



April 2025

Local Delivery, National Impact

Insights from the 2025 Sustainable Food Places Survey

**food
matters**

sustainable, fair food systems

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FOOD** places



In Brief: What the Survey Reveals

In early 2025, Sustainable Food Places (SFP) launched the Partnership Impact & Priorities Survey to take stock of the work, challenges, and ambitions of food partnerships across the UK. Developed and analysed by Food Matters, the survey offers a representative snapshot of a growing movement that is diverse in structure, increasingly strategic in focus, and delivering meaningful change — despite persistent structural constraints.

With responses from 57 partnerships across all nations and regions of the UK, this report captures a detailed view of local impact, identifies clear system-level challenges, and outlines what is needed to unlock the next phase of progress. The findings will directly inform SFP's national strategy, advocacy, and support offer — and will be used to influence wider policy and investment in local food systems.

Headlines from the Survey

1. Food Partnerships Are Delivering Widespread Change — Often Against the Odds

Over **two-thirds of partnerships** report moderate to strong progress in strengthening their local food system. Partnerships described a wide variety of tangible achievements — including co-developing local food strategies, influencing public procurement practices, securing 'Right to Grow' council motions, establishing food hubs and growing spaces, and improving access to food through community fridges, pantries, and dignified food support initiatives. These examples show how partnerships are not only embedding food within local policy agendas, but also creating the community infrastructure, relationships, and legitimacy needed to drive long-term systems change.

Behind these achievements are several consistent drivers of success:

Community participation is a key driver of change

Partnerships consistently point to active engagement with residents, community groups, and volunteers as a key driver — whether through co-designed initiatives, listening events, or grassroots mobilisation. By centering participation, partnerships are strengthening their relevance, accountability, and ability to respond to change.

Access to funding that enables action, not just aspiration

Where financial support is available — whether through local authority investment, external grants, or pooled resources — partnerships are able to sustain coordination, expand delivery, and innovate. Lack of long-term funding, however, remains the most widely cited barrier to progress.

Leadership that brings people together and drives change

Strong, trusted leadership — often by dedicated coordinators — plays a critical role in convening cross-sector partners, maintaining momentum, and translating shared values into action. Many partnerships identified this relational, behind-the-scenes leadership as central to their local influence.

Despite these strengths, progress is constrained by systemic challenges: short-term funding, limited staffing, and overstretched local authorities continue to inhibit long-term planning and resilience-building.

2. Community Leadership Is a Core Strength — with Room to Deepen

Food partnerships are widely committed to community engagement and participation. The majority describe their work as shaped by the voices and needs of local people — with many using co-design, listening events, and community forums to guide their activities.

However, most partnerships also recognise they are still on a journey when it comes to embedding shared leadership and governance structures. Few describe themselves as fully community-led, and many sit at the midpoint on a self-assessed scale of community leadership.

- Only 4 partnerships rated themselves as fully community-led
- The largest group selected the midpoint (3 out of 5), signalling both achievement and ambition
- Common barriers include limited resources, informal governance arrangements, and challenges engaging across large or rural areas

While participatory practices are widespread, more structurally embedded forms of power-sharing — such as shared leadership roles, community-led decision-making, or participatory budgeting — are less common. There is clear aspiration across the network to go further, and a strong call for tailored support, funding, and peer learning to help deepen participatory governance and turn engagement into shared power.

3. Local Policy Influence Is Growing — and National Appetite Is Strong

Food partnerships are playing a growing role in shaping local food policy and governance:

- **82%** engaged councillors, MPs, or mayors on food issues
- **81%** of partnerships report strong levels of engagement with their local authority.
- Nearly **half** reported influencing local food strategies, procurement frameworks, or council motions

Many partnerships have become recognised contributors to cross-sector working groups, climate plans, and public health strategies. Their influence increasingly extends beyond food access to encompass broader agendas like health equity, environmental sustainability, and local economic development.

Just over half of all partnerships also engaged in national-level advocacy, with many contributing to consultations, national campaigns, and policy briefings. While national advocacy is less frequent than local engagement, partnerships expressed strong appetite for SFP to amplify their voices and strengthen the case for greater recognition and investment in their role. The desire is not only for policy change — but for a more visible place for local food partnerships within the wider food system.

4. Equity Is a Shared Priority — But Inclusion Gaps Remain

Food partnerships are increasingly recognising the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), with many embedding inclusive principles into project delivery and engagement practices. However, structural approaches to DEI — especially in governance and leadership — remain underdeveloped.

The survey highlights three key areas where representation in steering groups is particularly limited:

- **Ethnic diversity:** Nearly half (45%) of partnerships disagreed or strongly disagreed that their governance reflects the racial and ethnic diversity of their communities. Only 29% agreed, and none strongly agreed.

- **Age diversity:** Just 20% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their steering group includes individuals across a wide age range, while over 60% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- **Disability inclusion:** Only 14% of partnerships agreed that individuals with disabilities are represented in their governance structures. While 40% disagreed or strongly disagreed, a significant number of respondents (35%) selected "unsure" or "prefer not to say" — suggesting that disability inclusion may be under-recognised or less visible within current structures.

While only a small number of partnerships (3) have a formal DEI strategy in place, many (33) indicated they actively integrate DEI principles into their work, and 12 are in the process of developing a formal plan. Use of the REDI tool is still limited, with just 7 partnerships having used it to date — though another 15 plan to do so.

The findings point to a network that recognises the importance of equity and inclusion, but requires more support, tools, and space for reflection to embed these principles in governance structures. There is clear demand for practical guidance, peer learning, and capacity building to support partnerships in building leadership that more fully reflects the communities they serve.

5. The SFP Programme Is Powering Local Food Systems Change

Across the board, partnerships credited Sustainable Food Places with shaping their development and enabling their impact. The programme was widely described as a source of legitimacy, strategic direction, and practical support — as well as a vital space for connection, confidence, and shared purpose. The most valued types of support were:

- **Peer learning and knowledge exchange**, which topped the list of appreciated offers
- **Support in capturing and demonstrating impact**, which ranked second — reinforcing the value of evidence, storytelling, and data in building credibility and securing funding

Partnerships also strongly affirmed the sense of belonging and shared identity fostered by the network. Many described feeling a part of something larger and more meaningful — a movement with shared values and purpose. This strategic alignment, combined with accessible resources and support, has helped partnerships gain traction with local stakeholders and attract new collaborators.

At the same time, many respondents highlighted barriers to deeper involvement in the network — with limited capacity emerging as the most common constraint. Partnerships called for more flexible and accessible ways to contribute, clearer communication about opportunities, and targeted support to help newer or smaller partnerships participate meaningfully in shaping the programme's future.

Responding to the Findings: Priorities for the SFP Programme

The SFP programme has proven vital to the growth and credibility of food partnerships. To build on this momentum and respond to the needs highlighted in the survey, the next phase of the programme should focus on enabling partnerships to lead local systems change by:

Supporting core capacity

Champion and strengthen the essential conditions for food partnership coordination — including helping to make the case for long-term funding, developing tools for strategic planning, and sharing models that sustain impactful local work.

Strengthening participatory governance

Provide practical tools, guidance, and examples that help partnerships build inclusive structures, share power, and centre community leadership in decision-making.

Expanding national advocacy

Amplify the voices of food partnerships in national policy spaces, secure recognition of their role, and advocate for systemic support across the devolved nations and UK-wide policy frameworks.

Embedding equity and representation

Offer reflective tools, peer exchange, and strategic support to help partnerships advance DEI in leadership and decision-making.

Enhancing evidence and impact communication

Continue to support partnerships in evaluating, documenting, and communicating their value — helping them tell compelling stories that inform policy, attract investment, and mobilise support.

Enabling flexible network co-design

Create accessible ways for partnerships to shape the future of the programme — from ad hoc input and peer-led innovation to regional collaboration and strategic steering.

Callum Etches

Impact and Evaluation Lead

Food Matters

Introduction

In early 2025, Sustainable Food Places (SFP) launched the Partnership Impact & Priorities Survey to take stock of the work, challenges, and priorities of food partnerships across the UK. Developed and delivered by Food Matters as part of the SFP evaluation programme, the survey was designed to establish a shared baseline, capture evidence of local impact, and identify what support is most needed to strengthen the movement.

The questions explored a range of themes — from partnership governance and food resilience to equity, advocacy, and community leadership — as well as reflections on the most significant changes partnerships have achieved and where they're focusing their efforts next.

Insights from the survey will directly shape the next phase of the SFP programme. They will guide national priorities, inform advocacy and campaigns, and ensure the programme evolves to better serve the needs of food partnerships. The findings will also help build the case for continued investment in local food systems by demonstrating the value and potential of coordinated, place-based action.

About the Survey

This report is based on findings from the 2025 Sustainable Food Places Impact & Priorities Survey, developed and delivered by Food Matters between January and March 2025. The survey aimed to capture the experiences, achievements, and support needs of local food partnerships across the UK.

A total of 57 partnerships took part, representing a broad cross-section of the Sustainable Food Places network. Respondents varied in terms of geography, partnership model, hosting arrangements, and maturity — from newly formed groups to long-established collaborations holding Bronze, Silver, or Gold SFP Awards.

The survey combined closed and open-ended questions across seven core themes, including governance, equity, advocacy, and community leadership. The findings reflect both the diversity and common ground across the network, and provide a credible, representative snapshot of local food systems work in 2025.

A more detailed overview of respondent profiles is included at the end of the report (section 8).

Navigating the Report:

1. Delivering Local Change: Progress, Impact, and Challenges (p.7)
2. Embedding Community Voice in Local Food Systems (p. 12)
3. Mobilising Communities, Influencing Change (p. 16)
4. Who's at the table? Representation and Inclusion in Food Partnerships (p. 21)
5. What's Next: Local and National Priorities (p. 26)
6. Shaping the Network: Partnership Influence on the SFP Programme (p. 28)
7. The Value of the Programme - and What's Needed to Strengthen It (p. 34)
8. Respondent Profiles and Partnership Context (p. 35)

1. Delivering Local Change: Progress, Impact, and Challenges

This section explores food partnerships' confidence in their ability to drive positive, long-term change, as well as the main factors that have supported or hindered their progress over the past year.

Partnership Impact on Strengthening Local Food Systems

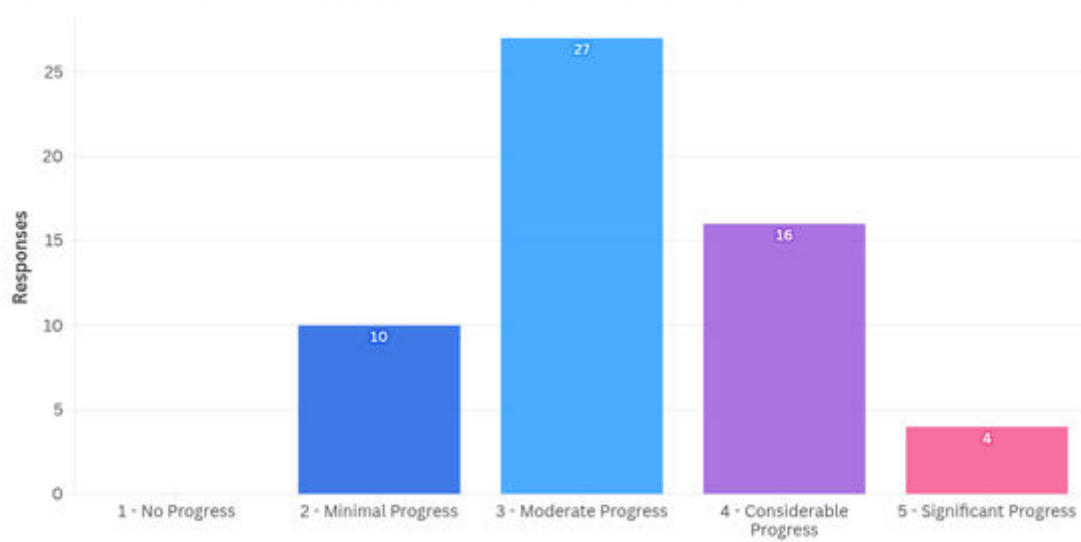
Partnerships were asked to assess their impact over the past year on a 1–5 scale, with 5 representing significant progress and 1 representing no progress. The results show:

- 4 partnerships rated their impact at 5 (significant progress)
- 16 partnerships selected 4, indicating considerable progress
- 27 partnerships chose 3, reflecting moderate progress
- 10 partnerships rated their impact at 2, suggesting more limited gains

This distribution shows that over two-thirds of respondents (47 out of 57) perceive they have made moderate to strong progress in strengthening their local food system. Only a small proportion (10 partnerships) reported limited impact, and none selected the lowest possible score, suggesting that all participating partnerships see themselves as contributing to positive change.

These self-assessments speak to the cumulative momentum of the Sustainable Food Places movement. Even amid resource constraints and systemic challenges, the vast majority of partnerships are making tangible strides toward local food system change. The data also provides a valuable starting point for future impact tracking — not only does it demonstrate current reach, but it helps establish a baseline for measuring progress over time as national support strategies continue to evolve.

Over the past year, how would you describe your partnership's impact on strengthening the local food system?



