



London Borough  
of Hounslow

# **A Food Systems Review for Hounslow**

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO A HEALTHIER,  
SUSTAINABLE AND FAIRER FOOD SYSTEM

# A Food Systems Review for Hounslow

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO A HEALTHIER, SUSTAINABLE  
AND FAIRER FOOD SYSTEM

## CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	5
<b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 AIM AND OBJECTIVES .....	6
1.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPROVING THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM .....	7
1.3 DEFINING THE (LOCAL) FOOD SYSTEM .....	8
<b>2. BOROUGH CONTEXT .....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE .....	10
2.2 INCOME AND FOOD INSECURITY .....	12
2.3 PUBLIC HEALTH INDICATORS .....	14
2.4 FOOD ENVIRONMENTS .....	17
2.5 COMMUNITY FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE .....	20
2.6 ENVIRONMENT .....	22
<b>3. CURRENT FOOD INITIATIVES IMPROVING THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM .....</b>	<b>23</b>
3.1 PIONEERING POLICIES .....	23
3.2 IMPROVING HEALTHIER FOOD ACCESS .....	26
3.3 THRIVING COMMUNITY FOOD NETWORK .....	29
<b>4. HOUNSLOW FOOD SYSTEM ANALYSIS .....</b>	<b>30</b>
4.1 LIMITATIONS .....	30
<b>5. NEXT STEPS .....</b>	<b>31</b>
5.1 A VISION FOR HOUNSLOW'S FOOD STRATEGY .....	31
CITATIONS .....	32

# Foreword

Food is fundamental to life. The choices we make about what we eat influence our health, local economy, environment and wider global systems, impacting what is available and affordable on our plates.

As a Council, we recognise our responsibility to influence the food system positively. Through spatial planning, licensing, environmental standards, business support and public health priorities, we are committed to promoting healthier, more sustainable food and reducing food related ill health and inequalities.

This report provides a discovery review of Hounslow's food system, identifying the key drivers and assessing strategic opportunities for borough-level action.

This supports our Corporate Plan objective: to see a borough that is greener, healthier, cleaner, thriving, safer and liveable. A strong and equitable food system is fundamental to achieving that vision.

As Leader of the Council, I am proud to introduce this review. By working together with our partners and communities, we can ensure that food in Hounslow becomes a driver of better health, stronger neighbourhoods and inclusive, sustainable growth for generations to come.

**Councillor: Shantanu Rajawat**  
Leader of the Council  
London Borough of Hounslow

# Acknowledgements

This review builds on the report 'Informing a People-Centred Food Strategy for the London Borough of Hounslow' from City St Georges commissioned by London Borough of Hounslow in 2025.

Thank you to all colleagues and partners who have taken time to provide invaluable support towards developing this review by contributing data, provide guidance, insights, feedback and overall support in a short period of time.

Special thanks to Liza Ctori, Heather Clark, Hannah Buckland, Sam Greehy, Amy Channels, Chrysi Dimaki and Sterling Rippy for their generosity in bringing this review together in time.

Food is at the heart of our communities. It shapes our health, our local economy, our environment, and our sense of belonging.

This Food Systems Review reflects months of engagement with residents, community organisations, local businesses, and council staff. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed their time, insight, and lived experience.

Globally, we are responding to the challenges of food insecurity, rising living costs, climate change and health inequalities.

In Hounslow, we are committed to improving our local food system. We have demonstrated leadership by developing pioneering policies, empowering communities through training, and improving healthier food access. Our network of community organisations, local enterprises and volunteers drive positive change and support our most vulnerable residents.

I welcome this review as a robust evidence base to develop a Food Strategy for Hounslow that connects residents to a healthier, more sustainable and fairer food system.

**Councillor: Salman Shaheen**  
Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Public Spaces  
London Borough of Hounslow

# Executive summary

This report reviews the challenges and opportunities within the local food system and highlights the role of local action in improving access to healthy, affordable, and sustainable food.

## Local food system challenges

- Food insecurity
- Food-related ill health
- Widening inequalities for lower income households and vulnerable communities
- Climate change
- Fragmented actions
- Limited resources

## Emerging opportunities

- Commitment and leadership through pioneering policies
- Improving healthier food environment by working with local businesses
- Training and cascading knowledge on healthy food choices
- Campaigns on promoting food waste
- Local food growing schemes through allotments, green spaces and unused council land
- Informal Community Food Partnership
- Targeted community food initiatives in areas of deprivation and vulnerable communities

## Limitations

- Limited resources
- Fragmented action between departments and stakeholders
- Reliance on emergency food aid
- Reliance on volunteers and short-term funding
- Assessing success and outcomes requires time

## Next steps:

To build on existing work and enable cross-departmental action addressing barriers to healthy, sustainable, and equitable food access, London Borough of Hounslow will develop a People-Centred Food Strategy for Hounslow.

# 1. Introduction

## Britain is what it eats: a proud, diverse, and resilient nation. It nourishes our country, brings communities together, and sustains the livelihoods of millions

(UK Food Strategy 2025).<sup>i</sup>

The 2025 UK Food Strategy sets out the government’s long-term vision for transforming the food system in England to make it healthier, more sustainable, more resilient and economically robust.<sup>ii</sup>

The current food system, on both a global and local level, poses a threat to environmental resources, contributes to a rise in food related ill health, destabilises food security, and increases food poverty.<sup>iii iv</sup>

Food insecurity, caused by rising food costs, disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our society who experience higher levels of food related ill-health.<sup>v</sup>

While the UK Food Strategy does not directly govern local food systems, it establishes the strategic direction, policy expectations and incentive structures within which local authorities (LA) operate. The impact of these changes is often experienced locally.<sup>vi vii</sup>

LAs play a critical governance role in influencing how food environments are structured, regulated, and accessed. Within its statutory responsibilities, LAs hold influence over several critical food system drivers. Through spatial planning and licensing, the council can shape the density and location of hot food takeaways and protect space for markets and food-growing initiatives. Through public procurement, particularly in schools and care settings, it can influence dietary quality, sustainability standards, and supply chain practices. Through public health and social care functions, it addresses childhood obesity, food related ill health, and food insecurity. Through waste management and climate action strategies, it can reduce food waste and contribute to emissions reduction targets.

This focus is particularly urgent in Hounslow given rising cost-of-living pressures, persistent food insecurity, climate emergency, and the increasing burden of obesity and non-communicable diseases.

### 1.1 Aim and Objectives

#### Aim

This report aims to provide a discovery review of the London Borough of Hounslow’s (LBH) food system, identifying the key drivers within the local authority’s scope of influence and assessing strategic opportunities for borough-level action to improve health outcomes, reduce inequalities, enhance environmental sustainability, and strengthen local economic resilience.

#### Objectives

- To examine the social, economic, environmental and policy factors shaping food access, affordability, availability and dietary outcomes in the borough.
- To analyse available data on food-related health outcomes, food insecurity, and geographic or demographic disparities to identify those most affected and why.
- To identify existing powers, policies and functions (e.g. planning, procurement, public health, economic development, climate action) that can shape the local food system.
- To consolidate insights gathered from previous reports and commissioned projects engaging residents, community organisations, businesses and partners to understand lived experience and system challenges.
- To present the positive impact of local food projects through case studies, highlighting opportunities to expand, scale or replicate in other parts of the borough.
- To make evidence-based recommendations for developing Hounslow’s Food Strategy that connects people to healthier, sustainable and a fairer food system.

## 1.2 Progress towards improving the local food system

Hounslow’s journey to understand and improve the local food system has continued since the end of the pandemic. During this period, collaborative work has taken place with residents, community organisations, and partners to co-design and influence a system that more effectively meets the needs of the borough.

The first Food Action Plan, launched in 2021, was developed in partnership with members of the Hounslow Food Network, ensuring it reflected local insight and lived experience. Many of the identified actions were successfully delivered. However, as the food system has continued to evolve and the needs of the population have changed, it became evident that new insights were required to understand how communities are currently experiencing and navigating the food system.

Figure 1 illustrates the sustained, year-on-year efforts undertaken to gather evidence, engage communities, and implement meaningful action. The insights collected provide a strong foundation for the development of a Food Strategy.



Figure 1: Timeline of insights and engagement



### 1.2.1 Insights and engagement from residents

In 2021, LBH Commissioned the “Families Obesity Insight Project,” to gather insights on the drivers of childhood obesity in Hounslow. Conversations with residents explored the barriers towards achieving healthy weight including unsafe and unhealthy physical and social environment, disconnected and siloed local service provisions, low wages and increased fast food outlets leading to nutrient poor processed food purchases.

Following a similar theme, in 2023 National Institute for Health and Care Research funded researchers from City University to undertake a participatory research project called “Feeding Our Families in a Cost-of-living Crisis: Parents’ Experiences and Ideas for Change.” The researchers worked with 10 families on low income to understand how they were feeding their families and the barriers to attain a more healthy and nutritious diet. The study reported families were struggling with persistent stresses such as rising living costs, insecure incomes, and time constraints; significantly shaping food choices and often forcing parents to prioritise cost and convenience over nutritional quality. Families described living in local food environments dominated by inexpensive hot food takeaways, limited access to affordable fresh produce in some neighbourhoods, and inconsistent awareness or uptake of support schemes. <sup>viii</sup>

Building on this report, City St George’s University were commissioned by LBH to develop a comprehensive insight report that helps set out the vision for Hounslow’s Food Strategy.

Researchers from the university undertook engagement with a wide range of residents, community organisers, service providers, food enterprises, and LBH staff across Hounslow on their perspectives into the local food system. This involved site visits, workshops, semi-structured interviews, and more informal conversations with a diverse range of food system stakeholders. The team visited various food settings, including food distribution hubs, food network meetings, and community meal events. Engagement took place both in person and online, maximising participation from a wide range of people.

