

National Good Food Nation Plan consultation

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland. For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

1 Executive summary

Scottish Government released a consultation of the National Good Food Nation Plan. They are looking for views on the six Good Food Nation Outcomes and their proposed ways of measuring progress, as well as the functions defined in secondary legislation. This is important for local authorities as the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 requires local authorities to produce their own plans, and to have regard for the content of the national plan.

The consultation closes on 22nd April 2024, [click here](#) to submit your response. Responses to the consultation will be summarised in a published statement, and any revisions to the plan will take place before laying it with Scottish Parliament for 60 days; after this, the Scottish Ministers will have 3 months to finalise the national plan before it is published.

2 Background

The following six Good Food Nation Outcomes are overarching, long-term strategic plans that will be progressed through future iterations of the Good Food Nation Plan:

The Good Food Nation Outcomes

- Outcome 1: Everyone in Scotland eats well with reliable access to safe, nutritious, affordable, sustainable, and age and culturally appropriate food.
- Outcome 2: Scotland's food system is sustainable and contributes to a flourishing natural environment. It supports our net zero ambitions, and plays an important role in maintaining and improving animal welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.
- Outcome 3: Scotland's food system encourages a physically and mentally healthy population, leading to a reduction in diet-related conditions.
- Outcome 4: Our food and drink sector is prosperous, diverse, innovative, and vital to national and local economic and social wellbeing. It is key to making Scotland food secure and food

resilient, and creates and sustains jobs and businesses underpinned by fair work standards.

- Outcome 5: Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are interested in and educated about good and sustainable food.
- Outcome 6: Scotland has a global reputation for high-quality food that we want to continue to grow. Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation. We share and learn from best practice internationally.

The approach is planned to bring greater consistency to food policy while allowing relevant authorities to respond to unique pressures and circumstances. The Act also provides for the establishment of the Scottish Food Commission which will review the progress of the Good Food Nation Plans across local authorities and health boards. The Scottish Government recognizes that the achievement of a Good Food Nation is a process that will be achieved through multiple plans. They plan to publish a progress report every two years and a review of the plan every 5 years.

The outcomes reflect the need to adjust how food is produced, processed, distributed and disposed of in Scotland to address climate change and environmental degradation in Scotland, while also aiming to improve the number of people who meet the Scottish Dietary Goals on fruit, vegetables, fibre and free sugars. The outcomes should also take into consideration other challenges that exist in the food system such as households that experience food insecurity; transition needs to be managed in a just and fair manner.

Measuring progress through targets and indicators will be a big part of assessing the progress towards achieving the Good Food Nation Outcomes. The Scottish Government have noted that some of the new data required may be more complex to collect due to factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic making data gathering and establishing baselines more difficult. Scottish Government policy officials carried out a review of a range of targets but determined that there is limited scope to include these targets in the first national plan. Proposed new targets include:

- Extending the current diet and healthy weight commitments – aiming to halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reducing diet-related inequalities, and extending this to include levels of adult healthy weight
- Strengthen household food insecurity commitments – reducing the number of households facing moderate to severe food insecurity and those accessing emergency food provision

There is also work ongoing to inform future targets on public procurement and animal welfare.

As part of the work towards a Good Food Nation, an officially supported Good Food Nation Working Group will be established as a forum for policy officials to discuss complex issues. This will act alongside the Ministerial Working Group on Food. The new Scottish Food Commission will play an

important role in achieving the Good Food Nation Outcomes, and the next iteration of the national plan will reflect the work that is currently ongoing in areas such as the review of evidence on ultra-processed foods by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition, or the Committee on Climate Change's recommendations on reducing red meat and dairy consumption. For further information on the links of policy areas to outcomes and which pieces of legislation and policy documentation they relate to, please refer to [Annex A](#) of the plan.

3 Consultation questions

The consultation questions are listed below:

1. Does each individual Good Food Nation Outcome describe the kind of Scottish food system you would like to see?
2. What, if anything, would you change about the Good Food Nation Outcomes and why?
3. Do you think that these targets will contribute to achieving the overall Good Food Nation Outcomes?
4. Would achieving these targets contribute to making the kind of Scottish food system you would like to see?
5. If you have other comments on the suggested Good Food Nation targets, please comment:
6. Do you think these indicators will be useful for measuring progress towards the Good Food Nation Outcomes?
7. What other indicators, if any, would you like to see included?
8. If you have other comments on suggested Good Food Nation indicators, please comment:
9. Does this reflect what you think life should look like for a child in Scotland as a Good Food Nation?
 - I have access to healthy and nutritious food that is appropriate for my age and developmental stage
 - Eating and enjoying a healthy diet is the norm for me
 - I have the opportunity to participate in a variety of food-related educational experiences on a regular basis
 - I will never experience hunger
10. Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a parent / carer in a Good Food Nation?
 - I am knowledgeable about how to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for those in my care and am empowered to do so
 - I know where to go for support should I experience difficulties that prevent me from purchasing food or preparing hot food at home
 - I am confident that childcare settings and schools are providing healthy, nutritious and

culturally appropriate food and that they are educating children about the food system

- If I am pregnant I know where to go for support and can make fully informed choices on how to feed myself and my baby

11. Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as an adult in a Good Food Nation?

- I can easily access food that I enjoy and that keeps me healthy and well
- I know where to go if I experience financial difficulties, and the response is fast, coordinated and meets my needs with dignity and respect
- Healthy and sustainable options are easy to find wherever I eat and buy food
- I can easily access information about the environmental, social, and nutritional impacts of my food and its provenance that helps me to make informed decisions

12. Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a public caterer in a Good Food Nation?

