A People’s Food Policy was a process that resulted in the publication of a 100-page report that calls for food policy and practice that puts the wellbeing of people and environment first, develops integrated food policy, and creates participatory decision-making approaches that empower those most affected by these policies.

Reflections: What was it all for?
The PFP process built on a decade of organising in social movements for food sovereignty in the UK. Both as a process and as a product, it contributes to advancing food sovereignty.

Reflections: Challenges
• When seeking endorsement and participation, some individuals and organisations whom we viewed as allies, were sometimes reticent to be involved.
• Terminology and politics: Some reject or avoid using food sovereignty, generally choosing less political terminology (e.g. food security).
• Territory: Some organisations were coordinating their own policy processes where they had more control.
• While participatory processes are often imperfect they are fundamental for a democratic society and for the realisation of food sovereignty.
• Participation is time and resources intensive. This initiative accomplished a great deal with very little funding. We need public investment to expand effective participation and to deepen democracy.

Description of the Process
• Stewarded by 8 individuals from food sovereignty organisations in England.
• From January 2016 to June 2017, involved dialogue, workshops and debates amongst with civil society organisations and groups.
• Built on longer processes and work in communities and social movements.
• Based on a budget of approximately £25,000.
• Endorsed by over 100 organisations.
• Part of an active and on-going process of mobilisation.

The document:
• Articulates for the first time in detail the meaning and practice of food sovereignty in the UK
• Provides concrete recommendations for policy based on food sovereignty
• Creates a framework and reference points for action

The process
• Through a participatory process, demonstrated food sovereignty in practice and that policy-processes can and must be done differently.
• Strengthened food sovereignty networks by bringing together sometimes disparate groups working on food sovereignty around a common purpose
• Responds to a political crisis-opportunity (Brexit).

A PEOPLE’S FOOD POLICY
Transforming our food system

1. GOVERNANCE
1.1 Create a Fair Food Act for England
1.2 Establish democratic mechanisms for public participation
1.3 Establish training programmes for policy making

2. FOOD PRODUCTION
2.1 Promote the use of organic farming in England
2.2 Increase local food production and related economies
2.3 Increase horticultural production and related economies
2.4 Improve animal welfare and rural livelihoods
2.5 Develop a rigorous framework for post-Brexit fish policy
2.6 Support growing England’s farmers

3. HEALTH
3.1 Eliminate household food insecurity
3.2 Support child health
3.3 Address public health
3.4 Improve transport programmes for England and Other People
3.5 Support and adopt the UN Universal Declaration on the Rights of Peasants

4. LAND
4.1 Establish a Land Commission
4.2 Strengthen community rights
4.3 Improve tenant rights
4.4 Create a land policy
4.5 Reform planning sales agency

5. LABOUR
5.1 Support and adopt the UN Universal Declaration on the Rights of Peasants
5.2 Guarantee a living wage
5.3 Improve transport programmes for England and Other People
5.4 Introduce a ‘Seasonal Workers’ visas system

6. ENVIRONMENT
6.1 Protect natural resources
6.2 Prioritise short supply chains in FPO
6.3 Protect and improve biodiversity
6.4 Protect and restore related GHG emissions
6.5 Support carbon programmes
6.6 Protect territory

7. KNOWLEDGE
7.1 Improve vocational training and apprenticeships
7.2 Improve agricultural extension
7.3 Improve vocational training
7.4 Improve Scientific and Technological Research

8. TRADE
8.1 Ensure food stays affordable
8.2 Prioritise short supply chains in FPO
8.3 Improve transport programmes for England and Other People
8.4 Protect domestic economies, both in food and meat

9. FINANCE
9.1 Create a new system for support England’s farmers
9.2 Support farming that delivers public goods
9.3 Tax carbon, junk food economies, internationally
9.4 Fund community farms
9.5 Improve financial support for regional infrastructure

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Download at: www.peoplesfoodpolicy.org

Poster produced and designed by: Colin R. Anderson (CAWR), Ian Fitzpatrick and Dee Butterly. Email: info@peoplesfoodpolicy.org