

Increasing Shrewsbury's Food Resilience

This plan maps out a timeline for developing a food resilience response for Shrewsbury, recognising that we are in a fast-changing situation both in terms of food supply and costs and that the national response to the coming crisis is not yet clear. Shropshire Good Food Partnership (SGFP) has strong working relationships locally, at county level and nationally, which bridge this gap, ensuring that it can support Shrewsbury to respond effectively.

The plan assumes that SGFP has a key co-ordination, activation and research role in developing Shrewsbury Town Council (STC)'s response: organising engagement, developing strategy and collaboratively building an action plan with STC and partners across the town. Costings assume that key Third sector partners are funded to cover their time in taking part and engaging their networks, that funding is allocated for priority implementation actions.

The plan is staged, progressively building a town-wide action plan co-owned by STC, community organisations and households. A key focus is engaging the most vulnerable and those with lived experience. Collaboration is essential to create trust and ensures that the strengths and assets are built on, as we face high risks of food shortages and food insecurity.

- **Year 1** focus on the imminent food affordability crisis and ensuring that there is an effective, collaborative plan for response. It is hard to estimate the scale of increased demand for food support within Shrewsbury's community, but our best reference point is COVID, when the number of people requesting Food Bank parcels trebled. Co-ordinated communication is needed to make clear where people can access support and reduce stigma.
- **Year 2 and 3**, address the longer-term risks to food security and build capacity of organisations and households for example through increasing community growing, market gardens, and community meals. Key elements of this are:
 - building skills and confidence for example how to grow fruit and veg in extreme weather drought/flood, save seed, compost, preserve food and access land through Right To Grow.
 - rethinking who feeds Shrewsbury by looking back to how we sourced fruit and veg in the past and re-imagining the future – Considerations include: reflecting on the historic “growing belt” around the town how market gardens and home growing could supply more of our needs, building on existing markets, community gardens and allotments and links with local farmers.; how can we increase access to affordable healthy food by supporting farmers through direct purchasing, knowledge sharing and advocacy for their needs?
- Priority actions will be agreed with STC and network partners through the action planning process, taking account of evidence of need, likely contribution to food resilience, feasibility and their potential to unlock or leverage wider resources, for example, training, demonstration projects and writing funding bids.

Food resilience is the core of SGFP's work and we will seek to add value to the work we do for STC by bringing in additional resources. We have already secured resources for in depth food resilience work in one neighbourhood of Shrewsbury over an 18-month period (Climate Action Funding, timing tbc) and continue to have a leading role in leading the UK's national response through Sustainable Food Places.

Activity: Year 1	Key Partners	Outputs/Outcome	Shropshire Good Food Partnership Wider Actions
Aims: 1) Develop a Food Resilience Strategy and Action Plan focussed on food affordability crisis response 2) Build a food resilience network of organisations across the Town and support initial actions			
A. Initial Strategy and Launch of Food Resilience Network	STC Councillors & Officers SGFP co-ordination and research role Key stakeholders: Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance, Shrewsbury Food Bank, Shrewsbury Food Hub and Shropshire Council's Emergency Planning and Resilience Team, Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership	- Briefing for STC officers and councillors on food resilience/affordability risks and finalise scope of work for Y1 (<i>Covered in STC Community Grant</i>) - Development of outline strategy to ensure boundaries of STC responsibilities are clear (<i>Covered in STC Community Grant</i>) - Launch Food Resilience Network to invite participation (<i>Covered in STC Community Grant</i>)	Regular communications on Food Resilience at a County Level including: - Shropshire Food Resilience Summit 8th September (Funded) - How To Webinars & Guides on Drought/Flood Proofing Fruit and Veg Growing; Community Meals (Funding Sought)
B. Food Affordability Engagement	Community organisations and people with lived	- Understanding current situation, assets and capacity of current infrastructure to cope with increased demand for food support with Key Stakeholders (<i>Covered in STC Community Grant</i>) - Research supply chain vulnerabilities - Collaborative planning town-wide (1 on-line) and in vulnerable wards (3 in person) - Briefing for STC	Communications and tools to increase involvement, build skills and confidence. E.g. Growing Resilient Communities Workbook/Toolkit To Share Learning with Communities and Town and Parish Councils (Funding sought)

C. Develop Food Affordability Action Plan and Communications	experience in most vulnerable wards	- Action Plan with clear steps for increasing capacity to respond to food affordability crisis - through further engagement and town-wide- workshops (1 in person, 1 on-line) and 3 neighbourhood sessions. - Communications & signposting to make it clear where people & organisations can go for support/to reduce stigma - Initial Implementation Actions focussing on Practical interventions which can leverage change (to be defined through engagement)	Knowledge exchange with Food Partnerships across Marches and UK through leading role in Sustainable Food Places UK response.
Activity: Year 2	Key Partners	Outputs/Outcome	Shropshire Good Food Partnership Wider Actions
Aims: 1) Develop collaborative response to medium- and long-term risks to food security creating a positive vision for the future of food 2) Expand the network to include wider range of organisations and engage the public, focusing on the most vulnerable areas 3) Refine Strategy and Action Plan. 4) Implement priority short term actions to build capacity and seek funding to resource in-depth.			
A. Research and Review	Promote network to include farming	- Briefing for STC officers and councillors on food resilience risks and finalise scope of work for Y2 - Research Shrewsbury's food resilience vulnerabilities - Review food affordability Action Plan and Implementation progress and needs - Quarterly updates for STC and network	Communications on Food Resilience at a County Level. Climate Action Funding Food Resilience work in one neighbourhood of Shrewsbury, location and timing tbc. 18 month

B. Food Resilience Engagement	organisations, food businesses, neighbourhood organisations, who become key partners for implementation. .	- Engagement with key stakeholders to understanding risks, assets and opportunities to increase food resilience. - Collaborative planning town-wide to identify potential response to risks (1 in person, 1 on-line) and in vulnerable wards (3 in person) - Briefing for STC	community led project which will inform the town wide response.
C. Develop Food Resilience Strategy , Action Plan and Communications		- Action Plan with clear steps to increase capacity to respond to medium and long term food resilience risks - through further engagement and town-wide- workshops (1 in person, 1 on-line) and 3 neighbourhood sessions. - Communications & signposting	
D. Implement Priority Actions		Priority Implementation Actions (e.g. training, demonstration sites, fundraising bids)	
Activity: Year 3	Key Partners	Outputs/Outcome	Shropshire Good Food Partnership Wider Actions
Aims: Building on Y2, to review progress and build food resilience collaboratively through co-ordination, engagement, communication and leveraging resources. Work programme to be designed based on Y2.			