Voices and lived experiences of those engaged in this report have been highlighted throughout this review to provide a rich context of the current food system.

### 1.3 Defining the (local) Food System

**“A food system is defined as a system that embraces all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructure, institutions, markets and trade) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution and marketing, preparation and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes”. <sup>ix</sup>**

The visual representation of the food system in Figure 2 highlights its complexity, illustrating how each component is multi layered, interdependent, and continuously interacting.

Local food systems are influenced by geopolitical and economic policies, trade, climate change, technological developments, and social determinants.

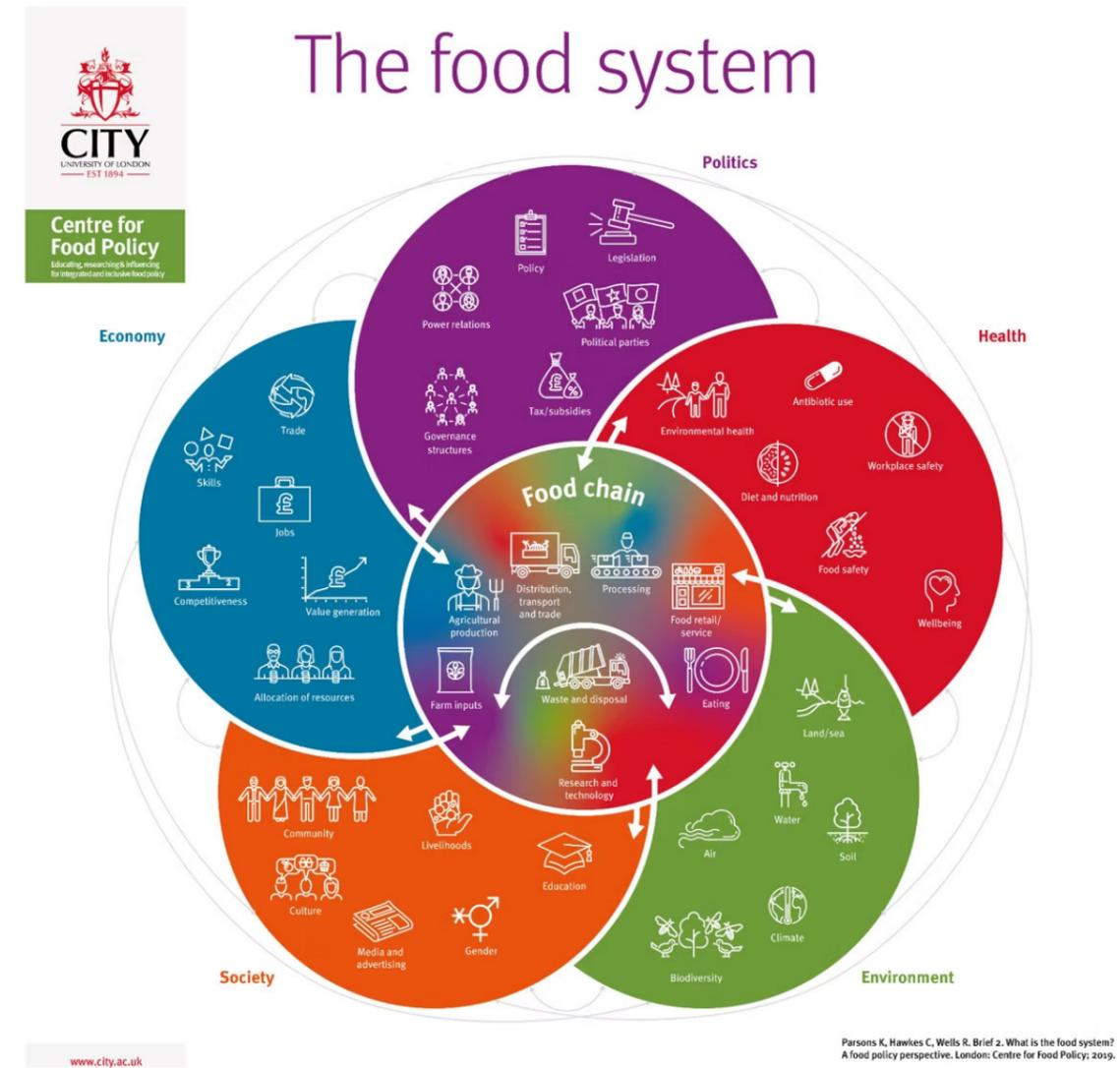


Figure 2: The Food System | Source: Centre for Food Policy

#### 1.3.1 Scope of Hounslow’s Food System Review

**While Hounslow’s food system is governed by multiple local, regional and global factors, undertaking a comprehensive review of all these interconnected factors is beyond the scope of this report.**

Instead, this review focuses on the key drivers shaping how residents access, consume, and interact with food within the borough, particularly in areas where LBH can act to facilitate positive change. By concentrating on levers such as planning, procurement, public health, economic development, and climate action, the review assesses opportunities to improve health, reduce inequalities, enhance sustainability, and strengthen resilience.

It also draws on insights from residents, businesses, community groups, and existing initiatives to provide a practical, evidence-based understanding of how to connect people to a healthier, fairer, and more sustainable food system.

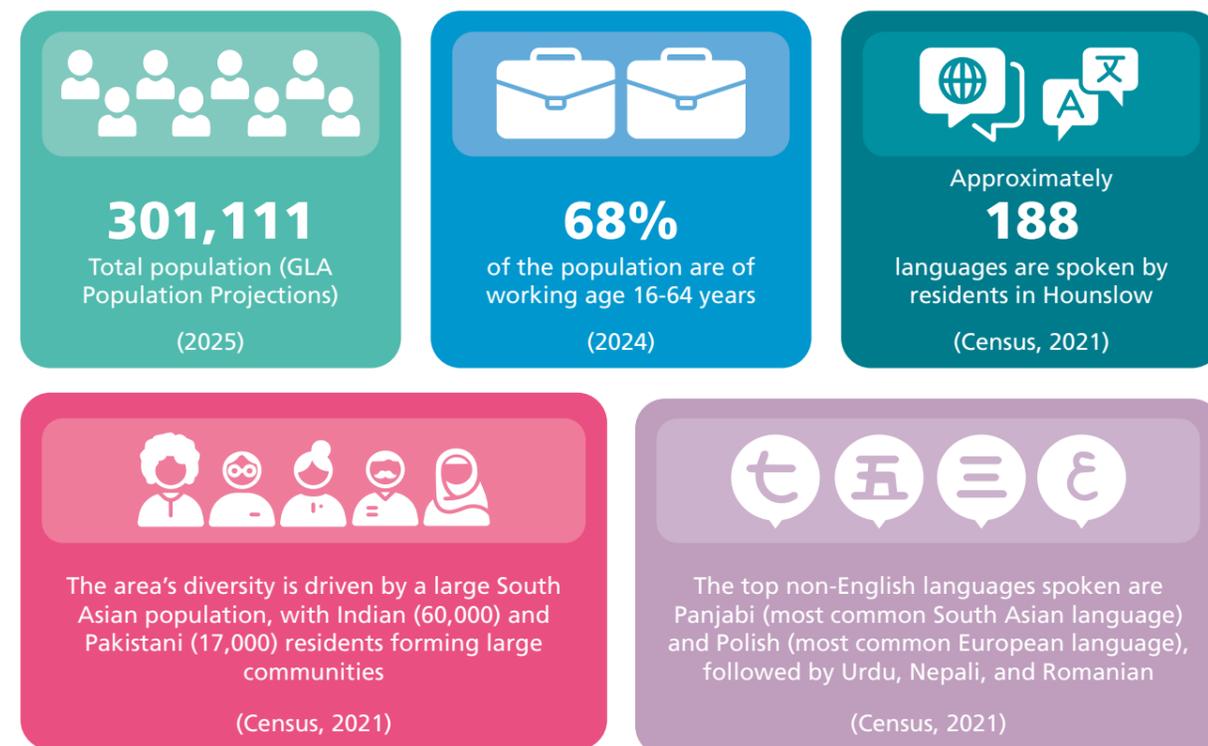
## 2. Borough Context

### 2.1 Socioeconomic profile

The Hounslow Borough has characteristics of a relatively transient population, while also being home to long-established and settled communities. Its location in West London and its economic profile contribute to patterns of population movement alongside stability in many neighbourhoods.<sup>xi</sup>

The population is relatively young compared to some outer London boroughs, with a large working-age demographic. The borough is economically mixed, containing areas of affluence towards the east of the borough and areas experiencing deprivation and health inequalities concentrated towards the west of the borough.<sup>xii</sup>

#### 2.1.1 Population and diversity



Source: <https://stats.hounslow.gov.uk/state-of-the-borough-2024/>

LBH has a highly diverse ethnic and cultural population. The borough's linguistic landscape is a mix of long-established South Asian languages and more recent European arrivals, making it one of London's most multicultural areas. This diversity shapes many aspects of local life in Hounslow and illustrates the importance of understanding how different communities experience and interact with the local food system, as patterns of access, dietary preferences, and economic opportunity can vary significantly across demographic groups.

Many residents shared that food is an important part of their cultural identity, having access to good quality, fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate food can enhance their wellbeing. There are limited opportunities for communities to share and celebrate diverse food cultures. Food is seen as a social construct where some residents mention cooking responsibilities predominantly fall on women therefore men may lack knowledge and skills in cooking and food preparation.

