

Procure seasonal, traceable and nutritious food while building local value and supply chain resilience



Do you want seasonal, nutritious food, whilst meeting regional and national targets around net zero, social value and local economic development?

Have you considered sourcing from a Food Hub?

Quick guide to Food Hubs in the UK

What Is a Food Hub?

A **Food Hub** connects sustainable food producers with buyers. Food Hubs can supply individuals, businesses and public buyers. They make it easier to source seasonal and traceable food, particularly fruit and veg.

A Food Hub's purpose is not just to trade products but to **strengthen sustainable food networks** and **build local resilience**. Coordinating supply from multiple small and medium scale producers,

Food Hubs aggregate and distribute food, ensuring fair returns for producers while meeting buyers' standards for quality, safety, and reliability.

As an alternative to long and complex supply chains, Food Hubs offer a resilient and innovative way to source sustainable food and build local economic development.

Food Hubs can act as a **bridge between local farms and public buyers**, offering transparent sourcing, traceability, and community impact.

Why sourcing from Food Hubs delivers better public value



Improve sustainability & circular economies

Purchasing through Food Hubs significantly reduces food waste – they tailor supply to demand and don't over order.

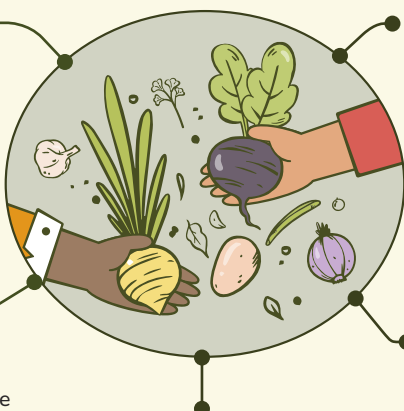
Food Hubs often prioritise environmentally sound farming practices, supporting soil health, biodiversity and net zero targets.



Support health & wellbeing

Food Hubs aggregate seasonal, nutritious food. They often prioritise organic and agroecological food. Food Hubs also often promote community activities that support health and wellbeing.

Food Hubs also often promote opportunities for social connection and community activities.



Support local economies & social value

Purchasing through Food Hubs keeps value within local economies. This often has a 'multiplier effect', generating higher value locally through gross value added.

Food Hubs also provide market access for smaller producers, supporting rural jobs.



Increase resilience

Food Hubs support and encourage production from domestic growers and producers.

By purchasing through Food Hubs, relationships between regional producers, buyers and consumers are supported.



Promote fair & ethical trade

Short, transparent supply chains allow for traceability. This promotes fair and ethical trade practices and ensures farmers and producers are paid a fair price for their food.

Why Food Hubs Matter

Food Hubs can play a vital role in creating a **resilient and secure food supply**. By shortening supply chains and supporting regional producers, they:

- **Increase resilience** against global supply disruptions by supporting and encouraging demand from domestic growers and producers
- **Support local economies** by keeping value within the region and providing jobs
- **Reduce environmental impact** through shorter supply chains, prioritising seasonal food and sourcing from producers with sustainable farming practices
- **Promote fair and ethical trade practices** through short, transparent supply chains

"Food Hubs have the potential to become a permanent strategic part of how the NHS buys food. This work isn't just about procurement; it's about shaping the future of public sector food. By aggregating local supply, we can strengthen British farming, reduce carbon emissions, improve public health, keep money in local economies, and deliver better value"

Tim Radcliffe • Net Zero Food Programme Manager, NHS England

"Food Hubs and strategic wholesalers can clearly support on delivering value in public sector food procurement. Many of these are non-profit social enterprises that reinvest in producers and put more money back into the local value chain. A small amount of targeted support for such infrastructure could unlock outsized benefits for regional economies, food resilience, community connection and the environment"

Julia Kirby-Smith • Better Food Traders

Food Hubs and Public Procurement

Food Hubs provide an opportunity for local authorities and public sector organisations to **meet economic, health and sustainability objectives** through their purchasing power.

This can include:

- **Sourcing locally** within procurement frameworks.
- **Meeting Net Zero and biodiversity targets.**
- **Providing transparency** and clear provenance.
- **Engaging smaller producers** who might otherwise be excluded from public contracts.
- **Delivering nutritious, seasonal food** that aligns with public health goals.



For further reading on Food Hubs, check out:
www.procurementforgood.co.uk/knowledge-hub

Learn more about Procurement for Good and Food Hubs near you: info@procurementforgood.co.uk



Food Hubs in the UK: Where are we and what next? Paola Guzman and Christian Reynolds (2019)
www.foodresearch.org.uk/publications/food-hubs

Sustainable Food Places 'Setting up a Food Hub: where do you start?' (2023)
www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/news/feb23-setting-up-a-food-hub

Food Hubs support strong Welsh communities OFN (2025)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=GY_heh5jNdl

Local Food Growth Plan (2025)
www.sustainweb.org/assets/local-food-growth-plan-1748336069.pdf