Foundational Economy Backing Local Farms Fund

Future Farms Project

Final Evaluation Report: 25 April 2024.

Foundational Economy Backing Local Firms Fund (FEBLFF)

Future Farms Project – Final Evaluation Report

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Client: Social Farms and Gardens

Social Farms & Gardens is a UK-wide charity supporting communities to farm, garden and grow together. Their mission is to improve the health and well-being of individuals, communities, and the environment through nature-based activities that enable people and communities to reach their full potential as a part of everyday life. Within Wales, they provide leadership for six collaborative workstreams, including community orchards, food hubs, allotments, green corridors, community farms and skills training.

The Future Farms project is a partnership approach which aims to tackle some of the fundamental barriers to more fresh food production in Powys and the Bannau Brychieniog National Park Authority. The four delivery partners are:

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Executive Summary:

The Future Farms project aimed to support food-focused businesses in addressing the barriers to accessing land for agroecological small-scale horticulture in Powys and the Bannau Brycheinog National Park. These efforts underscore a commitment to fostering innovation and collaboration for positive change in response to the challenges faced by the horticultural industry and rural communities. The project received funding through the Welsh Government's Foundational Economy, Backing Local Firms Fund.

Browne Consultancy Services was contracted to provide an external evaluation of the Future Farms project from mid-November 2023 to the end of March 2024. The evaluation was required to focus on capturing learning to influence future activities and strategies that challenge the existing structures inhibiting access to land for agroecological food production. It examined what activities and outputs had been achieved against the project's initial aims and objectives, addressing questions surrounding the success of activities and considering the factors that may have affected delivery.

Our report captures the successes, challenges, learning points and opportunities that occurred during the delivery of the Future Farms pilot project, with the intention that the pilot's recommendations could be replicated elsewhere in Wales. It offers insights from the interviews carried out in February 2024 and from the feedback responses from the project delivery team, partners and steering group members as to what worked well and where improvements could be made.

The key project highlights were:

● **Support for Small-Scale Farming:** Project activities and outputs aimed to empower small-scale farmers to navigate barriers to accessing land for horticulture through the development of planning guidance and the assessment of the opportunities for diversification within Powys County Council's farm estate.

● **Compilation of the Planning Application:** The project brought together expert consultants who were instrumental in compiling a planning application to test the ability of a local authority to use a site in their county farm estate to split up one farm into three horticultural farms.

● **Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing**: There was an emphasis on the importance of engaging project partners, contractors and planning professionals.

Achievements and Successes:

● **Strong Partnership Formation:** The project successfully brought together a diverse range of members, including planners, agricultural and environmental consultants, architects, and council members. This partnership was seen as essential for providing the necessary expertise and support to move the project forward. Collaboration facilitated knowledge sharing, learning and advances in decision-making processes.

● **Planning Guidance Development:** The planning guidance developed and evolved through rigorous consultation. By the end of the extended period, there will be new planning policy guidance for rural enterprise dwellings, with briefing and training for council officers. A shift in planning attitudes was mentioned, with positive changes in the Powys planning authorities' attitudes to support small-scale sustainable agriculture initiatives.

● **Submission of the Planning Application:** The project submitted a planning application for a site east of Newtown, owned by the Powys County Council, which will act as a demonstration of what can be achieved on the county farm estate.

Challenges and Limitations:

The main challenges reported with the project's delivery related to understanding the processes for acquiring land, the Welsh Government's Backing Local Firms Fund claims process, steering group dynamics and capacity issues.

Below is a summary of the key challenges mentioned in the evaluation feedback:

● **Land Acquisition and Planning Processes:** A lot of understanding was gained during the project delivery around the processes of acquiring land, the internal workings of Powys County Council and submitting a planning application, but there are still aspects that remain unclear.

● **Funding and Financial Processes:** Challenges included managing short timeframes for funding, navigating complex funding processes, and adjusting to unexpected changes in financial requirements and Welsh Government audit procedures. There were delays in claims being processed and in reimbursement, and payment in arrears put a strain on resources.

● **Decision-making Processes:** The large steering group left limited time at meetings for input from members, which created challenges in determining who needed to be involved in decisions and managing expectations regarding involvement. Shorter, more focused update meetings were introduced, but they had implications around members' capacity and resources.

● **Capacity and Resources:** Limited staff and steering group member resources and time constraints presented challenges in project delivery. Juggling multiple responsibilities, including other projects and programs, required careful prioritisation and coordination. Balancing project delivery tasks with time for strategic thinking was a challenge.

Overall, these challenges highlight the complexities involved in project management and governance, as well as the importance of adaptability and clear communication in addressing them.

Conclusions:

There is a consensus that fundamental changes need to be made to the way our economy and society work so that we prioritise well-being, resilience, and sustainability. The project

demonstrated a commitment to tackling the challenges to small-scale horticulture in the planning system and the barriers to access to land. Achievements in policy, partnership, and tangible outcomes signify progress towards creating a resilient, equitable, and sustainable food system. Despite challenges, lessons learnt will inform future projects for more efficient planning and execution. This pilot's recommendations could be expanded within Powys and the Bannau Brycheinog National Park, other regions within Wales, and potentially across borders.

Lessons Learnt:

The key lessons learnt during the delivery of this collaborative pilot project that goes on to inform the recommendations for future projects are highlighted below:

● **Time Management:** The project approval was delayed, and this had a knock-on effect on what could be achieved for this ambitious pilot in a tight timeframe. Activities required to deliver the outputs and outcomes took longer than anticipated, emphasising the importance of realistic timelines and managing expectations.

● **Governance:** There was a recognised need for a governance structure to be communicated upfront to ensure clarity on project deliverables and roles and responsibilities among delivery partners.

● **Skills and Expertise**: The partnership felt that they had a broad range of skills and expertise; however, identifying these from the beginning and communicating skill sets with others involved would have been useful.

● **Planning Expertise:** Involving planning experts earlier in the process could have minimised issues around compliance with local planning regulations and ensured smoother implementation.

Recommendations for Future Projects:

1. **Thorough Planning and Preparation**: Prioritise thorough planning and preparation to establish clear project objectives, timelines, and budget allocations.

2. **Early Engagement of Planning Experts**: Involve planning consultants with practical experience early in the project to ensure alignment with planning regulations and minimise delays.

3. **Effective Communication:** Maintain transparent communication among project partners regarding roles, expectations, and project progress to reduce misunderstandings and facilitate smoother collaboration.

4. **Formalised Decision-Making Processes:** Implement formalised processes for decision-making, risk assessment, and accountability to manage risks effectively as the project progresses.

5. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Identify stakeholders and include more diversity from the early stages to ensure alignment with community needs and increase project support.

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1. Introduction:

Browne Consultancy Services was commissioned by Social Farms & Gardens to carry out an external evaluation of the Future Farms project on 16 November 2023. The evaluation, which this report relates to, was carried out from mid-November 2023 to the end of March 2024.

