CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. How important do you think it is that we aim to be a Good Food Nation?
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   Comments It is of vital importance that we aim to become a ‘Good Food Nation’, but this will only be achieved when it is experienced in every community. We have tremendous levels of healthy food farmed and produced in Scotland, but we must ensure that all in society have access to it. Unless healthy and nutritious food is available and accessible for those on the lowest incomes, we will not be a Good Food Nation.

2. How would we know when we had got there? What would success look like?
   Success would see Scotland being free from the need for large scale use of foodbanks. All people would have local access to high quality, affordable food. Food banks are a source of national shame and the Scottish Government has articulated its’ commitment to creating a Scotland free from them. However, whilst welfare reforms and other recent changes have heightened our current situation of food poverty, there are long-standing deeper issues which must be tackled.
   Due to the structural nature of poverty in Scotland, people on low incomes have been deprived of access to cheap and fresh healthy food. Unless we start to listen to people living in food poverty, we will not be able to properly articulate what a Good Food Nation should look like. Success needs to centre on the availability and access of cheap, nutritious food, with a future vision truly representative of the views of those currently marginalised.

3. Do you agree with the proposed vision? How would you improve it?
   Improving diets and access to nutritious food is clearly commendable and necessary. As many pieces of research show, the benefits of a healthy diet are broad and go far beyond immediate health needs. This vision, however, must be articulated to cover all in society. There needs to be a much stronger focus on the fact that food poverty is a reality for many in Scotland today. The vision should include a holistic response to poverty in general, recognising the reality of food poverty. This includes, but also means going beyond, income levels, to a deeper understanding of the barriers to accessing cheap healthy food for people on low incomes, not least location. Economic growth should not be seen as the end in itself. Instead, it should be structured as merely a means towards the goal of a meaningful reduction in inequality, which in turn benefits all of society. Food Poverty is a gross violation of human rights and must be tackled head on before we can aspire to becoming a Good Food Nation.

4. How would your life be better? What does being a Good Food Nation mean in your locality?
5. Are there any other essential steps we need to take before setting out on this journey?

Comments: If this vision is to be realised across Scotland, people with experience of food poverty must play a pivotal role in the shaping and delivery stages. Their voices must be heard for they are the experts on their situation. Welfare reform and other policies have failed to tackle poverty in Scotland as they have not listened enough to those with experience of poverty. This consultation, however, presents us with the opportunity to try to redress this through a more inclusive and participatory process.

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

A Food Commission should include participation from all walks of life as food is fundamental resource for all of us. Any proposed Commission should have a place for those who have experienced, or are experiencing food poverty.

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

Comments: The litmus test of this aspiration to create a Good Food Nation is the diet and health outcomes of those on the lowest incomes, living in marginalised communities.

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?

The children’s food policy needs to take account of the fact that record numbers of children in Scotland live in poverty. Continued economic growth should be viewed within the framework of how it can contribute to better health outcomes for those on the lowest incomes.
10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

Local food including a strong focus on people producing their own food. The Government should legislate so that Local Authorities must prioritise food growing in available spaces as a community resource rather than for speculative development.

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?

Via the distribution list

14. How did you hear about this Discussion Document?