



Dear Cotswold Taste Member,

Please find below the latest Food from England newsletter.

Lots of updates from our regional food group colleagues in this edition. Produced in Kent is opening up a “bricks and mortar” shop in Bluewater Shopping Centre, whilst Greater Lincolnshire is developing the UK Food Valley Programme to position its UK-leading food sector as a Top 10 Global Food Cluster.

If you want to find out more about current trends and developments in the UK food and drinks arena why not sign up for the free digital summit from The Food People on 23 November.

Needing help to grow your business. Have a look at the Help to Grow government funded scheme.

Next week sees a couple of seminars on the Plastic Packaging Tax and how that will work.

Finally, Defra are working in collaboration with the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) to encourage more local businesses to supply the public sector. You can find out more about the new public sector food agreement, Buying Better Food, further on in the newsletter.

As usual, if you have any feedback, comments, further questions or would like support from Cotswold Taste please do get in touch.

We will do our best to help you.

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**Food from England Member Updates:**

**Food and Drink Forum**

On Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, the Food and Drink Forum had the pleasure of hosting a visit by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, to officially open The Food Works SW. During her visit, Her Royal Highness met tenants and centre users to understand just how vital the on-site technical support, product development facilities and business units are in enabling business growth, innovation and productivity. Having toured the facilities, Her Royal Highness unveiled a plaque to mark the Centre's official opening.

You can find the official images of this visit [here](#).

**Produced in Kent**

Produced in Kent are delighted to announce that their brand-new shop is now open at Bluewater Shopping Centre, selling food and drink made in Kent.

The project is a partnership between Landsec and Produced in Kent and its members, which will create a retail theatre and demonstration space to champion some of the best independent brands in the area. Eight brands have been chosen so far, including Kent Crisps, Kentish Oils & Condiments, A Little Bit Food Co, Fudge Kitchen and Meopham Valley Vineyard.

To stay up to date with competitions celebrating the opening of the Produced in Kent shop at Bluewater, and to receive information about Produced in Kent, sign up to the mailing list [here](#) and follow [@ProducedinKent](#) on Instagram and [Produced in Kent](#) on Facebook.

**Greater Lincolnshire LEP:**

Please find the online edition [here](#), shining a spotlight on the annual LEP Conference and launch of the UK Food Valley on 2nd November. This edition is introduced by Sarah Louise Fairburn, promoting the UK Food Valley launch and you can view her short intro [here](#).

They thank you for your contribution and participation and encourage you to attend and promote the conference - register [here](#), and help us build engagement by sharing relevant stories and sectors across your networks and platforms.

**IFE Connects:**

If you've visited our shows or explored the IFE Connects platform you'll have seen Charles Banks, CoFounder of The Food People, speak about trends and future foresight across food and beverage. As part of this collaboration, Charles and the team at The Food People are delighted to invite the IFE community to attend their 2022/23 Food and Beverage Trend Summit on **23rd November 2021**.

During this FREE to attend digital summit, The Food People will be making sense of the future trends through a range of keynotes, presentations and interviews. In addition, as an attendee you'll receive the latest downloadable trends infographic and post summit content replays.

To register, click [here](#).



**FROM DEFRA:**

**Agreement reached to ensure supplies of CO2 to businesses**

The carbon dioxide (CO2) industry has come to an agreement to ensure UK businesses have access to a sustainable supply of CO2 - an essential component of the national economy.

CO2 suppliers have agreed to pay CF Fertilisers a price for the CO2 it produces that will enable it to continue operating while global gas prices remain high, drawing on support from industry and delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

This price for CO2 reflects the vital importance of this material to everything from our nuclear industry to hospitals to the food and beverage industry. CF Fertilisers produces around 60% of the UK's commercial CO2 requirements.

Please find further detail in the press release on GOV.UK [here](#).

**Agri-Food guidance and updates**

**Government Chemist contributes to Institute of Food Science Technology food allergens resource**

The Institute of Food Science Technology has launched a new Food Allergens Knowledge Hub to help consumers, food businesses and educators source best practice advice. Read more [here](#).

**Project launched to tackle greenwashing in food and drink sectors**

The Environment Agency has [launched a project](#) to standardise metrics for environmental performance for the food and drink sector.

