



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

CONSULTATION ON SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT GOOD FOOD NATION PROPOSALS FOR LEGISLATION

REPORT BY HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to advise the Council Executive of the Scottish Government's Consultation on Good Food Nation Proposals for Legislation.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council Executive:

1. notes and considers the proposed response to the Scottish Government's consultation on Good Food Nation Proposals for Legislation, approves the proposed response and agrees to its submission to the Scottish Government.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs being honest, open and accountable providing equality of opportunities making best use of our resources working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single	

Outcome Agreement

We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)

None

VII Consideration at PDSP

Social Policy, Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel 22 March 2019

VIII Other consultations

Operational Services, Education Services, Corporate Procurement and Health Improvement Team

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Background

The Scottish Government launched their consultation on 21st December 2018 seeking views on how best to achieve the outcomes in relation to the Good Food Nation ambition, including the development and implementation of legislation in this area.

The consultation will inform the further development of policy in this important and cross-cutting policy area.

The timing of the consultation response has meant that there is a very short timescale between the Social Policy PDSP (22nd March 2019) and the Council Executive (26th March). Therefore any comments made by the PDSP will be highlighted verbally at the Council Executive and in the final response submitted to Scottish Government.

The National Food and Drink Policy – Becoming a Good Food Nation

The National Food and Drink Policy – Becoming a Good Food Nation was published in 2014. The policy set a new and exciting vision for Scotland to be a Good Food Nation where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day. The Good Food Nation vision recognised that change is required to achieve this ambitious aim and that legislation might be one way to achieve the culture shift required to help Scotland become a Good Food Nation.

The aim was to work to ensure that:

- It is the norm for Scots to take a keen interest in their food, knowing what constitutes good food, valuing it and seeking it out whenever they can.
- People who serve and sell food – from schools to hospitals, retailers, cafes and restaurants – are committed to serving and selling good food.
- Everyone in Scotland has ready access to the healthy, nutritious food they need.
- Dietary-related diseases are in decline, as is the environmental impact of our food consumption.
- Scottish producers ensure that what they produce is increasingly healthy and environmentally sound.
- Food companies are a thriving feature of the economy and places where people want to work.
- Other countries look to Scotland to learn how to become a Good Food Nation.

To help develop this policy, a non-statutory Scottish Food Commission was established to provide advice to the Cabinet Secretary on the existing and future challenges facing Scotland's food culture and how these might be addressed.

Scottish Ministers published the "Good Food Nation Programme of Measures" on 11 September 2018. This highlights the significant range of work that is already being done – or is planned - to develop the Good Food Nation ambition in Scotland.

The first recommendation of the Scottish Food Commission in their report to Scottish Ministers, was that the focus should be on a straightforward framework placing responsibilities on Scottish Ministers and selected public bodies with regard to food, in line with the principles and practices of the Good Food Nation policy.

Whilst it is recognised that legislation is not the **only** way to make progress, Scottish Ministers propose that there is a place for legislation to underpin the significant work already being done.

A statement of policy would be required to cover food production and consumption issues relating to, for example and where applicable, the growing, harvesting, processing, marketing, sale, preparation and consumption of food, and disposal of waste arising from this; and access to affordable, local, nutritious and culturally appropriate food, and food in the public sector. Compatibility with relevant EU obligations would be essential. Particular account would need to be taken of the implications of Brexit, not just in relation to anticipated impacts on producers but in relation to the rights, well-being and food security of the general public.

The proposal is that whilst the general framework principles would be set out in primary legislation, the detailed provisions would be contained in secondary legislation, making it easier to amend and update.

Proposed West Lothian Position.

The consultation asks four questions and responses to these have been sought from Operational Services, Education Services, Procurement and Health Improvement. The draft consultation response detailed in Appendix 1 notes that the service areas consulted were generally cautious in relation to the proposed legislation.

They were clear that the legislation should not be confined to public sector organisations and that if the culture change required is to be successful the legislation would need to be holistic and include all public, private and parental buy-in.

There would need to be support for implementation of any policy and a means of making it sustainable. Organisations require resource to assist in developing and managing the policy and report on implementation. It was also noted that the government's proposals could see increased costs to local authorities and consideration should be taken in how these will be funded (regulation, inspection and compliance).

E. CONCLUSION

Changing a food culture is complex and needs a coordinated and holistic approach. Since the Diet Action Plan for Scotland was launched in 1996 there has been a plethora of policies and action plans aimed at improving diet and health in Scotland. The bringing together of current policies underpinned by legislation could provide the basis to achieving the outcomes for a Good Food Nation.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Consultation on Good Food Nation Proposals for Legislation Scottish Government
December 2018

Appendices/Attachments: West Lothian Consultation on Good Food Nation
Proposals for Legislation

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