Positive Drivers of Change

Food partnerships were asked to reflect on the factors that had most helped them strengthen their local food system over the past year. The most commonly selected enablers were:

- Community engagement and participation (45 responses)
- Access to funding and financial support (41)
- Effective leadership and coordination (33)
- Supportive local policy (26)
- Local political support (18)
- Knowledge, skills, and training opportunities (17)
- Access to data, research, and evidence (16)

These responses suggest that progress is most often attributed to a mix of active community involvement, resource availability, and strong local leadership. The relatively high ranking of community engagement points to the value placed on public participation and collaboration as core elements of local food systems work.

Supportive local governance—both through policy and political buy-in—also appears to play an important enabling role. While supportive national policy was selected less frequently (8 responses), this may reflect either lower visibility or limited direct influence from national frameworks during the past year.

A small number of additional comments highlighted more specific or context-based enablers—such as access to research support, being part of a wider food network, or working in step with the “zeitgeist” of transition. These illustrate that alongside core enablers, relational dynamics, peer exchange, and broader societal momentum are also shaping local progress.

While the data presents a generally positive picture of what supports partnership progress, it also provides insight into where gaps may still exist, particularly at the national policy level or in access to specialist skills and evidence.

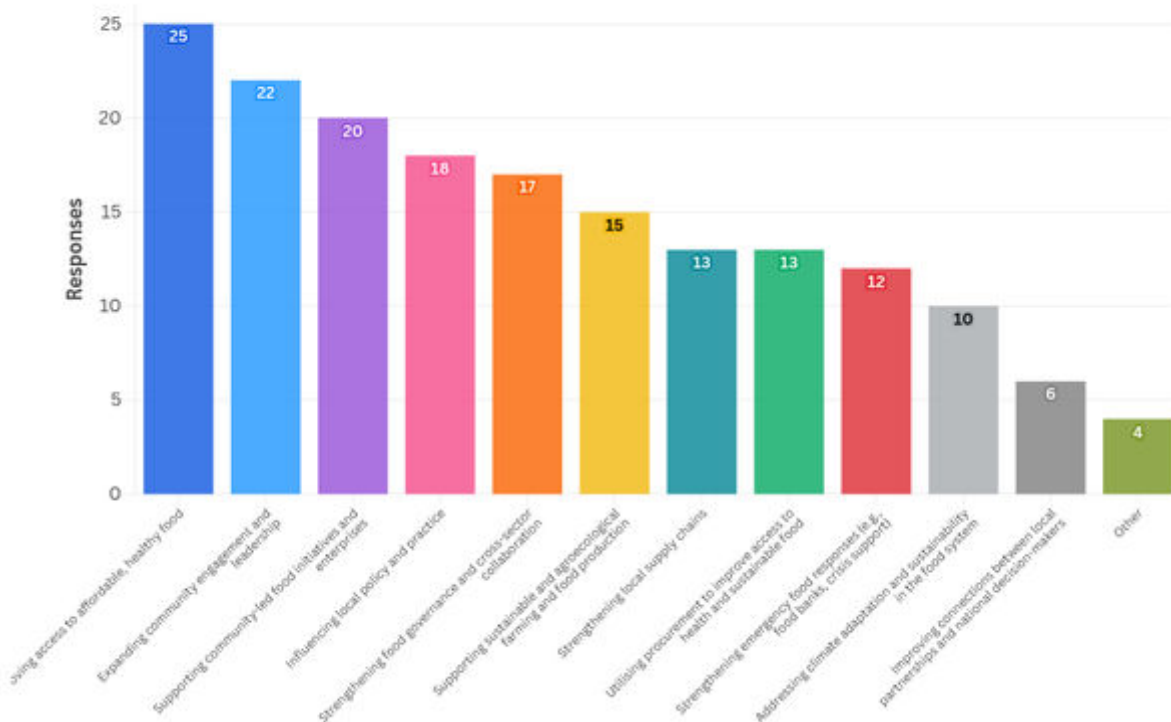
Strengthening Resilience and Community Food Security

Across the network, partnerships reported a diverse range of activity aimed at strengthening food system resilience and improving community food security. The most common areas of focus were building stronger food partnerships and collaboration (44), making good food accessible to everyone (40), and strengthening community food knowledge and relationships (41). These headline figures reinforce the central role partnerships play as connectors — bringing together people, organisations, and agendas to deliver more joined-up local action.

A significant number (39) continue to provide emergency food support and crisis response, while many are embedding approaches that prioritise dignity and choice (38) and expand infrastructure, such as community growing spaces (39). These efforts reflect how many partnerships are working across both short-term needs and long-term transformation simultaneously.

Notably, 35 reported work to influence local or national food policy, and 26 are supporting local food producers and supply chains — suggesting that a sizeable proportion of the network is shifting its focus upstream, shaping the systems and structures that govern food in their areas. While fewer are currently engaged in preparing for future food challenges (19) or financial resilience strategies (9), these remain important frontiers for further development. Overall, the range and depth of activity show a maturing movement that is beginning to embed resilience and equity into the local food system in tangible and strategic ways.

What are your partnership's top three priorities for the coming year?



Level of Local Authority Engagement

Food partnerships reported high levels of engagement with their local councils:

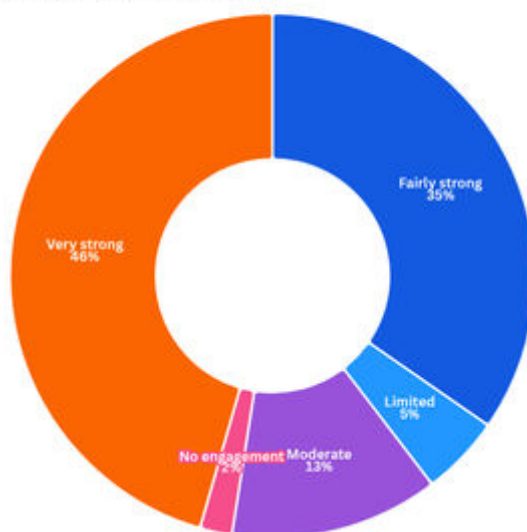
- 26 partnerships described their engagement as very strong, with local councils highly involved and supportive.
- 20 partnerships reported a fairly strong relationship, indicating regular engagement on key issues.
- 7 partnerships described engagement as moderate, while only 3 reported it as limited, and just 1 indicated no engagement at all.

This data presents a compelling picture of how deeply embedded food partnerships have become within local governance structures. That 46 out of 57 partnerships describe their relationship as “very” or “fairly strong” is a testament to the progress of the Sustainable Food Places programme in helping food work gain institutional traction. It reflects both the effectiveness of partnerships in engaging public sector actors and the increasing recognition by councils of food as a lever for delivering wider policy goals—from public health and climate action to economic development.

The very small number of partnerships experiencing limited or no engagement may reflect specific local challenges or political contexts. Going forward, targeted support for these partnerships could help ensure more equitable capacity for systemic change across the network.

How would you describe your partnership's level of engagement with your local council?

Fairly strong Limited Moderate No engagement Very strong



Reflections on Impact: What Partnerships Have Achieved Over the Past Year

In response to an open question about the most significant improvement or impact achieved over the past year, food partnerships shared a wide range of examples that collectively demonstrate the breadth and maturity of the network’s work. While the activities varied by context, several clear themes emerged.

A number of partnerships reported success in **shaping local governance and influencing policy**, including co-developing food strategies, securing council motions (such as Right to Grow), and driving cross-sector collaboration through food summits and action plans. In several cases, food partnerships have become trusted convenors, helping to embed food within local priorities around health, climate, and equity.

Community infrastructure and grassroots action were also commonly cited, with partnerships reporting the development of food hubs, growing spaces, community fridges and pantries, and local funding schemes. These efforts are enabling more people and organisations to take part in local food work — not just as beneficiaries, but as co-creators.

Partnerships also reflected growing momentum around **public procurement and local supply chains**, including new collaborations with schools and caterers, and work to make locally sourced food more accessible through buying coops and producer networks. These efforts often intersected with a stronger emphasis on **dignity, cultural appropriateness, and food justice** — including work on school meal access, wraparound support, and equity-focused community engagement.

Finally, we saw early but promising signs of partnerships stepping into **climate and resilience agendas**, from regenerative farming pilots to food in climate plans and local disaster risk strategies. These examples show the potential for food partnerships to contribute meaningfully to long-term systems change as well as immediate local need.

Persistent Barriers to Progress

In response to the open-ended question, partnerships identified a wide range of challenges limiting their ability to make lasting improvements to the local food system. The clearest and most consistent message was that a lack of secure, long-term funding is the single biggest barrier to progress. Partnerships described a funding environment dominated by short-term, competitive project grants that inhibit continuity, prevent strategic planning, and place enormous administrative burdens on small teams.

This financial precarity directly impacts staffing. Many partnerships are run by a single part-time coordinator or rely on voluntary leadership, limiting their ability to engage stakeholders, sustain momentum, or respond to local needs. Several described working at the outer limits of their capacity, with little to no margin for innovation or resilience-building.

Importantly, these challenges are not confined to the partnerships themselves. Local authorities and other system actors were also described as overstretched, under-resourced, or lacking the mandate to prioritise food. Even where there is strong will, the absence of dedicated capacity and funding makes it difficult to maintain consistent engagement or develop shared solutions.

Other challenges cited include systemic barriers such as the dominance of unhealthy food in national policy and the lack of support for local food infrastructure (e.g. processing, storage, land access). A number of partnerships also flagged governance-related issues — including lack of a constituted entity or a clear internal structure — as barriers to progress.

2. Embedding Community Voice in Local Food Systems

This section explores the extent to which food partnerships are led by the communities they serve, and how the Sustainable Food Places programme has supported efforts to strengthen community leadership and participation.

Towards Community-Led Partnerships

When asked how far their food partnership is led or shaped by the communities it serves, most respondents placed themselves in the middle of the scale. On a five-point scale (1 = not at all community-led; 5 = fully community-led), the largest group (30) selected 3. A further 13 chose 4, and just 4 selected 5. Only 10 partnerships reported low levels of community leadership (scores of 1 or 2).

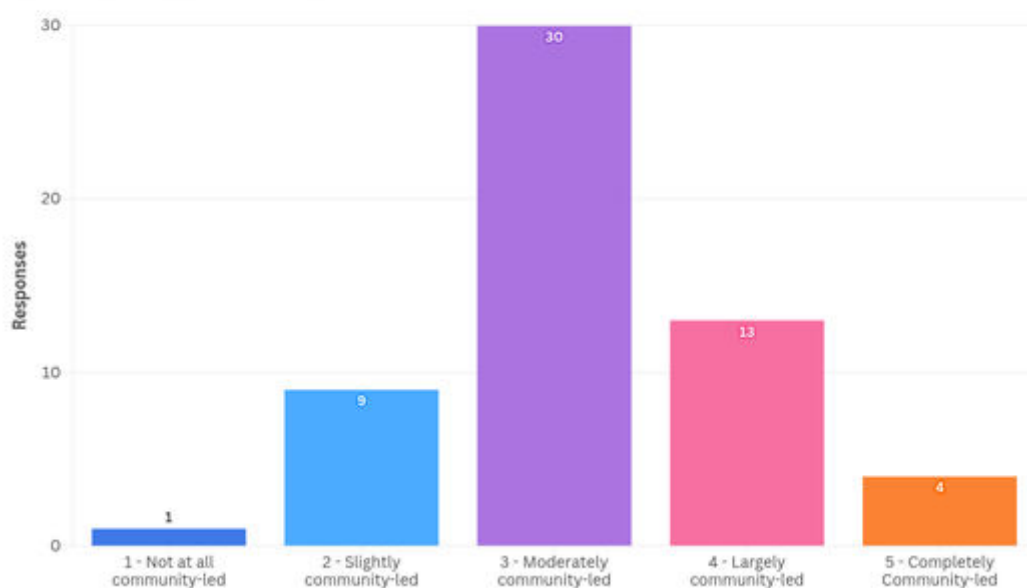
Open-text responses shed light on what this looks like in practice. Many partnerships described efforts to embed community voice through co-design, participatory decision-making, and inclusive governance — from resident-led steering groups to public forums and advisory panels.

At the same time, respondents highlighted persistent barriers to deeper leadership, particularly limited capacity and reliance on small staff teams. In some cases, community input remains informal or under-resourced, and not yet fully embedded in strategic decisions.

Partnerships also reflected on structural challenges, such as working within local authority systems that filter or constrain direct engagement, or the difficulty of convening diverse voices across large rural areas. Several respondents drew a distinction between being community-engaged and community-led — recognising they are on a journey toward the latter.

Overall, the findings reflect strong aspirations toward shared leadership across the network, along with a clear awareness of the practical and structural work still needed to turn participation into power.

To what extent is your food partnership led by or shaped by the communities it serves?



