport Borough Plan¹

Food is a part of our One Stockport ambitions for One Heart, One Home and One Future. When reading through the Borough Plan, there are multiple reference to food and the food system, being a part of 5 out of the 9 priorities set out for delivering for delivering One Stockport.

Strong and supportive ambitions – uses an example of emergency food provisions Cheadle Muslim Association (CMA) to support families in Stockport during the pandemic (page 31).

Fair and inclusive ambitions – another example of food provisions provided by Stockport County in their Christmas campaign (page 36).

The action we will take - Introduce a new Food Network (page 37).

A climate friendly Stockport – “One thing is clear, solving climate change will take a collective effort. The food we eat, the way we travel and power our homes, the stuff we buy and the way we get rid of it, all affects climate change” (page 43).

Sustainable and responsible ambitions – mentions the allotment groups to support people to grow their own veg (page 44).

An enterprising and thriving Stockport – “Created a food and beverage destination in Stockport’s historic Market Place” (page 48).

Enterprising and thriving ambitions – an example of ‘Entrepreneurial Market Traders’ where the Stockport Market traders created a local delivery service for food and drinks to continue to serve Stockport residents with healthy and local produce (page 49).

Skilled and confident ambitions – this mentions an example of the FarmStart Programme where they grown their own fruit and veg which is then sold in Stockport (page 53).

There is also mention of the level of unemployment in the hospitality and retail industry which has particularly affected employment for those aged 18-24 years old (page 53).

One Stockport Economic Plan²

Pillar 1: Fair and Inclusive “Supporting a fairer economy where local people are the primary beneficiaries of regeneration and growth”

Discussion of Access to Healthy Assets & Hazards data which show how healthy neighbourhoods, measured against: retail environment, health services, physical environment and air quality’. Focusing on the retail environment, there is measure for

¹ [borough-plan.pdf \(onestockport.co.uk\)](#)

² [Regeneris Report \(stockport.gov.uk\)](#)

accessibility to fast food. There are numerous part of Stockport which are in the worst performing deciles³ (page 17).

Pillar 3: Climate Friendly and resilient “Tackling the climate emergency, growing the green economy, and enabling Stockport to ‘build back better’ and recover from COVID-19”

COVID has wiped £700m from the Stockport economy and has had most significant impact on the sectors with high placemaking value. The accommodation and food services sector lost an estimated £100m in 2020 (Page 30).

One Stockport Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023 – 2030⁴

Promotion of mental wellbeing - People want to see mental health promotion activities in workplaces, schools and colleges, and community settings.

There is recognition that this should include promoting an understanding of the importance of physical activity, food, social connection, and inequalities, but also working together to counter the myths and stigma around mental illness (page 6).

JSNA Findings show an increase in eating disorder diagnoses in Stockport have risen over recent years (page 7).

Stockport Climate Action Now

The Climate Action Now team have been facilitating the ‘Stockport Green Network’ who are taking a lead on the ‘Environment’ working group for the Food Plan.

Stockport as Town of Culture

Stockport has chosen ‘Taste’ as one of its four key themes around Town of Culture. Taste encompasses food and the celebration of this all across the Borough. A number of funding applications have come through for this category, successful bids include 12 cultural cooking sessions, events to celebrate Caribbean and African foods, a new food festival

Stockport as a Food Destination

Stockport continues to be recognised in numerous food, drink and hospitality awards for its range of businesses which are setting the bar high.

Foodie Fridays, Where the Light Gets In, Yellowhammer etc.

Food and the Cost of Living Crisis

Community grants made available through the Warm Spaces Fund, Spend Well Live Well Fund have seen a number of applications made for food related projects. These include cooking classes, recipe cards, a Christmas meal and soup station.

³ [Access to Healthy Assets & Hazards \(AHAH\) | CDRC Data](#)

⁴ [Microsoft Word - One Stockport Mental Health Wellbeing Strategy - Elliot Edit.docx](#)

Many Warm Spaces in Stockport have included a food element in their provisions. Community providers were supported with attaining food safety qualifications to facilitate this offer.

A number of food related initiatives were support via the Household Support Funds (Phase 4) allocated to Stockport.

