

London Manifestos 2016 – Food and Agriculture Round Up

With a reputation as a campaigning MP who is passionate about the environment, Zac Goldsmith has come out with a number of commitments for the food and agriculture sector.

His much touted pet project to introduce 100 pocket farms to London primary schools would give children a taste of the country by enabling them to grow their own food and even raise chickens. He would also pilot a project twinning urban primary schools with rural farms.

Unveiling the policy, he said “Making our children aware of the environment around them and where their food comes from is vital to their future wellbeing.”

Both Goldsmith and Green candidate Sian Berry propose tackling the problem of ‘holiday hunger’ by expanding breakfast and holiday clubs.

On food poverty in the capital, Berry suggests introducing new street markets and allotments in areas where growing or buying food is harder and mapping food poverty in the boroughs.

Goldsmith, meanwhile, advocates looking at how apps can connect charities in need of food with supermarkets, expanding ‘Social Supermarkets’ for low-income Londoners and lobbying the Government for a ‘Good Samaritan’s Law’ to make it easier for supermarkets to give away food past its sell-by date.

Labour’s Sadiq Khan, however, remains noticeably silent here, as does UKIP.

The Lib Dems also trail behind on food policy with two commitments to introduce food waste collections and promote more food growing in London to reduce food miles.



The party will deliver at least **100 ‘Pocket Farms’** for London primary schools, with grants of up to £5,000 provided to schools, paid for by under-spend identified in the London Food Board programme. (p23)

It will pilot a programme **twinning urban primary schools with rural farms**. (p23)

It will ensure all London schools meet the nutritional standards of the Government’s **School Food Plan** by 2020. (p23)

It will back the **expansion of breakfast and holiday clubs** to ensure children on Free School Meals do not go hungry when they are out of school. (p23)

It will work with charities like School Food Matters to ensure schools purchase **healthy and sustainable food**. (p23)

It will ask the Chief Digital Officer to investigate how **apps** can be used to better connect charities which urgently need food and supermarkets that are wasting it. The party will work with boroughs and retailers to back the expansion of **Social Supermarkets** to sell heavily subsidised surplus to food to low-income Londoners (p23)

It will lobby government to introduce a '**Good Samaritan's Law**' to empower supermarkets to give away free food by minimising liabilities for sharing food past its sell-by date. (p24)



No commitments.



The Lib Dems will encourage every borough to **introduce food waste collections** (p82)

The party will **promote more food growing** in and around London to reduce 'food miles' and increase London's resilience and support the move to Fair Trade across London (p84)



The Greens would develop a co-ordinated and strategic response **to food poverty** in London, working with boroughs to help protect and extend meals on wheels and free school meals, and deal with problems such as 'holiday hunger' when school meals are not available. (p14)

The party would work with boroughs to map food poverty and identify opportunities to **improve access to affordable healthy food** by introducing new street markets and allotments in areas where it is hard to buy or grow food. (p14)

The party would support and significantly expand London's **street markets**. (p15)

The party would back the introduction of a **sugary drink tax**. (p15)

The Greens would support hospitals, prisons and care homes **to grow their own food**, offer more healthy food including organic vegetarian and vegan options. The party would introduce standards in the London Plan so that every new home has space to grow food. p15)

The party will ensure the **Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime unit** is adequately and securely resourced. (p32)

The Greens will ensure that all **purchasing across the GLA group conforms to strict animal welfare rules**. (p32)

On **catering**, the party will use procurement decision to encourage the use of less meat and dairy in catering. (p32)

The party wish to work with government, charities and providers to improve **veterinary care** for pet owners on low incomes, as well as promote dog and cat neutering and microchipping. (p32)



No commitments.