

George Eustice MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

21 June, 2017

Dear George Eustice MP,

We are writing to you in your role as Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in order to bring to your attention a food movement that is sweeping the UK and in which the UK is leading the world.

The signatory organisations to this letter are food partnerships working in locations across the UK as part of the 50-strong Sustainable Food Cities Network. They in turn represent hundreds of organisations whose work relates to all aspects of the food system – from field to fork, including local authorities, public sector caterers, farmers, community groups, markets and food businesses, academic institutions and many more. All of these partnerships are taking a holistic approach to improving their food culture and food system, delivering local action plans to tackle food poverty, promote healthy and sustainable diets, create jobs and prosperity in the local food economy and reduce food waste and the ecological impact of the food system.

This partnership approach has underpinned impressive work on issues such as sustainable fish, with caterers serving 500million meals across the UK now committed to only sourcing from sustainable stocks, as well as pioneering work on tackling child holiday hunger, food waste, childhood obesity and food poverty. This approach is not going unnoticed internationally, with the creation of Dutch, Nordic and German food cities networks being established over the past 12 months.

There has been some work with the Government to date: Over 40 locations are currently commencing Sugar Smart campaigns working closely with Public Health England; and some of the Sustainable Food Cities Network partnerships have piloted work on Defra's balanced scorecard in public procurement as well as food and tourism projects. This is a solid start for strengthening relationships with Government and a good basis for recognition of this approach within future policy.

In the process of leaving the EU, we need to ensure that whatever Government policies come next work for all the interests that our partnerships represent, including the public, private and third sectors, but equally to ensure we have a food system that works for people's health, the environment and the economy.

We would really value an opportunity to meet with you, at your earliest convenience, to discuss these issues and to explore how we can inform future food policy, such as the 25 year food and farming plan, and explore how the work of these partnerships can help deliver on Government priorities. We also request that our partnerships are invited to be involved in any future consultations on these policies.

Yours sincerely (in alphabetical order by organisation),

Contact for correspondence: Ben Reynolds, Deputy Chief Executive of Sustain: The alliance for better food and farming, email: ben@sustainweb.org; telephone: 020 7065 0902

Coordinators of the Sustainable Food Cities Network

Tom Andrews

Manager

Sustainable Food Cities

Local Food Partnerships:

Sarah Watson	Bournemouth and Poole Sustainable Food City Partnership
Vic Borrill	Brighton and Hove Food Partnership
Simon Wood	Bristol Food Policy Council
Sam Dyer	Cambridge Sustainable Food Partnership
Martyn Goss	Exeter Food network
Chris Walsh	Feeding Stockport
Katie Palmer	Food Cardiff
Liz Charles	Food Durham
Jamie Sadler	Food Newcastle
Ian Smith	Food Plymouth
Claire Pritchard	Good Food in Greenwich
Michael Calderbank	Hackney Food Partnership
Hilary Hamer	Hull Food Partnership
Clara Widdison	Lambeth Food Partnership Board
Sonja Woodcock	Leeds Food Partnership
Dr Danny Ruta	Lewisham Food Partnership
Lucy Antal	Liverpool Food People
Karen Igho	Peterborough Food Partnership
Laura Penny	Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen
Stewart Crocker	Wells Food Network