The evaluation reviewed what activities and outputs had been achieved against the project's initial aims and objectives. It was required to focus on capturing learning from this pilot to influence future activities and strategies that challenge the existing structures inhibiting access to land for agroecological food production.

Our report captures the opportunities, challenges, successes and learning points for dissemination, with the intention that the pilot's recommendations can and will be implemented elsewhere. The evaluation plan developed at the beginning of the process determined the different groups of primary intended users that would benefit from the report. These were identified as:

- Local Authorities wishing to maximise the potential of their land assets.
- Those seeking to open up access to land for agroecological, regenerative food production for local markets.
- Landworkers and land-seekers.
- Other landowners – public and private.
- Third sector organisations
- Funders of this project (Welsh Government) and potential future funders.

The structure of the report is as follows:

Overview of the Future Farms Project. This section sets out the background and context of the Future Farms project, the need for the project and the rationale, the timescale and the budget. It sets out the project aims and objectives and briefly describes the key achievements to date to meet those and progress towards the outcomes associated with those actions. It briefly describes the partnership structure and governance.

Evaluation Method: The evaluation methodology is described, including the type of evaluation undertaken, the activities used to gather the evidence presented, and the scope and limitations.

Results: This section presents the evaluation's findings and covers the effectiveness of the partnership working and of the project's implementation. It reports on the extent to which the objectives set out in the project proposal were met, highlighting the activities, outputs, and outcomes achieved, as well as the delivery limitations and challenges.

Conclusion and Recommendations: This section sets out the conclusions on the project delivery, outputs, and outcomes and the potential for future impacts. It also includes the key learnings from the project, which inform the recommendations and future opportunities.

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2. Overview of the Future Farms Project

2.1. Background

Future Farms is a collaborative project bringing together collective learning and understandings from Powys County Council (PCC) and Bannau Brychieniog National Park Authority (BBNPA) in relation to opportunities within their farm estates to deliver ground-breaking pilots that deliver against the health, climate, nature, skills, procurement, and economic priorities of these authorities. This partnership project aimed to address barriers to fresh food production by supporting the establishment of new agroecological food-focused rural enterprises and assisting existing growers.

Social Farms & Gardens, in collaboration with various organisations, working groups and task forces identified access to land with workers' dwelling rights as a major obstacle to increased horticulture production, along with skills and training gaps. Powys' own Farm Estate Delivery Plan highlights these issues as a key barrier to new entrants to farming. The project also aimed to diversify the farming network, which is crucial for a resilient rural economy.

The Future Farms project had the backing and support to pilot the idea from within the cabinet of Powys County Council. Its vision was to enhance horticulture productivity, increase biodiversity, and sequester carbon in the longer term.

The project's overarching goal was to:

Bring together a strong and dynamic partnership to unlock land for future agroecological food-focused businesses and to seek further funding to implement this pilot project's findings and recommendations.

The Project **Partnership** included:

Lead delivery partners: Powys County Council (PCC), Social Farms & Gardens (SFG), Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS), Our Food 1200 (OF1200), Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (BBNPA)

Supporting delivery partners: Shared Assets (SA), Landworkers Alliance (LWA), Ecological Land Co-op (ELC), Sustainable Farming Consultancy (SFC)

Wider Stakeholder Steering Group: Sustainable Food Places, Powys (north & south) (SFP), Lantra (Farming Connect Horticulture), Black Mountain College, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust (RWT)

The project **aimed** to:

- Test a pilot of shifting planning policy to enable more micro-holdings.

- Address perceived planning blockages for small-scale agroecological food production and barriers to accessing food growing sites.

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● Enable unlocking land for small-scale agroecological food production and, under the right conditions, permitted land-based worker dwellings on micro-holdings, with an initial focus on Powys County Council's farm estate land.

● Create, establish and develop new small-scale agroecological food-focused rural enterprises with dwellings on Powys Council Farm Estate land, where appropriate.

● Support the existing farming network through land diversification opportunities.

The Future Farms project proposal set out **four initial objectives:**

1. To create exemplar Supplementary Planning Guidance for Powys County Council and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority, testing conventions with learning documented.

2. To make a planning application to Powys County Council as a first step to making live the Our Food 1200 (OF1200) proof-of-concept study.

3. To provide training around trust in the planning system and courage in convictions.

4. To disseminate learning from the planning guidance revision and a 'how to' toolkit for small-scale growers.

2.2 Timescale and Funding

The project was proposed under the Welsh Government's Foundational Economy's Backing Local Firms Fund. It secured funding of **up to £128,000** to create planning guidance and policy updates for the Powys County Council Local Authority area and the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park Authority region.

The funding was for the period **1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024**. It was to support the creation of planning guidance, meaningful, up-to-date functionality testing for agricultural dwellings and related permitted development rights, and at least one test case for implementation in the region.

2.3 Context

In a broader context, improving food security in the UK is urgent. Food injustice is prevalent, with millions lacking adequate access to nutritious food. Inequalities in access to food contribute to health disparities, with poor diet being a leading cause of non-communicable diseases.

Urban areas often suffer from poor access to healthy foods. Increasing fruit and vegetable consumption is crucial for human health and mitigating climate change. Currently, the UK relies heavily on imports for fresh produce, posing risks exacerbated by climate change. Wales, for instance, sources only 6% of its fresh fruit and vegetables domestically, highlighting

a significant opportunity for local production (Wheeler, 2023).

The Future Farms project proposal highlighted some of the **key strategies, policies and areas of legislation** that it could potentially deliver against, as listed below and described in more detail in Appendix A:

Clean Air, Environment Act, Future Generations, Healthy Weight Healthy Wales, Welsh Horticultural Action Plan, Sustainable Procurement Strategy, Net Zero Targets, Community Grown Food Action Plan, Food Bill Wales, and emerging policies such as the Community Food Strategy, Agriculture Bill and the new Social Prescribing Framework and Sustainable Farming Scheme.

Going forward, the project also fits directly with two of the key themes for the Foundational Economy: Food and Procurement. In addition, it aligns well with many local strategies and policies, such as the Powys Decarbonisation Plan, Climate and Nature Declarations, Strategic Plan, Local Development Plan Review, Nature Recovery Action Plan, and Powys County Council's Farm Estate Delivery Plan.

Powys has an active [Sustainable Food Places](#) partnership in the North and an emerging one in the South, and this project will be a key area of engagement in some of their work in the near future.

Although it will take time, a fundamental shift in horticultural production could be seen, leading the way in farm diversification for the rest of Wales. There is a need to increase biodiversity in Wales, and agroecologically produced food contributes to a positive climate approach that cares for soils, rivers, and air. The Nature-Friendly Farming Network '[Rethink Food'](#) lays out this approach very clearly.

3. Evaluation Method

Our evaluation builds on a comprehensive review of secondary and primary data collated over the evaluation contract period from 16 November 2023 to 31 March 2024.

3.1 Aim of the Evaluation

The evaluation assessed how the Future Farms Project performed against its forecasted objectives and outputs, sharing any lessons learnt for future application. The aim was that the pilot's recommendations could and would be implemented elsewhere in Wales (See Appendix B: Backing Local Firms Fund—Future Farms: Evaluation Brief).

