



Northern Ireland

# Food Strategy Framework Action Plan 2025-2027

*Food at the Heart of our Society - A Prospectus for Change*



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**  
[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

An Roinn  
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'  
**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**



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## Ministerial Foreword

I am delighted to bring forward the first NI Food Strategy Framework Action Plan on behalf of the Executive. It represents a new “*whole of government*” approach around food, recognising the interconnection between food, health, the economy and the environment. It has been created in a collaborative process involving the Departments for Communities and for the Economy as well as the Departments of Education, Health, Justice and Finance and the Food Standards Agency and Invest NI.



This two-year Action Plan is the start of our journey towards the delivery of our shared vision of ***“A transformed innovative food system that protects and enhances natural resources for future generations, is environmentally sustainable, economically ambitious and provides safe, nutritionally balanced, accessible food for all”.***

There is growing international recognition of the importance of food systems and the challenges and opportunities of ensuring food security, health and nutrition for a growing population, supporting the livelihoods of farmers and others in the food supply chain, and doing so in an environmentally sustainable way. My Executive colleagues and I are committed to focusing our collective efforts to maximise these opportunities and laying the foundations for the generations to come.

We are particularly mindful of the need to reduce inequalities within our society. We recognise the impact that food poverty can have on our health and wellbeing and we are passionate about working collectively with others to create a food system which strives to reduce food poverty, ensuring an adequate, nutritious diet is accessible to all.

My Executive colleagues and I recognise that “turning the dial” on many of the long-established societal challenges will take time and the direction of travel will be influenced by the emerging budgetary, policy/ legislation, and science developments, including behavioural science. By working together, we can reset our relationship with food and build a food system that puts healthy people, a healthy natural environment and a healthy economy at its core.

This first two-year Action Plan specifically focuses on the creation of purposeful partnerships across government departments, local councils, academia, industry, business and community and voluntary stakeholders and building on the good work already underway. Everyone has a role in this journey.



Similar work is happening across these Islands and worldwide. As Ministers, we will ensure that Northern Ireland departments work with the UK Government, other Devolved Administrations, and where appropriate on a North-South basis and with other international institutions ensuring we share and learn from one another.

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed and supported the development of this Action Plan and I look forward to progressing this exciting agenda together.

**Andrew Muir MLA**  
**Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

**14th May 2025**



# 1. Introduction

The Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework was published in November 2024 following agreement by the Executive. This Action Plan, which should be read in conjunction with the Framework, sets out the shared long-term direction of travel for food policy in Northern Ireland.

This first two-year Action Plan is aligned to the delivery period of the current Programme for Government and the mandate of Ministers and the Executive.

The Action Plan has been developed in partnership with Department for Communities, Department for the Economy, Department of Education, Department of Finance, Department of Health, Department of Justice, the Food Standards Agency (FSA NI) and Invest NI.

The Action Plan takes account of the challenging budgetary position and a period of significant policy development across government. Many of the linked policy areas such as agriculture, environment, circularity and health are still in development and will provide a key focus for the future, subject to their finalisation and publication. These will include the Anti-Poverty Strategy, Circular Economy Strategy, Healthy Futures Framework and the continued roll out of the Sustainable Agriculture Programme which has the overall objective of transitioning to a more sustainable farming sector by seeking to implement policies and strategies that benefit our climate and environment, while, very importantly, supporting our economically and socially significant agri-food sector.

Winning hearts and minds will be essential to unlocking many of the most significant societal challenges such as diet-related ill health, food poverty, food waste and carbon emissions. Driving the transformation required will necessitate the development and adoption of new science and innovation. An essential prerequisite will be the development of greater social and behavioural science insights and implementation. These research needs align with the ambitions of the Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems<sup>1</sup>, and form a key element of this Action Plan. Development, application and evaluation of consistent and effective communication messages will form a further piece of the jigsaw to champion the journey ahead.