	Link to Food plan
Support Funds	% of support will be providing discretionary vouchers to vulnerable households for food
Out of Hours Team	% of support will be providing discretionary vouchers to vulnerable households for food
Expansion of FSM for pupils in receipt of LCTS and/or HB	Expansion of FSM in Stockport – Cabinet decision to use c.£1.5m Cabinet Reserves to expand FSM eligibility to all school-age pupils living in households in receipt of Local Council Tax Support and/or Housing Benefit. Set to benefit an extra 1800 pupils.
Holiday Support Vouchers to c.14286 pupils	Eligible pupils will receive £195 over 2 x voucher rounds (July and Autumn) – principle focus of cash vouchers is support with energy costs but households may choose to spend on food
Grant to Care Leavers Team	As above, principle is energy but care leavers may choose to spend on food
Grant to Fostering Service (target those with Special Guardianship Orders)	As above, principle is energy but SGO households may choose to spend on food
Expansion of HAF	Expansion of HAF programme to deliver food and activities at May, October, and Feb Half Term ensuring food and activities available at all school holidays over April 2023 – March 2024
Trusted Partner – Disability Stockport	% of support will be providing discretionary vouchers to vulnerable households for food
Trusted Partner – Age UK Stockport	% of support will be providing discretionary vouchers to vulnerable households for food
Trusted Partner – Signpost for Carers	% of support will be providing discretionary vouchers to vulnerable households for food
Trusted Partner – Stockport Homes (temporary accommodation, vulnerable households, Your Local Pantry)	% of support will be providing discretionary vouchers to vulnerable households for food, purchasing food to maintain stock levels at YLP
Trusted Partner – SMBC Resident Advice and Support Team	% of support will be providing discretionary vouchers to vulnerable households for food

Trusted Partner – Stockport Support Hub	% of support will be providing discretionary vouchers to vulnerable households for food
Trusted Partner – Ongoing Women's Local Support (OWLS)	% of support will be providing discretionary vouchers to vulnerable households for food
One Stockport Local Fund Cost of Living Grant programme	Individual VCFSE organisations can apply for grants between £1000 - £5000 with collaborative bids from two or more organisations up to £20,000. Grant is live.
One Stockport Local Fund Cost of Living Grant programme – warm spaces	Will launch in Autumn but could be used to deliver food-based activities
Team Around Place (TAP) investment	Detail to be worked-up
VCFSE Investment: Stockport Food Bank	Grant to purchase food to maintain stock levels
VCFSE Investment: Chelwood FB	Grant to purchase food to maintain stock levels
VCFSE Investment: The Wellspring	Grant to purchase food to maintain stock levels
VCFSE Investment: Marple FB	Grant to purchase food to maintain stock levels
VCFSE Investment: Gatley FB	Grant to purchase food to maintain stock levels
VCFSE Investment: Cherry Tree	Grant to purchase food to maintain stock levels
VCFSE Investment: EAICO	Grant to purchase food to maintain stock levels

Previous work in Stockport

[PowerPoint Presentation \(foodactive.org.uk\)](http://foodactive.org.uk)

Examples of good food work in Stockport

Woodbank Community Food Hub⁵ – Woodbank Community Food Hub is located in Offerton’s Woodbank park – an urban horticulture hub co-ordinated by the Kindling Trust, that joins up inclusive community gardening with commercial organic food production. It’s the size of one and a half football pitches, and includes several large polytunnels for under-cover veg growing as well as three field blocks, apple trees and a community garden. It is a place to collect fresh organic veg bags delivered by the Veg Box People, who make sure farmers get regular demand and a fair price for their produce, so they can keep doing what they do best- growing great veg. They host a number of community events to promote their projects and support growing education in Stockport.

Priorities: community food growing, resilient food businesses, sustainable supply chains, food knowledge and skills

Stockport Food Network⁶ – Created in response to the emergency food need for Stockport during the COVID-19 pandemic. Made up of over 30 community food providers including pantries, food banks and meal delivery services. They host regular meetings which invites wider community partners to support the food response in Stockport. The network use a WhatsApp group to coordinate food donations and information between each other. Their wider work includes promoting culturally appropriate food in food banks and working to provide low income families with slow cookers as a low cost option for healthy meals.

Priorities: Action on food poverty, food equality and diversity, food knowledge and skills, effective partnerships

Where the Light Gets In (WTLGI)⁷ – WTLGI was awarded and has retained their Green Michelin Star for their work on sustainability, zero-waste practices and cementing growing their own produce into their supply chain and food system. They offer a hyper-seasonal menu which compliments the seasons and the weather and constantly changes as they cook reactively to the environment. Their community growing space on the roof of the Merseyway Shopping Centre (The Landing Garden CIC), hosts open garden workshop and volunteer sessions, granting opportunities for learning and wellbeing.

Priorities: Community food growing, food knowledge and skills, resilient food businesses, sustainable supply chains, food equality and diversity

⁵ <https://kindling.org.uk/GrowCommunities>

⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/StockportFoodNetwork>

⁷ <https://www.wtlgi.co>