



Food Research  
Collaboration

# The **70** recommended actions in the *National Food Strategy* *Independent Review: The Plan*

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**Food Research Collaboration Policy Brief**  
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## Introduction

In June 2019, the then Secretary of State at the department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in the UK's Conservative Government commissioned a comprehensive review of the food system, to contribute to a proposed new National Food Strategy for England.<sup>1</sup> This Policy Brief presents the review's final recommendations: 70 discrete actions for the Government, or government departments or agencies, extrapolated from the 14 composite recommendations set out in the final report, *The Plan*, published in July 2021.

## Background

The review was labelled as 'independent' and the proposed strategy was said to be 'the first for 75 years', but both of these claims need to be qualified. The previous root-and-branch review of the UK's food system was initiated by a Labour Government in 2007 and culminated in a food strategy (*Food 2030*) published in 2010 and soon shelved by the incoming Coalition Government.<sup>2</sup> As for the review's independence, it was led by Henry Dimbleby (co-founder of both the Leon restaurant chain and the Sustainable Restaurant Association), who, though he consulted widely and undoubtedly reached his own conclusions, was clearly seen as a 'safe pair of hands' by the Government: he was already lead non-executive director at Defra and was co-author of an earlier Government review, *The School Food Plan*; the work of his review team was facilitated by Defra officials.<sup>3</sup> These points should be recorded, but they do not detract from

the fact that the review has produced a landmark body of evidence and analysis.

In March 2020, the evidence-gathering process was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, which had such immediate and profound impacts on the food system that the review team published Part 1 of its report as an emergency response, setting out recommendations for how the Government should help low-income and vulnerable people secure enough to eat, and also calling on the Government to safeguard food standards in any post-Brexit trade deals.<sup>4</sup>

The review then returned to its original purpose, and in July 2021 published its extensive findings and recommendations. The main report, *The Plan*, contains a detailed discussion of 'how the food system really works, the damage it is doing to our bodies and our ecosystem, and the interventions we could make to prevent these harms'.<sup>5</sup> At 288 pages, it is one of a suite of connected policy documents. It is accompanied by an Evidence Pack (176 pages)<sup>6</sup> and five supporting reports: a Supplementary Evidence report from the global management consultancy Bain and Company<sup>7</sup> (72 pages); a report from the Youth Consultation for the National Food Strategy (36 pages); an Institute for Fiscal Studies Working Paper on the impacts of a salt and sugar tax<sup>8</sup> (35 pages); a report called *Understanding the impact of changing food production and diets on food prices and affordability*,<sup>9</sup> by Systemiq, a 'think and do' tank specialising in systems change (50 pages); and a report presenting findings from a 'deliberative dialogue' conducted with 180 citizens from five regions across the UK<sup>10</sup> (264 pages).

## The 14 recommendations comprise 70 recommended actions

This enormous body (921 pages) of information, analysis, statistics, argument and rationale has been boiled down into what *The Plan* sets out as 14 recommendations, which are boiled down even further into four headline proposals: Escape the junk food cycle and protect the NHS; Reduce diet-related inequality; Make the best use of our land; and Create a long-term shift in our food culture.

Not surprisingly, given the very wide scope of these proposals, the 14 recommendations themselves are composite and cover many different policy problems and remedies. To complicate the picture further, the review itself presents its recommendations in two versions: a condensed version, in Chapter 16 of the main report, and in more detail, with rationales and costings, in the lengthy Appendices. Each version is also reproduced as a separate document.

To help readers and users of the review to keep track of what is actually being recommended, in the midst of so much text, we have broken the 14 composite recommendations down into discrete actions – 70 in total (Table 1). These are the specific actions the review is recommending the Government to take, as a matter of urgency, to set England on path to a healthier, less damaging and more sustainable food system. We hope the list will help researchers and civil society groups to check the review's proposals against their own agendas; and also to compare the review's recommendations with the Government's response, to be published in a White Paper early in 2022.

