

Leicestershire Sustainable Farming & Food Chain Workshop

Outcomes

Thank you for your participation in our recent 'Sustainable Food and Farming Workshop'. Using the content of the workshop, feedback from participants and poll results we have put together some areas for more focused discussion and action.

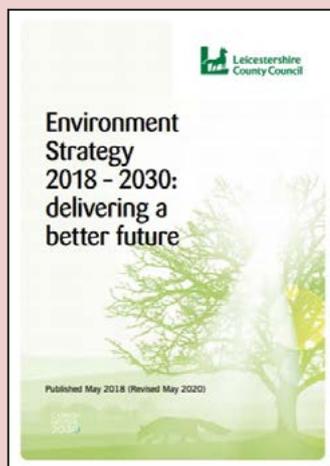
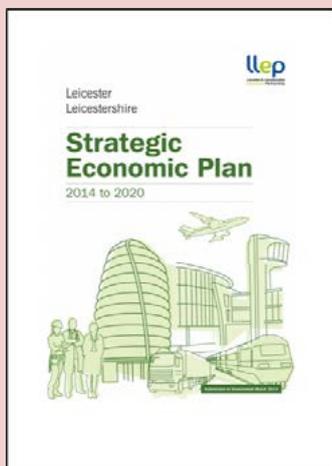
We realise that there is much that has been done in the past. However, we are now able to refocus on both global and more local environmental challenges as we leave Europe. We are keen not to reinvent the wheel, so should you have information about existing schemes that we can include and help promote, please let us know. The plans and strategies we make today will have global impacts on the environment in the future.

We are also looking for more collaborators to really help us turn this into something beneficial for both our East Midlands businesses and the environment we live in.

There are 5 different strands as detailed below. These are planned to go forward as working groups, collaborations, workshops and strategic discussions.

Leicestershire Local Procurement

How do we make local procurement happen?



ACTION

Strategic discussion with Local Authority and service providers.

Local food procurement & local distribution networks. Benefits of local nutritious food.

Local authority, Hospitals (provision of local food) & School Meal Services and food hubs (education and nutrition programme).

Barriers to entry price, scale, range of goods, one stop shop. These will be linked to the Leicestershire Producer Groups.

How do we value, the environment, animal welfare? More focus from this group on food and drink manufacturing within the Local Leicestershire and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership.

How can farmers help the carbon conundrums that Leicestershire County Council wish to address within Environmental Strategies?

Some participants identified.

Leicestershire Producer Groups

Strengthening the position of local producers after Brexit.



ACTION

Help facilitate a workshop and further discussion around local producer groups.

What is currently in existence? e.g. Edible 16 and Melton Food Hub.

Landscape led for biodiversity, carbon and food production business at the core.

Assemble information around developments to assist producer groups, direct marketing advice and facilitation.

How can new Government support help?

Food product development, technology, hygiene and digital data use.

Some participants identified.

Climate Friendly Farming Group

Regeneration, carbon and local nature recovery



ACTION

Formation of Regenerative Agriculture, Carbon & Local Nature Recovery Group in Leicestershire and Rutland.

Regenerative Agriculture, knowledge exchange and training. Machinery Pool?

Climate friendly farming approach addressing Net Zero.

Local nature and landscape recovery developing opportunities & partnerships in environmental land management

Farm visits and workshop.

Lead participants identified.

Food and Farming Future Innovations

Working for the future & our local food chains



ACTION

Formation of a working group to deliver Innovative Ideas.

- Building on collaborations with Brooksby Melton College, YFC and other training establishments on skills training for our future food and farming. Coordinated teaching programmes with local authority, local retailer and producers. Linking to AHDB Skills Leadership Group & Institute of Agricultural Management.
- Kids Clubs, Rural Youth and Climate Change Programmes.
- Cycling and walking tourism network, linking local food businesses and wildlife sites. Some participants identified.
- Developing additional fruit and vegetable hubs on larger arable farms.

Lead participants identified.

Melton Food Hub



ACTION

Collaboration. Engage with Melton Borough Council and Food Enterprise Centre around plans for local producer and food retailers.

What help, as a group, can we give to Melton to identify the most effective way forward to reach a wider audience?

Is this model transferable within Leicestershire (and Rutland)?

Lead participants identified.