- I procure healthy, fresh, in-season, and nutritious food to meet the needs of the people using my services
- I recognise the role that food can play in strengthening community ties. I promote and provide healthy, enjoyable, and sustainable options as the norm on my menus
- My procurement choices help to support a variety of producers
- I have reduced avoidable food waste as much as possible, and I ensure that unavoidable food waste is disposed of in a sustainable manner

13. Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a retailer in a Good Food Nation?

- As an employer, I meet Fair Work First criteria. I ensure that all procurement contracts I enter into are fair and equitable for producers
- I create a store environment that makes healthy and nutritious options affordable and appealing for everyone. I help consumers to better understand the nutritional quality and provenance of the food I sell
- Decisions I make in store and through procurement help Scotland to achieve its net zero ambitions, for example by minimising food waste.
- I play an important role in supporting a stronger local food economy and increasing food security in Scotland

14. Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a restaurant owner in a Good Food Nation?

- I celebrate fresh, seasonal produce and integrate it into my menu. I have an active role in supporting my local food economy

- I share my passion for good food with my customers so that they become more informed about its provenance, how it's prepared and its nutritional value
- As an employer, I meet Fair Work First criteria. I create a rewarding work environment for my employees
- I am creative with my menu. This can help me to minimise food waste for the benefit of my business, people, and the environment

15. Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a farmer / crofter in a Good Food Nation?

- I feel that my work is respected and that I am able to get a fair price for my produce. I can easily sell my produce locally should I wish to do so
- My farming and land management practices reduce my environmental impact, increase biodiversity and ensure high animal welfare standards on my farm or croft
- I benefit from a variety of support, including training and advice, to help me run a successful and sustainable farm or croft
- I help to build resilient supply chains and contribute to food security in Scotland

16. Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a fisher in a Good Food Nation?

- I feel that my work is respected and that I am able to get a fair price for my catch
- I support the marine environment and ecosystem with sustainable fishing practices
- I benefit from and enable a fair and safe working environment
- I seek opportunities to bring my product to a wider market in Scotland, and to promote its contribution to a healthy diet
- I can access a variety of support to help me to run a sustainable fishing business

17. Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a food processor in a Good Food Nation?

- I work with producers, wholesalers, retailers and out of home food providers to ensure resilience along the whole supply chain while meeting demand and minimising waste
- I make my products healthier and more sustainable, using fresh, seasonal ingredients where possible, and can access support to do this.
- I invest in and develop my workforce, ensuring they can enjoy opportunities to enhance their skills whilst benefiting from a safe working environment
- I contribute to the important role that the food and drink sector has in Scotland's economy

18. If you have any further comments on the national Good Food Nation Plan, please comment here

19. Please let us know if we have missed any function falling within a specified description or relevant specified functions

20. Why do you think this specified function / function falling within a specified description should be added?

4 APSE Comment

APSE encourages our members to respond to this consultation, as the requirement for local authorities to produce Good Food Nation Plans and their contents will be an important part of the delivery of school food services. We would also be interested to receive the views of our member local councils in Scotland to inform APSE's own response to the consultation. Please send any comments or copies of your own councils' submissions to the consultation to Garry Lee on glee@apse.org.uk

APSE has continued to champion local authorities and its catering services in helping to meet Government policies and strategies around food. APSE has responded to a number of previous consultations which have links to a Good Food Nation including its response to the Scottish Parliament's Proposed Right to Food (Scotland) Bill back in 2020 which was put forward to incorporate the human right to food into Scots Law ([see briefing 20-81](#)). As well as our response consultation call for views to the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill in 2022 ([see briefing 22-04](#)) which highlighted that local authorities were already undertaking a substantial amount of work around good food, integrating this important issue into different local outcomes. However, the response did note that in order to ensure the successful delivery of plans adequate resources, finances and support would be required as well as consideration in terms of competing demands and challenges which are not covered by local authority responsibilities. APSE was also part of a working group which produced a discussion paper on Scottish Government's commitment to the introduction of Universal Free School Meals for primary school children by 2022 ([see briefing 21-37](#)) which touched on some of the areas within the Good Food Nation outcomes.

Some of the areas outlined within the outcomes and targets could be actively supported by APSE's Performance Networks Data. These existing datasets are a rich source to both monitor and report on performance information in terms of local authority catering services, supported by strong participation across Scottish Local Government as all councils in Scotland are members of this. Drilling down this data can also highlight areas of best practice that have and continue to support areas including data around nutrient based standards, free and paid meal uptake as well as sustainability and ultimately the Good Food Nation outcomes.

We have worked with a range of national governing and audit bodies on performance including Audit Scotland and SOLACE (Local Government Benchmarking Framework) and have actively supported national programmes through supplying robust and reliable performance data.

Finally, APSE's [Scottish Soft Facilities Management advisory group](#) has been an excellent source of best practice on the delivery of school food, and a great deal of learning and expertise has been shared through its meetings over the years. Members can attend these meetings for free. For more information on future events please sign up to our [mailing list](#).

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Advisory groups are a free service included as part of your authority's membership of APSE and all end with an informal lunch to facilitate networking with peers in other councils. If you do not currently receive details about APSE advisory group meetings and would like to be added to our list of contacts for your service area please email enquiries@apse.org.uk.

Our national advisory groups include:-

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- Cost of Providing/Cost of Living Network
- Highways and Street Lighting
- Housing, Construction and Building Maintenance
- Local Authority Commercialisation, Income and Trading Network
- Parks, Horticulture and Grounds Maintenance
- Recovery and Renewal
- Renewables and Climate Change
- Roads, highways and street lighting
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