**Table 1. The 70 recommended actions in the National Food Strategy Independent Review: The Plan**

| Recommendation   | Actions being recommended  | Stated objectives  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p>Introduce a Sugar and Salt Reformulation Tax. Use some of the revenue to help get fresh fruit and vegetables to low-income families.</p> <p>(2 recommended actions)</p> | <p><b>1.1</b> Government to introduce a £3/kg tax on sugar (and sweetening ingredients such as syrups) and a £6/kg tax on salt sold for use in processed foods or in restaurants and catering businesses. The sugar tax would apply to all sugar and other ingredients used for sweetening (such as syrup and fruit extract) but not raw fruit. The salt tax would apply to all salt sold for use in food manufacturing. Home use to be excluded: tax to be levied on sales to manufacturers and food service businesses, or by taxing all sales of sugar and salt when they leave the factory gate and then allowing supermarkets to claim a rebate for sales to consumers.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Imports of processed foods also to be taxed, at the same rate, according to sugar and salt content when they enter the UK. Importers to be required to register for the tax, report the amount of added sugar or salt contained in their product, and pay the tax on that sugar or salt at the same rate as charged domestically.</p>   | <p>To prompt reformulation by manufacturers or, where reformulation is impossible, drive up the price of foods high in salt and sugar, to discourage purchase and thus steer consumers towards diets lower in sugar and salt.</p> <p>The import tax is to prevent manufacturers producing goods overseas to avoid taxes.</p>   |
| <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Introduce mandatory reporting for large food companies.</p> <p>(3 recommended actions)</p>  | <p><b>2.1</b> Government to place a legal duty on all food businesses with over 250 employees to publish annual data on their sales of various product types as well as food waste. This would apply to retailers, restaurants and fast food outlets, contract caterers, wholesalers, manufacturers and online ordering platforms. Food businesses with a franchising model would be treated as the sum of their franchisees operating under the same brand. The report should include figures (both value in sterling and volume in tonnes) for: sales of food and drink high in fat, sugar or salt (HFSS) excluding alcohol; sales of protein by type (meat, dairy, fish, plant or alternative) and origin; sales of vegetables; sales of fruit; sales of selected nutrients (fibre, saturated fat, sugar and salt); food waste; total food and drink sales. Data to be reported through an online portal and made publicly available at the company level, rather than at an aggregate sector level. Metrics to be captured as percentage of total food and soft drink sales, to allow like-for-like comparisons year on year.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> The Food Standards Agency (FSA) to develop the portal and provide guidance to standardise reporting, so there is a common set of definitions and data standards in place, working with other benchmarking initiatives to avoid duplication.</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Reporting metrics to be reviewed every five years.</p> | <p>To incentivise large food companies (which account for the bulk of sales for which reporting is required) to improve their practices over a range of activities related to nutrition.</p> <p>Disclosure of data – and the public scrutiny that comes with it – encourages businesses to take action to improve their practices. It allows comparison between companies and over time. It also makes it easier for investors to monitor the companies they own and pressure management for change.</p> <p>The ultimate aim is to change sales and consumption patterns for the foods for which reporting is required. These foods account for the main discrepancies between official dietary guidelines and actual consumption.</p> |