*Informing a People-Centred Food Strategy for the London Borough of Hounslow, City St George's*

### 2.1.2 Deprivation and Inequalities

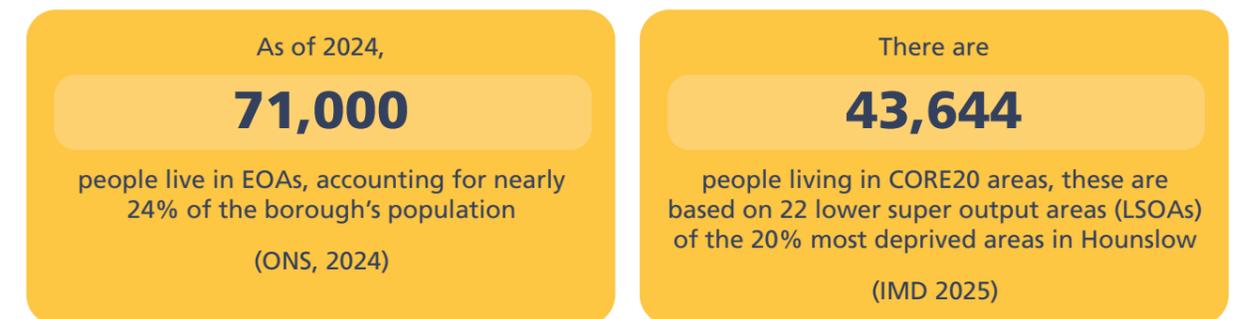
Deprivation reflects the wider disadvantages people experience in their daily lives, including limited access to good housing, secure employment, quality education, health services, and safe environments. Where people are born, grow, live, work and age shape the ability to access and afford healthy food. In England, deprivation is measured using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).<sup>xiv</sup>

Tackling inequality is a priority for Hounslow and the wider health system. Nationally, the NHS uses the CORE20PLUS5 approach, which identifies disadvantaged groups using Index of Multiple Deprivation data, known as CORE20 areas. Hounslow has built on this framework by incorporating additional local data sources, including the Community Needs Index and Census household data, to deepen its understanding of local inequalities. Using this expanded framework, an agreed set of geographical areas, known as Equality Opportunity Areas (EOAs) were established, where inequalities are greatest, enabling targeted action to improve outcomes.

The deprivation analysis in this report reflects the CORE20 data; however, the EOAs cover slightly larger geographical footprints. In practice, the EOAs extend beyond the CORE20 areas while still highlighting very similar patterns of inequality.



Source: <https://stats.hounslow.gov.uk/ea-cluster-census-2021-profiles/>



Source: <https://stats.hounslow.gov.uk/ea-cluster-census-2021-profiles/>

Whole Systems Integrated Care (WSIC)

### 2.1.3 Asylum seekers and inequalities

Hounslow has the second largest population of asylum seekers staying in contingency hotel accommodation.<sup>xv</sup> The 2022-2023 Annual Public Health Report, On Hold: the lived experiences of asylum seekers in Hounslow's contingency hotels addresses how these communities experience restricted access to employment, limited financial support, insecure housing, and barriers to healthcare, poor quality food provision and inadequate nutrition. The report also mentions lack of facilities to prepare or store food limiting these communities' food choice.<sup>xvi</sup>



## 2.2 Income and food insecurity

The median annual income for a resident of Hounslow is £32,200.

This is £2000 below the England average

(2024)

Unemployment in Hounslow is 4.4% compared to 3.7% in England

This is equivalent to 7000 people currently unemployed in Hounslow.

(2023)

22.9% of residents in Hounslow are in low-paid employment compared to is £32,200.

This is £2000 below the England average

(2024)

Economic inactivity rate in Hounslow is 25.3% compared to 21.2% in England

This is equivalent to 46,400 people not classed as employed or as unemployed

(2024-2025)

Source: <https://stats.hounslow.gov.uk/ea-cluster-census-2021-profiles/>

Source: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/wider-determinants/>

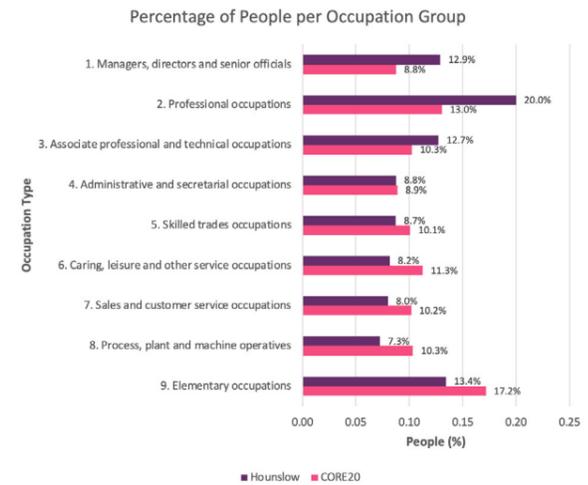


Figure 3: Comparison of people in living in CORE20 and non CORE20 areas by occupation groups | Source: Census (2021)

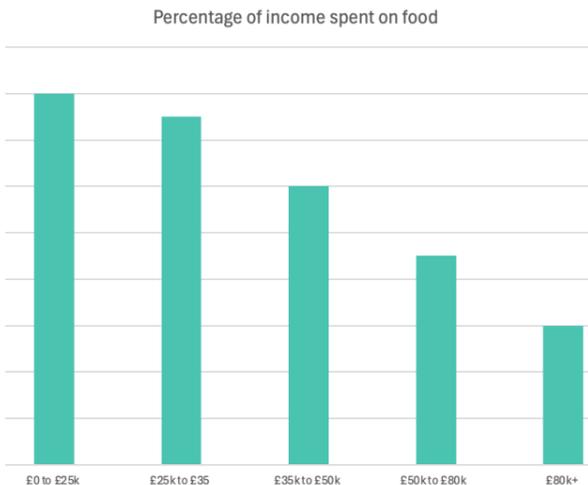


Figure 4: Percentage of income spent on food | Source: <https://stats.hounslow.gov.uk/state-of-the-borough-2024/>

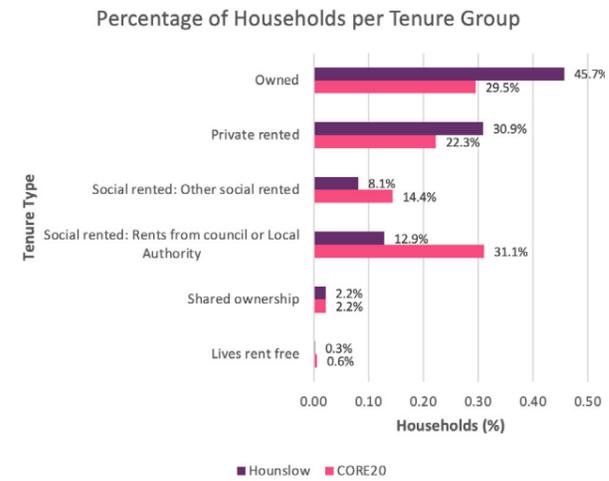


Figure 5: Comparison of people in living in CORE20 and non CORE20 areas by tenure | Source: Census (2021)

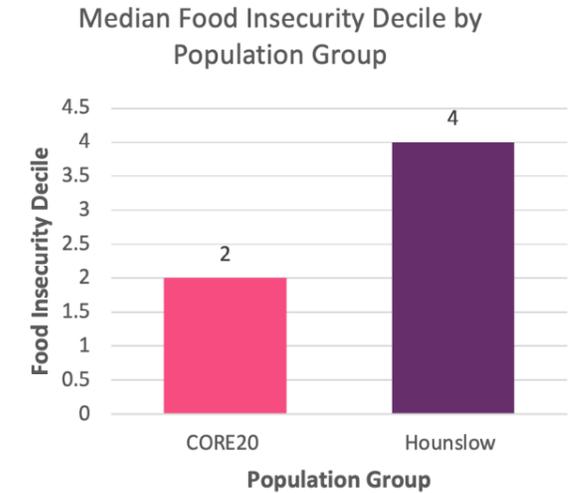


Figure 6: Comparison of people in living in CORE20 and non CORE20 experiencing food insecurity | Source: Priority Places for Food Index Dataset (2022) from Consumer Data Research Centre (CDRC).

**The Food Security Index measures proximity and accessibility to supermarket facilities and online deliveries, proximity to non-supermarket food provision, socio-economic barriers, food support, and fuel poverty. The lower the index score, the higher the food insecurity.**

Income, economic inactivity, and low-paid employment and housing tenure circumstances strongly influence food security. In low-income households, a larger proportion of the overall household budget is allocated to food, leaving families particularly vulnerable to rising living costs and food prices. The Food Foundation's Broken Plate report in 2025 shows healthier foods have become more expensive compared to unhealthy foods, which forces many low-income households to choose less fresh and nutritious foods due to affordability.<sup>xvii</sup>

Research shows that those living in social housing and private rented homes experience higher levels of inadequate cooking and food storage facilities, meaning they rely more heavily on convenience or takeaway foods, which contributes to food choices with poor nutritional quality.<sup>xviii</sup>

Between 2023 and 2024, there was a 10% rise in the number of universal credit claimants across the borough, reaching just over 40,000. 60% of claimants capable of work are working but are in poorly paid work. Since the end of the pandemic, there has been an increasing proportion of over 50s receiving benefits.<sup>xix</sup>

Figure 3 shows the comparison of people in living in CORE20 and non CORE20 areas by occupation groups. There are a higher number of residents employed in lower paid occupations such as sales, plant and machinery, caring and elementary roles (routine and manual jobs) requiring lower skills and education compared to those living in non CORE20 areas.

More than 30% of households in CORE20 areas live in council-owned socially rented homes and only 29% of CORE20 households own their homes compared to 45% of non CORE20 households, which is illustrated in figure 5.

55,624 Hounslow residents face food insecurity, with those living in CORE20 areas experiencing higher food insecurity compared to those outside of CORE20 areas.