Our focus in the first two years is to build collaboration and partnership across departments and with stakeholders: put in place measures to build knowledge, identify gaps and to use existing budgets more effectively to deliver against multiple Programme for Government (PfG) targets and progress the Executive's shared ambition around food matters. Recognising current budgetary pressures, the approach taken is low or no additional cost; where proposed tasks require additional budget, they will be subject to value for money assessment and budget availability.

Governance responsibility will remain with the established cross-departmental Food Programme Board, chaired by DAERA. Each action has been assigned a lead Department

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<sup>1</sup> Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, which is jointly funded by the Government of Ireland's Department of Further and Higher Education through Research Ireland (Shared Island funding), UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), DAERA and industry.



but co-design and collaborative working are at the heart of the Framework and Action Plan to deliver better outcomes through working collectively across departments and with stakeholders. A progress report will be presented to the Executive at the end of the two years. It is intended that co-design work will commence on the next Action Plan during year two. Future Action Plans will create appropriate metrics, ensure coherence and alignment of targets and indicators across related strategies to maximise benefit realisation and avoid unnecessary duplication. As an example, DEFRA have recently announced plans to develop a UK-wide Food Strategy whilst also recognising the devolved nature of food. They intend as their first action to develop an outcomes framework during 2025. Northern Ireland will be involved in this process and therefore future reporting methodology should align with this, where appropriate to do so.

Implementation of this Action Plan has been developed around three missions which seek to deliver against the four strategic priorities laid out within the Food Strategy Framework.

- **Mission One** - To use Food to Improve Lifelong Health and Wellbeing.
- **Mission Two** - To Support Environmentally Sustainable, Safe and Ethical Agri-Food Supply Chains.
- **Mission Three** - To Further Develop Sustainable Economic Prosperity Within the Agri-Food Sector.

The aspirations of the Framework's Strategic Priority Four - *Building a Food Culture and Food Conscious Society* is interwoven into the three missions above. Food culture and food consciousness interconnect strongly with the other priorities, and will underpin the delivery of improved health, economic, and environmental outcomes.

The Food Strategy Framework provides the mechanism for us to collectively create a road map towards building a transformative food system for Northern Ireland. Our initial Action Plan, phase one (2025-2027) sets out 39 actions and a commitment to build purposeful partnerships across government and with key stakeholders to deliver real change and promote a positive future for our food system. Planning for the next phase (2027-2030) will begin at the mid-way point of phase one.

The second phase will focus on consolidating the foundations laid in phase one and build momentum to develop food policies and actions that will deliver improved health, environment and economic outcomes for Northern Ireland and importantly make a difference to people's lives. It will also provide the opportunity to identify and consider new or emerging areas that impact upon the food system.



## Food Strategy Framework Action Plan: Missions and Strategic Priorities



# Mission One - To Use Food to Improve Lifelong Health and Wellbeing (aligns with Framework Priority One and Priority Four)

## Why Food Matters

There is broad acknowledgement that too many diets in our society today are too high in saturated fat, salt or sugar, low in fibre, and lacking important vitamins and minerals. Diet and lifestyle contribute significantly to diseases (cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory illness, diabetes and musculoskeletal conditions) and impact the years people live in good health. Malnutrition, whether obesity or undernutrition, is often amplified by poverty and impacts on people's health and wellbeing, both physical and mental. As well as the personal cost of fewer years lived in good health or lives cut short, there is an economic cost through healthcare costs, lost working days through illness, and reduced productivity which consequentially stifles economic growth in the longer term. According to the 2023 DoH Obesity Consultation, the annual cost of obesity to Northern Ireland is estimated at £500 million.

A healthy, balanced diet at all stages of life is important and is particularly critical for children and young people. Nutrition impacts their growth and development, their wellbeing, their educational performance and attainment and consequentially their opportunity to reach their full potential. Approximately one in four children and young people in NI are overweight (20%) or obese (6%). Our children consume an average of 2.5 portions of fruit and vegetables per day, with 94% not meeting the 5 A Day recommendation and average intake of oily fish is well below the recommended 1 portion per week. Overall, more than 90% of the population are not meeting the recommendations for dietary fibre intake.