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|---|--|--|
| <p><b>3</b></p> <p>Launch a new ‘Eat and Learn’ initiative for schools.</p> <p>(18 recommended actions)</p> | <p><b>3.1</b> Department for Education (DfE) in partnership with new Office of Health Promotion (OHP) to ensure all children aged 3-18 to learn to eat well as part of school and educational experience. This involves recommendations in the following areas:</p> <p><i>Curriculum</i></p> <p><b>3.2</b> Introduce Sensory Education for Early Years, with children introduced to diverse foodstuffs through all 5 senses.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> Reinstate the food A-level, to provide a food-based qualification for pupils beyond 16.</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Review all qualifications (such as T Levels in Science and Catering) to ensure they provide an adequate focus on food and nutrition.</p> <p><i>Accreditation</i></p> <p><b>3.5</b> Schools to be encouraged to adopt a ‘whole school’ approach to food, with dining rooms seen as hubs of activity where teachers and pupils eat together, cooks are valued staff members, and food is seen as part of a rounded education.</p> <p><b>3.6</b> Government to require all schools to work with accreditation schemes (such as Food for Life) to improve school food and education through the whole school approach. The schemes would provide training for school leaders and staff. To meet a minimum accreditation standard, schools would be required to account for how school food funds had been spent; fully comply with the School Food Standards (for nutrition) and Government Buying Standards for Food (for procurement); demonstrate that the food and nutrition curriculum was being met; ensure catering staff (whether employed directly or through contractors) were adequately trained to deliver quality meals.</p> <p><i>Inspection</i></p> <p><b>3.7</b> Ofsted to assess the quality of food and nutrition lessons with the same rigour as for core subjects, including via ‘deep dives’ into teaching practice.</p> <p><b>3.8</b> Ofsted to publish a regular food and nutrition ‘research review’ of academic literature to improve quality and status of the subject.</p> | <p>To make learning to eat well part of every child’s school experience.</p> <p>To improve the healthiness and sustainability of food provided for pupils of all age groups in schools, in order to tackle childhood obesity and help align children’s diets with official recommendations.</p> <p>To improve the status, quality and practice of food education for all age groups in schools.</p> <p>To equip children with the skills, experience and knowledge they need to eat healthily and sustainably throughout life.</p> |

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|                | <p><b>3.9</b> Ofsted to ensure that mandatory certification under the accreditation scheme has been successfully executed, and should consider the certification award level in their overall school rating.</p> <p><i>Funding</i></p> <p><b>3.10</b> Government to pay for the ingredients that children use in cooking lessons.</p> <p><b>3.11</b> Teachers to be given the time, equipment and support to be able to order, prepare and store these ingredients, including funding support staff where necessary.</p> <p><b>3.12</b> Government to double the funding for the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, with money given directly to schools rather than being centrally administered, to allow more flexible and local procurement, with guidance and training made available by government.</p> <p><b>3.13</b> Every infant school pupil to receive at least one portion of fruit or vegetables a day, where possible using local suppliers.</p> <p><i>Recruitment and training</i></p> <p><b>3.14</b> Primary school teachers to be given the training and guidance needed to deliver the food-related curriculum.</p> <p><b>3.15</b> At secondary level, DfE to tackle shortage of food teachers by monitoring numbers, improving information, recruiting more specialists and reinstating food teacher training bursary.</p> <p><i>Implementation</i></p> <p><b>3.16</b> Create a dedicated Eat and Learn team in DfE.</p> <p><b>3.17</b> DfE to update the School Food Standards to align with the Reference Diet (also to be updated), so school menus are both healthy and sustainable. In line with the Reference Diet, the requirement to serve meat three times a week to be removed from the School Food Standards. DfE to ensure that the Standards reflect the most recent scientific advice from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) on sugar and fibre consumption for children.</p> <p><b>3.18</b> DfE and OHP to set up and promote an interactive website with links to resources for schools, spaces to share information and opportunities for engagement with parents or other stakeholders.</p> |                   |