**£500 million Plan for Jobs expansion**

Hundreds of thousands of people are to be supported as part of the more-than £500 million expansion of the Government's Plan for Jobs. The Government is also extending its £3,000 incentive payment for every apprentice a business hires up until 31 January 2022. Read more [here](#).

**Plastic Packaging Tax**

A new Plastic Packaging Tax comes into force on 1 April 2022.

**Invitation to participate in research**

We are looking to get feedback on the Plastic Packaging Tax, and will be conducting research sessions during October and November 2021, with further research sessions being held through to April 2022.

If you or your organisation would like to participate in a research session, please contact [ruth.clark@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.clark@hmrc.gov.uk) with a contact name and email address of a suitable person who we can speak with. If you have already participated in research sessions, thank you, and please get in touch as we would appreciate your continued support.



You can find full details on the Plastic Packaging Tax page at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

In light of helpful feedback from industry, the requirement to include a Plastic Packaging Tax statement with invoices will not be commenced when the rest of the tax takes effect on 1 April 2022.

We encourage businesses to consider how they can address this on a voluntary basis in the short term. In the medium term, HMRC will work with industry to agree an effective and practical requirement.

Further guidance and support to businesses will be provided in the near future.

### **Plastic Packaging Tax: webinars**

Businesses that manufacture or import plastic packaging can sign up for HMRC's "Get Ready for Plastic Packaging Tax Webinars" to learn more about what needs to be done before the tax comes into force on 1 April 2022. HMRC's webinars will also give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have regarding the administration of the tax.

#### **Get ready for Plastic Packaging Tax - administration and technical aspects webinar**

This webinar will cover the technical points about recycled plastic and exemptions from tax. It will take place at 11:45am on Friday 12 November. Sign up [here](#).

#### **Get ready for Plastic Packaging Tax - introduction to Plastic Packaging Tax webinar**

This webinar will cover how the tax will operate. It will take place at 1:45pm on Monday 8 November. Sign up [here](#).

You can find full details on the Plastic Packaging Tax page at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

### **Government set to bolster supply chains**

The Government has announced a [consultation](#) to temporarily extend cabotage rules and a package of measures to support the pig industry.

Read more [here](#).

### **Prime Minister appoints expert supply chain adviser**

The Prime Minister has appointed Sir David Lewis as the UK Government's supply chain adviser. Read more [here](#)...

### **Help to Grow scheme**

[Help to Grow](#) is a £520 million scheme to help owners of small and medium-sized business take their business to the next level. There are two Government-backed programmes designed to help leaders learn new skills, reach more customers and boost profits:

[Help to Grow: Management](#) offers senior business leaders management and leadership training, delivered by business schools across the UK.

[Help to Grow: Digital](#) offers businesses free, impartial advice on how technology can boost business, delivered through a new online platform, and discounts on approved software.



A communications toolkit to help promote the scheme to business leaders is also available.

### **Net Zero Strategy**

The Net Zero Strategy was published on 19 October. It outlines measures to transition to a green and sustainable future, helping businesses and consumers to move to clean power, supporting hundreds of thousands of well-paid jobs and leveraging up to £90 billion of private investment by 2030.

The HM Treasury Net Zero Review Final Report and Net Zero Research and Innovation Framework have also been published.

### **Government response to the Climate Change Committee report on progress in adapting to climate change**

The Government has published a response to the Climate Change Committee's report and their recommendations on adaptation.

### **Notices for traders**

#### **Public Sector Food Procurement - Buying Better Food**

Defra are working in collaboration with the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) to encourage more local businesses to supply the public sector. As part of this development, CCS is in the process of engaging with customers and suppliers to inform the procurement strategy for their new public sector food agreement, Buying Better Food. If you would like to speak with the CCS Food Team, please contact [food@crowncommercial.gov](mailto:food@crowncommercial.gov) and a member of the team will get back to you. More information and progress updates on the procurement agreement can be found on the CCS website.

### **Coronavirus updates**

#### **Travel advice changes for over 50 countries and territories**

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office lifts its advice against all but essential travel for a further 51 countries and territories. Read more here.

#### **Guidance on using ventilation in the workplace**

It is important to keep your workplace well-ventilated to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. HSE have produced a new video across their Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter channels, specifically to explain how to keep your workers safe if they work in a vehicle as part of their job.

More guidance on improving ventilation in all workplaces can be found in the HSE "Working Safely" guidance here.