

Unity House Center (UHC)

First Project: Three of Life (Branch 1) • Working Proposal • 14 Feb 2026

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Executive Summary

Unity House Center (UHC) is a national-scale concept designed to reduce food waste, expand affordable access to nutritious meals, and create structured reintegration pathways for vulnerable groups. The model proposes a network of community hubs that combine surplus-food redistribution, low-cost canteens, recycling/donation services, and support signposting — delivered through evidence-led pilots and scaled responsibly in partnership with local authorities, universities, and private-sector stakeholders.

Three of Life — Programme Architecture

Visio Nova Mundi develops a multi-branch innovation portfolio known as Three of Life. Each branch begins as a measured pilot, is evaluated independently, and scales based on evidence. Unity House Center is the first active branch. Additional branches will be introduced over the next five years as research and delivery capacity grows.

The Problem

- Food waste: significant volumes of edible food are wasted across the retail and hospitality supply chain.
- Cost of living: many households face food insecurity and rising costs.
- Social exclusion: people experiencing homelessness, prison leavers, and newcomers often face barriers to stable work and community integration.
- Recycling and household waste: large quantities of reusable goods are discarded rather than redistributed or repurposed.

Vision

UHC aims to provide inclusive, practical spaces in every region where people can access affordable meals, essential services, and pathways to stability — while dramatically reducing waste through circular economy operations.

Core Model (What a Unity House Center Is)

- A low-cost canteen using surplus food to offer nutritious meals at accessible prices.
- A redistribution hub for surplus items from supermarkets, cafés, and local businesses.
- A recycling and donation point for household items (clothes, small appliances, furniture, etc.), with resale or redistribution.
- Optional services: showers, laundry access, Wi-Fi, basic signposting to housing/health/benefits advice.
- A structured training and employment pathway for eligible participants.

Reintegration & Participation Pathway (Voluntary, Safeguarded)

UHC is designed as a voluntary, dignity-first pathway toward reintegration and stability. The model proposes structured opportunities for people experiencing homelessness, prison leavers assessed as suitable for community reintegration, and migrants/newcomers who are legally eligible to work. Participation is safeguarded, rights-respecting, and coordinated with relevant agencies where appropriate.

- Eligibility screening and risk assessment for placements (including safeguarding and probation coordination where applicable).
- Individual plan + caseworker support, with weekly progress reviews.
- Skills training and certification (food hygiene, logistics, customer service, facilities).
- Employer pipeline and job placement support, including 90-day retention support.
- Clear escalation routes for safeguarding concerns and crisis support.

Food Waste Collection & Redistribution

- Surplus collection from supermarkets and participating outlets (including smaller chains and cafés).
- Prioritisation of items with earliest expiry dates to minimise waste.
- Processing into meals, meal components, or redistribution packs, depending on safety and quality.
- Where permitted and safe, non-human-grade surplus may be redirected to appropriate agricultural uses (subject to regulations).
- A pilot target of substantial waste reduction, scaling toward higher diversion rates with evidence and compliance.

Unified Membership (Club Card) — Concept

UHC may use a unified membership approach to enable fair access and to support targeted assistance. Any financial-support mechanism would be developed with government and regulated partners, with careful safeguards, privacy-by-design, and legal compliance.

- Discounted meals and services at UHC centres.

- Optional app for ordering, accessibility support, and centre information (hours, locations, services).
- Family management features (spending limits, notifications, and transparency for linked accounts).

Digital Platform (App) — Safety & Privacy Principles

- Privacy-by-design (GDPR-aligned): minimal data collection and clear user consent.
- Strong security practices: 2FA, encryption, audit logging.
- Accessibility: multilingual support, simple UX, options for non-digital access (phone support).
- Safeguarded identity support: identity/documentation support must be delivered through lawful public services.

Prison & Probation Collaboration (Research & Pilot Concepts)

UHC includes a research stream exploring rehabilitation and reintegration improvements. Any prison-related pilots must be delivered with HM Prison & Probation Service, safeguarding oversight, and ethical review.

- Structured work and training placements for eligible prison leavers (non-violent / low-risk) to support reintegration.
- Evaluation research on outcomes: employment, stability, and reoffending risk reduction.
- Any in-custody services would require governance approval and welfare/equality impact assessment.

