

'Good Food Nation' Proposed National Plan

(Scottish Parliament Call for Evidence)

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

1. Executive Summary

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee in partnership with the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee recently launched a joint call for evidence on the 'Good Food Nation' Proposed National Plan. The 'Good Food Nation' Proposed National Plan, was laid before Parliament on 27 June 2025, it sets out a comprehensive and long-term approach to shaping Scotland's food system. This is part of the obligations under the 'Good Food Nation' (Scotland) Act 2022.

The call for views closed on 15th August 2025. [Click here](#) to read the Proposed National 'Good Food Nation Plan' publication.

2. Overview

Scottish Parliament Call for Evidence on the Proposed National 'Good Food Nation' Plan

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee and Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee have recently launched a joint call for evidence on the **Proposed National 'Good Food Nation' Plan**. This call for evidence seeks for views on how to strengthen the 'Good Food Nation' Proposed National Plan, which aims to transform Scotland's food system for improved health, sustainability, equity, and economic resilience.

At the heart of the Good Food Nation Plan are six overarching Good Food Nation Outcomes, these outcomes reflect the subject areas and principles that are set out in the Act. These are:-

- **Outcome 1:** The food environment in Scotland enables people to eat well. Everyone benefits from reliable and dignified access to safe, nutritious, affordable, enjoyable, sustainable and age-appropriate food.

- **Outcome 2:** Scotland's food system is sustainable and contributes to a flourishing natural environment on our land and in our waters. It supports our net zero and climate adaptation ambitions and plays an important role in maintaining and improving animal health and welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.
- **Outcome 3:** Scotland's food environment and wider food system enables and promotes a physically and mentally healthy population. This leads to the prevention of, and 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 throughout food supply chains.
- **Outcome 5:** People and communities are empowered to participate in, and shape, their food system. Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are educated about good and sustainable food.
- **Outcome 6:** Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation. Scotland actively engages in learning and exchanging knowledge and best practice internationally.

The Plan is intended to set the foundation for coordinated action across all sectors of society, recognising that achieving a 'Good Food Nation' is a shared responsibility between government, local authorities, the public sector, industry, communities, and individuals.

Local authorities were invited to respond to the key themes outlined in the plan, particularly in relation to **public health, procurement, community growing, and local delivery** of the plan.

Key Themes for Local Authorities

1. Public Health and Food Insecurity

The plan aims to tackle diet-related health conditions and reduce food insecurity, particularly in deprived communities. It seeks input on how food environments, health services, and social care can support healthier eating and reduce inequalities.

2. Procurement and Local Government Delivery

Local authorities have a critical role in shaping food systems through procurement for schools, care services, and public settings. This would explore how the plan can better support local delivery and enhance sustainable procurement practices.

3. Allotments and Community Growing

Community growing supports wellbeing, food access, and education. Feedback is sought on how local authorities can be enabled to expand allotments and growing initiatives, especially in areas with limited access to fresh produce.

Food Affordability and Economic Pressures

Food prices rose by 35.9% between 2015 and 2024, outpacing household income growth. The plan highlights the importance of reducing household food insecurity and supporting dignified access to food. Views are sought on how local action can contribute to this aim.

Implementation and Monitoring

The plan will evolve through regular updates and will be overseen by a nation cross-portfolio working group. It includes indicators to track progress on key targets such as reducing child poverty, halving obesity, and increasing sustainable food production. Local perspectives are needed to inform how these goals can be realistically achieved.

Shaping Scotland's Food Future

The feedback gathered through this Call for Evidence will help refine the final version of the National 'Good Food Nation' Plan and ensure that it is grounded in local experience, practical delivery considerations, and community priorities.

By participating, local authorities can play a key role in shaping the future of food in Scotland to one that is fairer, healthier, and more sustainable.

3. Consultation question

1. Thinking about those aspects of the Proposed National Good Food Nation Plan related to public health, health services and social care, what, if any, specific changes would you like to see reflected in the finalised national plan?
2. Thinking about the role of local government in delivering the Plan, particularly through procurement, what, if any, specific changes would you like to see reflected in the finalised national plan?
3. Thinking about the aspects of the Plan on allotments and community growing, what, if any, specific changes would you like to see reflected in the finalised National Plan?
4. Thinking about other aspects of the Proposed National Good Food Nation Plan (not covered above), what, if any, specific changes would you like to see reflected in the finalised National Plan?

4. APSE Comment

APSE hopes our local authority members have engaged with this call for evidence process. APSE's response to the original consultation on Scottish Government's National Good Food Nation Plan, can be accessed [here](#) The National Plan provides information on the targets and measures which will be used to measure progress. Some of these targets and measures relate directly to local authorities for example the Uptake of School Meal Provision in

Primary and Secondary Schools (Free or Paid For). With local authorities across Scotland not only having to produce local plans but also having regard for the National Plan, it is important for local authorities to have provided their views through this call for views. Local authority challenges relating to resources, budgets, local priorities and other competing demands which all impact on local authorities' ability to help support and achieve the outcomes. This includes supply chain and procurement challenges, therefore views in relation to these areas are so important. The proposed National Plan highlights that a baseline indicator will be set when 2024-2025 or 2025 data is available depending on the indicator. As in APSE's original response to the National Good Food Nation Plan highlights the importance of a clear path to achieving the outcomes from the indicators which are to be used and accurate baselines to help ensure that progress can be mapped.

Local authorities play a vital role in the journey towards a Good Food Nation and there has been a tremendous amount of work already undertaken across Scottish local authorities. For example, some local authorities have extended the Free School Meals role out to all Primary 6 and 7 pupils, although this is not currently a requirement from Scottish Government.

APSE Scotland's Soft Facilities Management Network will continue to discuss and engage on this important area with the next meeting of the Network scheduled for Tuesday 2 September, please [click here](#) to register to attend.

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