

Leicestershire Sustainable Farming & Food Chain Workshop

Procurement and Producer Group
25th March 2021

Present

Alex Own	Launde Foods
Gavin Fletcher	Leicestershire County Council
Roseanna Burton	Leicestershire County Council
Sebastien Graff-Baker	Andersons
Jan McCourt	Northfield Farms
Clare O'Donnell	Brocklesby's
Phil Jarvis	GWCT Allerton Project
Jemma Clifford	GWCT Allerton Project
Angus Clarke	Waterloo Farm & Edible 16

This group is one of three workstreams that has emerged from our initial October 2020 workshop. The others are climate friendly farming and future innovations and the Melton Food hub.

Discussions covered;

- Strength of partnerships,
- Need for all year around supply.
- The need for good education around local food,
- Sustainable healthy diets,
- Biodiversity and carbon sequestration are all factored into food production and procurement.
- The benefits and provenance of local food helping address the council's carbon and environmental asks.
- Can concentrate on features rather than benefits, but good stories are also important.
- Future skills required to service the industry.
- Levelling up the rural economy.

Several actions have arisen from this meeting and they include;

- Set the food and farming scene, both nationally and locally.
- Inform on what is already in place in Leicestershire and the East Midlands.
- Look at how our food and farming will adapt to the future.
- Discuss purchasing and procurement.
- What support can be offered with public awareness, marketing, closer communications and partnerships?
- What skills might be needed in the future?
- What does best practice look like?
- What is missing?
- How can we take some proactive, tangible next steps?

1. Aims and objectives of overall group and separate work streams.	End of March 2021
2. With reference to this procurement and producer group, it was thought that it would be good to understand the financial, tendering and verification processes involved for local authority food procurement.	PJ & GF End of April
3. Invitation to Leicestershire County Council, LEP senior staff. Mike Sands, Blake Pain, Kevin Harris, Nick Rushton, John Sinnott and county regional representation to a meeting or meal highlighting the benefits of locally produced food, for health, biodiversity and carbon.	PJ, GF & DW, June/July 2021
4. Food, Farming and Careers showcase at Brooksby College to follow on from their investment in Agri-tech centre.	DW Timescale?

Please [contact us here](#) if you can help: jclifford@gwct.org.uk