Our report offers insights from the delivery team, delivery partners, and steering group members into what worked well during the project and where improvements could be made. It was required to capture the opportunities, challenges, successes, and learning points for Local Authorities wishing to maximise the potential of their land assets, those seeking to open up access to land for agroecological, regenerative food production for local markets, landworkers and land-seekers, public and private landowners, and third-sector organisations.

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3.2 The Evaluation Approach

The type of evaluation required was determined to be a summative process evaluation. Process evaluations are the bedrock of understanding whether a project worked and how it might be improved. A summative process evaluation aims to "sum up" the results and effects of implementation at the end of the pilot and funding period.

The evaluation required an applied and intensive approach to provide learning applicable to improve delivery. Our process evaluation concentrated on the working mechanisms of the Future Farms project and how well it was implemented against expectations. To see what could be improved, rolled out, or transferred to deliver other projects and to embed the lessons learnt into Social Farms and Gardens and support others in similar situations.

An evaluation approach was devised based on four stages (stage boundaries):

Table 3.2.1 The Staged Approach

THE STAGED APPROACH
Stage 1: Inception, action planning and guiding evaluation techniques.
Stage 2: Collation and review of documentary and other secondary evidence within the project, e.g. progress reports and steering group minutes.
Stage 3: Collection and analysis of primary evidence; feedback from the delivery team, delivery partners and steering group members.
Stage 4: Collation of the findings from primary and secondary evidence, analysis and reporting.

3.3 Evaluation Framework

3.3.1 Desktop Analysis of Secondary Evidence

The first stage in the evaluation was to undertake a desktop analysis of the secondary evidence documentation associated with the project. This included reviewing the initial Backing Local Firms Fund application award and outline concept for funding consideration, delivery plan, progress reports and steering group minutes.

3.3.2. Development of Logic Models

To enable evaluation of how achievements would be identified, a Logic Model for the project was drafted. A logic model is a systematic and visual representation of how the project was expected to work. It outlines the logical connections between the resources invested, the activities carried out, the outputs produced, and the intended outcomes or impacts against

the issues the project was trying to address. A copy of the draft Logic Model can be found in Appendix C.

Figure 3.3.2.1 A Logic Model

3.3.3 Primary Evidence Collection

To help understand the project implementation and progress, monthly online catch-up meetings and email updates were conducted with the project manager and Browne Consultancy Services evaluation team. The evaluation team also attended an online steering group meeting in February and followed up where the scope allowed on recorded meetings. This allowed the evaluation team to track the project's progress against the initial objectives and output targets.

Semi-structured Interviews and Feedback Forms

A framework of evaluation questions (Appendix D) was developed to address the evaluation objectives, and 7 representatives of the delivery team, delivery partners and steering group members were interviewed online using Microsoft Teams between 19 and 29 February.

The questions were also sent out bilingually (Welsh and English) via email to the remaining steering group members (23 in total) to give everyone who had participated in the project the opportunity to provide feedback.

The questions focused on the following:

● The expectations, achievements, successes and challenges of the project.

● Reflection on how the delivery mechanism could be improved.

● The lessons learnt to help ensure long-term sustainability for future collaborative projects.

● The opportunities to expand upon the work demonstrated through the project.

3.3.4 Data Analysis

Analysing data to summarise it and look for patterns is an important part of every evaluation. The interview and feedback form analysis was carried out in two steps.

> **Step 1: Preparation:** The interview recordings were transcribed, reviewed, and organised along with feedback forms according to each of the nine questions.

Step 2: Categorisation: The responses were categorised under the evaluation's key themes, i.e., expectations, achievements, successes, challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and recommendations for improvement to determine common trends and different perspectives.

3.3.5 Evaluation Challenges and Limitations

● **Time Constraints:** The evaluation was conducted in a limited time frame. Our contract started on 16 November, with the final report due by the end of April 2024.

● **Scope Constraints:** The evaluation was designed to fulfil the needs of the brief; it was focused on conducting a summative process evaluation. It will take time beyond this pilot's life to realise outcomes and impacts and to evidence delivery against national and local strategies, priorities and plans. It may be worth considering a supplementary evaluation to consider these elements or to include a review of outcomes and impacts (short, medium and longer-term) in the second phase of the project funded through the UK Shared Prosperity fund between December 2023 to December 2024.

Although we were able to draft a Logic Model, independently using the secondary document evidence to support our evaluation work, it would be beneficial for future projects to build and use a Theory of Change, which is developed by project staff, partners and key stakeholders. A Theory of Change provides a structured framework for understanding the pathways to change and guides the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and projects aimed at addressing complex problems or issues.

Although a Theory of Change can take time to build, it is a very useful evaluation tool, which is becoming more frequently requested by funders to include in proposals and to be demonstrated in evaluations. A Theory of Change builds on the Logic Model and additionally considers expectations, assumptions and risks at the outset of the project delivery and is updated throughout.

We had hoped to include a case illustration to "bring the pilot to life" in our report, but this was limited due to the outputs still being delivered at the time of writing. Our focus was to report to the needs of the target audience identified in the evaluation brief, including the project funders, to provide accountability and document the lessons learnt from delivering the pilot.

● **Resource constraints:** We are a small evaluation consortium, working to strict budgets and timeframes. This constrained our ability to extend reporting much beyond the original brief and contract deadline.

The delivery team, partners and steering group were still working hard to deliver outputs, during our evaluation, impacted by delays in the funding approval at the start of the project and then during delivery. The project was extended beyond the original deadline; it is a long-term project being funded in stages that overlap, which added to the complexity of the evaluation. As is the natural way of pilot projects, teams were required to react and adapt quickly as the project evolved.

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The steering group's limited capacity was mirrored in that out of 23 feedback forms emailed to members to have the opportunity to volunteer insights and experiences of being involved in the project, only 5 forms were completed and returned. Some of the steering group members commented that they had had little involvement in this pilot phase thus far and this could be related back to the timing of the evaluation. Therefore, some important perspectives and insights, especially from key partners and steering group members, may have been missed.

It is difficult to conduct a summative evaluation before a project ends. To allow members more time to provide feedback, a short supplementary evaluation could be conducted at the end of the pilot's extension after May/June 2024.

4. Results

This section of the report addresses questions surrounding the success of activities and considers the factors that may have affected delivery. It offers insights from the project delivery team, partners, and steering group members collated from the interviews and the feedback form responses on what worked well and where improvements could be made.

4.1. Project Management and the Partnership Approach

Social Farms and Gardens, the project lead, delivered project management. The project had a part-time project manager, supported by the joint Wales manager and internal marketing and finance staff.