Household Recycling & Donation System

- Local drop-off points for recycling and donation, integrated with UHC centres.
- Optional scheduled collections (pilot) using low-emissions vehicles where feasible.
- Incentives and transparency: show communities how much waste has been diverted and where items go.
- Resale at symbolic prices to fund operations; donation pathways for those in need.

Centre Layout (Example Zoning)

- Reception & information point
- Kitchen + dining hall
- Recycling and donation hub
- Facilities: toilets, showers, laundry
- Digital & learning zone
- Health / counselling signposting rooms
- Staff offices + training room

- Food storage (cold + dry)
- Emergency accommodation (small, crisis/weather-only pilot where lawful)
- Outdoor area for garden / community events

Pilot Plan: Pilot → Measure → Refine → Scale

- Phase 1 (0–3 months): feasibility, partner mapping, site selection, governance and safeguarding design.
- Phase 2 (4–6 months): launch pilot centre(s), define KPIs, collect baseline data.
- Phase 3 (7–12 months): independent evaluation, publish learning report, refine operations.
- Phase 4 (Year 2+): scale regionally based on evidence and partner readiness.

What We Measure (Example KPIs)

- Food waste diverted (kg/tonnes) and meals served.
- Participant outcomes: training completions, job placements, retention at 30/90/180 days.
- Stability indicators: housing transitions supported; reduced crisis service use (where measurable).
- Operational efficiency: cost per meal, cost per outcome, partner satisfaction.
- Community engagement: volunteering, donations redistributed, local sentiment surveys.

Funding & Sustainability (High-Level)

UHC would combine multiple funding streams, starting with pilots. National-scale funding assumptions should be validated through economic modelling with academic and public-sector partners.

- Surplus-food diversion savings and reduced disposal costs (where applicable).
- Low-cost meal sales to offset operations while protecting access for vulnerable groups.
- Public-private partnerships, philanthropy, and grants.
- Donations resale / circular economy marketplace revenues (where appropriate).
- Long-term: government and institutional partnerships if pilots demonstrate measurable savings and outcomes.

Governance, Safeguarding & Ethics

- Independent oversight and transparent reporting.
- Safeguarding policy + designated safeguarding lead in each pilot.
- Equality impact assessments and accessibility considerations.
- Data protection compliance for any digital systems.

- Ethical review for any research involving vulnerable populations.

Next Steps (Practical)

- Select 1–3 pilot locations (small town + medium city + urban borough).
- Build a partner consortium: council, university evaluator, supermarkets, local charities, employers.
- Draft feasibility pack: staffing model, safeguarding plan, KPI framework, pilot budget.
- Secure pilot premises and logistics for surplus collection.
- Launch pilot and publish a first-year evaluation summary.

Appendix: Notes on Language and Compliance

This proposal frames support for vulnerable populations as voluntary and safeguarded. Any policy ideas involving enforcement, identity processing, or compulsory intervention require legal and ethical review and should be explored only through appropriate public authorities.

Integrated Concepts (Expanded) — Framed for Pilots & Compliance

This section incorporates additional ideas from the original concept into a structured, fundable, and legally safer format. Items below are proposed as research-led pilots or partnership options, subject to legal review, safeguarding, and appropriate regulatory oversight.

1) Supermarket Coalition & Non-Profit Delivery Model

UHC proposes a coalition approach where major supermarkets and selected hospitality partners participate through a shared non-profit vehicle (or coordinated partnership agreement) to reduce edible food waste and redirect surplus into community benefit.

- Participation model: voluntary, contract-based surplus donation and logistics collaboration.
- Shared standards: food safety, traceability, quality thresholds, and reporting requirements.
- Brand approach: supermarkets remain independent brands; UHC operates as a neutral delivery partner.
- Incentives: reduced disposal costs, ESG reporting benefits, community impact, and reputational value.
- Governance: independent oversight board with public-sector and community representation.

2) Surplus Collection Logistics & Low-Emissions Fleet

UHC can pilot a low-emissions collection network to aggregate surplus from supermarkets, smaller retailers, and cafés. Route optimisation and scheduling reduce costs and emissions while increasing diversion rates.