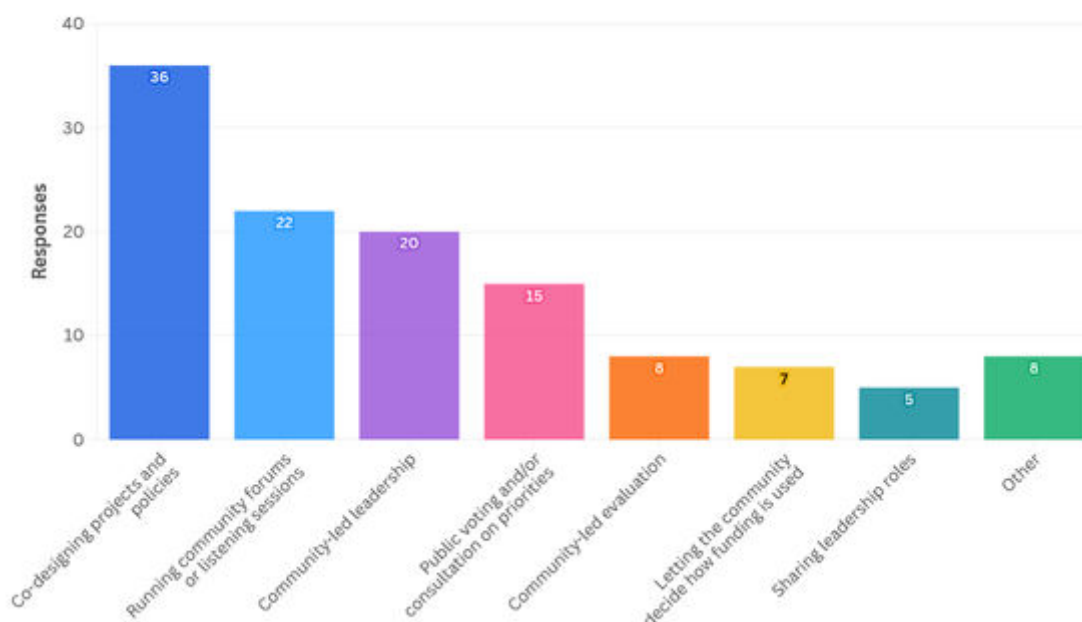
Communities and Partnership Decision-Making

The survey asked food partnerships to identify how community members influence decision-making within their partnership. The most common method was co-designing projects and policies, with 36 partnerships selecting this option. This reflects a strong trend toward involving communities in shaping tangible outcomes and strategies. Community forums and listening sessions were also widely used (22), alongside community-led leadership structures (20), showing that many partnerships are making efforts to create dedicated spaces for community voice.

Other reported methods included public voting or consultations on priorities (15), community-led evaluation (8), and even letting communities decide how funding is used (7) — practices that indicate deeper levels of participatory governance in some areas. However, only five partnerships reported sharing leadership roles, and a few (3) indicated none of the above, while some additional comments suggested a need to strengthen or refresh their current structures.

These results resonate with the earlier findings on the extent of community leadership within partnerships. While there is strong intent and a wide range of participatory practices in place, many partnerships remain in the process of deepening and formalising this work. There is a clear opportunity for the programme to support the development of more robust, inclusive, and sustainable participatory governance mechanisms, particularly for those partnerships that are still early in this journey.

In what ways do community members influence decision-making within your food partnership?



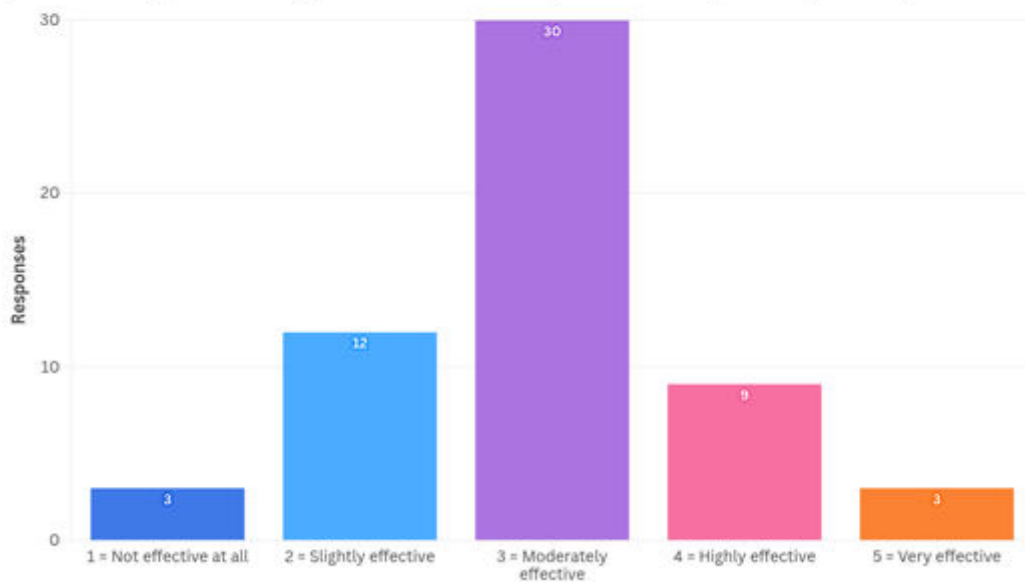
Support from the SFP Programme on Community Leadership and Participation

When asked how effective the SFP programme has been in supporting their efforts to strengthen community leadership and participation, most food partnerships offered a middling assessment. The most common score was 3 out of 5, selected by 30 respondents — suggesting partnerships recognise some support, but not yet at the level needed to make significant shifts in power or practice. A smaller number rated the programme highly (3 gave it a score of 5), while 15 respondents gave it a 1 or 2, indicating limited or minimal support in this area.

This suggests that while the programme has provided a helpful foundation, many partnerships feel it has not yet fully met the support needs required to embed community-led approaches. There is a clear appetite for deeper, more practical support to translate ambition into action.

When asked what forms of support had been most helpful, networking opportunities with other partnerships emerged as the most commonly experienced benefit, cited by 44 partnerships. A further 28 noted the value of advocacy and national-level policy influence, while 17 highlighted training and capacity-building for community leadership. However, 8 partnerships indicated they had not yet received support, reinforcing the interpretation that SFP's support is meaningful where it lands, but not yet universally felt. These findings point to an opportunity for the programme to deepen and broaden its support offer, particularly around leadership development and access to tailored, hands-on assistance.

How effective has the SFP programme been in supporting your partnership to strengthen community leadership and participation?



More support from SFP on Community Engagement

When asked what further support from SFP would help them to better engage and be led by local communities, food partnerships were strikingly consistent in highlighting the need for long-term, consistent funding. Many noted that the capacity to deliver meaningful community engagement — let alone enable community leadership — remains limited without core resource. Several coordinators described feeling precarious or overstretched, despite high expectations and visibility, and called for stronger financial and structural foundations to move their work to the next level.

Beyond funding, partnerships also asked for peer-to-peer learning, particularly through case studies and examples of successful community-led approaches across different geographies and governance contexts. Support with training in co-production, community development, and equitable power-sharing between sectors was also requested, as was better access to data and policy guidance to strengthen their strategic influence. Several also expressed a need for clearer guidance on what ‘community-led’ means in practice, noting that SFP’s values have helped shape their direction, especially through the Awards framework — but that implementing these ambitions in diverse local contexts continues to be a work in progress.

3. Mobilising Communities, Influencing Change

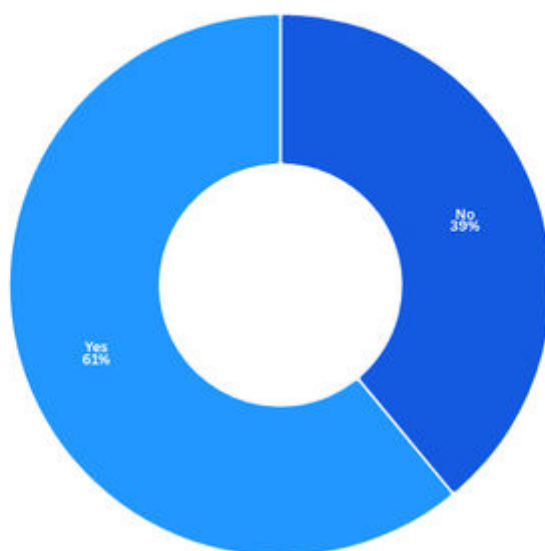
This section examines how food partnerships have fostered community leadership through both campaigning—mobilising public support and raising awareness—and advocacy, by influencing decision-makers and shaping policy at local and national levels.

Engaging Communities Through Local Campaigns

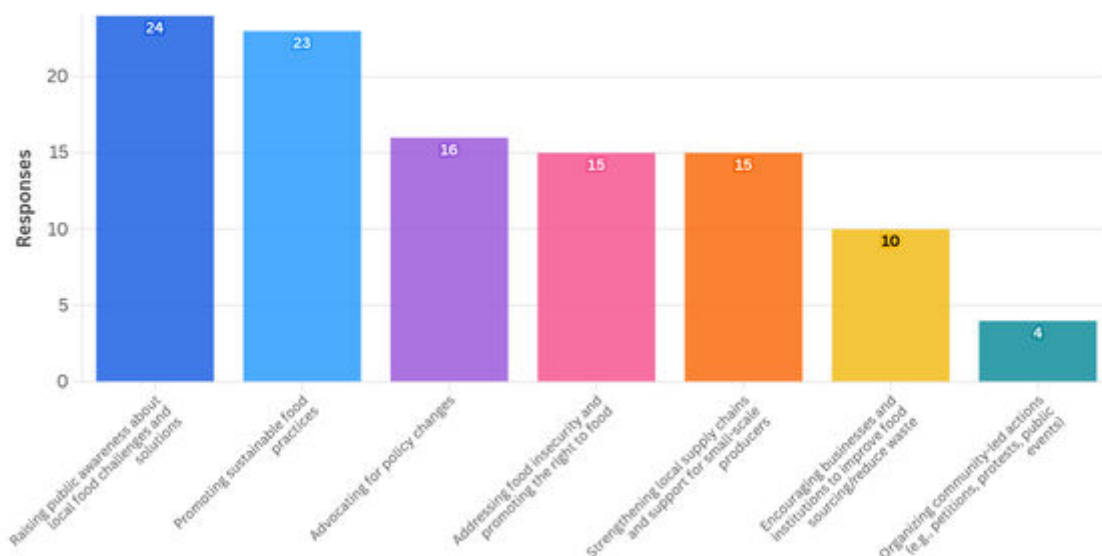
In response to an open-ended question, food partnerships shared a wide range of activities they found most effective in their local campaigning efforts. Many pointed to awareness-raising campaigns—such as initiatives focused on food waste reduction, vegetable consumption, or the broader role of food partnerships—as having the most traction, particularly when co-designed with local communities. Localised events like food trails, seasonal festivals, and community meetings were also frequently cited, valued for both their celebratory tone and capacity to build engagement across sectors.

Several partnerships mentioned campaigns that supported public procurement reform, deforestation-free food sourcing, and climate-related goals. Others highlighted more structural contributions—such as supporting the visibility of smaller groups or enabling practitioner dialogue—as impactful. However, some flagged limits to capacity or restrictions on campaigning (e.g., CIC status), with a few noting that aligning with national campaigns or joining collective advocacy (like those led by SFP or Sustain) had proven more feasible.

In the past year, has your partnership run or participated in public campaigns to raise awareness or mobilise support for food system change at the local level?



What were the main focus areas of your local campaigns?



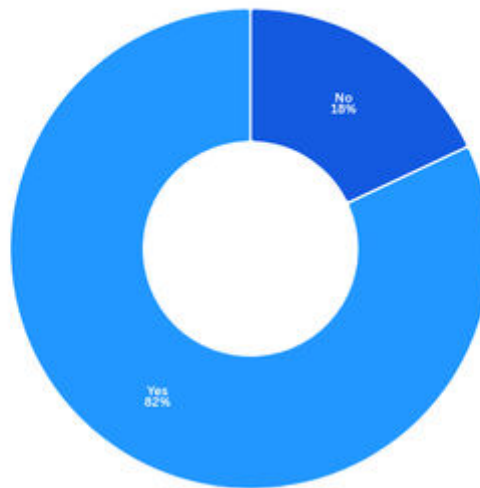
Shaping Local Food Policy and Governance

Engaging local decision-makers remains a strong focus for most partnerships, with 47 out of 57 (82%) reporting efforts over the past year to influence local MPs, councils, mayors, or other policymakers on food-related issues. This reflects the ongoing strategic emphasis many partnerships place on shifting local food governance and embedding food into broader policy agendas.

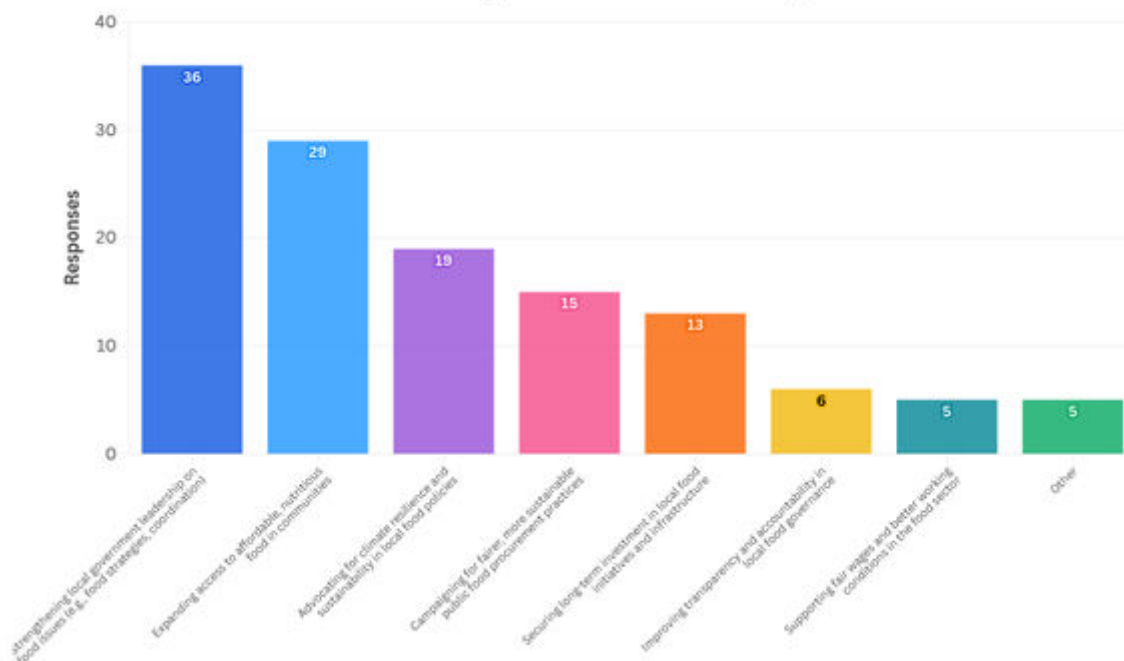
When asked where their advocacy efforts with local decision-makers have focused, partnerships most commonly reported working to strengthen local government leadership on food issues (36 responses) and expand access to affordable, nutritious food (29 responses). This suggests a strategic effort to embed food more deeply in local governance and policy structures. Other key areas of focus included climate resilience and sustainability (19), fairer public food procurement (15), and securing long-term investment in food infrastructure (13). Fewer partnerships reported focusing on transparency and accountability, fair wages in the food sector, or broader systemic reforms, though these areas were still represented.

