CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. How important do you think it is that we aim to be a Good Food Nation? #

Comments

2. How would we know when we had got there? What would success look like?

Comments

3. Do you agree with the proposed vision? How would you improve it?

Comments

4. How would your life be better? What does being a Good Food Nation mean in your locality?

Comments

5. Are there any other essential steps we need to take before setting out on this journey?

Comments

6. How do you think a Food Commission could best help?

Comments

7. In what areas should indicators be set to check we are on track towards our goals?

Comments

8. What are your views on the different approaches that could be taken to help us become a Good Food Nation?

Comments
9. Do you agree with the proposed initial focus on:
   - Food in the public sector
   - A children’s food policy
   - Local food
   - Good food choices and
   - Continued economic growth?

Comments

10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

Comments

11. What other steps toward achieving a Good Food Nation would you recommend?

Comments

12. What else should be considered?

Comments

13. What steps do you plan to take to help Scotland on the journey toward becoming a Good Food Nation – in the next month and in the next 12 months?

Comments

14. How did you hear about this Discussion Document?

Comments

Responding to this Consultation Paper

We are inviting written responses to this consultation paper by 17th October 2014. Please send your response with the completed Respondent Information Form (see "Handling your Response" below) to:

goodfoodnation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Or by post to:
Good Food Nation
Food and Drink Division
B1 Spur
Saughton House
Edinburgh
‘Becoming a Good Food Nation’

A response to the discussion paper from the Edinburgh Local Food Network.

Further background to this response can be found on www.edinburghfood.org.

ELFN welcomes the fact that while ‘Recipe for Success’ was largely focussed on the economic importance of food as a key Scottish export, ‘Good Food Nation’ is clear in its understanding of the social, cultural and environmental aspects of food and acknowledges that here, unlike the success story of the economic side, there is much that remains unsatisfactory. It is excellent that the document highlights the poor health-related diet of many Scots, the staggering amount of food wasted, the insecurity of our food supply, the significant contribution to greenhouse gases made by the food sector and our poor attitude to food in terms of what we buy. These are all realities in the wider food ‘story’ that have to be acknowledged as part of any policy preparation. The paper’s acknowledgement of the fundamental disconnect between most people and the food system that serves them (which ELFN talks about much of the time) is very welcome.

Acknowledging what it calls the ‘burgeoning interest in local food’ and the ‘explosion in the local food movement’, the document rightly sees the local food sector as possessing both energy and experience that can play a large part in tackling some of what it calls this ‘unfinished business’, in particular at the community level.

We agree with the assertion in the document that it follows from confirming the wide benefits of ‘good food’ and the range of interests involved in developing or delivering this, that ‘Everyone must be on board’. ELFN welcomes the imminent appointment of a Scottish Food Commission and the main role for it outlined in the document; (we understand that the creation of this Commission is not dependent on the feedback to the discussion paper). The Food Commission could be a powerful advocate provided it really represents and is influential across the full spectrum of food, and its procedures and practice are transparent. The suggestion that the Commission might maintain ‘a network of local food champions’ is interesting but without a clear role and some authority these could have little influence and produce few benefits. Although the document acknowledges that much change will be driven by consumers themselves, there is little evidence in the document (other than one passing reference to the ‘sometimes controversial’ long reach of
the food retailers) that Government recognises the huge barrier to change towards better buying and eating habits potentially represented by the supermarket chains from which we currently buy 93% of our food. There is no acknowledgement of the potential contribution of planning policies that might favour either the ability to grow more local food, or to encourage the kind of alternative retailing systems that could make it available.

A policy such as this clearly has to have a vision, but is the stated vision ‘Everyone will know what constitutes good food and why’ in fact meaningful in any graspable way, or deliverable. It does not constitute a SMART objective. However the five priorities proposed in the document are specific and sensible. The public sector is an area which however small is a good place to demonstrate what can be done and how it is done. Children’s food is clearly important, though perhaps a more complicated area than the document implies. It is important to continue to support ‘local food initiatives’, but it would be good to see a more targeted and strategic approach than has been demonstrated by the support that has stemmed from the CCF and from the Think Local initiative. Consumer behaviour is an important target, but again one that is difficult to be specific about and an area where a lot of public money could be spent but with little to show for it.

ELFN welcomes ‘Becoming a Good Food Nation’ as a significant improvement in the Government’s understanding of food and in particular of its cultural, social and environmental aspects. Policy needs a vision behind it but can ‘Good food’ be defined or understood in a way that everyone will agree on? The closest the document gets to a definition is ‘tasty to eat and nutritious, fresh and environmentally sustainable’. The proof of this particular pudding will lie in the degree to which different sectors of government can work together at the right level on implementing specific meaningful objectives.

The paper outlines many welcome and worthwhile proposals; much vigilance and lobbying will be needed to see these turned into real action and real policy changes. ELFN looks forward to remaining in touch with the Scottish Government over the development of this policy.

Edinburgh Local Food Network

This email was scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Vodafone in partnership with Symantec. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) In case of problems, please call your organisations IT Helpdesk. Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------