**Hounslow residents faced a few challenges navigating the local food system and how it impacts them. These include intersecting challenges such as low wage, rising housing cost, increase in food prices.**

*Informing a People-Centred Food Strategy for the London Borough of Hounslow, City St George's*

### 2.2.1 Food Poverty in children

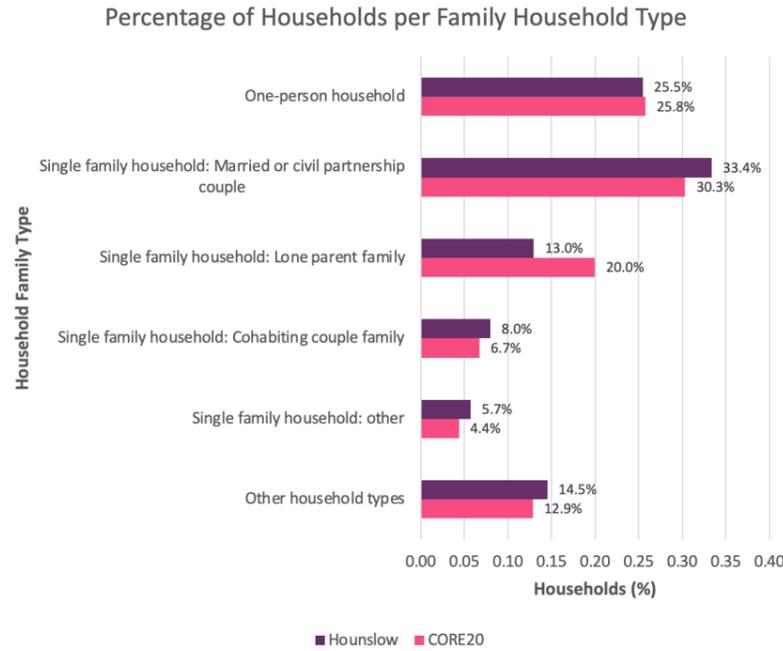


Figure 7: Comparison of family type per household by CORE20 and non CORE20 | Source: Census (2021)

**10071**  
children under 16 living in families with Relative Low Income in Hounslow  
(2024)

Source: <https://stats.hounslow.gov.uk/state-of-the-borough-2024/>

**43%**  
of children in lone-parent families were living in poverty in the UK  
(2023-2024)

Source: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/luk-poverty-statistics/family-composition-age-and-sex>

Food poverty among children remains one of the most significant indicators of wider inequality, with both national and local data highlighting the scale of the challenge.

Eligibility for free school meals (FSM) is a key indicator of a low-income household, and nationally nearly half of children living in lone parent families are affected by poverty. In Hounslow, this pattern is reflected locally, with lone-parent families making up around 20% of households in the borough’s most deprived CORE20. The 2025 report, Roadmap to Reducing Food Insecurity<sup>xx</sup>, shares the stark reality that households with children living in poverty consistently struggle to access fresh, healthy and nutritious food. The Marmot Review reinforces this, emphasising that food poverty in children undermines ‘Best Start in Life’ and adversely impacts early childhood experiences that support children to achieve their best potential in life.<sup>xxi</sup>

### 2.3 Public Health Indicators

Food plays a central role in overall health because it provides the nutrients the body needs to function, grow, repair, and prevent disease at all stages of life. However, poor long-term dietary patterns have the greatest impact on health outcomes. Lower rates of breastfeeding, diets high in processed foods, added sugars, unhealthy fats, and excess salt are strongly linked to food-related ill health such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and certain cancers. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), poor dietary habits are a major risk factor for heart disease, which remains one of the leading causes of death worldwide.<sup>xxii</sup>

### 2.3.1 Child Health and food-related conditions

Hounslow Breastfeeding initiation rates  
**93.9%**  
compared to 71.9% in England  
(2023-2024)

Source: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/child-health-profiles>

Hounslow 6-8 weeks Breastfeeding prevalence  
**74.8%**  
compared to 55.6% in England  
(2023-2024)

Source: Service level data

Percentage of 5-year-olds with experience of visually obvious dental caries in Hounslow  
**35.9%**  
compared to 22.4% in England  
(2023-2024)

Source: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/child-health-profiles>

Hounslow Reception (4-5 year olds) prevalence of overweight (including obesity)  
**21.0%**  
compared to 23.5% in England  
(2024-2025)

Source: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/obesity>

Hounslow Year 6 (10-11 year olds) prevalence of overweight (including obesity)  
**39.3%**  
compared to 36.2% in England  
(2024-2025)

Source: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/obesity>

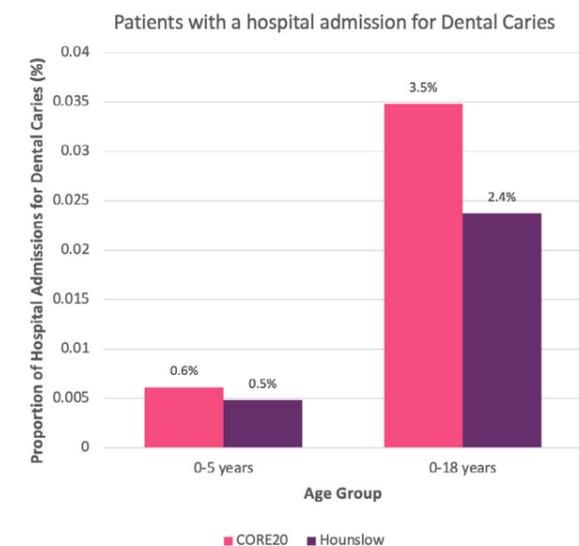


Figure 8: Patients with a hospital admission for dental caries CORE20 vs non CORE20

In Hounslow, breastfeeding initiation rates and sustained breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks is higher compared to England. However, alarming rates of dental caries are evident in children at the age of 5: 35.9% in Hounslow, compared to 22.4% in England.

Furthermore, children living in CORE20 areas have a higher admission rate to hospital for dental caries compared to non CORE20 children. This disparity is more pronounced when looking at 0-18 year-olds. Among this wider age group, admissions for dental caries are almost five times higher overall, as illustrated in figure 8.

Whilst the prevalence of overweight and obesity is lower for 4-5 years olds in Hounslow compared to England, nearly 40% of children aged 10-11 years in Hounslow are living with overweight and obesity. The consequences can cause lifelong impacts. Many of these children grow up to become adults who are overweight and obese and are at higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, certain cancers, and musculoskeletal disorders.<sup>xxiii</sup> Childhood obesity is also associated with psychological impacts, including low self-esteem, bullying, depression, and poorer educational attainment.<sup>xxiv</sup>

### 2.3.2 Adult health and food-related conditions

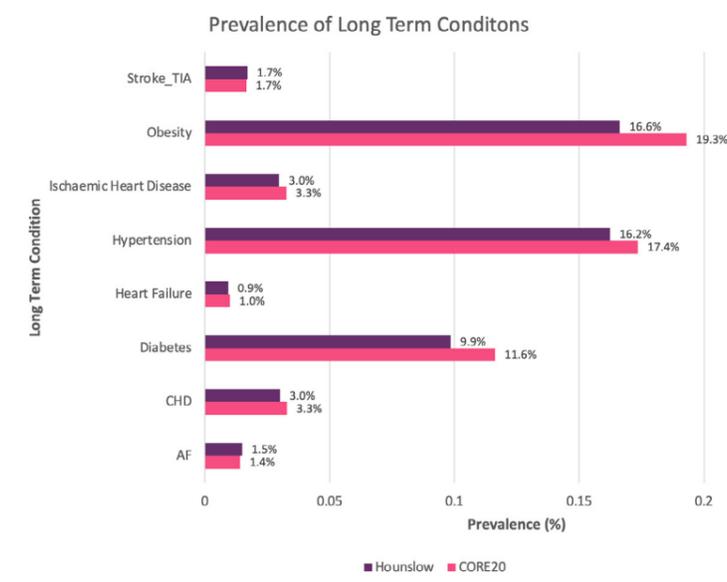
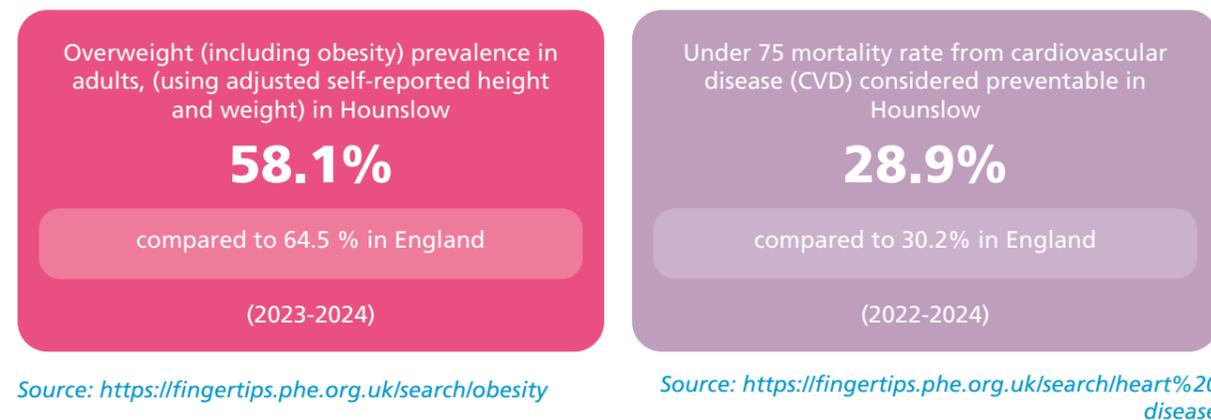
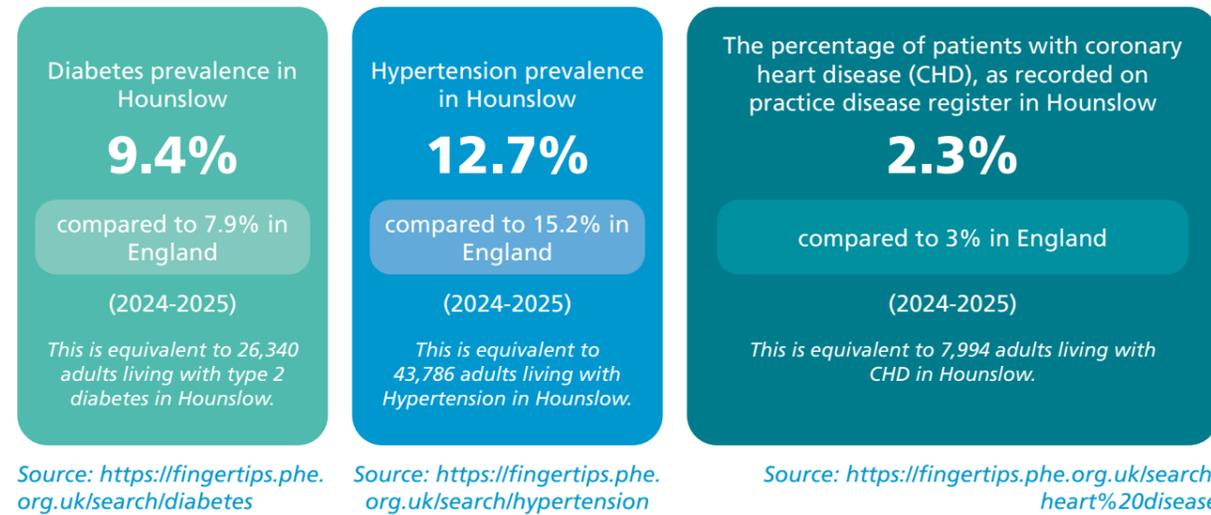