Changing behaviours and making it easier for people to live healthier lives is a necessity. Education and knowledge are a big part of the solution. To unlock change we must change our relationship with food, how we value it and how we use it. We must also influence the 'food environment' and food makers to reverse this trend.

We must also protect the most vulnerable and/or disadvantaged in our society and reduce inequalities, ensuring that nutritious, sustainable food is accessible to all. Norms of what we eat are strongly influenced by the behaviour of others and our shared food culture. Building resilient, food informed communities will be fundamental to unlocking solutions to many of the societal challenges we face and can help shape our relationship with food. Connecting people through food can help build social cohesion through sharing diverse culinary traditions and drive change in attitudes and behaviours towards healthy, nutritious food. Community growing initiatives can have positive benefits for physical and mental wellbeing and can play a role in promoting healthier eating patterns through eating fresh produce locally grown, and more accessible to local people. This has the potential to strengthen connections between people and the food they eat, normalising a society where healthy and sustainable food is celebrated.

However, as a society and as an individual our relationship with food is complex. Changing attitudes and behaviours will take time.



## Mission One: To Use Food to Improve Lifelong Health and Wellbeing

### Actions we will take now (2025-2027)

Timescale for Delivery Key: Short <12 months • Medium 1-24 months  
Lead Departments will facilitate joined up working with all relevant partners

Number	Theme	Actions	Delivery Timescale	Responsibility Lead Department
1.	Addressing Food Inequalities	1.1 Develop a cross departmental approach to applying the “Right to Food” guiding principle as set out in the NI Food Strategy Framework.	Medium	DAERA
		1.2 Co-design a Community Food Challenge Scheme with key stakeholders (subject to budget availability) aimed at supporting community initiatives that help deliver the overarching goals of the NI Food Strategy Framework.	Medium	DAERA
		1.3 Work with key stakeholders to build a culture of redirecting surplus food to those who will benefit from it and help alleviate food poverty.	Medium	DAERA
		1.4 Explore opportunities to utilise existing community-based interventions such as Social Supermarkets and/or programmes in disadvantaged communities to promote healthy eating messaging, and awareness of how to store, prepare, cook food and minimise waste.	Medium	DfC
2.	Food in Early Years Settings	2.1 Promote healthy, nutritious eating across DE funded Early Years settings.	Medium	DE
		2.2 Explore methods to standardise and embed healthy eating habits within all childcare and nursery settings.	Medium	DoH/ DE



Timescale for Delivery Key: Short <12 months • Medium 1-24 months  
Lead Departments will facilitate joined up working with all relevant partners

Number	Theme	Actions	Delivery Timescale	Responsibility Lead Department
3.	Food in Schools	3.1 Implement all aspects of existing Food in Schools Policy.	Medium	DE/DoH
		3.2 Publish results and recommendations emerging from an academic research project to map out breakfast club provision across Northern Ireland.	Medium	DAERA/Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems
		3.3 Review and refresh existing School Milk Subsidy Scheme.	Medium	DAERA
		3.4 Pilot a Food Theme week as part of the Education Authority's School Meals Programme focusing on a whole school approach, healthy eating, food education and sustainability.	Short	DE/DoH
		3.5 Take forward actions to increase the uptake of free school meals including further simplification and streamlining of the application process.	Medium	DE
		3.6 Take forward actions to increase the numbers of pupils taking a school meal, either free or paid.	Short	DE
4.	Food Interventions targeted at Children and Young People	4.1 Engage with Children and Young People from diverse backgrounds, using existing forums where possible to inform policy making and co-design future food interventions.	Medium	DAERA
		4.2 Children's Menus - Publish literature review on effectiveness of interventions to improve nutritional offering of children's restaurant meals and develop recommendations.	Short	FSA



Timescale for Delivery Key: Short <12 months • Medium 1-24 months  
Lead Departments will facilitate joined up working with all relevant partners

