ROBUST
Unlocking Rural-Urban Synergies

School meals: Gloucestershire Living Lab

Daniel Keech, Damian Maye and Matt Reed
University of Gloucestershire
dkeech@glos.ac.uk

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ROBUST receives funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727988.
School food procurement in Glos now

- GCC has contracted out its school food catering service to a commercial company - Caterlink (held contract since ‘14)
- Caterlink buys food, employs and trains 500 cooks in Glos
- Good system, currently Food For Life ‘Silver’ award for local souring, food quality, links with school community
  https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/
- About 18,500 meals a day are supplied to nearly 190 primary schools who are opted in to the GCC-facilitated service (c. 80%)
- Just over 100 production kitchens; 80+ schools without
- Meal budget is around £2.30 per head
- New contract will be issued in July 2021
Recent ‘Dynamic Procurement System’ developments

• UK Treasury policy to ensure public procurement supports SMEs.
• In the past, smaller and local producers have found it challenging to enter pp contracts, usually awarded in ‘lots’ (cf. Lisb/Ljub experience?)
• DPS (originated in retail) consolidates all available supplies from qualified farmers and presents these to buyers.
• Supplies (and prices) may change daily (hence dynamic) meaning no lots - a greater range of pre-qualified producers can dip in and out.
• Eases need to balance hard choices. You buy what’s shown.
• Fresh Range (Keynsham piloted with BANES - 60 schools/20 producers); CCS leading DPS pilot in SW in 2021: 300-400 suppliers aimed for.
• ROBUST - business case for DPS inclusion in 2021 + pilot for meat/veg.
Anchor institutes?

- Sticky capital
- Large employer
- Large land/asset owner
- Spending power

Culminating in the ability to positively influence the social, economic and environmental conditions in an area.

- UK case study Preston Borough Council/ CLES

## Summary

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<th>Positives</th>
<th>Reflections</th>
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<td>Caterlink service already very good – it works well, Food for Life, relationships.</td>
<td>Some local producers are hooked in but relies on key local suppliers.</td>
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<td>SME support is a major political driver from central to local govt.</td>
<td>Complex to break into other public sectors, all have particular needs.</td>
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<td>High demand – c.18,000 meals a day across c.190 schools (rural, urban, large and small).</td>
<td>Must be reliable – <strong>experimenting is risky</strong>; safeguarding (food tolerance) is vital; academisation.</td>
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<td>Contract term more or less parallel with regional DPS pilot.</td>
<td>GCC can only control school food and has a sub-regional mandate.</td>
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<td>ROBUST provides some resource to support progress.</td>
<td>Time-limited project – legacy in the Glos Food Strat? <strong>Work with Monmouth?</strong> <strong>Work with Monmouth?</strong></td>
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<td>Anchor institutes hold a lot of potential to support local economic development and well-being.</td>
<td>Requires new, multi-level governance alliances and multiple sector co-ordination (quadruple helix).</td>
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