CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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?

Separate sheet provided.

10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

Separate sheet provided.

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

Separate sheet provided.

12. What else should be considered?

Separate sheet provided.

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?

Separate sheet provided.

14. How did you hear about this Discussion Document?

Received e-mail.

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
EH11 3XD

If you have any queries please contact Eugenia Christie at 0131 244 9574.
Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee
Consultation Response to Becoming a Good Food Nation

1. How important do you think it is that we aim to be a Good Food Nation?
SFELC believes it is very important that we aim to be a “Good Food Nation” particularly in view of the adverse health impacts that are diet related. SFELC is also aware of the important contribution that Scottish food industry makes to the Scottish economy.

2. How would we know when we had got there? What would success look like?
SFELC believes that improved health indicators in relation to levels of obesity and dietary related ill health could help demonstrate progress towards becoming a ‘Good Food Nation’. High levels of compliance with food safety and food compositional requirements could also be used to help identify progress in this area. At a recent meeting hosted by SFELC some local authority food safety enforcement staff advocated an extension to the scope of the Food Hygiene Information Scheme to encompass food standards compliance. This is a development that could be considered as part of this phase of Scotland’s National Food & Drink policy.

SFELC believes that careful consideration needs to be given to determining “what success looks like” and would recommend that outcome measures are used in order to demonstrate the success in a tangible way. Human health indicators that are currently measured in relation to diet may therefore provide the best examples of demonstrating success.

3. Do you agree with the proposed vision? How would you improve it?
SFELC agrees with the broad aims of the vision, particularly in relation to improving health and promoting economic benefits for the food industry. SFELC believes the vision could be improved by removing elements that will be difficult to measure e.g. people taking pride and pleasure in food. The vision should also be clear on what aspects of our present culinary heritage that we are to be “rightly proud of”; there is a tendency to take pride in bad food stereotypes, particularly if they are deep fried.

4. How would your life be better? What does being a Good Food Nation mean in your locality?
SFELC has representatives from all over Scotland and it is therefore difficult to answer this question in terms of locality. However, as an organisation involved in food safety and the enforcement of food legislation, an obvious improvement would be in relation to the levels of compliance with food legislation. SFELC could see a situation where the relationship between enforcers and the food industry would become more collaborative if high levels of compliance was the norm. This would allow enforcement to be targeted appropriately and this in turn would benefit compliant food businesses from those who would seek to gain an advantage through non-compliance.

5. Are there any other essential steps we need to take before setting out on this journey?
SFELC believes careful consideration needs to be given to determining what the measures of success will be and that they are based on ‘SMART’ outcomes. SFELC would also recommend that the Scottish Government consider the competing factors that could limit the progress towards becoming a ‘Good food Nation’, particularly in relation to the drive to reduce expenditure in the public sector and the ability for small and medium sized food businesses to compete for public sector contracts. SFELC recognises that the vision sets challenging aims over a relatively short period and the consultation document does not go into any detail on how achieving the vision is to be resourced. SFELC is aware that the
public sector is operating under difficult financial circumstances and many sectors could find it difficult to take on new activities.

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

SFELC does not feel that the consultation document adequately sets out the role and specific actions that the Food Commission will be responsible for. SFELC also notes that in relation to grants for research, this activity would be expected to have been undertaken by the new food body Food Standards Scotland. In order to avoid duplication of effort the roles of the Food Commission and Food Standards Scotland will need to be clearly defined.

However, despite the lack of detail in the document, SFELC believes there could be a role for the Food Commission in acting as a liaison body with other organisations and interested parties involved in food.

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

SFELC is aware that there are a number of indicators that already exist and would advocate that these are used where possible to minimise additional reporting burdens on organisations. This phase of the national policy may be a suitable time to take stock of the existing indicators and if there are any gaps these could be used to set any new indicators.

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

SFELC does not have enough information to comment specifically on the different approaches. However, SFELC is aware that there are competing policy areas that could impact on the progress of the policy and believes it is important that there are good liaison arrangements put in place to ensure different policy areas compliment each other.

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?

SFELC agrees with the initial focus of the policy and recognises that any children’s food policy will need to be effectively communicated to parents to ensure benefits are realised.

10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

SFELC believes the correct focus has been determined.

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

SFELC believes that improving health indicators should reduce expenditure in the future and that successful food businesses will make valuable contributions to the wider Scottish economy and employment. In order to maximise these benefits SFELC would recommend that this policy is adequately resourced.

12. What else should be considered?

SFELC would suggest that any guidance provided to the public sector in relation to procurement should be reviewed and updated as necessary to support the objectives of this policy area. Scottish Government may also consider reviewing what steps could be taken to encourage local authorities to assist voluntary groups in establishing community based food initiatives and community businesses.

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?

SFELC proposes to continue to work with local authorities, the Food Standards Agency and Scottish Government to promote effective regulation of food legislation in order to promote sustainable economic development within the food industry. SFELC also proposes to
promote initiatives designed to improve food safety and composition and is aimed at improving public health.