Number	Theme	Actions	Delivery Timescale	Responsibility Lead Department
5.	Accessibility to healthier food	5.1 Work with partners, including PHA, to implement nutritional standards in Health and Social Care, public sector and local council settings.	Medium	FSA
		5.2 Evaluate implementation of nutritional standards for vending in public sector and local council settings. Use findings to inform further implementation of the standards in these settings.	Short	FSA
		5.3 Support food businesses to make the food environment healthier through reducing calories, saturated fat, sugar, and salt in the food they produce, sell or serve, reducing portion size and providing nutritional information.	Medium	FSA



## **Mission Two - To Support Environmentally Sustainable, Safe and Ethical Agri-Food Supply Chains** (aligns with Framework Priority Two and Priority Four)

### **Why Food Matters**

A sustainable food system involves the whole food supply chain and has environmental sustainability as one of its core elements. There is an important role for farmers/growers, processors, retailers, food service sector, government and consumers in protecting and enhancing natural resources, reducing our environmental footprint and transitioning to a more circular economy. Population growth and consumer behaviour is fuelling demand for food worldwide. Meeting these dietary needs is leading to loss of biodiversity on land and water, deforestation, overfishing, and ecosystem degradation. The food system has significant water and energy usage and generates a considerable volume of food and packaging waste, all of which contributes to climate change and environmental harm.

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 contains a net-zero target by 2050 as well as transitional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission targets for 2030 and 2050. Delivering our Action Plan will play a role towards driving decarbonisation within the agri-food sector sitting alongside other Action Plans being progressed within DAERA and across government and the critical work being undertaken by industry and business.

A focus of this Action Plan will be on education and building knowledge to contribute to carbon reduction, reducing food waste, increasing use of sustainable food packaging, increasing food redistribution and seeking out opportunities to reduce, reuse or recycle where possible, together with advocating for sustainable supply chains to protect natural resources and mitigate the impacts of global supply chain sourcing.

A core pillar of net zero planning in the food sector will be eliminating food waste. Although great progress has been made in the UK on food waste from all sectors (manufacture, retail, hospitality and food service, and household), the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) have calculated that households in Northern Ireland have the highest rate of food waste in the UK, with families wasting an average of over £1,000 of food a year. Despite having comprehensive collections for the recycling and composting of food waste, around 30% still ends up in landfill where it emits harmful greenhouse gases for decades.

Food and drink packaging accounted for the largest share of plastic packaging waste thrown out by households in the UK in 2022, at 83%. In 2021, less than a half of plastic packaging waste was recycled.

There is increasing demand for agri-food businesses to report environmental credentials and commit to long-term environmental sustainability improvement plans. Our ambition is to promote Northern Ireland as a world-leading, environmentally sustainable and ethical food producing region. This includes recognition of the challenges associated with social justice, fairness and transparency in agri-food supply chains. The provision of transparent, accurate, credible, comparable data and information will enable consumers to make informed food choices that reflect their values.



Food security has become an important topic because of the increased occurrences of supply chain disruption due to geopolitical events, weather and impacts of climate change. This Action Plan will contribute to food security, and the adaptation of food and farming systems to become more resilient.





## Mission Two - To Support Environmentally Sustainable, Safe and Ethical Agri-Food Supply Chains

### Actions we will take now (2025-2027)

Timescale for Delivery Key: Short <12 months • Medium 1-24 months Lead Departments will facilitate joined up working with all relevant partners				
Number	Theme	Detail	Delivery Timescale	Responsibility Lead Department
1.	Environmental Sustainability Support Services available to food & drinks processing businesses.	1.0 Review signposting to existing support to help food & drinks processing businesses improve environmental sustainability.	Medium	DfE
2.	Environmental sustainability development plans (SMEs and microbusinesses).	2.0 Develop and deliver an industry workshop targeted at food & drinks processing businesses to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the support available to help them create environmental sustainability development plans.</li> <li>• Build understanding around environmental sustainability and data.</li> <li>• Raise awareness of actions to reduce their environmental footprint and the importance of measuring and establishing a baseline.</li> <li>• Increase awareness of environmental governance throughout supply chains (including deforestation regulations).</li> </ul>	Short	DAERA /DfE