When asked what, if any, policy or practice changes had resulted from local advocacy efforts, food partnerships reported a wide range of outcomes—though many noted progress was often incremental and slow-moving. The most common successes included the development and adoption of local food strategies, some of which explicitly adopted a ‘right to food’ framing. Partnerships also reported progress in securing commitments to sustainable procurement, council motions such as ‘Right to Grow’, and recognition in local climate and wellbeing plans. Several noted stronger working relationships with local authorities, often through collaborative working groups, and a few referenced formal endorsements and funding commitments at national level—especially in Scotland and Wales. However, a significant number stated no formal policy changes had yet materialised, underlining the long-term nature of advocacy and systems change work.

In the past year, has your partnership engaged in efforts to influence local decision-makers (e.g., MPs, councils, mayors, local policymakers) on food-related issues?



What were the focus areas of your local advocacy efforts?

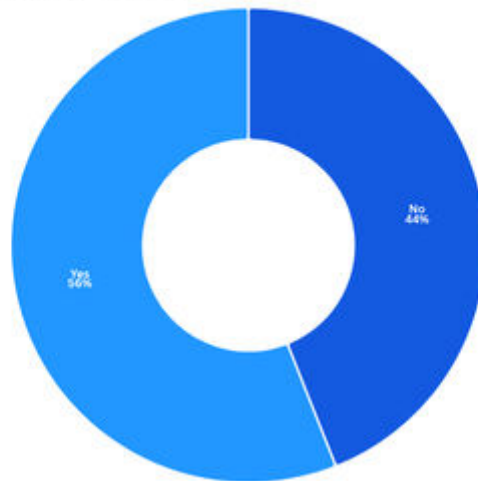


From Local Action to National Advocacy

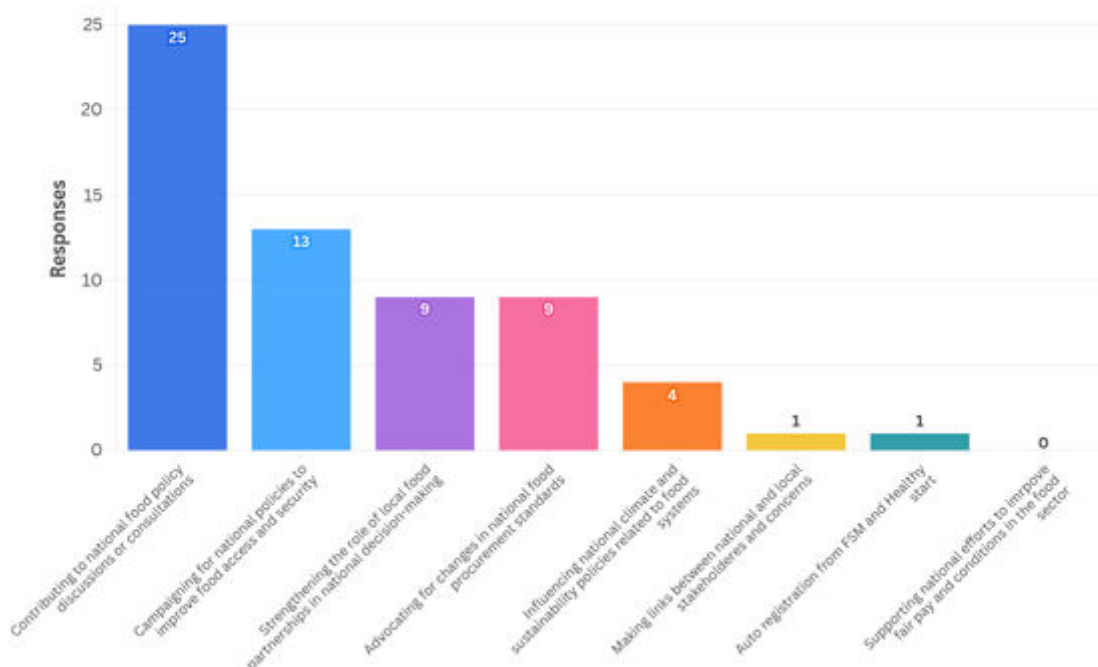
Just over half of partnerships (32 out of 57) reported engaging in national-level advocacy over the past year. This indicates a strong and growing appetite among local food partnerships to influence policy beyond their immediate local contexts, even as a significant minority (25) remain focused on local or regional engagement.

Among those partnerships engaging in national advocacy, the majority focused on shaping food policy and addressing access to food. Contributing to national policy discussions or consultations (25 responses) and campaigning for national policies to improve food access and security (13) were the most frequently reported areas of focus. Other priorities included strengthening the role of local partnerships in national decision-making and advocating for procurement reform (both with 9 mentions). Fewer partnerships reported engaging on climate policy or systemic issues like national-local stakeholder integration, highlighting an opportunity to broaden advocacy efforts in the future.

In the past year, has your partnership contributed to or engaged in advocacy efforts at the national level?



What were the key focus areas of your national advocacy efforts?



Shaping the Future of SFP Advocacy

When asked about future campaigning priorities for the SFP programme, partnerships most frequently called for stronger recognition and support for local food partnerships in national policy—both in terms of visibility and funding. Respondents consistently emphasised the need to invest in food partnerships as critical delivery vehicles for systemic change.

Key thematic areas included:

- Access and equity: Many called for national action on food justice, universal access to affordable, healthy food, and the right to food.
- Public procurement and school food: Education settings and public food were repeatedly highlighted as sites for impactful change.
- Food resilience and security: Several responses pointed to the importance of food system resilience—particularly in light of crises—and the potential of local partnerships to lead or support national efforts.

- Climate and nature: While not the most dominant theme, climate action and sustainable food systems were notable concerns, particularly around aligning local partnerships with broader environmental policy.

There was also a clear call to continue strengthening the strategic role of partnerships in national decision-making structures, especially in devolved contexts like Wales and Scotland, and to support emerging or struggling partnerships to participate meaningfully in national campaigns.

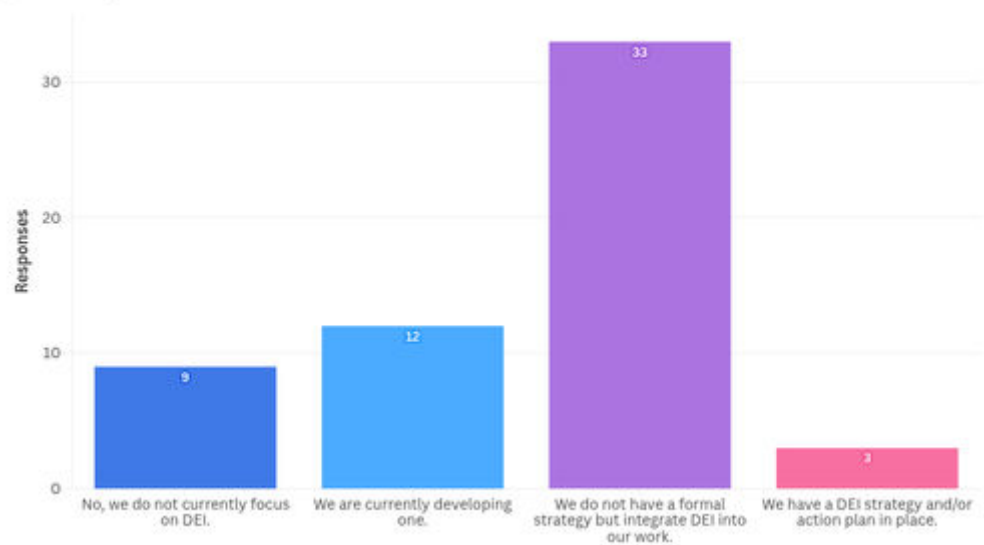
4. Who's at the Table? Representation and Inclusion in Food Partnerships

This section examines the extent to which food partnerships reflect principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion across their leadership, partnerships, and the communities they serve.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Strategies

When asked whether they had a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) strategy or action plan in place, most partnerships indicated that while formal strategies are still emerging, DEI principles are often embedded in their work. Only three partnerships reported having a dedicated DEI strategy or action plan, while a further 12 said they were in the process of developing one. A majority (33 partnerships) reported that although they do not have a formalised approach, they actively seek to integrate DEI principles across their activities. Nine partnerships indicated that they are not currently focusing on DEI. This suggests a growing recognition of the importance of DEI, though capacity and formalisation remain varied across the network.

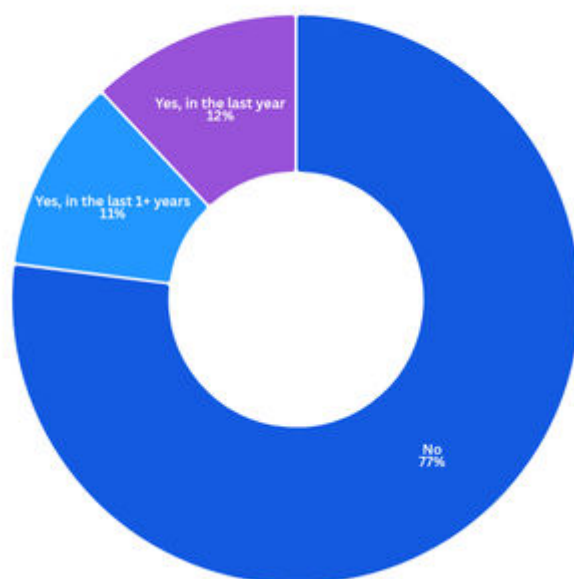
Does your partnership currently have a DEI Strategy and/or action plan in place?



Reviewing DEI Demographics in Steering Groups

Most partnerships (77%) have not formally reviewed the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) demographics of their steering group. A smaller proportion have done so, with 12% reviewing DEI demographics within the past year and an additional 11% conducting a review more than a year ago. This indicates a significant opportunity to support partnerships in reflecting on and strengthening the inclusivity of their governance structures.

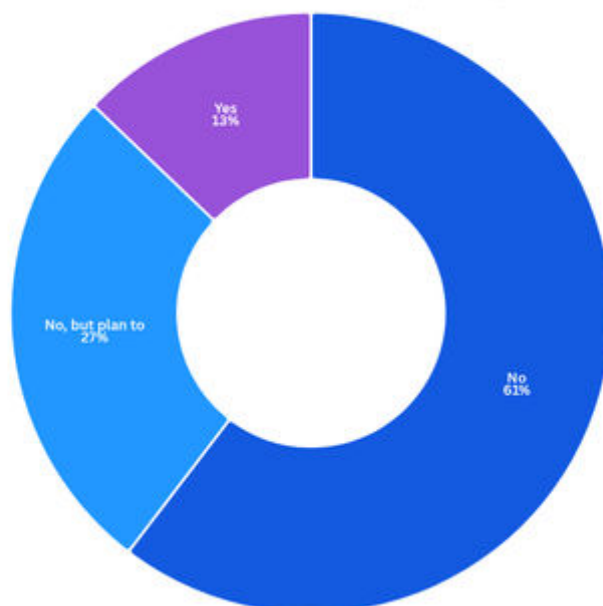
Have you formally reviewed the DEI demographics of your steering group?



Using the SFP REDI Tool

Partnerships were asked whether they had used the REDI Review Tool to reflect on issues of Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion with their governance teams. Only a small number (7 partnerships) reported having used the tool to date, while a further 15 indicated plans to use it in the future. The majority (34 partnerships) had not yet engaged with the tool. This suggests that while awareness of REDI is increasing, there is further opportunity to embed reflective DEI practices across the network.

Have you used the REDI Review Tool with your governance team?



Perceptions of Steering Group Diversity

To better understand the inclusivity of food partnership governance, partnerships were asked to reflect on the diversity of their steering groups across a range of identity and lived experience categories. The responses offer insight into where progress is being made — and where representation gaps remain — particularly in relation to age, ethnicity, disability, and lived experience of hardship.

