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?

10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

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

12. What else should be considered?

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?

14. How did you hear about this Discussion Document?

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
If you have any queries please contact Eugenia Christie at 0131 244 9574.

This consultation, and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages of the Scottish Government website at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations.

The Scottish Government has an email alert system for consultations, http://register.scotland.gov.uk. This system allows stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive a weekly email containing details of all new consultations (including web links). It complements, but in no way replaces Scottish Government distribution lists, and is designed to allow stakeholders to keep up to date with all Scottish Government consultation activity, and therefore be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. We would encourage you to register.

Handling your response
We need to know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. Please complete and return the Respondent Information Form which forms part of the consultation questionnaire attached an annex as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation.

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public in the Scottish Government Library (see the attached Respondent Information Form). These will be made available to the public in the Scottish Government Library by (date to be confirmed). You can make arrangements to view responses by contacting the Scottish Government Library on 0131 244 4556.

Responses can be copied and sent to you, but a charge may be made for this service.

What happens next?
Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered in shaping the direction of Scotland’s Food Policy.
15 October 2014

Richard Lochhead MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment
The Scottish Government
St. Andrews House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Dear Richard

The COSLA Development, Economy and Sustainability Executive Group discussed on Thursday 2 October the current Good Food Nation consultation and mandated me to respond. Given the remit of the Executive Group I have primarily focussed our response on the economic development, tourism and sustainability aspects of the consultation.

It has been suggested in discussion by COSLA members that given the leadership role displayed by Local Government in regard to Climate Change through the Scottish Climate Change Declaration, the current collective position on voluntary reporting for climate change, that further reporting duties are not required as part of the achievement of a Good Food Nation. COSLA would therefore not welcome the Food Commission recommending that any further reporting duties are placed on the public sector above that contained within the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.

As part of previous political considerations, Convention in response to the Procurement Reform Act provided specific comment and support for the amendment which required a contracting authority’s procurement strategy to set out its general policy on fair trade. Convention agreed to support any further amendments proposed which promoted the inclusion of ethical and fair trade practices or the procurement of fairly and ethically traded goods and services, where this promotion is both reasonable and practicable. This reflects councils long-standing support for fair trade campaigns. COSLA would reiterate the need for a Good Food Nation to also be an ethical and fair trade nation.

In regard to the procurement of food and the suggestion of unbundling of contracts in the consultation, the current procurement legislation landscape is still in a state of flux. Whilst members reiterated again their clear support for stimulating supply capacity and demand amongst small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) they were also cognisant of the legal requirements to deliver best value and provide equal access to procurement opportunities by European law.

Indeed, in a further paper to the 2 October meeting of our Executive Group, members charged officers with obtaining from the Scottish Government further information as to how the sustainable procurement duty would sit alongside the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) aspect of the newly revised European Directive, as well as Best Value, and
the Climate Change duties. The transposition of the current Directive will be the subject of a further consultation in Autumn/Winter 2014, so currently the procurement reform agenda for public food still has a further legislative process to undergo in the view of members.

Recent surveys of companies in the food and drink sector that have analysed reasons for not increasing exports have highlighted the lack of time and resources to investigate exporting opportunities. This lack of time/resource was particularly an issue for SMEs alongside the complexity of logistics and a lack of knowledge of international markets. Research by Scottish Development International (SDI) also suggests that businesses overestimate the risks of exporting and underestimate the benefits.

SDI and Business Gateway have worked closely together in the delivery of workshops, such as Smart Exporter, which attempt to tackle these issues. As such skills and training are crucial within this sector and the wider tourism sector to help encourage food to be sourced locally. This in turn encourages development of the supply chain, whereby companies feel more confident in considering exporting opportunities. Further consideration of this area will address demand and supply issues in terms of the provision of local produce, as opposed to utilising imports to meet demand, and therefore in turn local supplies may gain confidence and consider exporting themselves.

In the context of this consultation members have previously expressed a clear position on the opportunities for business growth and innovation across Scotland to be supported by EU Funds 2014-2020. Members have previously requested that the Business Gateway service is the key point of entry for business competitiveness and rural business support to ensure a streamlined business support system outside the account management sector. This focussing of support on a single service would also enable the retention of capacity to address the barriers to growth currently cited by food and drink sector businesses and presumably potentially barriers to further entry from new businesses.

The final issue members wished me to comment upon in relation to the Good Food Nation is a continuing proposed focus on reducing food waste given its impact on household budgets, the impact on greenhouse gas emissions and also the specific impact on public finances through the costs of landfill tax paid on sending food waste mixed with general waste to landfill. Therefore, as I have stated in previous correspondence, I think it’s vital that all councils who are required to have a food waste collection by regulation have been able to access de minimis funding through the continuation of the dedicated funding managed by Zero Waste Scotland. The 2011-2014 funding pot was committed without achieving full coverage of all councils required to have a food waste collection by 2015.

COSLA has also previously expressed a general disappointment that the regulatory and legislative changes associated with the zero waste agenda have not provided further mechanisms for extended producer responsibility. Continuing to place further potential costs on waste disposal authorities to deal with complex waste streams rather than encourage prevention of waste in the first instance could be detrimental to the delivery of services in line with the higher end of activities detailed in the waste hierarchy.

Kind Regards

Cllr Stephen Hagan
COSLA Spokesperson for Development, Economy & Sustainability