

The Coronation Food Project Covenant for the Charitable and Community Food Redistribution Sector

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a new national programme to redistribute surplus food, the charitable and community food redistribution sector has come together to achieve a common goal: tripling charitable and community food redistribution in the United Kingdom over the next decade.

We make this agreement in the knowledge that we can achieve more working as a collective delivering a national food redistribution system than we can in isolation. In doing so, we can have a greater positive impact on society and on the people's lives who we support.

It is vital that this goal is pursued alongside continued efforts to prevent food waste from arising in the first place, in line with the government's Food Waste Hierarchy and the UK Food & Drink Pact's [Food Waste Reduction Roadmap](#). This Covenant is part of the larger National Endeavour to End Avoidable Food Waste, which is addressing the prevention of food waste directly in a separate workstream.

In any complex food system, there will always be large volumes of unavoidable high-quality, nutritious surplus food, and it is right that this is redistributed to community groups and charities, used to deliver social impact, and ultimately is served to people.

This Covenant sets out how we will work together to achieve this goal under the banner of the Coronation Food Project.

Principles

1. **We will work together to triple charitable and community food redistribution in the United Kingdom.** This goal is only achievable through commitment by all parties, and we will act in the collective interest to prioritise the achievement of this long-term goal.
2. **We recognise that redistributing more surplus food is not a systemic solution to poverty.** The expansion of surplus food redistribution must be accompanied by policies that tackle the root causes of poverty, hunger and hardship. To this end, we will collectively support the efforts of the anti-poverty sector to reduce and address the immediate and long-term drivers of poverty and food insecurity.
3. **Surplus food redistribution is a positive intervention** that strengthens communities, improves people's lives through local charitable food aid providers,

facilitates support for people when they're facing challenges, builds local resilience and prevents wasteful emissions.

4. **Our collaboration under this covenant is focused on securing new sources and incremental volumes of surplus food**, not on sharing existing surplus already flowing into organisations.
5. **There is strength in the diversity of our operating models.** We will draw on our collective strengths and expertise, to reach the widest number of people and community organisations possible, improving how we work together whilst retaining our own independent brands and models. Not all of us will take part in every area of work, and we will play to each other's strengths and expertise.
6. **We will work in a manner that is based on trust, open communication and strong relationships.** We will operate in the spirit of this covenant to overcome challenges that may arise.
7. We commit to ensuring that **more surplus food reaches communities in every nation of the UK, in a way that prioritises nutrition and maximises social impact.** The expansion of surplus food redistribution is a way to support existing ecosystems of community support with additional food, not an attempt to create new outlets for surplus food.

Structure and Governance

8. **We will agree a transparent and effective governance structure embedded in the Coronation Food Project with an independent chair** (for example, a small group composed of representatives from the IGD, the KCCF and our own organisations).
9. **We will continue to develop governance structure and procedures to ensure transparency and fairness.** It is vital that the governance group is demonstrably independent of any individual organisation, with clear safeguards around decision making and allocation.

Funding

10. **Given its UK-wide reach, Felix will be the lead partner on national funding bids, drafting applications collaboratively with relevant sector partners.** Different organisational models will determine suitability for partnership on funding applications. Other organisations may be better placed to be lead partners on regional bids and, potentially, on future national bids.
11. **Additional funding should be used primarily to maximise the capacity of existing infrastructure**, rather than on new capital expenditure.

12. **Government funding will be directed towards the sourcing and transport of additional food**, with food divided between organisations subject to agreement. We recognise that some organisations will not be eligible to receive funding from some sources based on organisational model.
13. **Delivering this at scale will depend on long-term funding and wider policy changes that increase the volume of food reaching communities.**

Food Sourcing and Logistics

14. **The co-ordination of additional food sourcing and logistics will be led by a function within The Coronation Food Project**, with embedded secondment opportunities open to all partners. This function will be responsible for programme management, central sourcing, transport and allocation of the incremental food secured.
15. **Each organisation will continue managing its own existing relationships with suppliers and funders**, including national suppliers. Where free-of-charge relationships already exist, we will respect them and coordinate before approaching if required (as, for example, in the case of AFS sourcing additional food).
16. **We will continue to improve data sharing between organisations**, ensuring that food sourced via the new function will be genuinely additional to existing redistribution efforts.

Communications and Advocacy

17. **On agreed shared policy objectives, we will lobby and influence on behalf of the sector with one voice**, advocating collectively for structural changes that benefit everyone over the long term. Where individual organisations have their own specific policy priorities, they will continue to pursue them individually.
18. **We will communicate and celebrate the achievements of the programme together**, will collaborate on media and other public-facing opportunities relating to the programme, and we will seek to give fair prominence to all partners.

This covenant is a starting point for how we will work together to deliver the programme. As the work develops, we recognise that further agreements may be required to support delivery, for example with regard to data sharing and navigating any conflicts of interest. These will be developed and agreed at the appropriate time. We agree to review the terms of this covenant on a regular basis.

Appendix A – Definitions:

- **'Charitable food aid provider'** refers to charitable help with food for free or at very low cost for people experiencing financial or food insecurity. Providers include food banks, food pantries, social supermarkets and food clubs.
- **'Food insecurity'** means a lack of consistent access to enough affordable, nutritious food due to a lack of financial resources or other constraints.
- **'Surplus food redistribution'** means collecting safe, good-quality food that is not going to be sold or used — for example by supermarkets, farms, restaurants or manufacturers — and distributing it to charities, community groups or individuals to be eaten by people.
- **'Unavoidable surplus food'** refers to edible food in the supply chain that is produced in excess of requirements, despite reasonable preventive measures. This includes produce that does not meet retailer cosmetic or size specifications, manufacturing over-runs and short-coded products, food displaced by sudden changes in customer demand or order cancellations, and crops that cannot be harvested or sold commercially for reasons of weather, labour or market conditions. Where food waste arises from preventable causes (such as forecasting errors, ordering inefficiencies or poor supply chain management), prevention should be prioritised as a first measure, with redistribution taking place as a secondary measure where appropriate to prevent excess food falling further down the food waste hierarchy (e.g. into anaerobic digestion).

Appendix B – Signatory and Supporting Organisations:

Signatories



Supporting Organisations