**Timescale for Delivery Key: Short <12 months • Medium 1-24 months**  
**Lead Departments will facilitate joined up working with all relevant partners**

Number	Theme	Detail	Delivery Timescale	Responsibility Lead Department
3.	Green Skills / Capability Development	<p>3.0 Through the Agri-Food Manufacturing Sectoral Partnership work across government departments, Invest NI, knowledge / skills providers and key stakeholders to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review provision of green skills training and whether it meets industry need.</li> <li>• Develop training provision as required to build capability within the food &amp; drinks processing sector in principles and practice of environmental sustainability, including the concept of circularity.</li> </ul>	Medium	DfE/DAERA
4.	Increase awareness and understanding of circular practices within agri-food businesses.	4.1 Work across government to promote pathways that support a circular approach and increase business awareness of opportunities for circularity.	Medium	DfE/DAERA
		<p>4.2 Reduce edible surplus food going to waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to reduce impacts of food waste on the environment and climate; and</li> <li>• divert food surplus (pre and post farm gate edible food) to benefit the community and help alleviate food poverty.</li> </ul>	Medium	DAERA



**Timescale for Delivery Key: Short <12 months • Medium 1-24 months**  
**Lead Departments will facilitate joined up working with all relevant partners**

Number	Theme	Detail	Delivery Timescale	Responsibility Lead Department
5.	Continue to engage with UKG on The Food Data Transparency Partnership (FDTP)	5.0 Led by DEFRA, FDTP is a partnership between government, industry, academia, and civil society: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to standardise the methodology and data sources used for measuring and reporting Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions of food and drink.</li> <li>• to establish a mandatory methodology for voluntary food eco-labels.</li> </ul>	Medium	DAERA
6.	Social Justice	6.0 Work collectively to combat modern slavery and human trafficking, DoJ will provide guidance, support and training to ensure a better understanding of the need for transparency in agri-food supply chains.	Short	DoJ/DoF
7.	Food Supply Security Contingency Measures	7.0 Develop a cross-government/agency contingency plan to respond to food supply chain disruption.	Short	DAERA
8.	Food Security - Resilience	8.1 Implement pilot projects as part of DAERA's Sustainable Agriculture Programme to grow the horticulture sector.	Medium	DAERA
		8.2 Collaborate with key stakeholders to investigate the barriers and opportunities to expanding community growing spaces and build community food resilience.	Medium	DAERA
9.	Behavioural Change	9.0 Work with key stakeholders to explore the opportunities to complement the remit of the established Eco Schools programme to strengthen links to sustainable and healthy food.	Medium	DAERA



## Mission Three - To Further Develop Sustainable Economic Prosperity Within the Agri-Food Sector (aligns with Framework Priority Three and Priority Four)

### Why Food Matters

Agri-Food plays an important role in the Northern Ireland economy, in particular providing employment within rural and coastal economies, contributing to a regionally balanced economy. Food and drinks processing is NI's largest manufacturing sector.

Our economy needs thriving food and drinks processing, hospitality and tourism sectors that attract talent and business. Improving productivity through high-value products and reducing inefficiencies, adopting new technology and investing more in innovation and in a highly skilled workforce will help drive competitiveness. Attracting and keeping talent will be critical, through delivering rewarding, secure and sustainable career opportunities. Collaborative working across government departments, councils and with others is essential to ensuring a coherent supporting infrastructure for the Northern Ireland agri-food industry. Access to knowledge, skills and expertise will support entrepreneurship, nurture start-ups and enable businesses to prosper, maximising opportunities both in the NI marketplace and on the global stage.

Through its exports, Northern Ireland plays a significant role in providing nutrition for people at home and throughout the world. The proportion of total sales to external markets is more than 75%. The largest market for the Northern Ireland food and drinks processing sector is Great Britain and the largest export market is the Republic of Ireland. The sector makes a substantial contribution to NI's employment, external sales, and international presence, and at home to its tourism and hospitality offering.