The partnership worked in an integrated and collaborative way to deliver the Future Farms project with a long-term vision that involved people from several organisations. The table below shows the partnership structure:

LEAD DELIVERY PARTNERS *Delivery and day-to-day work*	SUPPORTING DELIVERY PARTNERS *For learning / evidence/consultancy*	WIDER STAKEHOLDER STEERING GROUP *Sense check / wider reality: meeting once every 2 months*
Powys County Council (PCC)	Shared Assets (SA)	Sustainable Food Places, Powys (north & south) (SFP)
Social Farms & Gardens (SFG)	Landworkers Alliance (LWA)	Nature-Friendly Farming Network (NFFN)
Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS) at SFG	Ecological Land Co-op (ELC)	Lantra (Farming Connect Horticulture)
Our Food 1200 (OF1200)	Sustainable Farming Consultancy (SFC)	Radnorshire Wildlife Trust (RWT)
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (BBNPA)		Black Mountains College (BMC)

During the project delivery, the working groups evolved and steering group members were invited to join working groups to deliver the project's key outputs. They were set up to focus on specific areas of work and included:

● A Planning Application working group

● A Planning Guidance working group

● A "How to Guide" working group

● A Communications working group (that met once, as it was decided that the proposed site needed to be at the planning stage to develop an effective communications strategy).

Overall, the effectiveness of the Partnership and Steering Group in delivering the project aims and objectives was viewed positively, albeit with some challenges and areas for improvement, which are highlighted below:

4.2 Achievements and Successes of the Partnership Approach

The key achievements and successes of the project management and the partnership were reported as being:

●The strength of the partnership was often commented on as a significant achievement.

Working in partnership was a key success of the project, and the joint manager commented, *"I think we've brought together a really good strong partnership. That's definitely a positive. We've met new organisations through that and learnt from other people's skills and about their interests. We've got a very broad range of skills".*

A supporting delivery partner highlighted that *"One of the key things was to bring the project partnership together, having planners, agricultural consultants, architects, everybody you need on the team, all the expertise to take this forward, is one of the major successes. It is a fairly unique project, and actually getting the partnership, not necessarily the individual organisations, but knowing what type of people you need to be involved, at what stage and what their role should be is really important".*

● The willingness of members to contribute, being able to voice concerns and a sense of teamwork.

In response to the question about the main successes of the project, it was highlighted that *"the willingness of Powys Council to take this forward and also the willingness of Brecon Beacons – Bannau Brycheiniog National Park to also work in partnership, to try and deliver Supplementary Planning Guidance. That willingness has led to a commitment to being involved in the steering group that are all working towards the same aim of providing a*

Supplementary Planning Guidance document and also obtaining full planning permission for two or three horticultural farms with living accommodation".

● **The project partnership worked well,** *"there's huge goodwill",* **and working together had many benefits, including knowledge exchange, sharing expertise and building connections.**

This was emphasised in the following response*: "The opportunity to learn within the partnership has been really big and really important. I have learnt a lot of new words. I have learnt about Supplementary Planning Guidance, what it is, and why it's important. I have learnt the difference between different parts of the planning system and why they're important, and that's really important too for me; I didn't know any of that before I started".*

● **It was generally felt that the evolution of the working groups and the development towards the end of the project of the more focused 30-minute weekly meetings had worked well.**

The project manager commented, *"I feel the Steering Group is getting stronger each time we meet".*

● **There is a general sense of accomplishment in meeting deadlines and overall progress and confidence in achieving objectives.**

● **It was generally felt that the project had been well managed and that meetings had led to successful outcomes.**

"Meetings were well chaired and well managed, with papers going out, there was a good record of papers. I think the project's been managed really well. The minutes taken have enabled the achievements of the project to be fully captured, the challenges highlighted, and the key learning to be effectively articulated, not only to the team but to other groups interested in doing similar work in this area".

4.3. Delivering the Project Aims and Objectives

This report section considers the project outputs delivered against the original project aims and objectives and draws upon both primary and secondary evidence and progress reporting. It then presents the project's challenges and limitations, which may have impacted delivery.

The project **aimed** to:

- Test a pilot of shifting planning policy to enable more micro-holdings.

- Address perceived planning blockages for small-scale agroecological food production and barriers to accessing food growing sites.

- Enable unlocking land for small-scale agroecological food production and, under the right conditions, permitted land-based worker dwellings on micro-holdings, with an initial focus on Powys County Council's farm estate land.

- Create, establish and develop new small-scale agroecological food-focused rural enterprises with dwellings on Powys Council farm estate land, where appropriate.

- Support the existing farming network through land diversification opportunities.

The Future Farms project proposal set out **four initial objectives,** and findings against these are described below:

Objective 1: To create an exemplar Supplementary Planning Guidance for Powys County Council and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority, testing conventions with learning documented. This guidance will be equally applicable to private/Welsh Government land.

The Future Farms project looked specifically at barriers to access to land for small-scale food production, and the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) intended to give Local Authority and Welsh Government planning departments sufficient flexibility to decide applications. Delivering the SPG required reinterpreting national guidance and with nuances for each Local Authority.

Outputs: The project has successfully developed planning guidance by working with specialist consultants and with input from the Future Farms Steering Group. The project has delivered new Powys County Council planning guidance, which will be available as an online resource. The planning guidance is a huge step forward and will be tested at the Post Office land site at Sarn, east of Newtown, Powys.

The 'planning guidance' delivered is a compromise to the original objective of a more binding 'supplementary planning guidance'. Therefore, there is a difference between the output delivered and the original objective. However, this is still a great success and demonstrates an adaptive collaborative approach to problem-solving. Additional future funding will continue the work towards formalising the 'planning guidance' into 'supplementary planning guidance'.

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The internal progress reporting during the delivery of this workstream will be used to produce a learning document explaining the processes involved in developing the planning guidance for others to use in the future.

Objective 2: To make a planning application to Powys County Council as a first step to making live the Our Food 1200 (OF1200) proof-of-concept study.

Outputs: A full planning application was submitted to Powys County Council on 28 March 2024 for the 15ha "Post Office" site at Sarn, east of Newtown, to support three small horticultural businesses. Under this workstream, consultants were commissioned to carry out the necessary surveys to support the application. These included a drainage (SuDS) report, Flood Consequence Assessment, Badger Survey, Ecological Surveys and Tree Assessment to identify tree and root protection zones. This has resulted in a guide list of all surveys to consider for planning applications on-site, which will help to inform others to get the required surveys in place early in the planning application process.

One interviewee expressed enthusiasm over the success of submitting the planning application: *"We agreed on the specifications of the first three farms, the type of housing, everything basically, so that's another big success. We're actually applying for planning permission; it's actually happening. It's all been hugely discussed with Powys County Council and their planners, so that's a major success too."*

Objective 3: To provide training around trust in the planning system and courage in convictions.

Outputs: Training for the project steering group members, councillors, and council officers is due to be delivered to support understanding of the new online planning guidance.

Training provider partners such as Black Mountain College and Lantra Wales are willing to come on board to help the project deliver against this objective, which focuses on training growers and new entrants to farming. However, due to time constraints, the pilot is not quite at this stage. The joint Wales manager for Social Farms and Gardens commented, "*We're not delivering training yet, so training providers' input isn't fully on board, but at least they're listening, they're being informed, and we're talking to them".* It was also suggested that a scoping exercise be carried out in future projects to find other training providers, such as local colleges.