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| <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Extend eligibility for free school meals.</p> <p>(3 recommended actions)</p>                                | <p><b>4.1</b> Government to raise the household earnings threshold for free school meals (FSMs) from £7,400 to £20,000.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> Extend eligibility to children who are undocumented or have No Recourse to Public Funds (NPRF).</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Enrol eligible children for free school meals automatically (Government to find a mechanism for sharing the data it holds on this with schools).</p>  | <p>To improve the diets of children in low-income households by reducing the number of children in food-insecure households who are ineligible for, or do not claim, free school meals.</p> <p>The changes to eligibility, combined with automatic enrolment, would ensure that 82% of households with 'very low food security' and 70% of households with 'low food security' were eligible for FSMs.</p>  |
| <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Fund the Holiday Activities and Food programme for the next three years.</p> <p>(2 recommended actions)</p> | <p><b>5.1</b> Government to extend the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) for the next three years.</p> <p><b>5.2</b> Evaluate the HAF to make sure that the current level of provision (four days a week for four weeks in summer and a week at Christmas and Easter) is enough to make sure vulnerable children are not going hungry.</p>  | <p>To augment the diets of children in low-income households during at least part of the school holidays by providing a daily hot meal, prepared to School Food Standards, to children eligible for free school meals. This in turn eases financial pressure on low-income households who struggle to provide additional meals during school holidays.</p>  |
| <p><b>6</b></p> <p>Expand the Healthy Start scheme.</p> <p>(5 recommended actions)</p>   | <p><b>6.1</b> Government to expand the Healthy Start voucher scheme to all households earning under £20,000 with pregnant women and/or young children.</p> <p><b>6.2</b> Raise age limit for children's eligibility from 3 to 5 years.</p> <p><b>6.3</b> Take steps to increase uptake among people who are eligible, by running a communications campaign to publicise the expansion of the scheme; making sure public information on the scheme (such as the website and leaflets) is up to date and readily available in appropriate settings; making the application process simpler; and making sure GPs, health visitors, midwives, social workers and early years workers are aware of the scheme and can help eligible families to apply.</p> <p><b>6.4</b> Continue to digitise the scheme while retaining accessibility for those without digital access.</p> <p><b>6.5</b> Conduct regular evaluations of the scheme, to understand its impact on fruit and vegetable consumption and review the value of the voucher. This could include developments that would allow purchases to be tracked.</p> | <p>To increase consumption of health-supporting fruit and vegetables in low-income households with pregnant women and children up to five years old by extending eligibility for the Healthy Start voucher scheme and increasing the numbers of eligible people who claim them.</p> <p>Expanding eligibility to any family earning less than £20,000 would reach 73% of food insecure families. Extending children's eligibility from three to five years closes an existing nutritional gap where poorer children have stopped benefiting from Healthy Start but are not yet in school and receiving FSMs.</p> |

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| <p><b>7</b></p> <p>Trial a ‘Community Eatwell’ Programme, supporting those on low incomes to improve their diets.</p> <p>(4 recommended actions)</p>                              | <p><b>7.1</b> Government to conduct a three-year trial of a ‘Community Eatwell’ programme to provide targeted healthy eating support for people on low incomes.</p> <p><b>7.2</b> Pilot projects to be run by up to seven Primary Care Networks, tailored to local contexts, using ‘social prescribing’ and other interventions to support healthy changes in behaviour, in particular increasing fruit and vegetable consumption. Pilot projects to identify patients in need of dietary support and refer them to a Link Worker – a non-clinical staff member with specialised training to support healthy eating – who would design a programme to suit their needs and help them engage with local services. Patients would receive an ‘Eatwell Prescription’ for free fruit and vegetables, perhaps alongside access to local programmes that encourage healthy eating (e.g. cooking classes in community kitchens). They would also get advice and support from their Link Worker to motivate them to engage in their personal programme.</p> <p><b>7.3</b> Government to review the scheme after three years</p> <p><b>7.4</b> If found to be successful, scheme to be rolled out across England.</p> | <p>To reduce the social and financial burdens of diet-related ill health and health inequalities by testing interventions focused on prevention rather than treatment, supporting those on low incomes to improve their diets.</p> <p>Patients experiencing diet-related ill health would be provided with support to change their diets, including by increasing consumption of fruit and vegetables.</p>   |
| <p><b>8</b></p> <p>Guarantee the budget for agricultural payments until at least 2029 to help farmers transition to more sustainable land use.</p> <p>(3 recommended actions)</p> | <p><b>8.1</b> Defra to guarantee the budget for agricultural funding (£2.4bn a year) at its current level (in real terms) until 2029, progressively shifting around £2.2bn from Direct Payments (the legacy Common Agricultural Policy subsidies) to Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMS), leaving around £200m a year for improving farm productivity and innovation.</p> <p><b>8.2</b> Ring-fence £500m-£700m of this money to pay for natural carbon removal and restoring semi-natural habitats. Farmers to be paid on the basis of carbon sequestered and nature restored, using measuring techniques developed by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.</p> <p><b>8.3</b> Defra to ensure that payment and land-use-change schemes are simple for farmers to enter, accessible to tenant farmers as well as land owners, are flexible, and that they do not inadvertently penalise tenants or commoners.</p>  | <p>To support farmers financially as they transition towards a farming system that produces food but also halts or reverses the various negative environmental impacts of farming, and to incentivise this transition.</p> <p>To reward farmers for converting their less productive land into nature-rich, carbon-sequestering landscapes (such as woodland, species-rich grassland or peatlands), some of which would still produce food, though at lower yields.</p> <p>To remove the complexities and exclusionary criteria that have prevented some farmers from joining nature protection schemes in the past, and to remove perverse incentives that have led farmers to increase unsustainable practices such as overuse of inputs.</p> <p>To start the land use change necessary to meet the country’s nature and net zero goals.</p> |