Age Diversity within Steering Groups

When asked to what extent their steering group includes individuals from a range of age groups (e.g. youth, working-age adults, retirees), most food partnerships did not feel their governance reflected age diversity. Nearly half of respondents (46%) disagreed with the statement, and a further 16% strongly disagreed. Just 20% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their steering group includes a diverse range of ages, while 16% were neutral.

Ethnic Diversity within Steering Groups

The data indicates that food partnerships face significant challenges in ensuring their governance structures reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the communities they serve. Nearly half of respondents (45%) explicitly disagreed or strongly disagreed that their steering groups were ethnically representative, with a further 22% remaining neutral — suggesting uncertainty or a lack of confidence in progress made.

While 29% of respondents agreed with the statement, no respondents strongly agreed, highlighting the absence of strong conviction or demonstrable leadership in this area. The 7% of respondents who selected 'unsure' or 'prefer not to say' may further point to a lack of data, reflection, or structured processes for considering this aspect of governance.

Representation of Individuals with Experience of Financial Hardship

A total of 21 partnerships (37%) agreed or strongly agreed that their steering group includes individuals who have experienced financial hardship. This indicates some recognition of the importance of including socioeconomic diversity, though the picture is mixed.

At the same time, 16 partnerships (28%) actively disagreed or strongly disagreed, suggesting limited inclusion of those with lived experience of poverty or economic precarity in a significant portion of partnerships. A further 11 respondents (19%) were neutral, potentially reflecting uncertainty or lack of data on this form of representation.

Notably, 9 respondents (16%) selected "prefer not to say," which could reflect discomfort in addressing this aspect, or challenges in identifying this dimension within current membership structures.

Representation of LGBTQ+ Communities in Steering Groups

Only 6 respondents (11%) agreed or strongly agreed that LGBTQ+ communities are represented within their steering groups — the lowest level of agreement across all identity categories surveyed. Meanwhile, 18 respondents (32%) actively disagreed or strongly disagreed, suggesting that LGBTQ+ representation is currently very limited within most partnerships.

A notable 22 respondents (39%) selected "prefer not to say" or were unsure, the highest of any demographic category. This may reflect a lack of available data, discomfort in reporting, or uncertainty about how LGBTQ+ identities are identified or acknowledged within governance structures.

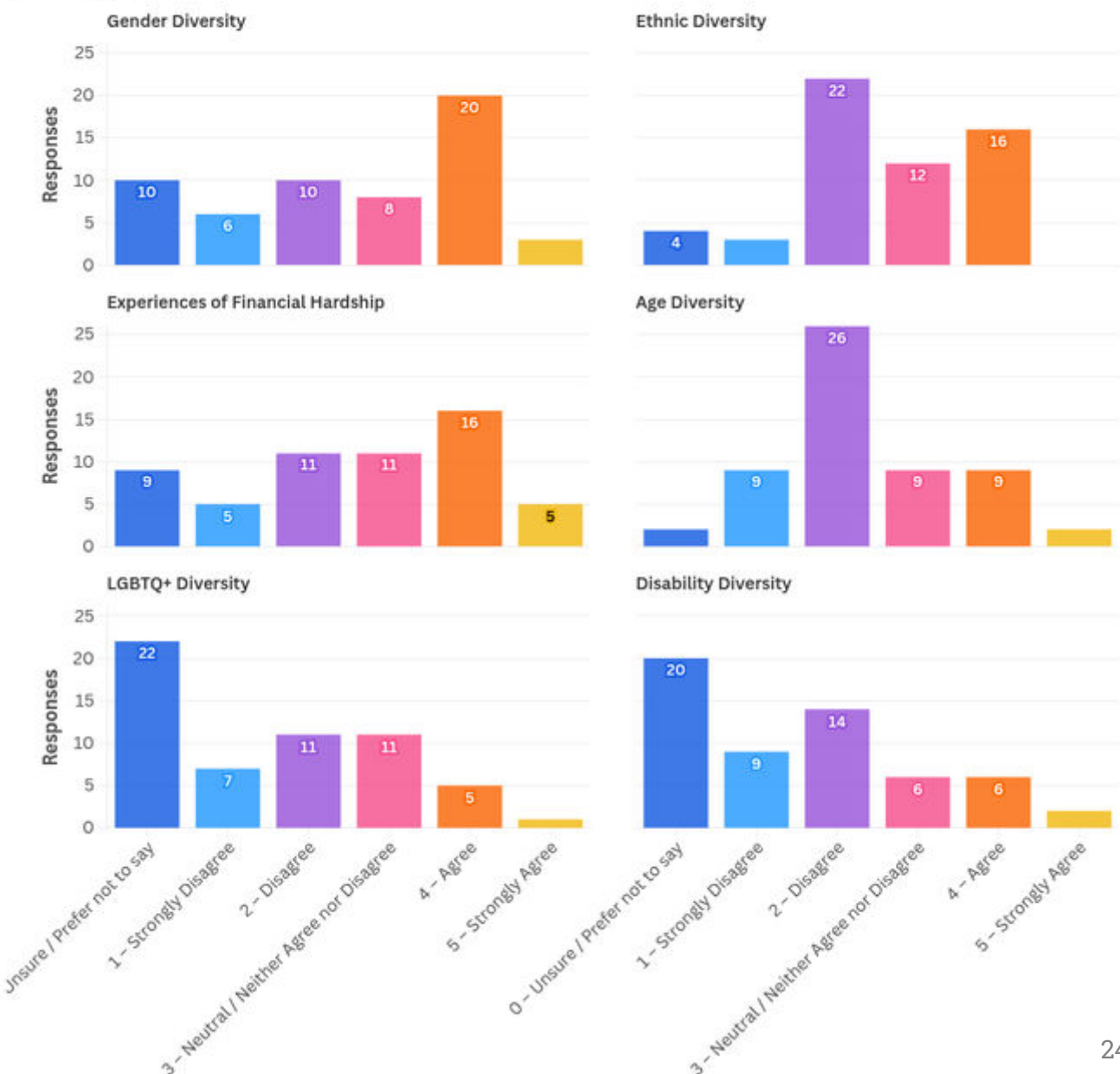
Representation of People with Disabilities in Steering Groups

Just 8 partnerships (14%) indicated agreement that individuals with disabilities are represented in their governance structures — one of the lowest rates of agreement across all diversity dimensions surveyed. Meanwhile, 23 respondents (40%) actively disagreed or strongly disagreed, suggesting that disability inclusion remains underdeveloped across the network.

A significant number of responses — 20 partnerships (35%) — selected "prefer not to say" or were unsure. This could reflect uncertainty about disclosure, a lack of proactive inclusion efforts, or simply the invisibility of disability within some governance settings.

Perceptions of Steering Group Diversity

0 – Unsure / Prefer not to say 1 – Strongly Disagree 2 – Disagree 3 – Neutral / Neither Agree nor Disagree 4 – Agree 5 – Strongly Agree



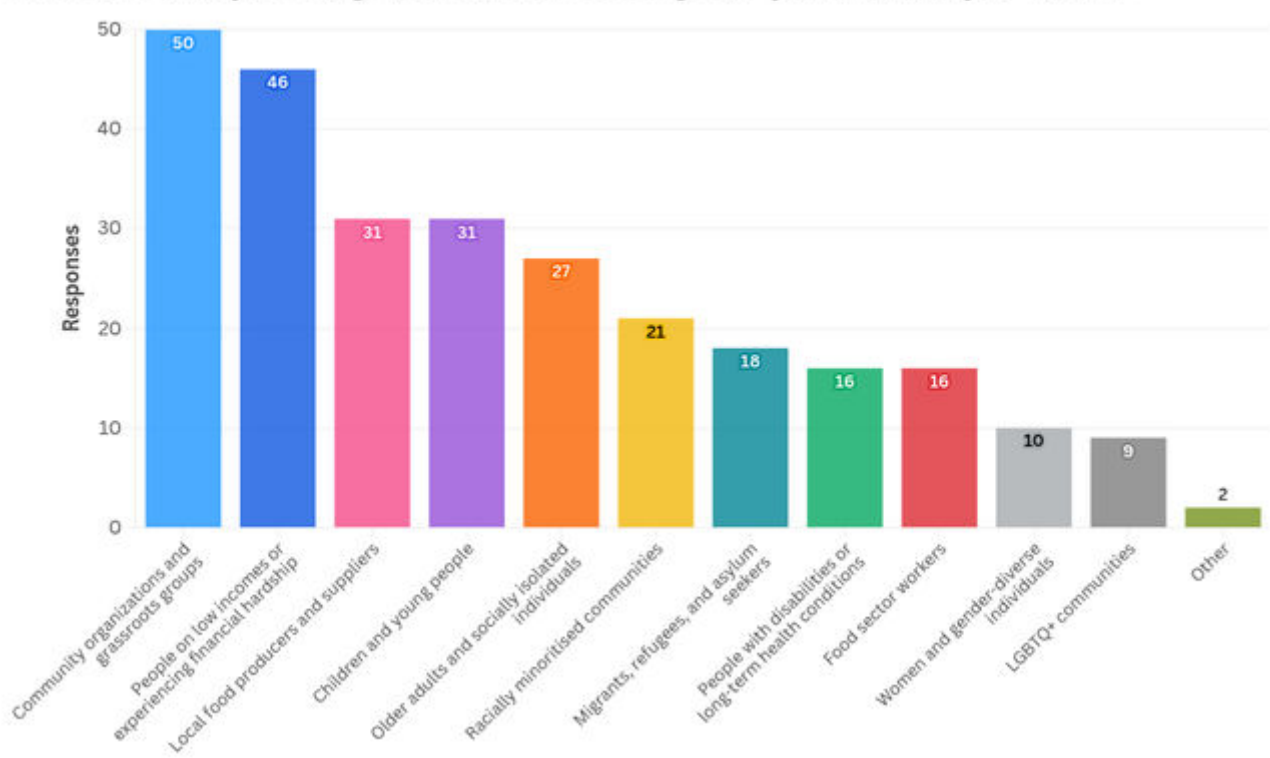
Who Benefits from Food Partnership Work

When asked to identify the primary beneficiaries of their work, food partnerships most frequently highlighted community organizations and grassroots groups (named by 50 respondents), underscoring the role of partnerships as enablers and conveners rather than direct service providers. This was closely followed by people on low incomes or experiencing financial hardship (46), which reflects the programme’s continued emphasis on tackling food insecurity and economic inequality at the local level.

Children and young people (31) and local food producers and suppliers (31) were also common beneficiaries, pointing to an integrated focus on both community well-being and sustainable local economies. Older adults and socially isolated individuals were mentioned by 27 partnerships, highlighting attention to social inclusion alongside food access.

A significant number of partnerships also reported a focus on racially minoritised communities (21), migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers (18), and people with disabilities or long-term health conditions (16), suggesting growing awareness and action on the structural inequalities that shape food system outcomes.

Who are the primary beneficiaries of your partnership’s work?



Actions to Improve DEI

Food partnerships are taking a wide variety of approaches to ensure racially and ethnically underrepresented groups are included in their work, though progress remains uneven. Many partnerships described active steps, such as engaging with local Race Equality networks, adapting recruitment processes, collaborating with culturally diverse organisations, and embedding commitments through action plans and funding criteria. Several reported working with groups representing refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants, while others highlighted use of the REDI tool, equalities impact assessments, and co-creation processes.

However, a number of partnerships acknowledged they are at early stages or face barriers such as limited capacity, lack of demographic data, or the absence of a clear policy or strategy. A small group reported no action to date, citing funding or time constraints. Overall, the responses reflect a strong awareness of the importance of this work, with many partnerships either taking practical steps or expressing a clear desire to deepen their commitment.

5. What's next: Local and National Priorities

This section outlines the key focus areas identified by local food partnerships for the coming year, alongside their views on what the Sustainable Food Places programme should prioritise at a national level to best support their work.

Local Priorities: Equity, Community, and Systems Change

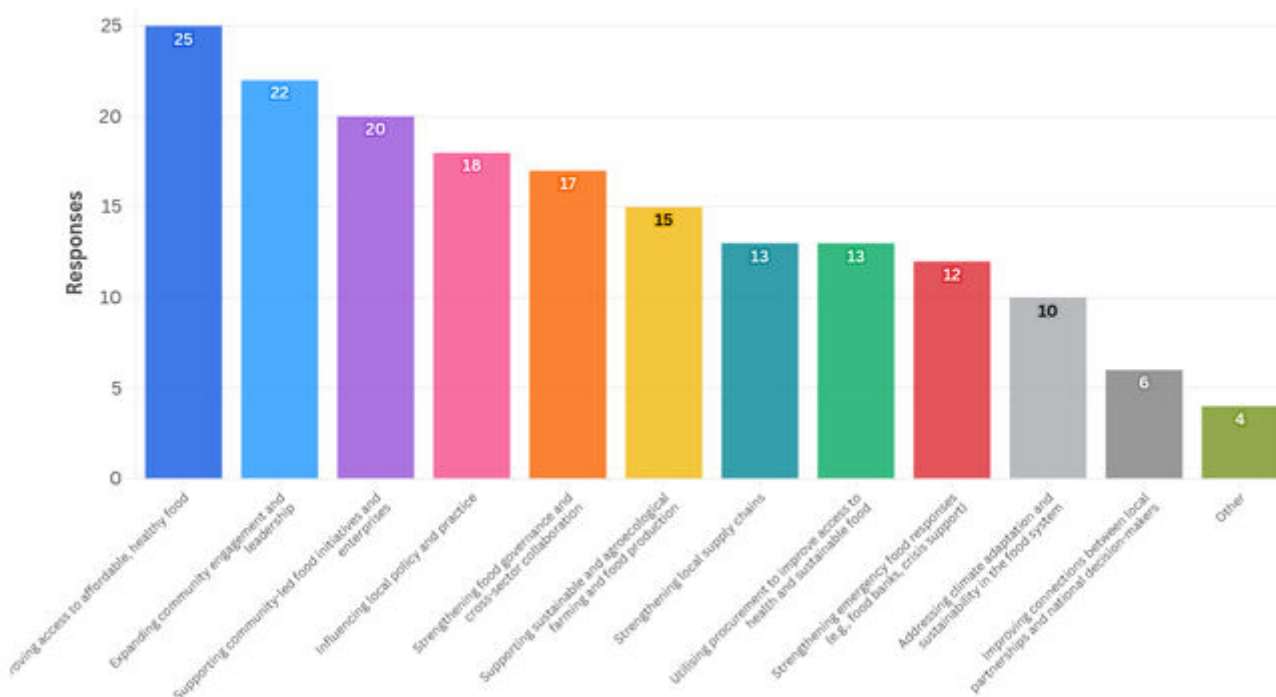
Partnership priorities for the year ahead reflect a clear focus on equity, community, and systems change. The most common priority was improving access to affordable, healthy food (25 responses), closely followed by expanding community engagement and leadership (22) and supporting community-led food initiatives and enterprises (20). These top priorities point to a continued emphasis on addressing food insecurity through grassroots mobilisation and place-based action.

