



# Grassroots Plan for Leicestershire

## Information for research participants

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the research project. Your participation in this research is voluntary, and you may change your mind about being involved in the research at any time, and without giving a reason.

This information is designed to give you full details of the research project, its goals, the research team, the research funder, and what you will be asked to do as part of the research. If you have any questions that are not answered by this information sheet, please ask.

This research has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the Nottingham University Business School Research Ethics Committee.

## What is the research project called?

Co-creating the Grassroots Food Plan, with a focus on Farmer Strategy with Leicestershire County Council.

## Who is carrying out the research?

The research is being carried out by researchers from:

- University of Nottingham: Dr Anne Touboulic, Dr Ursula Davis, Victoria Wojtynowska
- University of Bristol: Dr Lucy McCarthy
- Leicestershire County Council: Gavin Fletcher and Francesca Barney

The research is funded by the University of Nottingham Social Sciences KE&I Acceleration Fund 2025-26.

## What is the research about?

This project follows from a pilot programme for a Grassroots Food Plan to be delivered as part of Leicestershire County Council's food plan, led by community representatives.

The council's plan encompasses four areas of work:

1. Citizen food conversations
2. Grassroots Food Plan
3. Local food procurement
4. Tackling food insecurity and food poverty

The project will engage local food system actors, including farmers, and challenge the councillors existing policies and approaches to the local food system and to implement a food plan that reflects citizen's needs. The research will inform the development of theory of change owned by Leicestershire's residents and community organisations and will also inform food policy strategy at Leicestershire County Council.

## What groups of people have been asked to take part, and why?

We are inviting people who are involved in food and community projects in Leicestershire as well as Leicestershire citizens to take part in the research. This includes but is not limited to

farmers, SME and artisan food and drink producers, retailers, social supermarkets and other food security projects, public health bodies and county and district council employees.

We are inviting people across these groups to ensure that our research is relevant to the Leicestershire food system landscape and Leicestershire residents. We are particularly interested in engaging farmers, primary producers and other groups of people that are often marginalised in research conversations.

### **What will research participants be asked to do?**

Participants will be asked to share their experiences, visions, and challenges relating to the Leicestershire Food system through either an interview or a workshop.

If you decide to participate in the study via interview, we will invite you to join an online/in-person interview lasting between 30-50 minutes. There will be no requirement to prepare anything before the interview, instead we will introduce ourselves and the research before commencing with the interview.

If you decide to participate in the study via workshop, we will provide specific guidance relevant to the workshop including an agenda, and directions for attending (in-person/online). There will be no requirement to prepare anything ahead of the workshop. Workshops will last between 1-4 hours.

### **What will happen to the information I provide?**

We will follow ethical and legal practice and all information about you will be handled in confidence.

If you join the study, the data collected for the study will be looked at by authorised persons from the University of Nottingham who are organising the research. They may also be looked at by authorised people to check that the study is being carried out correctly. All will have a duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant, and we will do our best to meet this duty.

All information which is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly **confidential**, secured within the University of Nottingham. Any information about you which leaves the University will have your name and address removed (anonymised) and a unique code will be used so that you cannot be recognised from it. Anonymised data may also be stored in data archives for future researchers interested in this area.

Your personal data (address, telephone number) will be kept for 7 years after the end of the study so that we are able to contact you about the findings of the study and possible follow-up studies (unless you advise us that you do not wish to be contacted). All identifiable research data will be kept securely for 7 years. After this time your data will be disposed of securely. During this time all precautions will be taken by all those involved to maintain your confidentiality, only members of the research team will have access to your personal data.

Although what you say in the interview, focus group or observation is confidential, should you disclose anything to us which we feel puts you or anyone else at any risk, we may feel it necessary to report this to the appropriate persons.

### **What will be the outputs of the research?**

The results of the research will be written into academic outputs including conference papers and presentations and journal articles which will be published under open access and made available through the University of Nottingham repository. The results will also inform the Leicestershire

grassroots food plan which will be written up as a report for Leicestershire County Council. Unless you have given specific permissions to be identified, you will not be identified in any report/publication.

### **Contact details**

Researcher: Victoria Wojtynowska, [Victoria.Wojtynowska@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Victoria.Wojtynowska@nottingham.ac.uk)

Dr Ursula Davis [Ursula.Davis@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Ursula.Davis@nottingham.ac.uk)

Dr Anne Touboulic, [Anne.Touboulic@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Anne.Touboulic@nottingham.ac.uk)

### **Complaint procedure**

If you wish to complain about the way in which the research is being conducted or have any concerns about the research, then in the first instance please contact Dr Ursula Davis contact the School's Research Ethics Officer:

Samuel Dallyn  
Nottingham University Business School  
Jubilee Campus  
Nottingham NG8 1BB  
Email: [Samuel.Dallyn@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Samuel.Dallyn@nottingham.ac.uk)