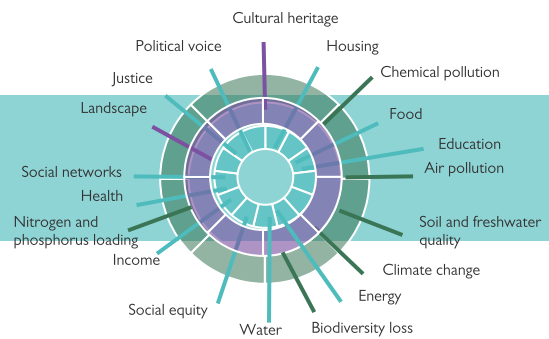
A photograph of fresh vegetables, including carrots and fennel, on a burlap surface. The carrots are bright orange and the fennel is white with feathery fronds. The background is blurred, showing more produce.

We will help establish and grow a strong local food economy. We will help diversify the variety of food produced within the Brecon Beacons and make it easier for local people to purchase food produced in the area at an affordable price for the benefit of the local environment and economy.

When we talk of the local food economy it refers to two key concepts. The food itself, which to be local must be produced within a short distance of its consumption to be considered 'local'. Whereas the economic dimension is about deconstructing existing supply chains to keep as much of the profit as possible within the local economy.

LOCAL FOOD



Why this is important

The Brecon Beacons is a productive landscape, with the majority of land being used to produce lamb and beef. However, most of the produce farmed within the Park is exported out. Conversely the majority of food purchased here is imported in.

Food supply chains can be extensive, the majority of food on sale in national supermarkets is hyper processed and the producer of the base product (lamb, beef or milk) is poorly paid for their efforts by price setting supermarkets. This can in some circumstance force intensification to cut costs (although not necessarily the picture we see in the Park thankfully), which in turn is associated with environmental impacts. There is also a significant carbon cost in relation to the transportation of food over long distances and health impacts associated with hyper processed diets.

In order to break the negative cycle, food production should diversify to enable the area to produce more of the food that is needed and there must be opportunities for food producers to sell their products locally direct to consumers to ensure such production is economically viable, has wider local benefit, much reduced total GHG emissions, and greater carbon sequestration.

How the policy will be implemented

The NPA is one partner within the I200 Working Group. Their ambitious vision is to acquire access to I200 acres of land across Monmouthshire and the Park to transfer into a different type of farming including the Market Garden model. High yield, high employment and profitable.

The aspiration is that a land trust is established to secure and manage this land to lease to a new generation of farmers and horticulturalists to kick start the food production transformation. Such land will be farmed using regenerative processes and will include net increase in carbon storage. Nutrient management will be a core part of the project's philosophy.

Linked to this is the establishment of a direct trading network enabling local people to connect with the local produce, including the development of a Beacons Food brand.

The revised LDP will include enabling policy which supports the development of housing tied to new agricultural/horticultural activity.

What success looks like

The National Park is widely celebrated as a vibrant food producing area. Local people are able to access a range of high quality, locally produced food increasing the prosperity and health outcomes of the area.

The I200 landtrust is operational, leasing land and housing to a new generation of food producers.

Some former pastureland is allowed to naturally regenerate and restore semi-natural habitats as food production areas are able to contract through higher density operation. Livestock remain integral to land management.

A Brecon Beacons Food brand is developed associated with environmental sustainability and high quality products.

How we will measure progress

We will monitor the acreage of land within the I200 Land Trusts management .

We will monitor food diversity and quantity produced with the aim of seeing an increase in both.

We will monitor carbon content of soils in I200 landtrust holdings with the aim of seeing an increase in amount of carbon sequestered.