A second cluster of priorities centres on governance and structural transformation, with many partnerships seeking to influence local policy and practice (18), strengthen food governance and cross-sector collaboration (17), and support sustainable farming and food production (15). This signals growing ambition to reshape local food systems at a strategic level and tackle root causes of inequality and ecological harm.

Meanwhile, priorities like utilising procurement to improve food access (13), strengthening local supply chains (13), and emergency food response (12) demonstrate the dual need for both long-term system change and immediate food access support — highlighting the balance many partnerships are trying to strike.

Fewer partnerships (1–6) selected priorities related to climate adaptation, food waste, national-level advocacy, and emerging policy opportunities like the Scottish Good Food Nation plan. This may reflect the more localised remit of many partnerships, or a lack of capacity to prioritise broader systems advocacy in the current context.

What are your partnership's top three priorities for the coming year?



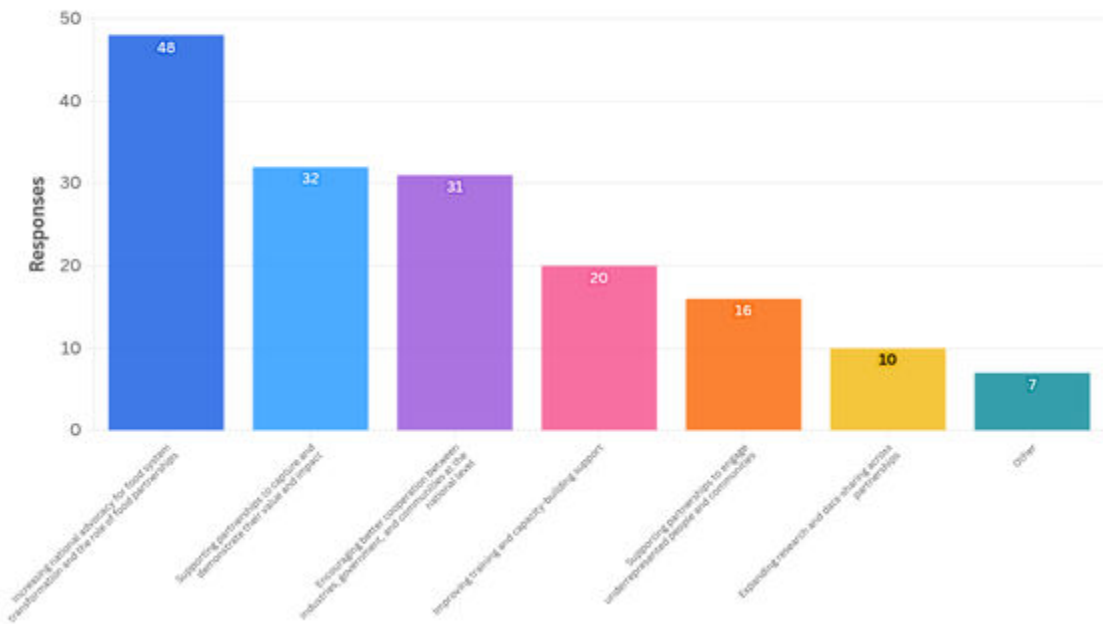
National Priorities

Partnerships expressed a clear desire for the SFP programme to amplify its national-level influence while strengthening local capacity and visibility. The most widely selected priority was increasing national advocacy for food system transformation and the role of food partnerships (48 responses), reflecting a shared appetite for SFP to shape the wider policy environment and unlock support for place-based action.

The second most common priority was supporting partnerships to capture and demonstrate their value and impact (32), reinforcing the critical role of impact and evaluation in strengthening the legitimacy and sustainability of food partnerships. This was echoed in additional suggestions that emphasised storytelling, data sharing, and the need to work with funders who understand the food partnership approach.

A further 31 partnerships called for better cooperation between industries, government, and communities at the national level, and 20 for improved training and capacity building, suggesting a broader call for SFP to convene and connect across systems while investing in local leadership development. Priorities such as engaging underrepresented communities (16) and expanding research (10) signal a continued focus on equity, learning, and innovation.

What do you think should be the top three priorities for the SFP programme at a national level over the next year?



6. Shaping the Network: Partnership Influence on the SFP Programme

This section explores how partnerships engage with and influence the Sustainable Food Places programme — from contributing to strategy and campaigns to participating in working groups and peer learning. It also highlights the barriers to deeper involvement and what support partnerships say they need to shape the programme’s future more confidently.

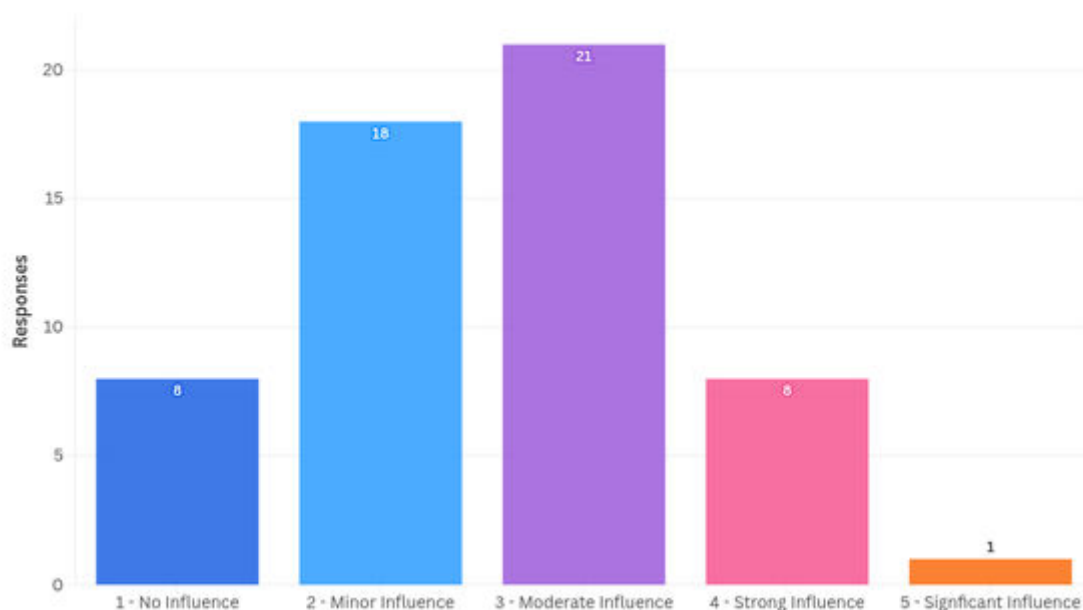
Partnership Voice and Engagement

Most partnerships see themselves as moderately influential in shaping the SFP programme. While 21 rated their influence at 3 (neither high nor low), 18 gave it a 2, and only 9 gave it a high score of 4 or 5. This suggests a general sense of engagement but uncertainty around the impact of that engagement.

The open-text responses reinforce this pattern. Some partnerships shared examples of tangible influence — such as co-developing campaigns, contributing to research, or shaping strategy through events and consultations. Others, however, expressed uncertainty about their level of influence or described limited capacity to participate consistently. A number of respondents noted that while they feel their voices are heard (e.g. through surveys, conferences, or informal exchanges), it's harder to point to concrete outcomes or changes resulting from their input.

Barriers such as time constraints, newer staff in post, and unclear feedback loops were cited as reasons for lower scores. Some respondents described their role as mostly “arms-length” or reactive rather than strategic. Notably, a few newer partnerships and coordinators expressed a desire to get more involved but hadn't yet had the opportunity.

How would you rate your partnership’s level of influence on the direction of the SFP programme?



Co-Creating the Programme: How Partnerships Contribute

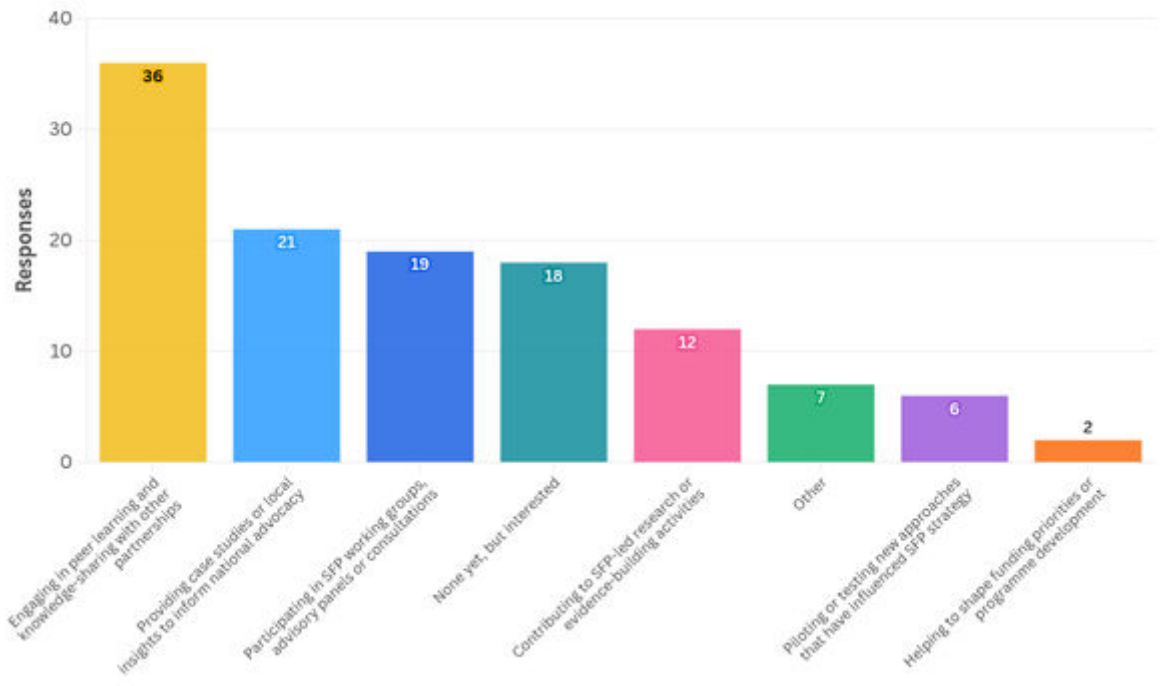
Responses to this question highlighted the breadth of ways in which partnerships have actively contributed to shaping the direction and activities of the SFP programme. The most common form of contribution was engaging in peer learning and knowledge-sharing with other partnerships, selected by 41 respondents. This underscores the value placed on mutual exchange, collaboration, and shared learning across the network.

A significant number of partnerships (27) reported providing case studies or local insights to inform national advocacy, demonstrating the network’s role in shaping policy messages with grounded, place-based evidence. Meanwhile, 24 partnerships had participated in SFP working groups, advisory panels or consultations, directly informing programme governance and decision-making.

Fewer, though still notable, numbers reported contributing through SFP-led research or evidence-building activities (19), or by piloting or testing new approaches that influenced SFP strategy (11). These contributions reflect the role of partnerships not just in implementing local food strategies, but also in experimenting with and shaping new models and methods of working that can inform national learning.

While several respondents indicated they had not yet engaged in these ways, many expressed interest in doing so in the future. This suggests there remains untapped potential to deepen engagement across the network in shaping the programme’s strategy and direction.

In what ways has your partnership contributed to shaping the priorities or activities of the SFP programme?



Interest in Contributing to Network Governance

When asked about their interest in helping to set the agenda for the SFP network — including shaping priorities, directing national efforts, and developing initiatives — a clear majority of partnerships indicated at least moderate interest.

- 31 partnerships expressed medium interest, suggesting they are open to engagement but may require support, clarity, or opportunity to participate more fully.
- 15 partnerships reported high interest, signalling a strong appetite among a subset to take a more active governance role.
- Just 9 partnerships indicated low interest, reflecting that most do see value in contributing to the programme's strategic direction.

This suggests a solid base of partnerships willing to contribute to network governance — and an opportunity for the SFP team to broaden participation by making roles more accessible and visible.