Figure 9: Prevalence of Long-Term Conditions in Core20 and non CORE20 residents | Source: Whole Systems Integrated Care (WSIC)

Whilst Hounslow fares well for obesity prevalence, hypertension, CHD and mortality from CVD compared to England, figure 9 indicates that here is higher prevalence of LTCs, especially obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease, for those residents who live in CORE20 areas. Hounslow's Annual Public Health Report 2023-2024 titled "From the Ground Up: Tackling Health Inequalities", outlines how unfair differences in health across the borough are a result of the wider determinants of health.

Those most disadvantaged carry the burden of ill health for longer due to health inequalities. Limited access to affordable nutritious food and greater exposure to cheaper, energy-dense options drives poor dietary patterns and widens the gap of health inequality between the rich and the poor.

### 2.4 Food environments

Hounslow is served by over 2,200 food retail outlets ranging widely from supermarkets, convenience stores, greengrocers, bakeries, and takeaway shops. There are several street and traditional markets also serving the borough.

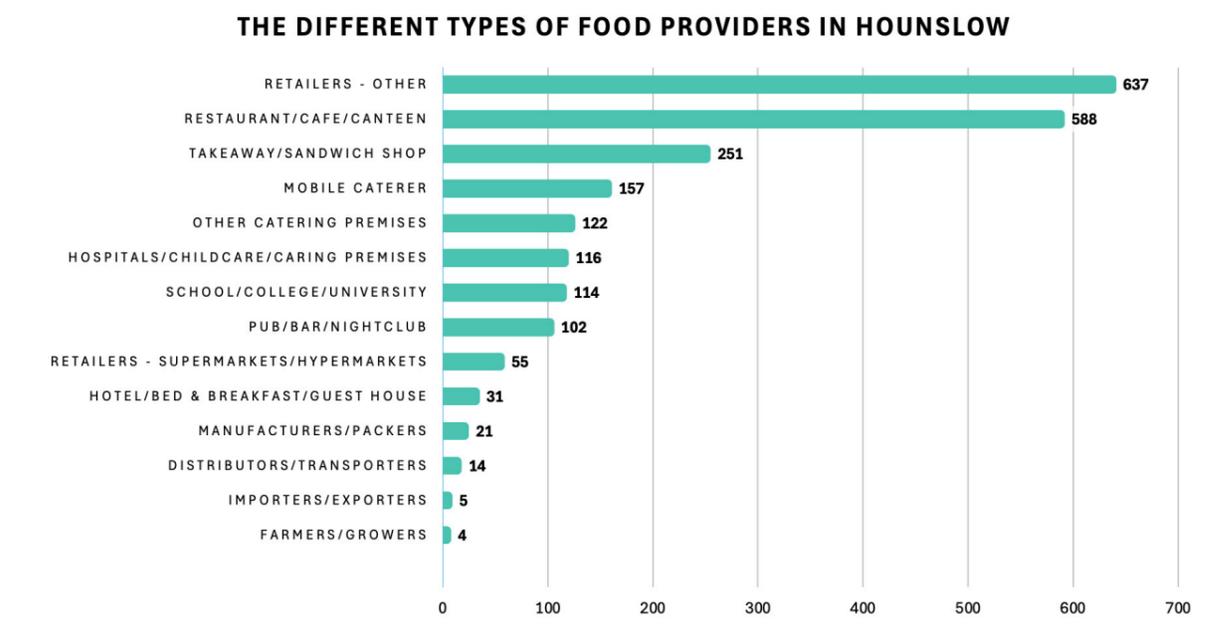


Figure 10: Types of food providers in Hounslow | Source: Food Standards Agency

Fast food outlets per 100,000 population in Hounslow 118 compared to 115.9 in England (2024). This is equivalent to 349 fast food in Hounslow

Source: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/wider-determinants>

73% of Hounslow's food establishments have achieved a hygiene rating of 5 & 91% of establishments are rated 4 or above

Food Standards Agency govern food business through hygiene ratings from 1-5

Source: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9fc2e56b38fb42cab2acff40c8bd9d08>

40 food establishments have signed to Hounslow's Healthier catering commitment scheme

Source: <https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/food-safety-business/healthier-catering-commitment/2>

There are 47 supermarkets across Hounslow

Source: <https://www.feat-tool.org.uk/feat/2/>



## 2.4 Food environments

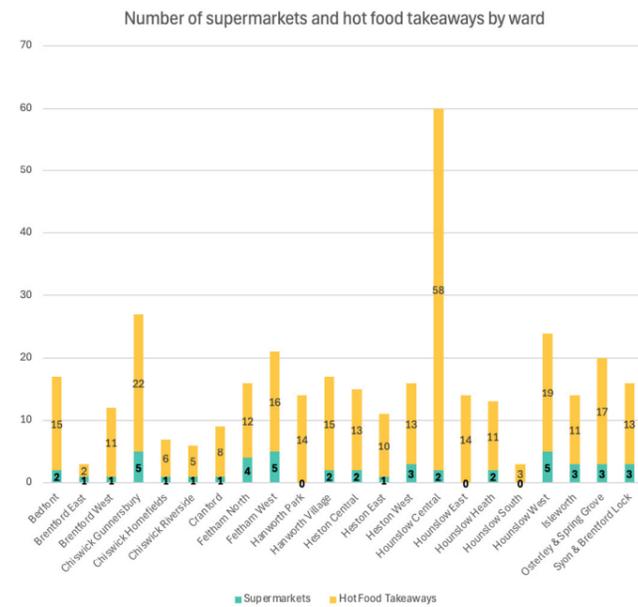


Figure 11: Number of Hot Food Takeaways and Supermarkets by ward in Hounslow | Source: <https://www.feat-tool.org.uk/feat2/>

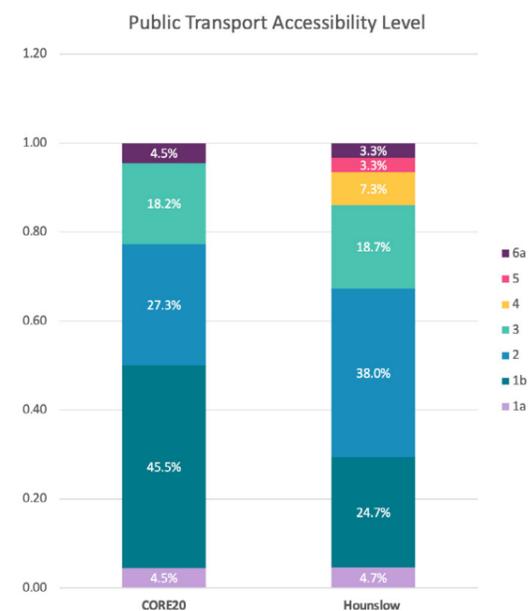


Figure 12: Public Transport Accessibility Level | Source: PTAL dataset (2023) from Transport For London (TfL)

People living in more deprived areas are exposed to unhealthy food environments with higher proliferation of fast-food outlets increased unhealthy advertising of foods high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS).<sup>xxv</sup> Only 11% of food establishments have signed up the Hounslow Healthier Catering Commitment.

Food environments saturated with inexpensive, energy-dense, nutrient-poor foods, increases the disparity of access, availability and affordability to healthy food, particularly in more deprived communities driving health inequalities.<sup>xxvi</sup> 83% of hot food takeaways are clustered in areas of deprivation in Hounslow.

