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

It is important for economic and cultural reasons which should carry equal weight.

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

We would agree that linking it to measurable outcomes such as health indicators (obesity, heart disease, strokes etc) would be the right direction as would the increase of economic value and diversity of the food producing sector.

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

Yes, but we would strengthen the vision to include a focus on access to affordable food particularly as its aims cannot ignore wider issues around food poverty and the right for people to have an adequate standard of living. This point is made on page 20 of the consultation where we seek to counter the perception that caring about food should only be for those who can afford to do so and that healthy, sustainable and delicious food should be accessible for everyone.

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

In Fife this would mean people and communities having the knowledge, confidence and skills to make positive and informed food choices. In particular those living in SIMD areas will benefit from equal access to affordable, healthy food.

In Fife we have a Fife Health and Wellbeing Plan that encourages increased engagement of local communities in food initiatives including allotments and growing schemes; the reduction of food poverty; equal access to an affordable, healthy diet.

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

National and regional/area priorities should be met with resources at community level. For example, presence of allotments in each area where demand exists, development of community kitchens and training facilities where community groups and partners can promote food and health messages; and development of community food champions can be established.

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

To achieve impact existing and future community based initiatives cannot rely solely on lottery funding or sporadic grants and should receive core/mainstream funding.

We would encourage the Food Commission to support the development of community food hubs and community food champions based in low income communities across
Scotland. Long term resources focussed on community based approaches to addressing food poverty and issues relating to skills, knowledge, food access and food culture, would help to build capacity and ensure sustainability of food and health activities.

The Commission should also consider a role looking at food security and rights to food working in tandem with the Scottish Human Rights Commission and the developing Scottish Humans Rights Action plan.

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

*Increase in fruit and veg intake (see Scottish Household Survey)*
*Health indicators*
*Add to Scottish Household Survey- how many times a week do you cook from scratch?*

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

*A partnership across all levels is essential with a role for individuals, public, private and voluntary sectors in supporting and developing the aims and principles of a Good Food Nation. For example, a community food development worker can develop skills and knowledge at community level and a comparable promotion in a takeaway would be affordable healthy alternatives.*

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?

Yes, but rather than a specific food policy for children, a focus on the wider family.

10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

*Food is an engagement tool and within all walks of life has the ability to bring people together. Community Food Hubs can help this by placing food as a focus in the community. For example, allotments and communal growing, the provision of training and practical food and cooking workshops, community lunches, emergency food aid and surplus food initiatives (Fareshare), creating opportunities for volunteering and development of community cohesion.*

11. What other steps toward achieving a Good Food Nation would you recommend?
In Good Food Choices, we would suggest the development of a national network of **community food champions**, possibly certificated. We can see a number of examples at local authority or NHS board level where this is developing.

**Community Food Champions (Fife model) are:**

“*staff or volunteers who promote and/or deliver positive food and health messages within their community of interest*”

This would increase capacity and ensure a bottom up approach. The food champions are trained and supported with funding, resources, equipment etc.

Community Food Champions can access local community kitchens facilities and in Fife we are developing where possible refurbished **community kitchens** where agencies and community groups can deliver practical food and health work.

These two initiatives can be incorporated into community food hubs promoting positive food messages, delivering practical food work, addressing food access and availability issue. This has the potential to link into community growing and allotment projects as well as emergency aid providers and other anti food poverty activities.

An additional indicator for success may be the number of community food champions active throughout Scotland

12. What else should be considered?

13. What steps do you plan to take to help Scotland on the journey toward

*We are part of Fife Council based team working on food and health initiative at community level and subject to funding would seek to continue supporting the development of community food champions, development of food hubs and other anti food poverty work*

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