Objective 4: To disseminate learning from the planning guidance revision and a 'how to' toolkit for small-scale growers.

Outputs: A series of documents have been drafted, such as "criteria for land for small farms" and "notes for considerations when developing leases for farmers," which will form resources to contribute to the dissemination of the project's learnings. These dynamic documents will continue to be revised in the second phase of the project and will also be used to explore the potential for new pieces of land.

An online survey was released in November 2023, "Planning guidance for small-scale farmers: your chance to have your say", inviting people with a range of experiences in both agroecological growing and dealing with the planning system to review the draft guidance and attend an online focus group to share thoughts on the guidance. There was a fantastic response to be involved, with 35 responses from across Wales and one from England within under a week.

This consultation process would have then gone on to inform the "how to" toolkit for small-scale growers aimed at helping them navigate the planning system. However, this output was delayed as the planning guidance needed to be delivered first. So, it is expected that this piece of work will be continued during the extension period.

4.4 Delivery Against the Foundational Economy Objectives

Objective 1: Growing locally owned businesses, embedding fair work, helping create and enrich high-skilled jobs, and providing pathways for people to acquire new skills.

The project supported those involved in this pilot in gaining knowledge and understanding of land acquisition and planning processes for small-scale food-focused businesses. A consultant interviewed during the evaluation stated that this was important to their business development and other areas of their consultancy work, stating, "*Our consortium has learnt about what's needed in terms of tests and surveys for planning. We can see that we would be able to offer a wider range of services around things like tree surveys, permeability tests, and biodiversity reviews. So, it's built huge capacity within our consortium. I hope that others have also gained an understanding of the factors that we have to think about from a technical farming and food business point of view.*"

Objective 2: Improving citizen access to affordable, good-quality Foundational Economy goods and services.

The delivery of this objective was supported by a comment from one of the Powys councillors, who mentioned during the interview that they were also responsible for the council's school catering, "*so the project will work with some of the growing networks that we have already in Powys, trying to fit them together with our procurement process for buying in produce for school dinners. It's certainly starting to make better connections between the constraints that we have and trying to link them with opportunities*".

Objective 3: Social innovation to improve household liveability, provider resilience, environmental impact, and Wales' Net Zero plan.

The joint Wales manager stated that "*the longer-term impact could be immense in terms of horticulture productivity and biodiversity and carbon gains*". To support this the project manager commented on the potential for the project to deliver against the above Foundational Economy objectives "*once the work is realised on site, with farmers present*".

There has been a search for sites within the council's estate, and the Powys Councillor commented that "*we're narrowing that down as to available land to bring forward. We've built*

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really strong foundations and made the connections necessary to try and continue to move things along.”

4.5 Delivery Challenges and Limitations

Feedback from the project staff and key delivery partners regarding the key challenges and limitations which impacted the delivery are summarised below:

● **Administration**

There were administrative challenges at the scheme level, including delays in project approval, claims processes, and receiving monies against claims.

The late start of the project put significant pressure on the key delivery members to deliver the project outputs to a reduced timetable.

The project manager commented that "*the claims process has been arduous. We have not received monies against claims. This is difficult because SFG* [Social Farms and Gardens] *have to undertake the burden of costs prior to being reimbursed and this illustrates that this work is only possible via an organisation with the capabilities to do this, limiting who can do this work. We are using up reserves, and this can only occur for so long".*

The joint Wales manager also mentioned administrative and financial challenges that had needed to be worked through since the initial Welsh Government department dealing with processing the claims had changed during project delivery. *"Our early assumptions on the claims process were wildly different to the actual claims process that then got agreed very late in the day". How we evidence the spend, particularly on our internal costs, becomes a real challenge because our project staff are across a huge number of other projects as well".*

Document sharing using Microsoft SharePoint had proved challenging, particularly for the Powys council officers. It was unclear why this was, but despite issues being raised at meetings and SFG IT support, steps were not taken by those experiencing difficulties to resolve the problem. The project manager reported that *"SharePoint is a useful way to openly and transparently share work, but some partners (delivery and steering group members) are still having trouble accessing it".* This caused an additional administrative burden and some delays due to the need to use different methods to share the documents to be agreed on. Balancing communications frequency and content was also mentioned as a challenge.

● **Governance and Decision-making Processes**

A common challenge reported in the interviews centred around decision-making processes. A number of the interviewees stated that there was a need for clarity in decision-making and the definition of individual roles and responsibilities. This included uncertainty about who needed to be involved in decisions and at what stage and managing expectations regarding the capacity for involvement.

"Decisions were not necessarily as clear as they could be. I found it difficult to work out what decisions had been made and when so we could move forward effectively."

"Some of the decisions should have been made in a different order in a more timely manner".

Partners often mentioned a large steering group during the interviews as a challenge. It was highlighted that "*much of the steering group meetings were taken up with delivery partners and working groups giving updates, and that left little time for the valued input of steering group members."*

Another mentioned the importance of planning and the purpose of meetings: *"thinking through at the start of the project, what the governance and day-to-day work, work planning and work execution would look like and how meetings related to that. Were meetings the place where work happened, or was it meant to happen outside meetings?"*

● **Resources and Capacity**

The project manager fed back, *"Capacity is always an issue for me, and I'm sure for others involved. I suspect we are gaining way more in terms of time undertaken on the project than is being claimed for by many."*

Time constraints were mentioned as a key challenge, as was having the time to think and reflect on the project achievements, lessons learnt, and future opportunities rather than racing against time to deliver.

The joint Wales manager for Social Farms and Gardens commented that there were *"a number of projects delivering through the Backing Local Firms Fund that overlap in areas of what we're doing, and we definitely want to know more about them and involve ourselves, but our capacity is limited to do that wider networking as part of this project. So that becomes a slightly frustrating challenge because we want to do it; we know it's out there and an opportunity, but I guess we haven't got the resources or the time or the capacity to be able to do that; we are doing it, but it could be better".*

The frequency of meetings was also mentioned as a challenge, and not knowing which ones to attend, "*It was a bit overwhelming to go from once a quarter steering groups to very frequent meetings."*

● **Understanding the Processes around Land Acquisition and Planning**

A key challenge reported by the project manager and some of the delivery partners was understanding the processes of acquiring land and the internal workings of the county council. The project manager stated, *"I'm not sure this has been entirely demystified for me, but I certainly know a lot more now than I did previously on reviewing land and submitting a planning application, even though I thought I knew some beforehand".* There were similar comments around this in the successes of the project with positive feedback about the increased

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understanding of land acquisition and planning processes as being important and valued knowledge and understanding gained during the delivery of this pilot project.

4.5 Lessons Learnt and Opportunities for Improvement

There were various perspectives on project management and lessons learnt from a collaborative project involving multiple partners. The key points are summarised below:

● **Thorough Planning and Preparation:** Prioritise thorough planning and preparation to establish clear project objectives, timelines, and budget allocations.