Food is vital to the Northern Ireland tourism offering. Recent research indicates that Northern Ireland food tourism is now worth £420 million annually to the NI economy, with visitors spending over one-third of all tourism-related expenditure on food and drink activities, making food and drink tourism a vital contributor to the local economy. Visitor attractions, food and drink experiences, trails, tours and local food markets, all offer opportunities for those visiting and living within Northern Ireland to learn more about how Northern Ireland food and drink is made and the quality and care taken to produce it. Food and drink tourism plays an important role in providing employment across Northern Ireland, in addition to its economic benefits of dispersing visitors to areas across the region.

Economic and environmental sustainability go hand in hand. A key challenge going forward will be the increasing focus on balancing future economic growth with environmental sustainability and the sector's contribution to Climate Change targets. Citizens, business, investors and Government are increasingly aware of the impact of food choices on health, animal welfare, climate and the environment and are seeking greater transparency in supply chains. Behaviour Change towards embedding environmental, public health and social governance at the heart of our decision making will be fundamental to unlocking the solutions to many of the challenges we face.



Public procurement spend on food is significant and has the potential to play a key role in delivering better economic, health and environmental outcomes. Maximising opportunities through public procurement spend on food could bring economic benefits for food producers and businesses supplying government institutions.

Trust, integrity, fairness, and transparency in supply chains will come under increasing scrutiny, with regards to where our food comes from, how it is produced, processed and prepared. The agri-food and the hospitality and food and drink tourism sectors must maintain and promote their reputation for safe, high-quality sustainably produced food, for highly skilled people producing food to the highest standards, and for fairness and transparency in the supply chain.





### Mission Three - To Further Develop Sustainable Economic Prosperity within the Agri-Food Sector

#### Actions we will take now (2025-2027)

Timescale for Delivery Key: Short <12 months • Medium 1-24 months Lead Departments will facilitate joined up working with all relevant partners				
Number	Theme	Detail	Delivery Timescale	Responsibility Lead Department
1.	'Skills for the Future' Action Plan	1.0 Through the Agri-Food Manufacturing Sectoral Partnership, work across government departments, Invest NI, knowledge / skills providers and key stakeholders to review knowledge and skills provision for the agri-food sector and identify gaps/barriers and improve career progression pathways.  Key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopting new technology focusing on digital/automation/robotics/data</li> <li>• Driving Productivity</li> <li>• Innovation</li> <li>• Export</li> <li>• Reformulation</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Leadership</li> </ul>	Medium	DfE/DAERA
2.	Sector Attractiveness	2.0 Work across government, education and the food and drinks processing sector to collectively develop actions to enhance sector attractiveness.	Medium	DAERA



**Timescale for Delivery Key: Short <12 months • Medium 1-24 months**  
**Lead Departments will facilitate joined up working with all relevant partners**

Number	Theme	Detail	Delivery Timescale	Responsibility Lead Department
3.	Business / Research and Development Support for the food & drinks processing sector.	3.0 Explore options to ensure effective signposting of the ranges of support services available to food & drinks processing businesses across areas including research and development and innovation.	Medium	DfE/DAERA
4.	Food Entrepreneurship / Business Start Up and Growth	4.0 Identify opportunities for start-up and early-stage food and drink businesses to accelerate growth, undertake innovation and develop external sales.	Medium	DfE
5.	Strategic Leadership Development	5.0 Support the food & drinks sector to develop leadership capabilities and to explore collaboration opportunities.	Medium	DfE



**Timescale for Delivery Key: Short <12 months • Medium 1-24 months**  
**Lead Departments will facilitate joined up working with all relevant partners**