Interest in Shaping the Awards Process

Interest in shaping the SFP Awards process—such as setting and assessing award criteria—was generally modest. A majority of partnerships (26) expressed low interest, while 22 selected medium interest and only 4 expressed high interest. This suggests that while awards are appreciated, they may not be a priority area for deeper involvement in programme governance.

Interest in Membership Process

Interest in engaging with SFP governance around membership criteria (e.g. setting and assessing criteria) was notably low. Over two-thirds of partnerships (34) selected “low” interest, and none indicated “high” interest. Just 17 reported a “medium” level of interest, suggesting that for most partnerships, membership governance is not seen as a key priority area for their involvement.

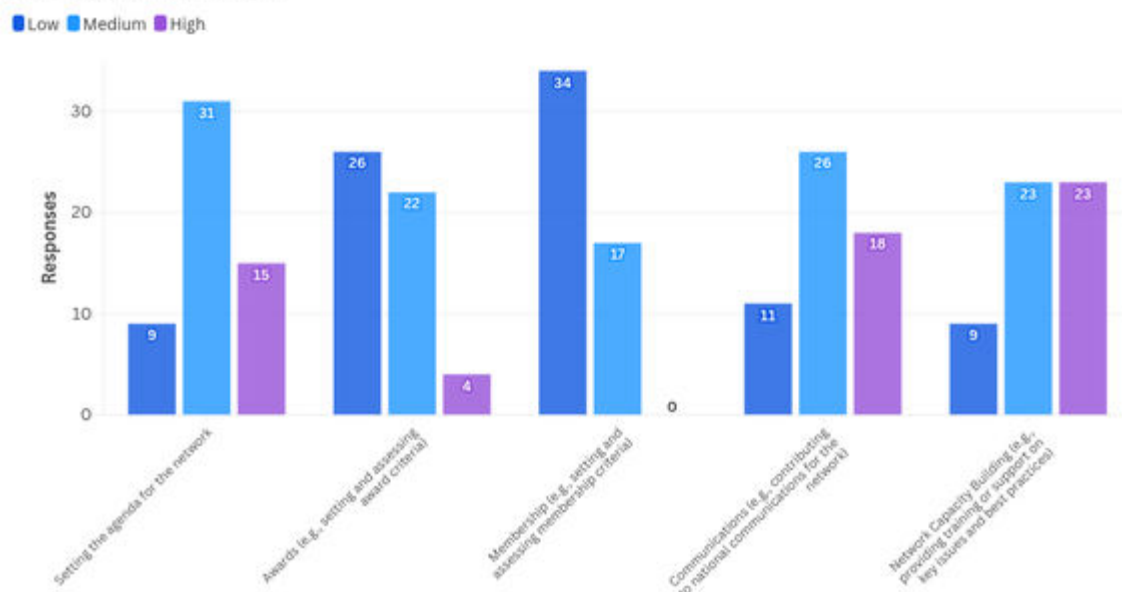
Interest in Communications Involvement

Interest in contributing to communications governance—such as shaping national messaging for the network—was relatively strong. Over half of respondents expressed a medium (26) or high (18) level of interest, suggesting that many partnerships see value in being involved in how the network communicates nationally. Only 11 partnerships reported low interest, indicating that communications is a more engaging area of governance for many compared to areas like membership or awards.

Interest in Network Capacity

Network capacity building—such as providing training or support on key issues and best practices—was one of the most popular areas of interest among partnerships. Nearly half of respondents (23) indicated a high level of interest, matched by another 23 who expressed medium interest. Only 9 respondents selected low interest, highlighting a strong appetite across the network to contribute to or engage with this aspect of SFP programme governance.

What aspects of the SFP programme governance are you most interested in engaging with?

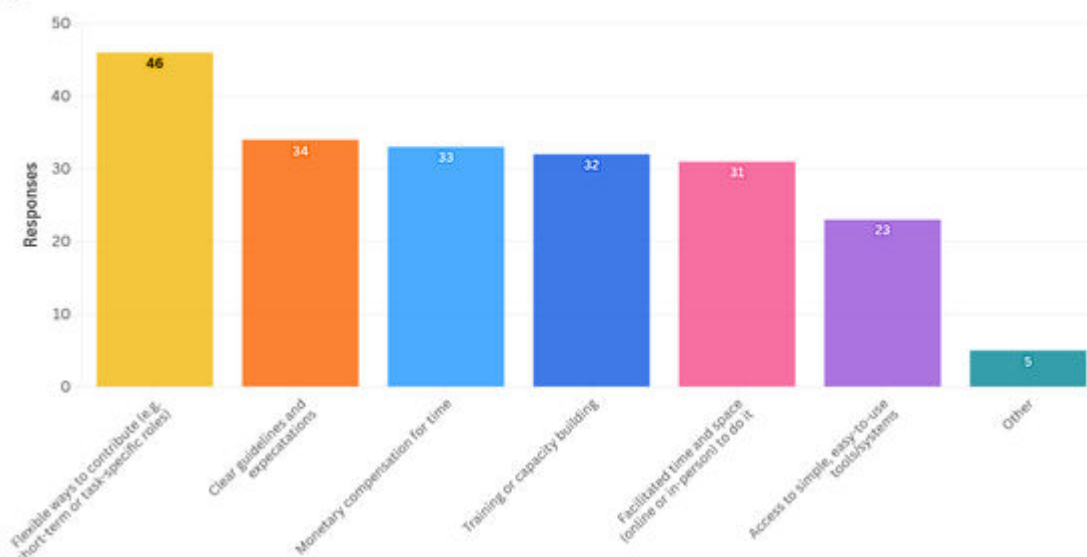


Removing Barriers to Meaningful Involvement

Respondents identified several factors that would support their ability to engage more actively in SFP programme governance. The most common was the need for flexible ways to contribute (46), followed by clear guidelines and expectations (34), monetary compensation (33), and training or capacity building (32). Many also highlighted the value of facilitated time and space (31) and simple tools or systems (23) to make participation more manageable.

A few noted the importance of relationship-building, smaller or regional forums, and additional core funding to enable consistent engagement. Overall, the responses highlight a desire for clarity, accessibility, and support to make national involvement more feasible and worthwhile.

What would help you feel confident and able to actively contribute to SFP governance?



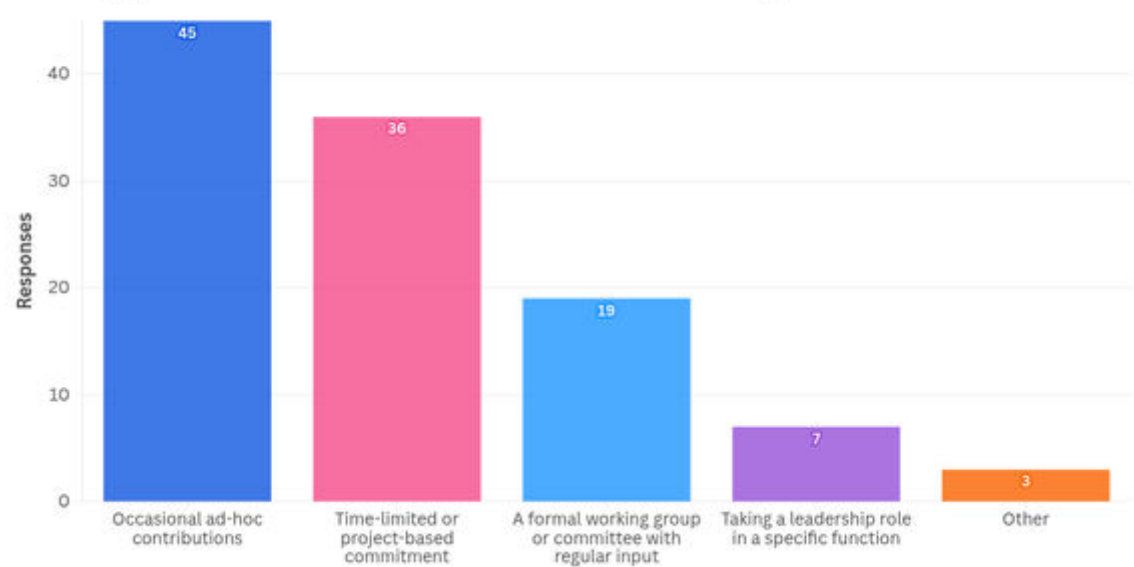
How Partnerships Want to Participate

The most popular form of engagement was occasional ad-hoc contributions, selected by 45 respondents, followed by time-limited or project-based commitments (36 respondents). This suggests a strong preference for flexible, low-commitment forms of participation.

Formal working groups or committees also attracted interest, with 19 respondents expressing a willingness to participate in more structured and ongoing roles. A smaller number of partnerships indicated interest in leadership roles in specific functions (7), suggesting that while some are open to deeper involvement, this is less common.

Just a few respondents mentioned niche or individual preferences, such as participation being contingent on paid opportunities, contributing through surveys, or a general openness to opportunities depending on focus and relevance.

What type of involvement would work best for you?



7. The Value of the Programme – and What’s Needed to Strengthen It

Respondents expressed strong appreciation for the Sustainable Food Places (SFP) network, often describing it as a cornerstone of their partnership’s development. Many credited SFP with shaping their strategic direction, providing legitimacy in local policy conversations, and fostering a sense of belonging to a larger movement. The network was seen as a unifying force that helps local efforts feel part of something bigger, with clear principles and a well-defined framework that resonates across diverse contexts.

Several respondents noted that SFP had supported them from the very beginning—whether through induction support, helpful toolkits, national events, or responsive advice. Coordinators spoke positively about the peer learning environment, including conferences, webinars, and coordinator calls, which they described as rich sources of insight and motivation. For some, these moments of connection helped overcome isolation in local roles and provided practical shortcuts—case studies, templates, or examples—to apply in their own areas. A few respondents even credited SFP with strengthening their local credibility and opening doors for broader collaboration and policy influence.

At the same time, the most common barrier to deeper engagement was capacity. Respondents described stretched teams, challenges with funding and time, and difficulties balancing day-to-day delivery with network-level involvement. A number of responses pointed to the need for more flexible and accessible forms of participation, such as varied meeting times, lighter-touch engagement options, and more direct support for Steering Groups, not just coordinators. Several respondents also highlighted the importance of targeted training—especially for new coordinators or those with specialised backgrounds—and called for clearer signposting to funding opportunities.

Despite these constraints, the tone was overwhelmingly positive. Partnerships expressed pride in their progress and strong aspirations for future collaboration, with many asking for more structured opportunities to connect regionally or work collectively on shared challenges such as procurement, representation, and sustainable funding.

8. Respondent Profiles and Partnership Context

This section explores the structural characteristics and operating environments of local food partnerships. It provides insight into the composition of steering groups, hosting arrangements, geographic focus, and engagement with local policy and community priorities.

Regional Response Rates

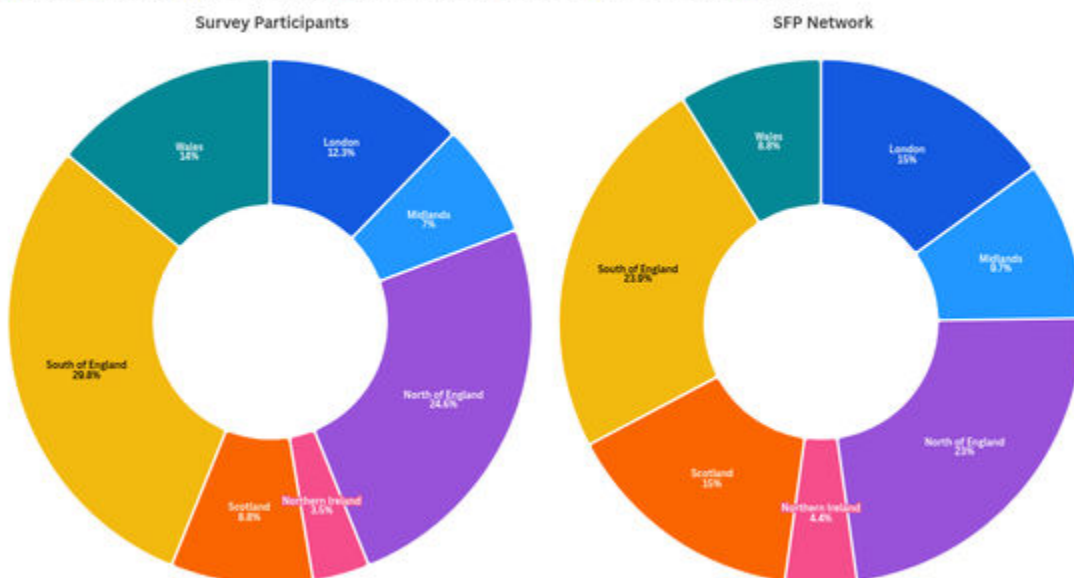
The Partnership Impact & Priorities Survey received responses from across the UK, with return rates varying by region:

- Wales: 8 out of 10 partnerships responded (80%)
- South of England (Southeast & Southwest): 17 out of 27 (63%)
- North of England (Northeast, Northwest, Yorkshire & Humber): 14 out of 26 (54%)
- London: 7 out of 17 (41%)
- Northern Ireland: 2 out of 5 (40%)
- Midlands (East & West Midlands): 4 out of 11 (36%)
- Scotland: 5 out of 17 (29%)

While return rates varied, the overall spread of responses reflects the geographic diversity of the Sustainable Food Places network. Every region and nation is represented, with especially strong engagement from Wales, the South of England, and the North. Even regions with lower response rates, such as Scotland and Northern Ireland, contributed valuable insights. This provides a credible and broadly representative snapshot of the network, offering meaningful insight into the current landscape of local food partnerships across the UK.