● **Early Engagement of Planning Experts:** Before contracting planning consultants, make decisions about what needs to be included in the planning application and develop clear briefs for contractors and the council regarding what land is required to deliver the project's objectives. Involve planning consultants with practical working experience early in the project to ensure alignment with planning regulations.

● **Effective Communication:** Maintain transparent communication among project partners regarding roles, expectations, and progress to reduce misunderstandings and facilitate smoother collaboration.

● **Formalised Decision-Making Processes:** Implement formalised decision-making, risk assessment, and accountability processes to manage risks effectively as the project progresses.

● **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage all relevant stakeholders from the early stages to ensure alignment with community needs and increase project support. There was a need for increased diversity within the partnership. Whilst this may be a challenge to achieve when a project is geographically bound and relies on historic partnership relationships, future projects should look to include people who do not always have a voice.

Overall, the feedback on the effectiveness of the partnership and the project management underscores the complexity of collaborative projects, emphasising the need for thorough planning, effective communication, and adaptability to achieve successful outcomes. The project manager commented that the project didn't have a defined governance structure, and this valuable feedback will be addressed in the second phase of the Future Farms project.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

The multi-disciplinary nature of the Future Farms project matched the Foundational Economy's Backing Local Firms Funds vision of collaborative working to increase individual, community, economic and environmental resilience. The project successfully built capacity and confidence, gained understanding and transferred knowledge, testing the proof of concept to tackle some of the fundamental barriers to more fresh food being produced in Powys and the Bannau Brychieniog National Park.

The project design and proposed actions before the start were sound and based on relevant research that had previously been un-trialled in these regions. The pilot project delivered actions through a place-based approach, demonstrating the "proof of concept" at a scale that could be expanded and replicated to support action on a larger scale.

Partners' commitment, including goodwill and enthusiasm, was critical to developing the partnership and complementary working methods. A key outcome was a strong partnership, which can build on this pilot's foundations and learnings for future project delivery. In addition to this, those involved in the project were able to adapt quickly and learn through the partnership, and this will continue with more active engagement with local stakeholders at the demonstration site during the project's second phase. The success and benefits of the partnership approach will be far-reaching.

The project gained a valuable understanding of the complexities of land acquisition and planning processes. It has documented the processes required, pioneering new ways of working to support the establishment and creation of new agroecological food-focused rural enterprises. The project will act as a catalyst for expanded delivery and create opportunities to stimulate social, environmental and economic well-being.

The project has the potential to deliver against national and local strategies, plans and priorities in the longer term. Wales' food sector significantly contributes to Wales' net zero climate change target, with significant carbon stored on Welsh land. The project has demonstrated the five ways of working under the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) by taking account of the longer term, preventing problems from getting worse, and taking an integrated and collaborative approach in considering the needs of communities in Wales now and in the future. One of the Act's ways of working that the project hopes to build on during the second phase, which runs until December 2024, is to ensure diversity among those involved in the project.

By supporting the establishment and creation of new agroecological food businesses, the project has the potential to contribute to the seven well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. A well-functioning food system is crucial to Wales' future because it is central to health, well-being, resilience, culture, society, and the economy (Sanderson-Bellamy and Marsden, 2020).

In addition, the project can potentially deliver and impact local strategies, policies and plans. Powys has many of its own key strategies and policies that this project work aligns well with,

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for example, the Powys Decarbonisation Plan, Climate and Nature Declarations, Powys Strategic Plan, Powys Local Development Plan Review, Nature Recovery Action Plan and the Powys County Councils Farm Estate Delivery Plan going forward. Powys has an active Sustainable Food Places partnership in the North and an emerging one in the South, and this project will be a key area of engagement in some of their work in the future.

There is a consensus that fundamental changes need to be made to the way our economy and society work so that we prioritise biodiversity, health, well-being, resilience, and sustainability. The project demonstrated a commitment to tackling the fundamental barriers to small-scale horticulture in the planning system. Achievements in policy, partnership, and progress towards tangible outcomes and impacts signify progress towards creating a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable food system. Despite challenges, lessons learnt will inform future projects for more efficient planning and execution. This pilot could be expanded within Powys and the Bannau Brycheinog National Park, other regions within Wales, and potentially across borders.

Recommendations based on the evaluation findings are summarised below:

● **Continued Collaboration:** Collaboration remains crucial for achieving goals, with new partners joining the project to fill identified gaps in knowledge and further strengthen the partnership.

● **Thorough Planning and Preparation**: Prioritise thorough planning and preparation to establish clear project objectives, timelines, and budget allocations.

● **Early Engagement of Planning Experts**: Involve planning consultants with practical experience early in the project to ensure alignment with planning regulations and minimise delays.

● **Effective Communication:** Maintain transparent communication among project partners regarding roles, expectations, and progress to reduce misunderstandings and facilitate smoother collaboration.

● **Formalise Decision-Making Processes:** Implement formalised processes for decision-making, risk assessment, and accountability to manage risks effectively as the project progresses.

● **Stakeholder Engagement:** Identify stakeholders and include more diversity from the early stages to ensure alignment with community needs and increase project support.

● **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Tracking and reviewing progress and identifying areas for improvement will be ongoing.

● **Funding Models:** Investigate new and different funding models, such as mixed-finance, and encourage investment with a future vision to align with the Welsh Government Sustainable Farming Scheme.

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Appendices
Appendix A: Glossary of Terms, Key Strategies, Plans and Priorities

Agroecology

Agroecology is an approach to agriculture that focuses on the ecological principles and practices to achieve sustainable and resilient food systems. It integrates elements of ecology, agriculture, and social sciences to understand and optimise agricultural systems' interactions with the environment.

Fundamental principles of agroecology include biodiversity conservation, enhancing soil health, minimising external inputs like synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, maximising resource use efficiency, and promoting social equity and resilience within farming communities.

Agroecological practices often involve crop rotation, polyculture (growing multiple crops together), agroforestry (integrating trees into farming systems), composting, biological pest control, and water conservation methods. The goal is to create agricultural systems that are productive, environmentally sustainable, socially just, and economically viable in the long term.

Clean Air Act 1993

Overall, the Clean Air Acts in the UK have played a crucial role in reducing air pollution and protecting public health by regulating emissions from various sources and promoting cleaner technologies and practices.

Community Food Strategy

The Welsh Government committed to 'develop a community food strategy to encourage the production and supply of locally sourced food in Wales' to recognise the value of community level activity. Welsh Government have long standing policies for important aspects of the 'food system' but targeted at mainstream agri-food businesses only. Welsh Government judged there was a policy gap which warranted a Community Food Strategy

Community Grown Food Action Plan

In 2009 the Minister for Rural Affairs, Elin Jones commissioned a review to identify what the Welsh Assembly Government could do to promote and encourage 'Community Growing' in Wales.

