09.00 Registration and refreshments

09.30 Overview of the day - Tom Andrews, Sustainable Food Cities

09.40 Welcome address - Helen Browning OBE, Soil Association

09.50 Panel: ‘Feeding Britain - how best can we square promoting ‘good food for all’ with tackling hunger?’
With more than a million people forced to depend on emergency food aid each year, many would agree with the Feeding Britain report recommendation for a national network of food banks. Others argue that the proliferation of food banks and other forms of food ‘charity’ simply legitimize a fundamental injustice and inequality in UK society and that the focus should be on redesigning social and economic systems to ensure everyone has access to healthy, affordable food. With contributions from a range of experts, this panel will discuss how best to define food poverty; how to square tackling immediate hunger with securing a healthy and sustainable diet for all; and explore what is really needed to ensure the long term eradication of food poverty.

Chair
Professor Gabriel Scally

Speakers
Elizabeth Dowler, Professor of Food & Social Policy, University of Warwick; Rosie Boycott, Chair of the London Food Board; Bill Gray, Community Food & Health Scotland, NHS Health Scotland; Adrian Curtis, Foodbank Director at Trussell Trust.

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Panel: ‘Places and settings - the role of public agencies in promoting and providing good food’
With growing recognition amongst local health, economy and sustainability agencies of the key role food can play in driving positive social, economic and environmental change, many are now commissioning successful food-related interventions in a variety of settings - from schools and hospitals to individual workplaces and entire businesses improvement districts. Many of these agencies are also working with others to establish place-based initiatives like Sustainable Food Cities to provide an umbrella for their settings-based work that helps them deliver more than the sum of their parts. With insights from four cities, this panel will explore why these agencies are investing, which interventions are having the biggest impact, what obstacles they are confronting and how they hope to maintain their efforts in the face of further public sector cuts.

Chair
Professor Gabriel Scally

Speakers
Tony Cooke, Head of Health Improvement, Kirklees Council; Duncan Booker, Sustainable Glasgow Manager, Glasgow City Council; Darren Pegram, Sustainability Manager, Stockport Council; Helen Ross, Public Health Manager, Nottingham City Council.

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Workshop session 1

A - Getting the ingredients right: Understanding what works through the experiences of three cities
B - Learning across borders: Insights from sustainable food city programmes across Europe
C - Proof of the pudding: Measuring impact by focusing on the right outcomes and indicators
D - Action on Food Poverty: An introduction to the 2015 Sustainable Food Cities campaign
E - Towards zero food waste: Exploring policies and practical approaches to reducing food waste

14.30 Workshop session 2

B - Learning across borders: Insights from sustainable food city programmes across Europe
C - Proof of the pudding: Measuring impact by focusing on the right outcomes and indicators
D - Action on Food Poverty: An introduction to the 2015 Sustainable Food Cities campaign
F - It's the economy, stupid: Innovative approaches to creating more sustainable food businesses

15.30 Coffee
16.00 Perspectives: ‘Joining the dots - from local action to a national good food movement’

While there are towns and cities all over the UK that are taking a joined-up, strategic approach to promoting healthy and sustainable food, interest and action from national governments is patchy and differs greatly between countries. With contributions from senior civil servants and policy advisers, this panel will explore what national governments are, could and should be doing both to support such place-based initiatives and to create a positive food culture and a sustainable food system through other means. It will consider whether and how the combined efforts of national governments and civil society can have a significant impact on a mainstream food system that is dominated by transnational food businesses focused on minimising costs and maximising profits in a competitive world of free trade.

Chair
Professor Kevin Morgan

Speakers
David Morris, Deputy Head of Food, Welsh Government; Robin Gourlay, Food and Drink Policy, Scottish Government; Professor Gabriel Scally, Director of WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Urban Environments.

17.00 Close

Workshops

A - Getting the ingredients right: Understanding what works through the experiences of three cities
More than 40 places across the UK have now developed place-based approaches to promoting healthy and sustainable food, each unique in terms of its challenges and opportunities, its vision and focus, its partnership and its resources. This workshop will use insights from the experiences of three cities - Belfast, Brighton and Cardiff - each at different stages of the sustainable food journey to explore what works, looking at common problems and solutions and trying to uncover the secrets of a successful high impact Sustainable Food Cities initiative.

B - Learning across borders: Insights from sustainable food city programmes across Europe
With sustainable food city initiatives proliferating across the world, there is a wealth of experience that policy makers and practitioners can learn from. Drawing together insights from the URBACT Thematic Network Sustainable Food in Urban Communities, research from the SUPURBFOOD Research Future Prospects for City-Regional Food Systems, the International Sustainability Unit’s report Food in an Urbanised World and the global experience of the RUAF Foundation, this workshop will explore practical lessons UK towns and cities can learn from international experience.

C - Proof of the pudding: Measuring impact by focusing on the right outcomes and indicators
There is currently no identified and agreed set of indicators to measure the sustainability of urban food systems. This participatory workshop will start to explore what measures might be useful and practical across all aspects of a sustainable food system, using the structure of the six key issues of the Sustainable Food Cities Award. The workshop will look at challenges and opportunities, including what baseline information is required and how easy it is to collect data. Join us for some collective brainstorming as we work to develop a basket of measures which really make sense.

D - Action on food poverty: An introduction to the Sustainable Food Cities campaign for 2015
Each year, Sustainable Food Cities focuses on a key food issue, which during 2015 will be the role of cities in addressing food poverty. This workshop will provide an overview of long term solutions to food poverty ‘beyond the food bank’ and provide a framework for identifying local priorities. Together we will discuss how cities and their partners can tackle food poverty, learn from the experiences of Brighton & Hove and Sandwell and share ideas and best practice for engaging political leadership and building effective cross-sector partnerships.

E - Towards zero food waste: Exploring policies and practical approaches to reducing food waste
With nearly half of all food from field to fork going uneaten, tackling food waste is fundamental if we hope to create a more sustainable food system. With inspiration and insights from the UK and abroad, this workshop will look both at innovative ways to reducing, redistributing and reusing waste at each link in the food chain and at how to develop an integrated systems approach to dealing with food waste across an entire city, led by Tristram Stuart with contributions from Jacqui Reeves from FareShare Southwest and Jenny Coles from the Plymouth Low Carbon City.

F - It’s the economy, stupid: Innovative approaches to creating more sustainable food businesses
While public agencies and NGOs have a key role to play in promoting healthy and sustainable food, significant and sustained changes to the food system depend on buy-in and action from food businesses. With practical insights from Bournemouth, Lambeth and Stockport, this workshop will explore how cities can help food businesses to flourish and how to persuade small and large food businesses alike to engage with health and sustainability issues so that they become the primary agents of change in the shift towards a better food culture.