



# Introduction

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## ***'We know that system change is desperately needed...'***

If you have read 'Local Food Ecosystems: How Food Hubs Can Help Create a More Sustainable Food System' and you are inspired to find out how the principles described within it could be put into practice in your own area then 'Pathway to Local Food Ecosystem' is definitely the programme for you.

## ***...but what does system change look like?...***

System change is no mean feat. Undertaking a transformational project is a daunting prospect. Often simply even envisioning what system change looks like in the first place can be a challenge for the many actors whose participation is required in order for change to happen.

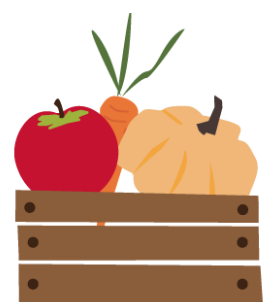
The 'Pathway to Local Food Ecosystem' programme is intended as an introduction to the concept of the 'Local Food Ecosystem' to your area. Its purpose is to inform and inspire the stakeholders who would form your Local Food Ecosystem, to share the knowledge and experience gained from the Cambridge Food Hub project, and to gauge the potential for establishing a Food Hub in your area.

## ***...And who is going to make it happen?'***

There is no shortage of will: the 70+ food partnerships that have established themselves throughout the UK can attest to that.

'Pathway to Local Food Ecosystem' is aimed at those who either are, or aspire to be, engaged in transformational action regarding food in their local area. It is anticipated that the organisations who would commission the 'Pathway to Local Food Ecosystem' programme will be your local food partnership, local council, or other local food action group.

The intended audience for the programme are local food producers, local food enterprises and other stakeholders in your local food system.



# What does the programme comprise of?

Your 'Pathway to Local Food Ecosystem' begins with an in-person two-day visit to your area by the book's author, Duncan Catchpole.

## Presentation and Workshop

The highlight of Duncan's visit will be a workshop which will bring together key stakeholders in your local food system. Duncan will give a presentation which will explain how circular economy principles can be put into practice in food supply chains. We will also play the 'Local Food Ecosystem' game; an interactive exercise designed to bring the Local Food Ecosystem concept to life and inspire the participants to start thinking about how their enterprises can start working together as part of a greater whole in order to address social and environmental needs.



## Meetings with key stakeholders

During his visit Duncan will attend meetings with representatives from your local council, and the 'anchor organisation' who would take the lead on your Food Hub project. These meetings will be both a factfinding exercise in which Duncan will do research for his report, and an opportunity for the stakeholders to delve deeper into the Local Food Ecosystem concept.

## Written report

Following on from Duncan's visit you will be presented with a written report. This report will include Duncan's appraisal of the potential to establish a Local Food Ecosystem in your area, and some recommendations for next steps.

## Ongoing support

Remember, 'Pathway to Local Food Ecosystem' is just the start. If you decide to proceed with your Food Hub project then further support will be available in the future, including things like design and construction of the Food Hub building and funding.



# Getting started

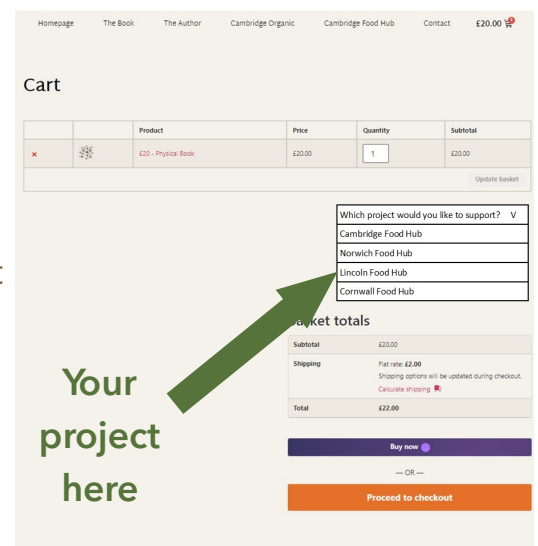
## What does it cost?

The 'Pathway to Local Food Ecosystem' programme costs £800 plus travel, board and food for the duration of Duncan's visit.

Duncan says *'It is not necessary to put me up in a hotel, I'm equally happy staying in someone's spare room and in many ways would prefer the opportunity to connect with someone who is also passionate about sustainable food.'*

## An easy way to pay

Harmony Food Hubs offers an innovative method by which the fee for the service can be paid. It can be 'crowdfunded' through the sale of books on the [localfoodecosystem.org](http://localfoodecosystem.org) website. Your project will appear as an option on the checkout page. Whenever someone buys a copy of the book and selects you as the project that they want to support then the proceeds of that sale (everything above £5 for physical copies, and the entire sale value of audible downloads) will go into a fund that can either be put towards the fee or pay for it entirely. All you need to do is promote the book within your network.



The benefit of this is that several stakeholders will get to read the book ahead of Duncan's visit, creating an excellent foundation for the workshop to take place.

## Getting started

To commission the 'Pathway to Local Food Ecosystem' programme in your area please send an email to [contact@localfoodecosystems.org](mailto:contact@localfoodecosystems.org), stating the name of the organisation who is commissioning the programme. You will be sent a terms of engagement letter for you to sign and return. You will also need to nominate a 'facilitator'. This is the person who will be the main point of contact between your organisation and Harmony Food Hubs during the preparations for Duncan's visit. It is recommended that you allow 8-10 weeks between commissioning the programme and the workshop taking place.