Environment Act (Wales) 2016

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 is a significant piece of legislation enacted by the Welsh Government to address various environmental challenges and promote sustainability in Wales. It contains provisions aimed at protecting and enhancing the environment, mitigating climate change, and fostering sustainable development.

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Food Wales Bill

The stated purpose of the Bill is to establish a more sustainable food system in Wales.

Healthy Weight Healthy Wales

"Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales" is an initiative in Wales aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing obesity rates across the population. It is part of the broader strategy to improve public health and well-being in Wales.

The initiative encompasses various measures and interventions to support individuals and communities in achieving and maintaining a healthy weight. This includes promoting physical activity, encouraging healthy eating habits, and addressing factors that contribute to obesity, such as access to healthy food options and opportunities for physical activity.

"Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales" involves collaboration between government agencies, healthcare providers, schools, community organisations, and other stakeholders to implement policies and programs that support healthy living and tackle obesity.

Overall, the goal of the initiative is to create environments that make it easier for people to make healthy choices and to reduce the prevalence of obesity-related health issues in Wales.

Net Zero Targets

Wales has set ambitious targets to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions. The key targets are outlined in the "Climate Change Strategy for Wales" and the "Environment (Wales) Act 2016."

Right to Grow Campaign

Various organisations, community groups, and activists across the UK have been involved in advocating for the right to grow food in different capacities.

Groups such as the Landworkers' Alliance, the Soil Association, and the Permaculture Association are among those in the UK that have been active in promoting policies and initiatives related to food sovereignty, agroecology, and community gardening, which align with the principles of the right to grow food.

Individuals and grassroots movements have also played significant roles in advancing the right to grow food in the UK, often by establishing community gardens, organising workshops, lobbying for supportive policies, and raising awareness about the importance of local food production.

Sustainable Farming Scheme

The Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) is part of the Welsh Government's broader agricultural policy. It aims to encourage and incentivise farmers in Wales to adopt practices

that promote sustainability, biodiversity, environmental conservation, and climate resilience. The scheme provides financial support and guidance to farmers who commit to implementing measures that align with these objectives.

Sustainable Procurement Strategy

The Sustainable Procurement Strategy aims to ensure that procurement practices across various sectors in Wales align with sustainability goals. This strategy focuses on incorporating environmental, social, and economic considerations into the procurement process.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) aims to improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. It requires public bodies in Wales to consider the long-term consequences of their decisions, ensuring that they consider the impact on future generations. The Act outlines seven well-being goals for Wales, including a prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, cohesive, vibrant culture, and globally responsible Wales.

Under this legislation, public bodies in Wales are required to work towards achieving these well-being goals by promoting sustainable development, collaboration, and integration across different sectors. They must also demonstrate how their decisions contribute to the well-being goals and assess the potential impact on future generations when developing policies and making decisions.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act in Wales is seen as pioneering legislation in considering the needs and interests of future generations in policymaking and governance. It sets a precedent for other regions and countries to prioritise sustainability and long-term planning in their legislative frameworks.

Welsh Horticultural Action Plan

Boosting horticulture farming is key to the Welsh Government's plans to emerge from the coronavirus pandemic and is identified by their Green Recovery Taskforce as a route to accelerating Wales' transition to a low-carbon economy and a healthier, more equal nation.

The Horticultural Action Plan for Wales outlines a multi-stakeholder, whole supply chain approach to develop and sustain the commercial production of edible and ornamental horticulture produce in Wales for the long term. This Action Plan for the Commercial Horticulture Industry in Wales provides a roadmap and recommends actions to build in-line with Welsh Government strategic objectives.

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Appendix B: Backing Local Firms Fund - Future Farms: Evaluation Brief

Timeframe: November 2023 – March 2024 (5 months).
Project Overview

This pilot project brings together a strong and dynamic partnership that will unlock land for future agroecological food focused business. We are doing this through the creation of Supplementary Planning Guidance and policy updates for Powys County Council Local Authority area, and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority region, that will, under the right conditions, allow permitted development for land-based worker dwellings on micro-holdings (circa 3 ha/7 acres).

The project Steering Group includes representatives from:

- Social Farms & Gardens
- Our Food 1200
- Landworkers Alliance
- Ecological Land Cooperative
- Shared Assets
- Black Mountains College
- Radnorshire Wildlife Trust
- Sustainable Farming Consultancy
- North and South Powys Sustainable Food Places Partnerships
- Lantra
- Powys County Council
- Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority

Building on a feasibility study commissioned by Our Food 1200 during the summer of 2023, the partnership has appointed an external planning consultant to submit plans that will include three rural worker dwellings and a central training and accommodation facility for 12 on-site year-round students, alongside the existing farmhouse and agricultural buildings.

A second appointment has been made develop Supplementary Planning Guidance alongside a sub- group of the Steering Group, interpreting the existing Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6.

The project is funded until March 2024 through the Welsh Government Foundational Economy team's Backing Local Firms Fund (BLFF).

We are actively seeking funding to pursue implementation of this pilot's findings and recommendations.

Evaluation Requirements

Evaluation will be focused on capturing learning from this pilot to influence future activity and strategies that challenge the existing structures inhibiting access to land for agroecological food production.

The final evaluation report will be required to capture the opportunities, challenges, successes and learning points for:

- Local Authorities wishing to maximise the potential of their land assets
- Those seeking to open up access to land for agroecological, regenerative food

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production for local markets.
- Landworkers and land-seekers
- Other landowners – public and private.
- Third sector organisations

The evaluation report will be shared widely and should include reference to project's outputs – namely the Supplementary Planning Guidance and Planning Application. It must be an accessible document that brings the pilot to life and with the intention that the pilot's recommendations can, and will, be implemented elsewhere in Wales.

Requirements:

- Evaluation will be embedded into the project activity from the outset (once evaluators appointed). Evaluators will work closely with the Steering Group and provide advice and guidance to make data collection simple and consistent.
- Data collection will include quantitative (e.g., no of officers; no of consultations) and qualitative data (e.g., interviews, consultation extracts).
- Evaluators will participate in at least two Steering Group meetings to ensure findings are embedded in the wider picture of land access for horticulture.
- Evaluators will meet with at least six specified members of the Steering Group on a 1:1 basis to collect data.
- Evaluators will visit the identified farm in Powys for face-to-face discussion with partners at least once during the project.
- Evaluators will keep abreast of planning legislation, policy and other initiatives in Powys and further afield in Wales, to ensure the final report is in tune with wider strategies and practices.

SF&G will be responsible for translation and printing of the evaluation and coordinating a final event where the findings of the evaluation will be shared. This is tentatively scheduled for early April 2024.

Outputs – by end March 2024

- One final, designed evaluation report ready for distribution.
- One Executive Summary ready for distribution.

Essential criteria for participation

- Experience of evaluating farming, horticulture, or other land-based projects in Wales .
- Understanding of policy developments in planning, land use and horticulture food production in Wales.
- Ability to complete the work within the specified timeframes
- Ability to meet with Steering Group participants in Powys
- Willingness to work in Welsh and English

Experience of working with the public sector and a knowledge of planning would also be desirable.