Number	Theme	Detail	Delivery Timescale	Responsibility Lead Department
6.	Public Sector Food Procurement.	<p>6.0 Through the Public Sector Food Procurement Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate data to establish a baseline of food procured from local businesses and of Northern Ireland origin.</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to increase local sourcing.</li> <li>• Work collectively across government departments and with key stakeholders to build local capacity and capability to meet public sector requirements.</li> <li>• Develop actions to increase attractiveness of public sector procurement.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to make tendering more accessible to local food &amp; drinks processing businesses.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to encourage/incorporate redirecting of surplus food from public procurement food contracts and food contractors to help address social inequalities.</li> </ul>	Medium	DAERA/DoF/ DE/ DoH
7.	Continue to identify and build export and external sales opportunities	7.0 Work collaboratively across NI government departments, and Invest NI, and as appropriate, the other Devolved Administrations, UKG, the Irish Government and InterTradeIreland, to share information, to overcome barriers to trade and align activities to maximise export opportunities.	Medium	DfE/DAERA



Timescale for Delivery Key: Short <12 months • Medium 1-24 months  
Lead Departments will facilitate joined up working with all relevant partners

Number	Theme	Detail	Delivery Timescale	Responsibility Lead Department
8.	Agri-Food City and Growth Deal Projects	8.0 Work collaboratively with project promoters and stakeholders to design and accelerate future economic growth opportunities.	Medium	DfE
9.	Promotion of Northern Ireland Food	9.1 Review the existing DAERA led Northern Ireland Regional Food Programme to ensure alignment with the ambition of the NI Food Strategy Framework.	Short	DAERA
		9.2 Continue to work alongside Tourism NI and other key stakeholders to align messaging and develop plans to promote Northern Ireland's food and drink offering.	Medium	DfE
10.	Develop initiatives to encourage collaboration within Agri-Food Supply Chains	10.0 To develop supply chain initiatives as part of DAERA's Sustainable Agriculture Programme to encourage and support collaboration to build supply chain resilience, drive economic growth and help deliver government strategic priorities.	Medium	DAERA



## Annex A - Glossary

**Agri-Food Single Supply Chain** - The movement of agricultural goods (including fish) from production level to final consumer - recognising the strategic interdependence of agricultural production, food processing, retail, distribution and consumption.

**Circular Economy** - A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems. ([ellenmacarthurfoundation.org](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org)).

**Education** - For the purpose of this Action Plan, education means in its broadest sense and includes early years, childcare, schools, youth settings and adults.

**Food** includes food, drink, fish and marine.

**Food Citizenship** - Shared belief that people want to and can shape the food system for the better, given the right conditions.

**Food Culture** - The attitudes, beliefs and practices that surround the production and consumption of food.

**Food Environment** - The food environment is the food we see around us. It shapes our decisions about food. It includes places where we make decisions about food such as where we live, work and come together. It is food and drink that is available, affordable and advertised to us.

**Food Poverty** - The inability to have an adequate and nutritious diet due to issues of affordability and access to food, with related impacts on health, culture and social participation being felt.

**Food System** - The elements and activities that are involved in feeding a population - the production, processing, packaging, distribution, marketing, consumption and disposal of food.

**Food Security** - When all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.

**One Health** - The collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally, to attain optimal health for people, animals and our environment.

**Sustainability** - Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability has three components: economic, environmental, and social.

**Sustainable Food System** - A food system that:

- is profitable (economic sustainability);
- is beneficial for society (social sustainability); and
- has a positive or neutral impact on the natural environment (environmental sustainability).

