

Transforming Food System Governance

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FIXOURFOOD



 affordable  nutritious  sustainable

Why Transformation is Needed

CRISES

Food systems face **urgent interconnected crises** that affect the environment, society, and health, demanding immediate and comprehensive responses to ensure sustainability.

ADAPTATION

Incremental adaptation has proven insufficient, **failing to address** the root causes of unsustainability, which requires a more profound and systemic approach.

SHIFTS

Transformation necessitates significant shifts in structures, values, practices, and **power relations**, ensuring that food systems are equitable and resilient moving forward.

Importance of Governance

COORDINATION

Governance is crucial as it directs coordination among various stakeholders, ensuring that all parties work towards common goals and objectives.

FRAGMENTATION

The current governance landscape is often fragmented, leading to ineffective collaboration and hindering progress towards sustainable food system transformation.

LEARNING

New governance frameworks must support learning and adaptability, fostering environments where stakeholders can share knowledge and innovate effectively.

North Yorkshire Case Study

North Yorkshire features a **rich and diverse** food system encompassing rural, market town, and coastal areas, enhancing community resilience and sustainability.

With 78% of the region designated as agricultural land, it effectively links farming practices with tourism and public health initiatives.

The Food for the Future partnership addresses pressing issues like food insecurity, ill health, and ecological pressures affecting local communities and ecosystems



Research Process Overview

VALUES

A values workshop was held to surface governance priorities, allowing participants to express their views and aspirations for the food system.

PROCESSES

Various governance approaches, including sociocracy, constellations and deliberation, were tested to evaluate their effectiveness in enhancing collaborative decision-making and coordination.

CONDITIONS

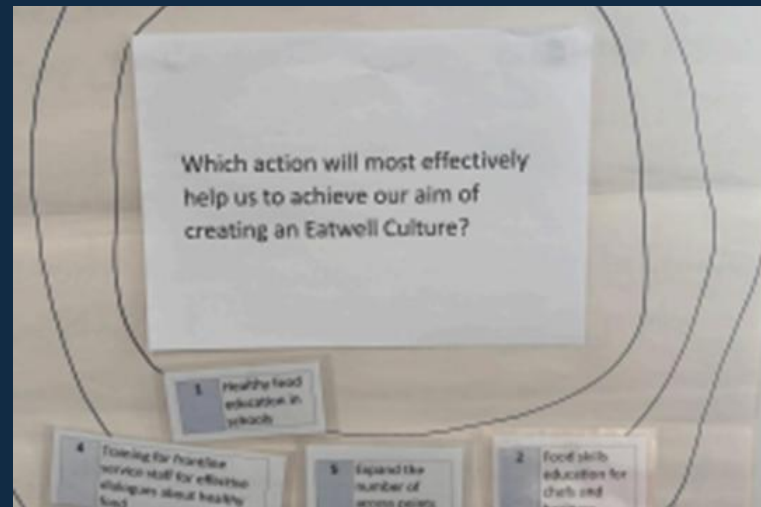
Actor mapping was used to explore how clusters of action could be supported while maintaining system coherence, alongside the conditions needed to sustain these relationships

Key Dimensions of Governance Model



VALUES

Ambition, inclusivity, and collaboration and reflexivity



PRINCIPLES

Decentralization, intentionality, deliberation, accountability



CONDITIONS

Multiscale coordination, open dialogue, support for experimentation and reflective spaces

Application in Practice

SELF-ORGANISED

Participants took the initiative to **form action domains**, aligning with the overarching Food for the Future agenda and fostering collaboration.

PRIORITISED ACTIONS

Actions were evaluated and prioritised based on **transformative criteria**, ensuring long-term contributions and system-wide effects while considering feasibility.

CROSS-DOMAIN REFLECTION

Reflections across domains facilitated the identification of **synergies and dependencies**, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the governance model and collective efforts.

Governance Structure

ACTION CLUSTERS

Self-organising action clusters emerged as vital components, facilitating distributed action and encouraging local engagement in the food system transformation efforts.

CORE GROUP

A **core convening group** was established to connect cluster leads and co-leads, ensuring alignment and coherence across diverse initiatives and actions.

CONVENING ROLE

The **convening role** is crucial for fostering effective communication, shared learning, and coherence among the various action clusters working towards common goals.

Continuous Transformation in Governance

Governance for food system transformation is less about control and more about creating conditions where relationships, plurality and coordinated action can reinforce one another.

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