Appendix C: Logic Model – Future Farms Pilot Project

ISSUE: Problem/Challenge the intervention is expected to address	INPUTS: Inputs needed for the intervention to take place	ACTIVITIES: Activities and actions to take place as a result of the inputs	OUTPUTS: Key quantifiable deliverables resulting from the intervention activities	OUTCOMES: Early consequential changes expected from the activities and outputs	IMPACTS: Longer-term consequential changes to meet the longer-term vision for successfully addressing the intervention 'issue'
●Barriers to more fresh food production in Powys and Bannau Brycheinog ●Limited access to land for growing food and especially to land with workers dwelling rights ●Perceived planning blockages for small-scale agroecological food production ●A need to increase biodiversity across the farming estate in Wales	●£128,000 Foundational Economy, Backing Local Firms Fund ●Social Farms and Gardens Staff (part-time) ●Steering Group Members ●Planning consultants, architects + BBNPA, PCC and CLAS (re. Planning Application) ●Backing and support within the cabinet of Powys County Council and the portfolio holder for property ●Support from the head of the Economic Development team and	●Bring together a strong and dynamic partnership ● Identify and unlock land for small-scale agroecological food production, with an initial focus on county farm estate land ●Gain the planning expertise needed to develop and shape the policy that is needed ●Create exemplar Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (BBNPA) and Powys County Council (PCC)	● **1** Online Supplementary Planning Guidance ● **1** Full Planning Application made, including pre-application ● **1** "How to" toolkit ●1 SPG revision report disseminated. To demonstrate activity and share learning ● Policy updates for the PCC and BBNPA	●Stronger partnership and steering group, with members involved in knowledge sharing and maintaining relationships ●Land for small-scale agroecological food production is unlocked. ● Land-based worker dwellings on micro holdings are permitted developments (under the right conditions) ●New agroecological food-focused rural enterprises are created and established ●Our existing farming network is supported through diversification opportunities	●Could be Immense in terms of horticulture productivity and biodiversity & carbon gains. ●A real shift in terms of horticultural production. ●Increased food production in Wales, for Wales. Using agroecology and building a holistic approach to fresh food. ●Powys leading the way in farm diversification for the rest of Wales. ● Relevant national and local strategies, policies and plans are being addressed and delivered against.

| | the leader of the authority | ●Submit a Planning Application to Powys County Council
●Provide training around trust in the planning system and courage in convictions
●Disseminating SPG revision, learning & 'how to guide' toolkit for small-scale growers
●Work with other interested local authorities and make sure we fully disseminate the learning from the project.

●One Voice Wales to engage the town and community councils in the concept of the project | | ●An increase in biodiversity across the farming estate in Wales due to agroecological produced food that contributes to a positive climate approach, one that cares for our soils, our rivers and our air

●Our farming partners and unions are engaged to ensure good uptake of the model being proposed | |

<u>Appendix D: Future Farms Evaluation Interview and Feedback Form Questions</u>

1. Please tell us about yourself (your name, role and involvement in the project).

2. What did you hope to achieve from this project?

3. What do you feel are the main successes of the project, and how do you think the work has or will help, for example
● *local businesses,*
● *the creation of skilled jobs,*
● *provision of pathways for new skills acquisition*
● *improving access to local healthy food*
● *improving producer/grower resilience*

4. Did anything happen that you didn't expect to happen, and why did you think that was?

5. What were the main challenges with delivering the project, and how did you meet them?

6. What could have been done differently, and what lessons have been learnt to help ensure long-term sustainability for future projects?

7. How effective do you feel the partnership/steering group delivered the project aims and objectives? *For example,*
●*Did you feel you had an input in the decision-making process? How did you contribute?*
●*Were decisions made in a clear and timely manner? How did you find the decision-making structure and process?*
●*Did you get the support and resources needed to participate in the pilot project? What resources helped the most?*
●*Were the right skills and organisations represented? If not, who and what was missing?*

8. How has the Future Farms pilot project built capacity? *i.e. what can you and others achieve now as a result of working together that couldn't be done at the start of the project? Is the partnership in a better position now due to working together on this project to expand and develop? If not, why not?*

9. How could this project be rolled out/replicated in other areas?
For example,
● *In other Welsh Local Authorities*
● *Private landlords*
● *Where else?*

<u>**Welsh Translation**</u>

1. Dywedwch wrthym amdanoch chi'ch hun (eich enw, rôl a rhan yn y prosiect).

2. Beth oeddech chi'n gobeithio ei gyflawni o'r prosiect hwn?

3. Beth ydych chi'n teimlo yw prif lwyddiannau'r prosiect, a sut ydych chi'n meddwl y mae'r gwaith wedi helpu neu y bydd yn helpu?

er enghraifft
● *busnesau lleol,*
● *creu swyddi medrus,*
● *darparu llwybrau ar gyfer caffael sgiliau newydd*
● *gwella mynediad at fwyd iach lleol*
● *gwella gwytnwch cynhyrchwyr/tyfwyr*

4. A ddigwyddodd unrhyw beth nad oeddech yn disgwyl iddo ddigwydd, a pham oeddech chi'n meddwl digwyddodd hynny?

5. Beth oedd y prif heriau wrth gyflawni'r prosiect, a sut wnaethoch chi gwrdd â nhw?

6. Beth ellid bod wedi ei wneud yn wahanol, a pha wersi a ddysgwyd i helpu i sicrhau cynaliadwyedd hirdymor ar gyfer prosiectau yn y dyfodol?

7. Pa mor effeithiol y cyflawnodd y bartneriaeth/grŵp llywio nodau ac amcanion y prosiect yn eich barn chi? *Er enghraifft,*
● *Oeddech chi'n teimlo eich bod wedi cael mewnbwn yn y broses o wneud penderfyniadau? Sut wnaethoch chi gyfrannu?*
● *A wnaed penderfyniadau mewn modd clir ac amserol? Sut daethoch chi o hyd i'r strwythur a'r broses gwneud penderfyniadau?*
● *A gawsoch y gefnogaeth a'r adnoddau angenrheidiol i gymryd rhan yn y prosiect peilot? Pa adnoddau a helpodd fwyaf?*
● *A gynrychiolwyd y sgiliau a'r sefydliadau cywir? Os na, pwy a beth oedd ar goll?*

8. Sut mae prosiect peilot Ffermydd y Dyfodol wedi meithrin gallu? *h.y. beth allwch chi ac eraill ei gyflawni nawr o ganlyniad i gydweithio na ellid ei wneud ar ddechrau'r prosiect? A yw'r bartneriaeth mewn gwell sefyllfa nawr oherwydd cydweithio ar y prosiect hwn i ehangu a datblygu? Os na, pam lai?*

9. Sut y gellid cyflwyno/ailadrodd y prosiect hwn mewn meysydd eraill?
Er enghraifft,
● *Mewn Awdurdodau Lleol eraill yng Nghymru*
● *Landlordiaid preifat*
● *Ble arall?*