

Councillor Alex Collis

**Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Executive Councillor for
Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community
Wellbeing**



Food poverty – a legacy of austerity and a political choice

More than 10 million in UK cannot afford to eat properly

One in seven January, owing to...



01:32

Jack Monroe to sue MP after he says 'she makes fortune from the poor'

UK hit by 'real food poverty' for first time in a generation, says Tory MP

Independent food banks 'desperately worried' following 'alarming' inflation rise

Providers are supporting growing cohort of first-time food bank users, people struggling while in work, and increasing number of children.

Manchester food scheme an 'essential' safety net in cost of living crisis

Children 'getting food poisoning' as parents turn off fridges to save money

When people use foodbanks, it's not because they've lost their copy of Nigella

Poor families struggle to afford heating, charity says

North East foodbanks see desperate families asking for food that doesn't need cooking following energy price rises

Around 2.6m children have smaller meals than usual, regularly skip meals or do not eat when they are hungry, a survey has found

New foodbank warehouse opens in Plymouth as food poverty gets 'so much worse'

Cambridge's Approach – Partnership is the Key

- Food Poverty Alliance – Action Plan published (2020 – 2023)
- Council Motions (Oct 19, July 20, July 21 ... July 22?)
- Food hub network – during COVID and beyond
- Dignity principles
- Continued collaboration

How it started...



... How it's going (a year in numbers)

21,210
Food Hub
visits

86 tonnes of
surplus food
redistributed

1352 food
parrcels
delivered

Over 70 businesses and organisations

56

Events

Holiday Lunches

5258

Meals

2753

Visits

7

Community Food Hubs

Redistribution Centre

1

1

new Fairbite
Supermarket

475 volunteers

9997
volunteer
hours

204
tonnes
of food
distributed

Cambridge City Food bank

2019

9,256 people

November 2021 to April
2022 supported over
6,000 people
17% increase on the
same period 2020/21.

2020

10,185 people

Reasons for attending 2021

Low Income	55%
Benefit Changes	8%
Benefit Delays	8%
Sickness	6%
Debt	6%
Domestic Violence	2%
Homeless	2%
Child Hol meals	2%
Other	11%

2021

9,701 people

... How it's going (a year in stories)

- “Really changed things, used to not eat some days”
- “My kids don't sleep hungry”
- “I am terrified of going into debt which I will never be able to pay off”
- “I've lived in the area for 48 years and it is the first time since my children finished school that I have really felt part of it”
- “It means I don't have to steal food”

Where next? Beyond emergency food...

- Community food centre
- A Right to Food City – what does that look like?
- Going For Gold (Sustainable Food Cities)