- Pilot fleet: EV vans where feasible; hybrid/logistics partners where necessary.
- Routing: data-informed scheduling to prioritise earliest-expiry items.
- Cold-chain: appropriate refrigeration and handling for perishable items.
- Hubs: local UHC centres act as consolidation points for cooking, redistribution, and reporting.
- Compliance: food hygiene standards, allergen labelling, and audit-ready logs.

3) Affordable Meals + Targeted Support (Including Pensioner Offer)

UHC centres provide low-cost meals for the wider community and targeted support for vulnerable groups. Any free-meal provision should be delivered via funded pilots with clear eligibility criteria and transparent cost modelling.

- Price model: low-cost meals using surplus ingredients, with quality and nutrition standards.
- Targeted support pilots: pensioners in hardship, low-income households, and crisis referrals via partner agencies.

- Accessibility: phone ordering support, authorised collection by family/carers, and delivery pilots for mobility-limited users.
- Health outcomes: link nutrition support to preventive health goals in partnership with local health stakeholders.

4) Club Card / App Concept — Privacy-by-Design & Regulated Delivery

The original club-card/app vision is reframed as a regulated, privacy-by-design access layer for discounts, ordering, and support eligibility. Any benefits or credit mechanisms must be delivered through lawful channels (e.g., government, regulated financial partners, or accredited charities).

- Core features: centre locator, menus, opening hours, services available, and optional ordering.
- Support features: eligibility-based vouchers or meal credits administered by authorised partners (not by UHC unilaterally).
- Family tools: optional linked accounts, spending limits, and transparency controls.
- Security: encryption, 2FA, audit logging; minimal data collection; explicit consent.
- Non-digital routes: phone and in-person access remain available.

5) Emergency Support Credit — Safer Formulation

The Emergency Credit idea is reframed as an emergency support pathway delivered through regulated partners and existing safeguarding routes. UHC can contribute food support and referrals, while accommodation/transport assistance is coordinated through statutory services and approved providers.

- Domestic crisis support: referral pathway for people facing immediate risk (e.g., domestic abuse), coordinated with local authorities and specialist charities.
- Travel crisis support: signposting to consular and emergency support services; partnership exploration with insurers and regulated finance providers.
- Food support: short-term meal vouchers or free meals through UHC under a funded hardship pilot.
- Safeguards: eligibility checks, anti-fraud controls, and specialist caseworker oversight.

6) Prison & Probation: Work-Placement + Reintegration (Research-Led)

The original prison elements are reframed as research-led reintegration pilots with HM Prison & Probation Service. Any work placements must be voluntary, risk-assessed, and aligned with existing legal frameworks.

- Eligibility: non-violent / low-risk cohorts assessed by HMPPS and partners.
- Work placements: skills training, supervised shifts, accredited qualifications, and employment references.
- Outcomes tracked: employment, stability, and reoffending risk reduction (independent evaluation).
- Ethics: independent oversight, equality impact assessment, and safeguarding protocols.

- In-custody services: any on-site food services would require governance approval and welfare review.

7) Circular Economy Marketplace (Donations, Reuse, Repair)

UHC centres can include donation drop-offs and a circular economy marketplace to reduce waste and support access to essentials.

- Drop-off points: clothes, small appliances, bikes, furniture (subject to capacity).
- Repair & reuse: partnership with local repair cafés and training providers.
- Distribution: free allocation pathways via partner referrals; symbolic pricing to fund operations.
- Transparency: reporting on items diverted from landfill and redistributed to communities.

8) Policy & Systems Innovation (Evidence, Not Enforcement)

Some ideas in the original document involve major legal and policy change. These should be positioned as research and policy modelling work — not operational enforcement. Visio Nova Mundi can convene evidence reviews, run pilots, and publish findings to inform policy debate.

- Economic modelling: validate assumptions about savings and costs with academic partners.
- Legislative analysis: work with legal experts to assess feasibility and safeguards.
- Ethics review: ensure vulnerable populations are protected and participation remains voluntary.
- Public engagement: consult communities and stakeholders; publish transparent learning reports.

Note on Identity & Documentation Support

Any proposal involving identity verification, documentation issuance, or biometric processing must be delivered only by lawful public authorities and under strict legal frameworks. UHC may support signposting to legitimate services but must not replicate government identity functions.