**The proliferation of unhealthy food environments such as fast-food takeaways were mentioned as barriers to healthier food choice due to their vast availability, convenience and affordability. These unhealthy food environments were also associated with perceived crime and antisocial behaviours by some residents.**

**Access to good quality nutrient dense food were raised for many experiencing food access issues, factors such as distance, time and convenience were emphasised. Food outlets, shops and markets with fresh healthy foods are not equally placed across the borough to support residents' food choices.**



Figure 13: Adverts with food in high fat, salt and sugar in Bedford (CORE20 area) | Source: From the Ground Up: Tackling Health Inequalities Hounslow Annual Public Health Report 2023-24

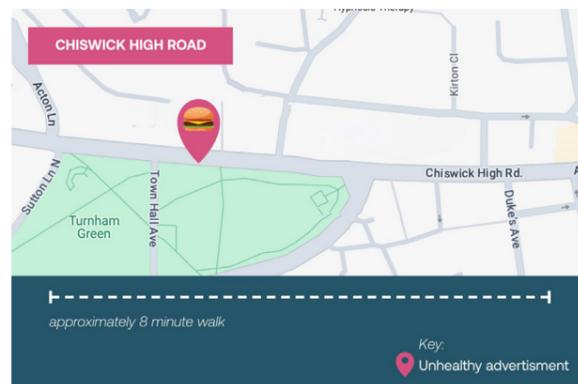


Figure 14: Adverts with food in high fat, salt and sugar in Chiswick (non CORE20 area) | Source: From the Ground Up: Tackling Health Inequalities Hounslow Annual Public Health Report 2023-24

Hounslow is served by a multitude of food providers, offering the local community access to food. However, there are disparities in these food offers. The Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) score from Transport for London provides geographical areas with a score based on journey times, wait times, and frequency of public transport.

CORE20 areas showed lower PTAL scores than the rest of Hounslow, as 50% of CORE20 areas have a PTAL score of less than 2, compared to the Hounslow average (29.4%).

This means CORE20 residents have longer journeys, longer wait times, and fewer buses or trains available to access fresh, good quality nutritious foods and rely more on convenience stores.

Informing a People-Centred Food Strategy for the London Borough of Hounslow, City St George's



## 2.5 Community Food Infrastructure

Hounslow's community food infrastructure includes a vast network of organisations, supporting access to food outside of commercial retail. This includes food banks, food parcels, cooked meals, community kitchens, surplus food distributors and local food pantries, all of whom provide essential support for residents experiencing food insecurity and are vulnerable. Community hubs, faith-based organisations, and voluntary groups also play a key role in providing cooked food and distributing surplus produce. Together, these initiatives form a vital part of the borough's food system, at the neighbourhood level.

**In 24/25 31 active community food organisations, part of Hounslow Food Network, handled 388 tonnes of surplus food (over 900,000 food items) to 17,600 individuals.**

Gender split of those receiving community food support

Female  
**66%**

Male  
**34%**

Many organisations do not collect data or monitoring information of individuals they support. The data presented above may not be representative of the extent of residents receiving support. With available data, it is evident that those receiving food aid are from the economically active age with a higher proportion of women compared to men and from a White ethnic background.

### Community food support in Hounslow

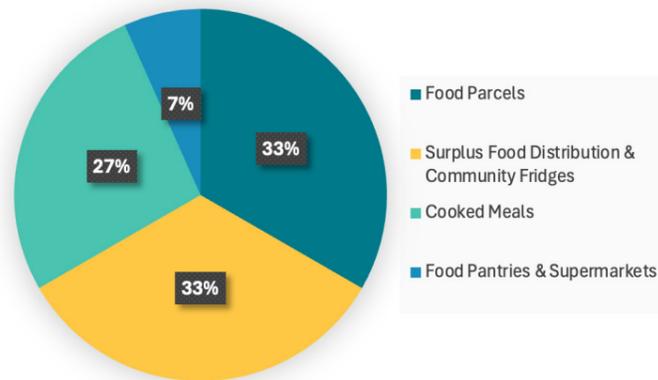


Figure 15: Types of Community Food Support

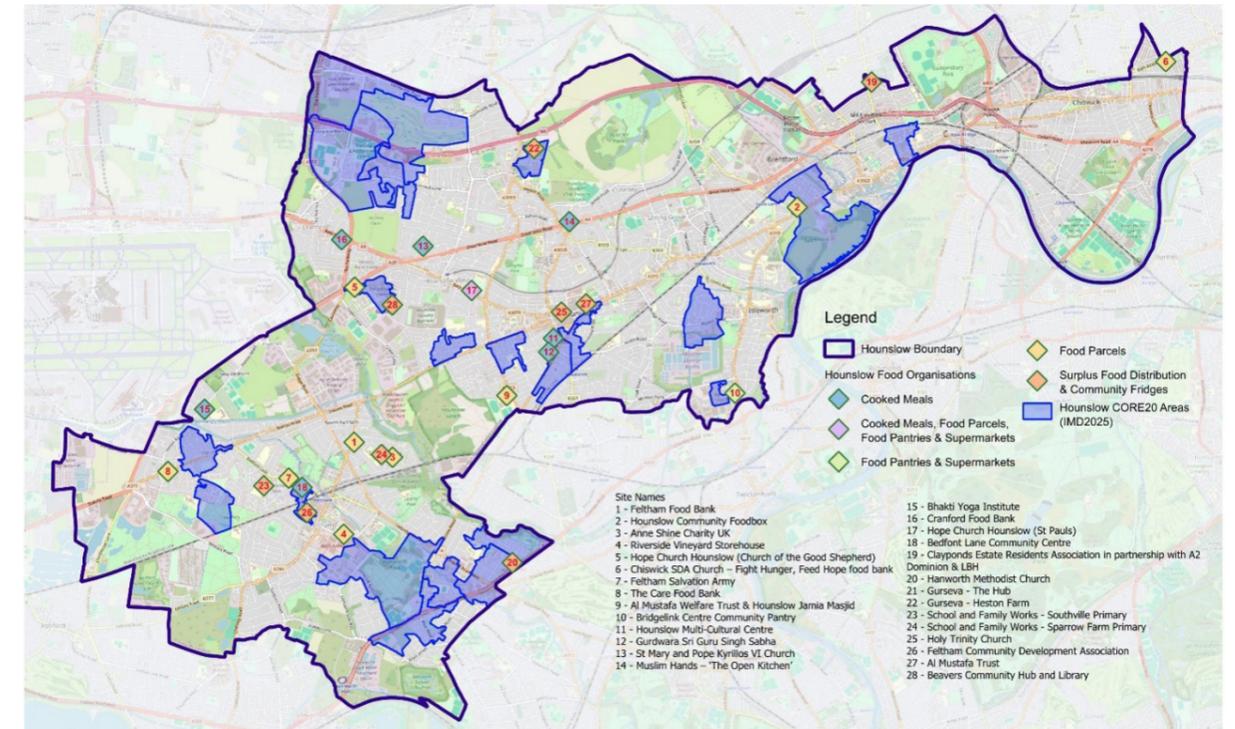


Figure 16: Location of Hounslow Food Network Organisations | Source: Hounslow Food Network

Data from Trussell Trust, the largest food bank network in the country, shows emergency food parcel distributions increased dramatically over the last decade.<sup>xxvii</sup> In 2024-2025, around 2.9 million parcels were distributed compared to 60,000 in 2010-2011. Community food organisations and food banks are supporting far more households than before 2020 and are located in more deprived areas as per figure 16.

For many individuals and families in low paid and unstable employment with rising living costs, reliance on emergency food support can become cyclical as affordable healthy and nutritious food is not accessible for them.<sup>xxviii</sup>

**There has been an increased use of community food provision and redistribution services such as hot meals and food parcels for those unable to afford to eat, to social eating and shopping experiences after Covid19. Many of these are run through voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations often with limited resources, capacity, budget and space. This network of support serves Hounslow most vulnerable residents, however their resilience and sustainability are threatened without ongoing funding.**

*Informing a People-Centred Food Strategy for the London Borough of Hounslow, City St George's*

Age groups of those receiving community food support

Under 5yrs old  
**1%**

5 – 11yrs old  
**1%**

12 – 16yrs old  
**1%**

17 – 24yrs old  
**6%**

25 – 65yrs old  
**84%**

65 + yrs old  
**7%**



Source: Hounslow Food Network

## 2.6 Environment

480 tonnes of food waste emptied per month in 2025. This is equivalent of 5,760 tonnes of food waste per year

(Feb 2026)

Source: <https://www.lamptonservices.co.uk/services-for-residents/recycling-and-waste-services/>

There are 30 allotment sites with 1,924 allotment plots across the borough

(2026)

Source: LBH Parks and Allotments data

One of the key priorities for LBH is to make Hounslow Greener and contribute towards the borough's Climate Emergency Action Plan.<sup>xix</sup> Reducing food waste, promoting food growing and increase access to fruit trees address strengths climate resilience and reduce environmental impact.

In 2025, West London Waste Authority carried out waste composition analysis for Hounslow in 2024 and 2025. Avoidable and unavoidable food waste remained high across both years. These suggests there are potential issues and behaviours around purchasing, portioning, leftovers, and storage and a disconnection towards environmental impact caused by food waste.

There is growing demand for allotments in Hounslow. There are currently 1924 plots across the 30 allotments in the borough, and yet 2165 people are on the waiting list for a plot, suggesting that these spaces are actively used and valued as important community resources for food growing. Lack of allotment spaces impacts communities' ability to grow their own food, reduce food insecurity, build social connections, and engage in sustainable practices that support health and environmental resilience.

To promote a Greener borough, between 2021-2024 *Free Trees for Hounslow initiative*, provided over 2,000 fruit and non-fruit trees to residents, schools, and community groups. LBH continues to support maintenance of these fruit trees.