What region are you based?

■ London ■ Midlands ■ North of England ■ Northern Ireland ■ Scotland ■ South of England ■ Wales



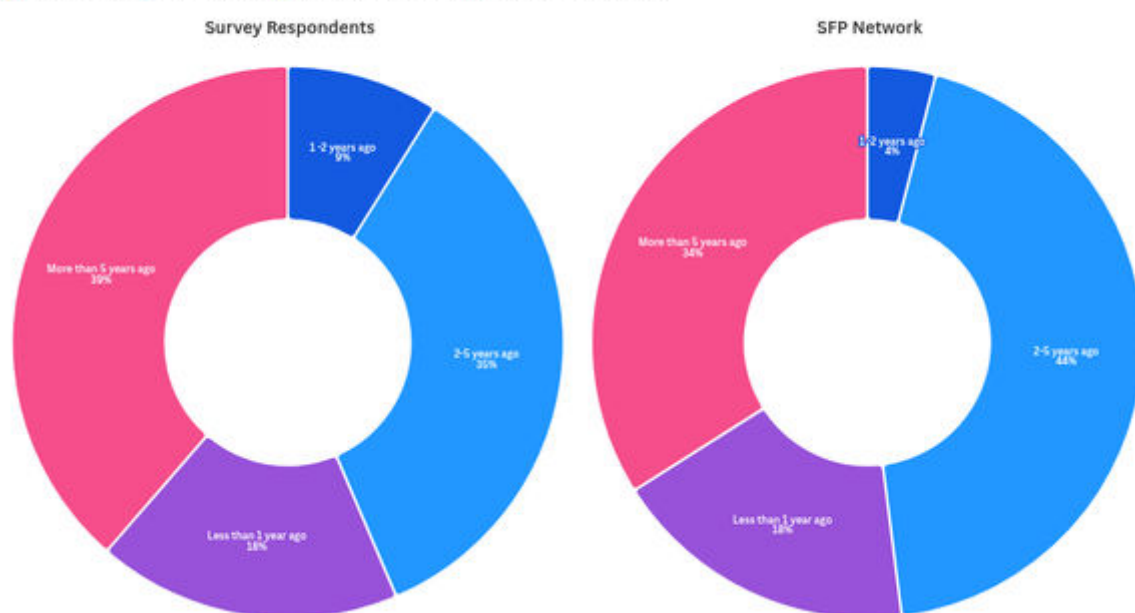
Maturity of SFP Membership

Overall, the survey shows strong engagement from partnerships with a long-standing presence, especially those operating for more than five years (22 out of 37). Partnerships less than one year old were also well represented, with over half participating (10 of 19). The lowest return rate was from partnerships 2–5 years old, which may suggest a group that is more operationally active but less directly engaged in network-wide reflection or evaluation.

Despite a few discrepancies, the data offers a good representation across different partnership lifecycles, capturing the perspectives of both newer initiatives and more established food partnerships. This diversity strengthens the validity of the findings and helps highlight how needs and priorities may differ depending on partnership maturity.

When did you become an SFP Member?

■ 1-2 years ago ■ 2-5 years ago ■ Less than 1 year ago ■ More than 5 years ago



Food Partnership Hosting Arrangements

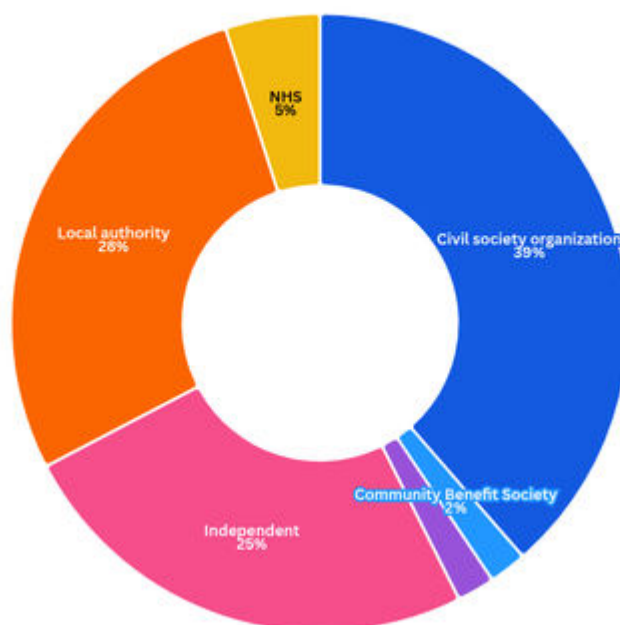
Survey responses reveal a diverse range of hosting arrangements among food partnerships:

- The most common hosts were civil society organisations (22 partnerships), such as charities, community groups, and social enterprises.
- Local authorities hosted 16 partnerships, reflecting the continued importance of public sector leadership in local food systems.
- Independent partnerships accounted for 14 responses in total (noting that one was labelled slightly differently), suggesting a growing number of food partnerships are operating without a formal host institution.
- A smaller number were hosted by the NHS (3 partnerships), a Community Benefit Society (1), or a Housing Association (1).

While no comparison data is available for the full network, these results point to a healthy mix of models, from grassroots civil society leadership to embedded institutional hosting. The presence of independent and NHS-hosted models also reflects the flexibility of the SFP approach and its adaptability to local contexts.

Where is your partnership hosted?

■ Civil society organization ■ Community Benefit Society ■ Housing Association ■ Independent ■ Local authority ■ NHS



SFP Awards Among Surveyed Partnerships

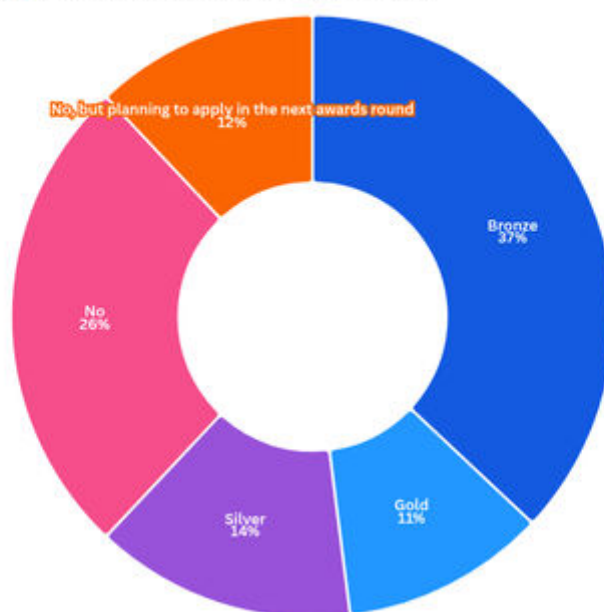
A majority of survey respondents have engaged with the Sustainable Food Places awards framework:

- 21 partnerships currently hold a Bronze award
- 8 partnerships have achieved Silver
- 6 partnerships have reached Gold
- 7 partnerships indicated they are planning to apply in the next awards round
- 15 partnerships reported that they have not applied for an award

This means that over 60% of responding partnerships (35 out of 57) have already received formal recognition through the SFP awards process. The spread across Bronze, Silver, and Gold suggests a healthy pipeline of development and progression, while the additional 7 planning to apply indicates sustained engagement and ambition across the network. This widespread participation highlights the value partnerships place on the awards as a tool for reflection, benchmarking, and visibility — and provides a strong foundation for continued growth and support.

Has your partnership obtained an SFP award?

■ Bronze ■ Gold ■ Silver ■ No ■ No, but planning to apply in the next awards round



Types of Local Authority Engagement

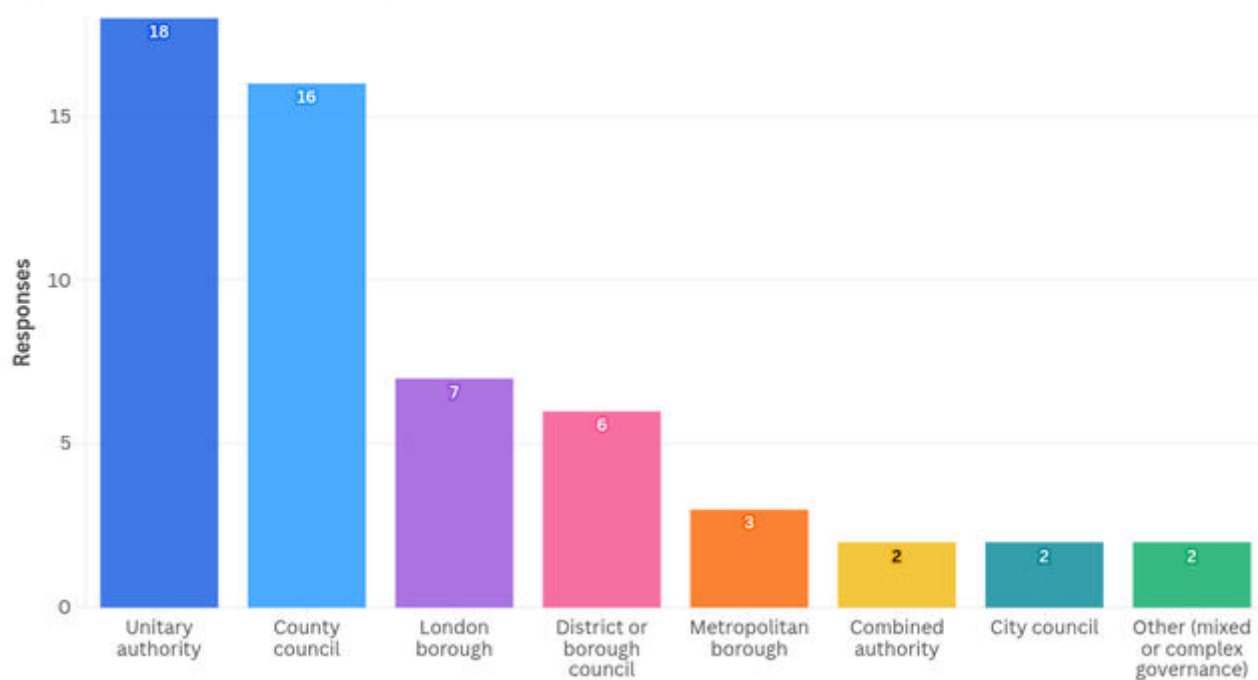
Surveyed food partnerships reported working with a wide range of local authority types, reflecting the diverse governance structures across the UK:

- Unitary authorities were the most commonly reported, with 18 partnerships identifying them as their primary local authority partner.
- County councils were cited by another 18 partnerships (including those working across two-tier arrangements or closely with both district and county councils).
- London boroughs were the key local authority for 7 partnerships, while district or borough councils (6) and metropolitan boroughs (3) also featured prominently.
- A small number reported working with combined authorities (2), city councils (2), or more complex, multi-tier arrangements (1).

This spread illustrates the institutional adaptability of the SFP model. The programme has successfully enabled partnerships to develop and thrive in varied political and administrative environments—from dense urban boroughs to multi-tier county systems. That over a third of surveyed partnerships work at the county or unitary level signals the growing traction of the SFP model in strategic policymaking spaces. It suggests that partnerships are increasingly seen not just as community initiatives but as valued contributors to local authority strategies on food, health, and sustainability.

Why type of local authority do you engage with?

Unitary authority County council London borough District or borough council Metropolitan borough Combined authority City council Other (mixed or complex governance)



Conclusion: Building the Next Chapter of Sustainable Food Places

The findings of this survey underscore the growing maturity, ambition, and impact of local food partnerships — and the critical role that the Sustainable Food Places programme continues to play in enabling their success. Partnerships are not only tackling urgent food system challenges but also cultivating long-term, place-based strategies that link health, sustainability, equity, and resilience. Yet, they do so in the face of persistent structural constraints: insecure funding, limited capacity, unequal power dynamics, and fragmented policy environments.

In this context, the strategic implications outlined above point to a clear mandate for the next phase of the programme. SFP must remain a backbone infrastructure — not only convening and connecting partnerships, but actively enabling them to lead systems change in their localities and influence national agendas. This means doubling down on support for core capacity and participatory governance, embedding equity as a practice, strengthening advocacy at every scale, and co-producing the network's evolution with the partnerships themselves.

Above all, the future of the programme lies in continuing to demonstrate that local food partnerships are not a temporary innovation — they are a delivery-ready infrastructure for transforming food systems from the ground up. With the right investment, support, and strategic focus, they can continue to drive forward a more just, healthy, and sustainable food future for all



Food Matters was set up in 2004 to combat the inequalities in the food system. We create opportunities to bring about changes to see healthy, sustainable, fair food become a reality for everybody, every day.

Our work focusses on food system transformation through person centred action and advocacy. We aim to create food systems that enhance health and wellbeing, nourish the environment, reduce inequalities and promote social justice.

- We ensure people and communities are at the heart of food system transformation by using participatory approaches to take action at every level to empower people and make better food policy.
- We support people to develop skills, knowledge and confidence so they feel empowered to take control over decisions that affect their lives and their food choices.
- We believe that change happens when policy interventions align with people's ability to make change happen.

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