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| <p><b>9</b></p> <p>Create a Rural Land Use Framework based on the ‘three compartment’ model.</p> <p>(4 recommended actions)</p> | <p><b>9.1</b> Defra to devise and publish a Rural Land Use Framework (based on a newly prepared National Rural Land Map, see Recommendation 12), to be in place by 2022.</p> <p><b>9.2</b> Framework to set out how to achieve a ‘three compartment’ model by showing which land is best suited for (1) semi-natural land, (2) low-yield farmland and (3) high-yield farmland, as well as land appropriate for economic development and housing. Be clear how this can support the Government’s legal commitments to each net zero by 2050 and protect 30% of land for nature by 2030.</p> <p><b>9.3</b> Update the Rural Land Use Framework annually.</p> <p><b>9.4</b> Share the data assembled for both the National Rural Land Map and the Rural Land Use Framework across Government (especially with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with respect to using most appropriate land for new housing), coordinated by the Geospatial Commission.</p> | <p>To guide policy and funding decisions related to land use by identifying and mapping what land is best suited for.</p> <p>To facilitate the land use changes required to meet climate and biodiversity policy goals and targets, in particular by switching the least productive land currently used for food production to carbon sequestration and/ or nature restoration, and ensuring the most productive land is retained for food production.</p> <p>To ensure appropriate land is used for new housing.</p> |
| <p><b>10</b></p> <p>Define minimum standards for trade, and a mechanism for protecting them.</p> <p>(2 recommended actions)</p> | <p><b>10.1</b> Government to draw up a list of core minimum food standards which it will defend in any future trade deals. These should cover: animal welfare; environment and health protection; carbon emissions; antimicrobial resistance; zoonotic disease risk.</p> <p><b>10.2</b> Government to set out which mechanisms it intends to use to protect these standards. One way to do this while complying with WTO anti-protectionist rules would be to make tariff reductions within Free Trade Agreements contingent on products complying with UK core standards.</p>   | <p>To prevent cheap imported food (produced to lower standards than those required of UK farmers) from undercutting – and potentially bankrupting – the UK farming sector.</p>  |
| <p><b>11</b></p> <p>Invest £1 billion in innovation to create a better food system.</p> <p>(6 recommended actions)</p>          | <p><b>11.1</b> Government to make creating a better food system one of the first ‘long term missions’ of the £22bn Innovation Strategy.</p> <p><b>11.2</b> Spending should include a new £500m ‘challenge fund’, spread over five years, to be distributed by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Money to be spent on practical projects, conducted on farms, in communities or by businesses, rather than ‘new ideas’ developed by academics. Money to be used to help shift national diet to meet dietary targets (e.g. through reformulation of processed foods, behavioural change, local initiatives to improve diet and health) and to develop new ways of growing food (e.g. vertical farming or precision fermentation).</p>   | <p>To harness the ambition and (both new and existing) funding dedicated to innovation to help shift the food system towards health and sustainability goals.</p> <p>To direct funding to entrepreneurs and practitioners, as well as academic researchers, and to sectors that can help attain targets but which have hitherto been starved of funding.</p>  |

