

Reflective questions

For when establishing a Good Food Nation strategic planning group (or similar collaboration)

An important part of the convening process is to identify collaborative ways of working and to start developing a shared future vision of food in your Relevant Authority and area/region. All members of your steering group might not agree on everything or place the same importance on some issues, indicators and/or outcomes. The key is navigating and negotiating what they can collectively live it and sign up to.

Some questions to ask when your Relevant Authority is starting to think about, plan for, and running a strategic planning group - both within your own organisation or, where appropriate, in partnership/collaboration with other neighbouring Relevant Authorities.

1. What does food mean to your Relevant Authority and your work across teams and directorates?
2. How is food weaved into the work of your organisation(s) and what wider work is impacted by, or impacts on, how food is conceived of, planned for, valued by, and delivered across your Relevant Authority?
3. What are your priorities in doing this work? And do they differ significantly from those of others who may be part of this group?
4. What, if any, opportunities and challenges do you see your Relevant Authority encountering during this planning process?
5. How can this group build on, support, and, where appropriate, extend existing collaborative work on food in your area?
6. Who will be invited to be part of this group?
7. How will they contribute and under what terms of reference?
8. How will this group fit into the governance structure for this planning activity, and what role will it play stewarding this planning activity through Relevant Authority governance systems and ensuring plans meets each Relevant Authorities legislative duties?
9. Will there be regular meetings, how often will they take place, at what time(s) and, if in-person, where?
10. From the start, will everyone know who all the partners are and what they will bring to the group?
11. Will there be opportunities for group members to learn about each other's work and perspectives on the GFN Local Plan and process?