**Residents expressed their desire to be more self-reliant on growing their own food, however they felt knowledge, skills, time and space are some of the limiting factors. Some expressed there is a long waiting lists for allotments and sizes of these plots are too small.**

*Informing a People-Centred Food Strategy for the London Borough of Hounslow, City St George's*



## 3. Current Food Initiatives improving the local food system

### 3.1 Pioneering Policies

The London Borough of Hounslow has implemented two of the nation's pioneering policies, *Grow for the Future* and *Healthier Food Advertising* exemplifying the council's leadership and commitment to enhancing access to healthy food and promoting improved nutritional outcomes across all age groups.

#### Grow for the Future

##### Background

Hounslow council was the first council in the UK to implement "Grow for the Future" policy, a pioneering initiative to transform areas of unused council land to grow food and educate children on healthy living.

The demand for growing spaces in the borough increased since the covid 19 pandemic and waiting lists for allotment plots was getting longer. To meet some of this demand, sections of inaccessible and obsolete land were developed into areas for orchards, community gardens and allotment spaces.

Funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, this new policy is now supporting seven sites in Hounslow to link up with a local school or a community group in areas with limited green space.

##### Objectives

To convert areas of council owned land into community growing spaces, addressing increased demand and link each new site with a local school or a community group. School children, who may be disconnected from nature, are given the opportunity to cultivate food and understand where it comes from, allowing them to learn, and grow, for their future.

##### Outcome

Seven unused council-owned land cultivated and connected to a school or community organisations.



**Grow for the Future sites include:**

**Faggs Road North Allotment, Feltham TW14.**

A former allotment that has been closed for many years has now been restored as an allotment site with a community growing space and an ecology zone.



**Lampton Park Community Garden, TW3.**

This community garden at Lampton Park which has become an education hub for residents to explore food growing, maximise small spaces, share their knowledge and contribute to biodiversity.



**Brabazon Estate - Henley's Orchard, TW5.**

This project has opened up a neglected alleyway in Cranford's Brabazon Estate and transformed it into a thriving space with new fruit trees and lavender. 'Creative Growing' sessions have encouraged residents of all ages to learn the skills needed to grow food.



**Westmacott Drive Open Space, Feltham TW14.**

This project has transformed an underused, empty space in Westmacott Drive Open Space into a natural green haven. The wildflower meadow, fruit trees, raspberry and blackberry bushes have been intertwined with the native hedging. Links with nearby Rivers Academy has given pupils a larger space to grow more herbs, fruit and vegetables and learn about food growing.

**Hounslow's Healthier Food Advertising Policy: Protecting Children and Reducing Health Inequalities**

**Background**

In November 2024, Hounslow Council approved a local Healthier Food Advertising Policy to reduce residents' exposure to unhealthy food and drink advertising. The policy forms a key part of Hounslow's Health in All Policies approach and supports the borough's Whole Systems Approach to a healthy weight.

Research shows that advertising high-fat, salt, and sugar (HFSS) foods normalises unhealthy diets and is causally linked to obesity and long-term health risks. Exposure is higher in deprived areas, and most policies overlook products marketed to infants and young children, such as commercial baby foods and toddler milks high in free sugars, which can shape early taste preferences and unhealthy dietary habits.

**Objectives**

The Council aimed to:

1. **Reduce exposure** to HFSS advertising within the borough.
2. **Protect infants and young children** from inappropriately marketed foods and drinks.
3. **Address health inequalities** by restricting HFSS advertising across the borough.
4. **Support healthier environments** as part of the borough's Corporate Plan and healthy weight strategy.
5. **Demonstrate leadership** on the commercial determinants of health.

**Outcome**

Hounslow became the eighth London borough – and the first in North West London – to introduce a healthier food advertising policy.



### 3.2 Improving healthier food access

#### Good Food Retail Project

##### Background

Corner shops are vital to many residents who live away from supermarkets or who cannot travel far to shop. However, these tend to stock a limited range of fresh produce or healthier ranges, they also charge higher prices compared to supermarkets or street markets. As a result, people who rely on corner shops have fewer options to eat healthily, which subsequently leads to poorer health outcomes in these communities. Hounslow is the first outer London Borough to introduce the Good Food Retail project.

The project helped local store owners to better understand what their communities wanted through focus group discussions. Store owners were given a “stock drop”, free of charge, to trial healthier ranges they previously believed wouldn’t sell, allowing them to stock these products free of financial risk to their business.

The project is still in progress; all stores have received their “stock drop” and this is promoted to the local community with instore signage and through council communications. The project is due for completion in late March 2026.

##### Objectives

To support 10 corner shops in Feltham, improve the range of healthier options amongst their staple food lines.

##### Outcome

A 29% shift in sales in the first three months towards the healthier ranges was reported. All shop owners are committed to offering healthier ranges.



##### Key Takeaways

The residents’ focus group showed a genuine interest in having healthier food ranges available in corner shops. Of twelve stores approached, only two declined, showing an interest by shop owners in supporting the health of their customers. Once the project evaluation is complete, we hope that other corner shop owners in the borough will be confident to improve their food ranges, knowing that there is a customer demand for healthier options.

#### Jamie Oliver Ministry of Food Cooking Sessions

##### Background

As part of our whole systems approach to healthy weight in 2022, we identified that some residents lack cooking skills or feel unconfident in the kitchen. We therefore felt it was important to try and upskill them if we were to encourage them to cook for themselves and their families instead of relying on convenience foods and takeaways. The council’s Public Health Team partnered with Jamie Oliver’s Ministry of Food with the mission of supporting residents to cook nutritious, healthy meals on a budget.

The Train the Trainer course is a practical, hands-on, community-based cooking programme, which is accredited by the Royal Society for Public Health, giving the trainees the skills necessary to run community cooking courses. Intended trainees include Voluntary Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE) groups, Family Hub and school staff and local weight management provider, Healthy Hounslow.

In recognition that running courses cost money and require the right equipment, trainees are supported with funding towards ingredients cost and cooking equipment.

##### Objectives

The programme aims to train residents and community food providers using Jamie Oliver’s Ministry of Food “Train the Trainer” model, enabling them to deliver community cookery courses. This approach shares practical skills and knowledge, creating a ripple effect throughout the community, and covers basic nutrition, food safety, and budget-conscious cooking.

##### Outcome

The programme is still ongoing, so far, trainees have run 19 community cookery sessions attended by 240 people (including 194 children) with more courses planned in the future.



## Healthier Catering Commitment

### Background

The Healthier Catering Commitment (HCC) is a London-wide voluntary scheme encouraging food outlets, particularly fast food takeaways to offer healthier options by making simple changes, such as using unsaturated oils, grilling, offering low-fat dressings, healthier sides, and low-calorie drinks.

In Hounslow, 306 takeaways are concentrated in higher-deprivation areas, contributing to an unhealthy food environment and higher obesity rates. Since 2023, outlets in high-obesity areas have been invited to join, gaining access to a London-wide network, free promotion, and food safety training, helping improve nutritional quality without impacting their core business.

### Objectives

To support fast food outlets in the borough to sign up and make simple changes to reduce the amount of saturated fat, sugar and salt in their food, and to promote the healthier options to customers.

### Outcome

40 food outlets have signed up to HCC. Food outlets that can't meet all the necessary criteria to join the scheme are still supported to make some changes, for example switching from unhealthy cooking fat (50% saturated fat) to rapeseed oil (7% saturated fat).



## 3.3 Thriving Community Food Network

### Hounslow Food Network

#### Background

Food insecurity and related health inequalities remain a key priority for the council. Our vibrant VCSE sector continues to support vulnerable residents, building on the response during the Covid-19 pandemic. Years of austerity, the pandemic, and the cost-of-living crisis have made accessing affordable food difficult, highlighting the need for collaboration between the council and local organisations to tackle the root causes of food poverty and reduce reliance on food aid.

Through the Hounslow Food Network, 31 organisations, including food banks, community pantries, growing spaces, and hot meal providers, share good practice, access funding, and receive support for affordable operating spaces. Surplus food is redirected to these providers, reducing waste and environmental impact. Community pantries offer dignified access to healthy, affordable food, with residents typically paying £5 for at least £30 worth of groceries.

Council funding and initiatives, such as kitchen upgrades in community centres and support through Thriving Community Funding and UK Shared Prosperity Funding, help expand local food provision, from lunch clubs to restored allotments. By partnering with the council and other agencies, community food providers can offer "wrap-around" support, helping residents build resilience and reduce long-term dependence on food aid.

#### Objectives

To support vulnerable residents by forming Hounslow Food Network comprising the council, VCSE organisations and local/regional surplus food providers, offering them food and wider "wrap around" support for issues such as debt, housing, employment advice and training.

#### Outcome

31 community organisations are part of this network, in 2024/25, approximately 388 tonnes of food was distributed, comprising approx. 925,000 items of food, supporting 17,638 individuals in the borough.



## 4. Hounslow Food System Analysis

The UK Food Strategy outlines that our existing food systems is driving negative consequences to our health, environment and resilience with exceptionally high levels of food price inflation impacting food insecurity, particularly on those who are most vulnerable in our society.<sup>xxx</sup>

Hounslow's food system faces challenges from fragmented responsibilities across borough councils, the Greater London Authority, and national government, compounded by budget constraints, limited data, and the influence of large corporate actors, which hinder coordinated, long-term planning. Despite these challenges, the council is actively strengthening the local food system to enhance access to healthy food, promote sustainability, and build community resilience, supporting initiatives such as urban food-growing projects, community cookery training, and the Healthier Catering Commitment scheme.

The consolidated data and insights presented in this review provide a clearer understanding of the broader challenges within the food system. Social determinants play a foundational role in shaping how individuals engage with and navigate the food environment.

Structural and systemic barriers such as income, employment security, housing conditions, education, ethnicity, and migration status significantly influence food access, affordability and availability and ultimately, health outcomes.