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|  | <p><b>11.3</b> Ensure £280m already budgeted by Defra for innovation under Agricultural Transition Plan retains ‘farmer-led’ focus and is used to support a wide range of methods, both high-tech and traditional, that can reduce carbon emissions and improve the natural environment. A specific priority should be methane reduction technologies, e.g. feed additives for sheep and cattle. Other priorities: agroecological methods; fruit and vegetable production.</p> <p><b>11.4</b> Develop a less bureaucratic, more inclusive and better-funded successor to the EU Fruit and Vegetable Aid Scheme.</p> <p><b>11.5</b> Government to put £50m towards building shared facilities in a commercial ‘cluster’ for entrepreneurs and scientists working on alternative proteins, to be backed with annual grants for start-ups of £15m for five years, from the new Challenge Fund.</p> <p><b>11.6</b> Government to establish two What Works centres, one to focus on diet (£150m) and the other on farming methods (£50m), to collect and analyse evidence on the effectiveness of food-related policies and business practices. The Evidence for Farming Initiative, already being piloted, could take on the latter role. Funding to be guaranteed for 10 years.</p> | <p>To support the transition away from animal protein production (to reduce carbon emissions and free up land for nature) by encouraging alternative protein production, and to ensure UK businesses have a stake in this emerging sector, supporting jobs in farming and industry.</p> <p>To improve the effectiveness of policy-making and business practices by monitoring and analysing them to provide evidence of success and identify shortcomings.</p>   |
| <p><b>12</b></p> <p>Create a National Food System Data Programme.</p> <p>(5 recommended actions)</p> | <p><b>12.1</b> Government to create a National Food System Data Programme, to collect and share data spanning two main areas of evidence: the land, as collected for the Rural Land Use Framework (Recommendation 9); and the supply chain beyond the farm gate (food production, distribution and retail) including environmental and health impacts.</p> <p><b>12.2</b> The Chief Scientific Advisers at Defra, the departments for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and the FSA to work together to establish a specialist team of civil servants – including IT experts and strategists – to develop and manage the National Food System Data Programme. Working with the Geospatial Commission and the Office for National Statistics, this team should start by setting baseline data definitions, standards and hierarchies, making it easier to collect consistent data across different areas and at different times, and to use it in multiple ways. The team should then identify gaps in the existing data, and broker agreements with third parties – such as retailers or unions – to fill in these gaps without breaching confidentiality.</p>  | <p>To give the Government and the food industry a tool for devising, shaping and monitoring the food system, to improve the nation’s health, wellbeing and environment.</p> <p>To provide the good quality, consistent and accessible data that are essential for effective policy-making, business practice, scrutiny and improvement, especially in relation to complex systems such as the food system.</p> <p>To improve the consistency and comparability of information available to government and large companies, and make free data available to small companies which cannot otherwise access it.</p> |

