

# THIRD SECTOR LEEDS RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION:

## LEEDS FOOD STRATEGY (DRAFT)

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# IN PRINCIPLE

Third Sector Leeds (TSL) supports the creation of a citywide strategy around food, and has a longstanding interest in the critical role of the third sector in delivering such a strategy.

TSL welcomed the multi-faceted approach to a food strategy and broadly agreed that the food 'missions' were the right ones. TSL welcomes the explicit recognition of the key role of the third sector, working with the public and private sector, in both developing and delivering a city-wide food strategy.

# TSL COMMENTS

## Health and wellbeing

- TSL strongly supports this priority and the protective impact of a good diet and access to good food on health
- Organisations in the third sector have a unique insight into how lower levels of knowledge and poverty impact upon people's diets, and therefore their health
- One organisation suggested that focus on reducing obesity in children of a primary school age should be prioritised.

## Food security and economy

- Ensuring that people can access cultural food, particularly staples such as rice, yam etc., is crucial to the diversity of our city and people's collective cultural identities
- Investing in people and their skills could create local circular economy jobs relating to growing, prepping, delivery, cooking and selling food. We need to ensure that people receive a decent wage for these jobs.

## Sustainability and resilience

- The third sector in Leeds houses a huge amount of knowledge and expertise in this area, particularly around objective 5 – “to encourage and enable innovative and community-led food production.”
- Investment in supporting people to grow food at home is likely to have much wider benefits than just more sustainable food sources. For example, meeting neighbours, sharing skills, information and physical resources e.g. soil, compost, seeds and seedlings, as well as the mental and physical health benefits from more time spent outside.
- Leeds Green Activity Provider Network has a vision of some form of a growing project in every neighbourhood. Looking at community growing on a very local level was suggested – for example growing resource hubs, or produce hubs driven by what is needed and what can be organised locally.
- One organisation gave the example of Space 2 making use of common spaces for growing, coordinating a community planting scheme at The Old Fire Station, in Gipton; this could be expanded to bring the community together to make use of the grass verges and plentiful green spaces across the estate to plant fruit trees.

# ABOUT THIRD SECTOR LEEDS

TSL is the forum in Leeds that promotes, represents and advocates for civil society groups and organisations (known as the ‘Third Sector’) in Leeds.

We work closely with large organisations that set the direction for the city, including the Council and the Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (the NHS) in order to:

- Influence decisions that affect the communities the third sector works with.
- Ensure that as many third sector organisations as possible, particularly the smaller ones, are involved in discussions on city-wide challenges and solutions.
- Ensure third sector organisations can access information and support to help them play their part in changing Leeds for the better.

The work of TSL is guided by a Leadership Group who contribute from the perspective of the field in which they are active (e.g. young people, health and wellbeing, LGBT+). Members are nominated by city forums with particular interests.

Where no forum exists, positions are advertised and TSL Leadership Group members approve representatives into their position based on their skills and experience.

Details of the membership of TSL’s Leadership Group are available [here](#).