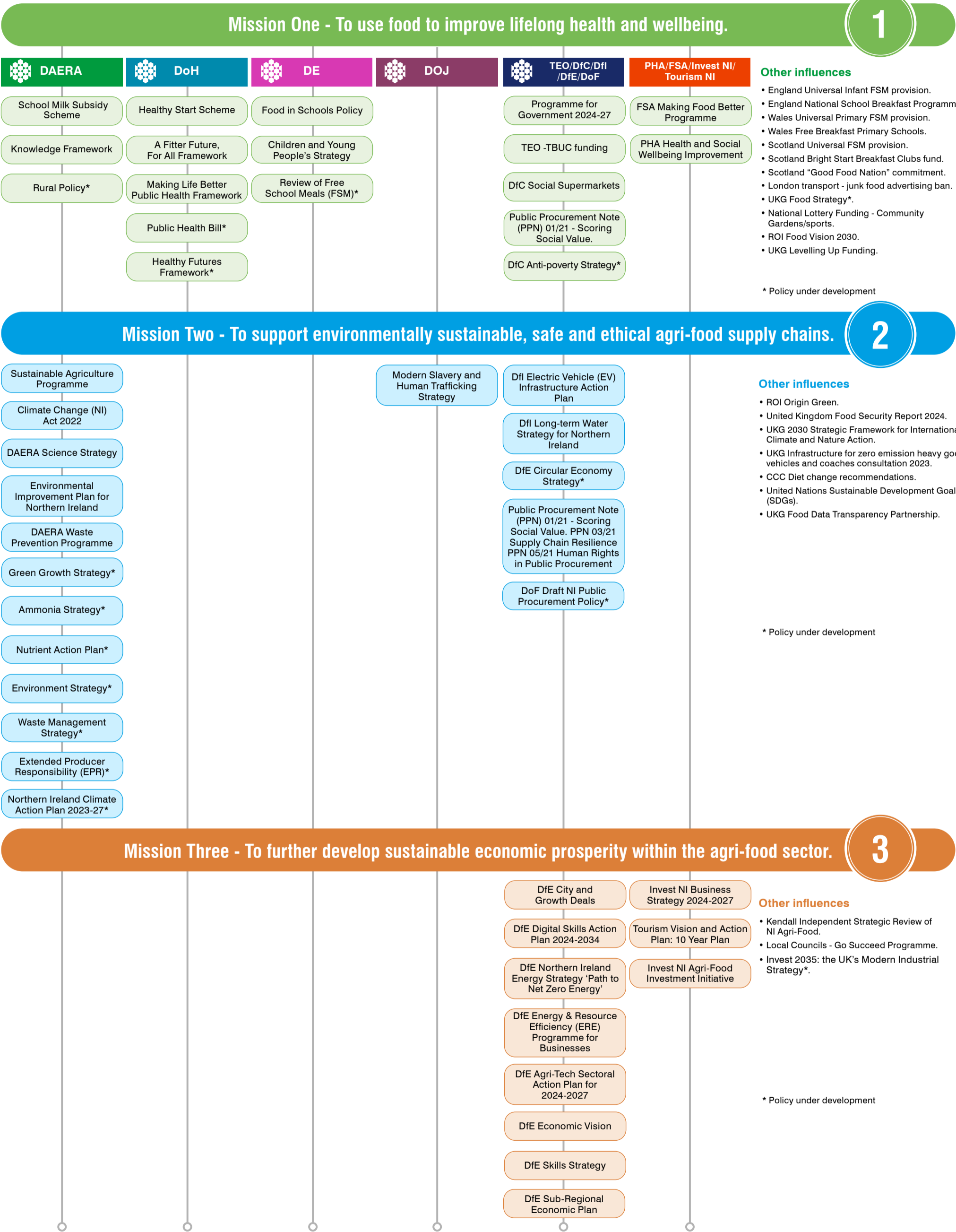


**Sustainable Diets** - Are protective and respectful of biodiversity and ecosystems, culturally acceptable, accessible, economically fair and affordable; nutritionally adequate, safe and healthy, while optimising natural and human resources.

**Transparency in Supply Chains** - For the purposes of this document, transparency in supply chains includes the requirements on relevant businesses to report on their progress in relation to identifying and addressing modern slavery risks in both their operation and in supply chains.



Annex B - Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework Action Plan Strategy Map



The strategy map outlines the main strategies/policies/initiatives influencing the Action Plan. It should be noted some apply across a number of themes and this is a summary of the main strategies/policies/initiatives but it is not an exhaustive list of everything considered in the development of the Action Plan.

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