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|  | <p><b>12.3</b> Publish key data using visualisation dashboards, making it easier for users to find and compare information, model future scenarios and assess the effectiveness of different policies or logistical models. These dashboards to include the National Rural Land Map (Recommendation 9).</p> <p><b>12.4</b> Devise and apply a ‘layered’ approach to control access, as some data will be commercially sensitive.</p> <p><b>12.5</b> Over time, add data on transport, energy, environment, healthcare, etc., to the programme.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>13</b></p> <p>Strengthen Government procurement rules to ensure that taxpayer money is spent on healthy and sustainable food.</p> <p>(5 recommended actions)</p> | <p><b>13.1</b> Government to redesign the Government Buying Standards for Food (GBSF), using the updated reference diet (Recommendation 14), to set these standards.</p> <p><b>13.2</b> The GBSF to be made mandatory for all public sector organisations’ food procurement.</p> <p><b>13.3</b> Government to introduce a mandatory accreditation scheme for all public institutions, working with existing certification bodies such as Food for Life, to help them reach baseline standards and encourage them to aim higher.</p> <p><b>13.4</b> Government to accelerate the roll-out of ‘dynamic procurement’, currently being trialled in southwest England, and use the new procurement standards to encourage caterers to try a broader range of suppliers.</p> <p><b>13.5</b> The Food Standards Agency to include in its annual report to Parliament an assessment of how procurement budgets are being spent and the extent to which they meet the new standards.</p> | <p>To ensure that the £2.4bn a year spent by government on food – for schools, hospitals, the Armed Forces, prisons and government offices – is spent on food that is both healthy and sustainable.</p> <p>To help institutions implement the new standards.</p> <p>To make it easier for small-scale producers to supply public catering contracts and encourage public sector caterers to use a broader range of suppliers (beyond the existing handful of large companies). To provide a monitoring mechanism.</p> |
| <p><b>14</b></p> <p>Set clear targets and bring in legislation for long-term change.</p> <p>(8 recommended actions)</p>  | <p><b>14.1</b> The Government should set a long-term statutory target to improve diet-related health, and create a new governance structure for food policy, through a Good Food Bill.</p> <p><b>14.2</b> Environment Bill to be strengthened to include a legally binding target to halt biodiversity loss in England by 2030 (to sit alongside the statutory carbon targets and pledge to protect 30% of land by 2030).</p>   | <p>To underpin the other recommendations outlined in the Strategy by providing a legislative base, long-term targets, a coordinating authority, ongoing political attention, a joined-up approach, regular scrutiny of national food security, and a requirement for Local Authorities to plan strategically for food provision.</p>  |

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|                | <p><b>14.3</b> The Good Food Bill to require Government to prepare regular (five-yearly) Action Plans, in consultation with FSA, to make further progress on steps set out in <i>The Plan</i>. The Action Plans should set interim targets, and measures to meet them, that are consistent with the food system’s contribution to national health, nature and climate commitments</p> <p><b>14.4</b> The role of the FSA to be expanded to cover healthy and sustainable food as well as food safety. Duties to include: reporting annually to Parliament on national progress towards health and sustainability goals; proposing strategies Government could adopt to accelerate progress; collecting and analysing the nutritional and environmental impacts of foods sold by food companies (Recommendation 2); developing an updated ‘Reference Diet’ in line with health and sustainability goals; working with Defra and the Institute of Grocery Distribution to develop a harmonised and consistent food labelling system to describe the environmental impacts of food products.</p> <p><b>14.5</b> FSA to have a statutory duty to consult with the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP), the Climate Change Committee (CCC) and the OHP in drawing up its advice and reports, also liaising with the Food and Drink Sector Council.</p> <p><b>14.6</b> Local Authorities to be required to put in place a food strategy, developed with reference to the goals and metrics set out in <i>The Plan</i>, and in partnership with the communities they serve.</p> <p><b>14.7</b> Government to review national food security annually (not every three years, as required by the 2020 Agriculture Act), using broad consultation, bringing in organisations responsible for nutrition, cybersecurity, infrastructure, climate change and the environment.</p> <p><b>14.8</b> Defra to put the Good Food Bill before Parliament in the fourth session of the 2019–2024 Parliament, to enact the legislation needed to implement some of the recommendations set out in the <i>The Plan</i>.</p> |                   |

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## About Us

The Food Research Collaboration is an initiative of the Centre for Food Policy. It facilitates joint working between academics, civil society organisations and others to improve the sustainability of the UK food system, and to make academic knowledge available wherever it may be useful.

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