

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	20 February 2019
REPORT TITLE	Response in relation to Scottish Government Consultation on Good Food Nation
REPORT NUMBER	OPE /19/182
DIRECTOR	Rob Polkinghorne, Chief Operating Officer
CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Reilly
REPORT AUTHOR	Andrew Morrison
TERMS OF REFERENCE	3.3 Approve statutory plans aimed at protecting the public and delivered by or in partnership with Environmental Health and Trading Standards Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval to provide the attached response in relation to the consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- a. Approves the consultation response at Appendix 1
- b. Instructs the Chief Officer Operations to submit the consultation response on behalf of Aberdeen City Council.
- c. Acknowledges that if new duties are placed on Aberdeen City Council, then financial resources will be required from Scottish Government in order to deliver them.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 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, by 2025, 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 aim.

3.2 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.

3.3 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 across the five key areas identified by the Food Commission, i.e. Health, Social Justice, Knowledge, Environmental Sustainability and Prosperity.

3.4 The proposal is for legislation, that would require Scottish Government and Specified Public Bodies (possibly including Local Authorities) to produce policies on food and to collaborate to provide a joined up approach.

3.5 Scottish Ministers would be required to set out a statement of policy on food which 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. Scottish Ministers would be required to:

- include indicators or measures of success;
- have regard to the statement of policy on food;
- to consult on a draft statement and to have regard to the responses;

- publish the statement of policy and to lay it before the Scottish Parliament;
 - review the statement of policy every 5 years;
 - report every two years on implementation of the policy
 - have regard to relevant international obligations and guidance.
- 3.6 Similar requirements would be placed on specified public authorities, which would be required to:
- set out a statement of food policy (including indicators or measures of success);
 - have regard to specified international instruments in doing so;
 - have regard to that statement of policy in the exercise of certain functions; and
 - report on progress to Scottish Ministers.
- 3.6.1 The statement of policy might include:
- the origin and sourcing of food by the public authority;
 - food waste;
 - the emphasis on balanced and healthy food;
 - access to affordable food;
 - training in food preparation and purchase etc.;
 - the specific approach taken in e.g. schools (including food education) and nursery schools, hospitals and public buildings.
- 3.7 Scottish Ministers and specified public bodies would be required to collaborate to ensure a joined up approach to delivery of a Good Food Nation in Scotland to ensure an open and, where necessary, joined up approach to delivery of a Good Food Nation in Scotland.
- 3.8 There is no further detail within the consultation document regarding the application of the proposal, and it is therefore not possible to estimate the impact of the policy.
- 3.9 The concept of both Scottish Government and specified Public Bodies producing statements on food policy is intended to enhance wider public health and minimise the environmental impact whilst supporting Scottish food businesses to thrive.
- 3.10 This consultation includes significant areas within the scope of the Health and Social Care Partnership, who are understood to also be compiling a response.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 Aberdeen City Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership already have policies and undertake activity across a wide range of the areas covered by the potential scope of a Food Policy, within the scope of this consultation.
- 4.1.1 The Granite City Good Food is partnership of key stakeholders to drive positive food change whilst making healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of Aberdeen. Members include Aberdeen City Council, the Health & Social Care Partnership, NHS Grampian and Community Food

Initiatives North East (CFINE). It is a member of the Sustainable Food Cities network and received its bronze award in August 2018. Aberdeen is currently the only bronze award holder in Scotland. There are six key priorities

- Promoting healthy and sustainable food to the public;
- Tackling food poverty, diet-related ill health and access to healthy food;
- Building community food knowledge, skills, resources and projects;
- Promoting a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy;
- Transforming catering and food procurement;
- Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system.

4. OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That ACC supports the general concept as outlined within the consultation document and that the response at Appendix 1 is submitted.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is not possible from the content of this consultation to estimate any potential for financial implications, as the consultation only relates to the general principle of a food policy.

If new duties are imposed upon Aberdeen City Council, then additional financial resources will be required from Scottish Government accordingly.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	N/A	M	
Legal	Policy if implemented may place statutory duties on the authority.	L	Duties should be commensurate with the public health protections delivered
Employee	N/A	L	N/A
Customer	Positive Impact	L	
Environment	Positive Impact	L	
Technology	Negligible	L	
Reputational	Negligible	L	

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report

Prosperous People People in Aberdeen are happy and healthy and enjoy positive life outcomes.	The requirements to produce a food policy, are designed to support people in accessing nutritious healthy affordable food
Prosperous Place People experience Aberdeen as the best place to invest, live and visit	The requirements to produce a food policy, are designed to support Scottish producers to ensure that what they produce is increasingly healthy and environmentally sound and that food companies are a thriving feature of the economy and places where people want to work.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Governance	A Food Policy should assist with ensuring effective oversight of service delivery in relation to food
Customer Service Design	A Food Policy would assist with ensuring that the services we deliver take in to account the needs of consumers.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	EHRIA not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not Required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not Applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Scottish Government Consultation on the Good Food Nation
<https://consult.gov.scot/food-and-drink/good-food-nation/>

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Draft Consultation Response

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name: Andrew Morrison
Title: Protective Services Manager
Email: andrewmorrison@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel: 01224 522490

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