

Durham Local Food Hub

What is a food hub?

A local food hub should facilitate (i.e. make easier) trade for both producers and buyers and create a more efficient local supply chain. If local supply chains can be made more efficient and accessible, local producers will have more confidence to supply the local market. It must also provide an easier route to procurement for businesses at a price they are willing to pay. It should enable smaller producers to achieve economies of scale and share risk by working cooperatively. It should also promote environmental and social sustainability at all stages of the food chain.

A local food hub will encourage the better development of a sustainable supply chain for local foods.

What do we mean by 'local food'?

We define local food as food that is produced within County Durham or within a 50 mile (80 kilometre) radius of the business outlet. We acknowledge that for some products we may initially need to look to the region for supply, at least until it becomes available in the County.

Who is the Durham Local Food Hub for?

Initially the Durham Local Food Hub will deal with business to business trade, so the suppliers will be primary and secondary food producers, such as farmers and growers, and bakers and cheese producers. The development of trade between producers and consumers may follow once the business to business trade is properly established. The Food Hub will not be able to include meat in the initial stages but we will be looking to develop this as soon as possible.

What benefits does a Local Food Hub offer to primary and secondary food producers?

- A local food hub offers more stable trading conditions
- It provides an easy and reliable route to the local market
- Regular collection of products by a well-known and reliable company
- A Durham Food Hub Brand: values-based added value

How can the local hospitality sector, cafes, restaurants and hotels and shops benefit for the Durham Local Food Hub?

- Easy procurement of a wide range of local foods
- Straightforward ordering system
- Regular deliveries by a well-known and reliable company
- A Durham Food Hub Brand: values-based added value

What other benefits might a Durham Local Food Hub bring?

- New entrants to the market so that more food products produced in the County become available
- Creation of new jobs and safeguarding existing ones
- More land devoted to sustainable production methods, protecting soils and the environment

How will it work?

Food Durham will appoint a Food Hub Manager (3 days/week) to work with suppliers and buyers to establish trading arrangements through the Hub and provide support with marketing, standards, and developing a supply chain that meets demand.

What's the timescale?

We hope to have a Food Hub Manager in place in January 2017 and expect trading to start within six to eight months at the latest.