CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

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

Comments Very and your draft document and this consultation are a very welcome processes and useful initiatives in this development.

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 Generally the vision is sound and should be supported. Any improvements that we can suggest have been detailed in the specific responses to your following questions.

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

Comments In Lanarkshire this would mean that there is a vibrate community food sector, helping to improve the lives and diet of local people especially those in deprives areas. This would be achieved by having a sustainable community retailing network (co-ops), access to free information, healthy eating advice, cooking skills and nutrition classes and by supporting local initiatives to access fresh seasonal local produce direct from producers. These mechanisms would allow everyone, including people on very low incomes have the choice on what they eat and access to fresh health produce at affordable prices. An added benefit would be that people currently experiencing extreme food poverty would have a sustainable mechanism to elevate the effects of extreme low incomes rather that have to rely on food donations through food banks and other similar programmes.
5. Are there any other essential steps we need to take before setting out on this journey?

Comments You need to have a greater understanding of the capacity, spread and sustainability of existing community food initiatives and what actions are required to ensure their longevity and growth. To some extent this long term capacity and sustainability is just assumed within the document and this assumption may not be accurate without additional and lasting support.

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

Comments As above have a greater dialog with existing groups and via a strong representative from the voluntary sector on the Food Commission, who is able to represent the depth and width of the sector.

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

Comments You should choose balanced indicators that represent both positive and negative issues. For example the need to develop large scale commercial activity (eg exports) could have an impact on the links that small groups can make to improve access to locally produced produce. A” balanced scorecard” type of approach could be useful in this respect.

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

Comments We have no issues with your approach but it’s about the proportionality and how you priorities the plan, working with wide variations in the types and scales of disparate organisations, from the largest producers and retailers to the smallest voluntary community initiative. Sometimes the scale of an organisation does not match the returns and outcomes available especially if you consider the inequalities that exist within communities across Scotland.

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 These are all relevant but there need to be an urgent focus on extreme food poverty within the primary focus.
10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

**Comments** As above priority must include work on extreme food poverty

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** Our focus is on the sustainability of our programmes which include

- Emergency Food Aid
- Community Retailing
- Early Years programmes
- Expanding the volumes of directly purchased local food.
- Maintaining our capacity to deliver nutrition advise sessions, cooking and healthy eating classes

All of which are to some extent at risk from local budget changes, short term non-ring fenced funding and a constant need to keep reinventing and re-badging longstanding successful programmes.

14. How did you hear about this Discussion Document?

**Comments** Through our attendance at the Cross Party Group on Food

**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](mailto:goodfoodnation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Or by post to:
Good Food Nation
Food and Drink Division
B1 Spur
Saughton House
1. How important do you think it is that we aim to be a Good Food Nation?........

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Ian Shankland – Manager
Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Partnership
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