Lower-income households are more vulnerable to food insecurity, price volatility, and reliance on energy-dense, lower-cost foods, particularly in areas where healthier options are less affordable or less physically accessible.

Educational attainment and health literacy shape food knowledge and confidence in food preparation, while shift work and precarious employment constrain time available for cooking.

Structural inequalities, including those linked to deprivation, also intersect with the spatial distribution of food outlets, contributing to uneven exposure to fast-food outlets and limited fresh and nutritious food.

These social determinants are not external to the food system, rather, they actively configure consumption patterns and health outcomes.

### 4.1 Limitations

This review was undertaken within a limited timeframe, which restricted the scope of data that could be collected and analysed. As a result, key areas of the local food system could not be fully included, in particular, comprehensive data relating to food provision and procurement within early years settings, schools, care homes, and hospital catering.

It is also important to recognise that a significant amount of positive work is taking place across the borough that may not have been captured due to these time constraints.

Despite these limitations, the report provides a valuable overview of the key issues and opportunities within Hounslow's food system.

## 5. Next Steps

The council aims to develop a People-Centred Food Strategy for Hounslow that builds on existing successful food-related workstreams. This strategy will enable cross-departmental collaboration to address structural and systemic barriers to healthy, sustainable, and equitable food access. It will also draw on recommendations from the commissioned report Informing a People-Centred Food Strategy to guide evidence-based actions across the borough.

### 5.1 A vision for Hounslow's Food Strategy

The 2025 LBH commissioned report Informing a People-Centred Food Strategy for the London Borough of Hounslow outlines a collective vision for Hounslow's Food Strategy.



#### Healthy food accessible by all

Everyone has access to the food they need for a healthy, sustainable, and culturally appropriate diet.



#### Empowered and cohesive community

Residents are empowered to drive food systems change; social and cultural diversity is recognised and celebrated; and vital work of civil society and community-based organisations is valued.



#### Healthy community

A healthy and active community with universal access to food and healthcare services, with reduced rates of non-communicable diseases, obesity and dietary-related ill health for all residents.



#### Resilient and circular food system

Local food systems drive transitions towards a Net Zero economy, Biodiversity Net Gain, and environmental sustainability; community resilience through local food production and distribution; reduced food waste; and a thriving and climate-friendly local food economy.

# Citations

---

- <sup>i</sup> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2025) A UK government food strategy for England, considering the wider UK food system. GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-uk-government-food-strategy-for-england/a-uk-government-food-strategy-for-england-considering-the-wider-uk-food-system> (Accessed: 4 February 2026).
- <sup>ii</sup> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2025) A UK government food strategy for England, considering the wider UK food system. GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-uk-government-food-strategy-for-england/a-uk-government-food-strategy-for-england-considering-the-wider-uk-food-system> (Accessed: 4 February 2026).
- <sup>iii</sup> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2025) A UK government food strategy for England, considering the wider UK food system. GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-uk-government-food-strategy-for-england/a-uk-government-food-strategy-for-england-considering-the-wider-uk-food-system> (Accessed: 4 February 2026).
- <sup>iv</sup> EAT-Lancet Commission (2025) The EAT-Lancet Commission on healthy, sustainable and just food systems. Available at: <https://eatforum.org> (Accessed: 4 February 2026).
- <sup>v</sup> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2025) A UK government food strategy for England, considering the wider UK food system. GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-uk-government-food-strategy-for-england/a-uk-government-food-strategy-for-england-considering-the-wider-uk-food-system> (Accessed: 4 February 2026).
- <sup>vi</sup> Local Government Association (2020) On the ground at the table: The role of local government in supporting sustainable food and drink supply chains. London: Local Government Association. Available at: <https://www.local.gov.uk> (Accessed: 10 February 2026).
- <sup>vii</sup> Sustainable Food Places (2023) The role of local authorities in building sustainable food systems. Available at: <https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org> (Accessed: 10 February 2026).
- <sup>viii</sup> Gallagher Squires, C. et al. (2024) Feeding our families in a cost-of-living crisis: parents' experiences and ideas for change. A participatory case study in Hounslow. Available at: [https://www.ucl.ac.uk/health/sites/health/files/mar24\\_opru\\_city\\_report\\_feeding\\_our\\_families\\_photobook.pdf](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/health/sites/health/files/mar24_opru_city_report_feeding_our_families_photobook.pdf) (Accessed: 4 February 2026).
- <sup>ix</sup> United Nations System High-Level Task Force on Global Food Security (HLTF) (2015) Zero Hunger Challenge – Advisory note for action: All food systems are sustainable, United Nations. Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/issues/food/taskforce/wg3.shtml> (Accessed: 19 February 2026).
- <sup>x</sup> Parsons, K., Hawkes, C. and Wells, R. (2019) Brief 2: Understanding the food system: Why it matters for food policy. Rethinking Food Policy: A Fresh Approach to Policy and Practice. London: Centre for Food Policy, City, University of London. Available at: <https://openaccess.city.ac.uk/id/eprint/22795/> (Accessed: 4 February 2026).
- <sup>xi</sup> London Borough of Hounslow (2024) State of the Borough 2024. Hounslow Data Hub. Available at: <https://stats.hounslow.gov.uk/state-of-the-borough-2024/> (Accessed: 4 February 2026).
- <sup>xii</sup> London Borough of Hounslow (2024) State of the Borough 2024. Hounslow Data Hub. Available at: <https://stats.hounslow.gov.uk/state-of-the-borough-2024/> (Accessed: 4 February 2026).
- <sup>xiii</sup> London Borough of Hounslow (2024) State of the Borough 2024. Hounslow Data Hub. Available at: <https://stats.hounslow.gov.uk/state-of-the-borough-2024/> (Accessed: 4 February 2026).
- <sup>xiv</sup> Marmot, M. (2010) Fair society, healthy lives: The Marmot Review. London: The Marmot Review  
Home Office (2025) Immigration system statistics data tables. GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-data-tables#asylum> (Accessed: 14 February 2026).
- <sup>xvi</sup> London Borough of Hounslow (2023) On hold, the lived experiences of asylum seekers in Hounslow's contingency hotels: Annual Public Health Report 2022–23. London Borough of Hounslow. Available at: [https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4191/on\\_hold\\_the\\_lived\\_experiences\\_of\\_asylum\\_seekers\\_in\\_hounslow\\_s\\_contingency\\_hotels.pdf](https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4191/on_hold_the_lived_experiences_of_asylum_seekers_in_hounslow_s_contingency_hotels.pdf) (Accessed: 14 February 2026).
- <sup>xvii</sup> Food Foundation (2025) The Broken Plate 2025. Available at: <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/publication/broken-plate-2025> (Accessed: 26 February 2026).
- <sup>xviii</sup> Hardman, C. et al. (2025) Study seeks to address dietary inequalities for people living in social housing. University of Liverpool. Available at: <https://news.liverpool.ac.uk/2025/07/08/study-seeks-to-address-dietary-inequalities-for-people-living-in-social-housing/> (Accessed: 5 February 2026).
- <sup>xix</sup> London Borough of Hounslow (2024) State of the Borough 2024. Hounslow Data Hub. Available at: <https://stats.hounslow.gov.uk/state-of-the-borough-2024/> (Accessed: 4 February 2026).
- <sup>xx</sup> The Food Foundation (2025) Roadmap to Reducing Food Insecurity in the UK. Available at: <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/publication/roadmap-reducing-food-insecurity-uk> (Accessed: 14 February 2026).
- <sup>xxi</sup> Marmot, M. (2010) Fair society, healthy lives: The Marmot Review. London: The Marmot Review.
- <sup>xxii</sup> World Health Organization (2025) Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) fact sheet. Available at: <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cardiovascular-diseases-%28cvds%29> (Accessed: 14 February 2026).
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Public Health England (2017) Health matters: obesity and the food environment. GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-obesity-and-the-food-environment/health-matters-obesity-and-the-food-environment--2> (Accessed: 15 February 2026).
- <sup>xxiv</sup> Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2025) National Child Measurement Programme: information for schools 2025. GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-child-measurement-programme-information-for-schools/national-child-measurement-programme-information-for-schools-2025> (Accessed: 15 February 2026).
- <sup>xxv</sup> Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (2025) Wider determinants of health: statistical commentary on the location of fast food outlets. GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/wider-determinants-of-health-february-2025-update/wider-determinants-of-health-statistical-commentary-february-2025> (Accessed: 15 February 2026).
- <sup>xxvi</sup> Public Health England (2017) Health matters: obesity and the food environment. GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-obesity-and-the-food-environment/health-matters-obesity-and-the-food-environment--2> (Accessed: 15 February 2026).
- <sup>xxvii</sup> The Trussell Trust (2025) End of year food bank stats: emergency food parcel distribution 2024/25. Available at: <https://www.trussell.org.uk/news-and-research/latest-stats> (Accessed: 15 February 2026).
- <sup>xxviii</sup> The Trussell Trust (2025) End of year food bank stats: emergency food parcel distribution 2024/25. Available at: <https://www.trussell.org.uk/news-and-research/latest-stats> (Accessed: 15 February 2026).
- <sup>xxix</sup> London Borough of Hounslow (2025) Climate Emergency Action Plan 2026–2030. London: London Borough of Hounslow. Available at: <https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/environment/climate-emergency> (Accessed: 16 February 2026).
- <sup>xxx</sup> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2025) A UK government food strategy for England, considering the wider UK food system. GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-uk-government-food-strategy-for-england/a-uk-government-food-strategy-for-england-considering-the-wider-uk-food-system> (Accessed: 20 February 2026).

# **A Food Systems Review for Hounslow**

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO A HEALTHIER, SUSTAINABLE AND FAIRER  
FOOD SYSTEM



**London Borough  
of Hounslow**