

About the Manchester Food Board

FoodSync has been commissioned by the Manchester Population Health Team to facilitate the work of the Manchester Food Board (MFB). The MFB brings together leading decision-makers from across the business, health, environment, housing, farming, academic, policy, and social sectors. These Board members work to provide clarity and strategic leadership on how food can be used to bring about positive, meaningful, and lasting change in Manchester.

The MFB is part of the [Sustainable Food Places network](#) (previously Sustainable Food Cities) of local food partnerships. The MFB also sits on the steering group of [Good Food Greater Manchester](#).

Policy approach

One of the MFB's functions is to influence policy making, so that access to good food is embedded and supported across different agendas. We have fed into, and aligned our own work to complement, the following policies:

- [Our Manchester Strategy: Forward to 2025](#)
- [Manchester Climate Change Partnership Framework](#)
- [Family Poverty Strategy](#)
- Neighbourhood Development Plans
- Manchester Ward Action Plans

Priority areas of action

Action Plan and Policy Statement

The onset of COVID-19 and the resulting lockdowns have created societal change on a huge scale. To reflect these shifting tides the MFB has drawn up a [Policy Statement](#), which identifies the main challenges facing Manchester's food system and sets out our vision for tackling these challenges.

We have also set an [Action Plan of key priorities](#), which underpins our current work programme. The Action Plan is structured around 5 aims, each of which is supported by impact-driven objectives:

1. Secure access to sustainable, appropriate, and nutritious food for all people
2. Promote a vibrant food culture and helps create a dynamic and robust hospitality sector
3. Create more resilient supply chains
4. Reduce the environmental impacts of the food system
5. Facilitate collaboration, research, and innovation in the food system

With this approach, we support a sustainable and equitable recovery for Manchester, to ensure that everyone has access to healthy, sustainable, affordable, appropriate food.

Current workstreams

These are derived from the Action Plan, and cut across our 5 objectives:

- Reducing commercial food waste
- Sustainable food economy
- Community food growing
- Manchester Sustainable Food Week event (Oxford Road Corridor)
- Good food in schools
- Food Security JSNA
- Food secure neighbourhoods

There are also several projects we are delivering, in line with the Action Plan and these workstreams:

- 3-year food strategy for MFB
- MFB website creation
- Food hub feasibility study
- Research report on shortening supply chains for ethnically diverse food
- A food sustainability code for businesses
- Exploring what good food retail looks like for the city centre
- Food tech incubation programme