

Agenda Item	8
Report No	RDB-04-26

# The Highland Council

**Committee:** Redesign Board

**Date:** 19 March 2026

**Report Title:** The Highland Council Good Food Nation Plan

**Report By:** Assistant Chief Executive – Corporate

## 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 placed a duty on Scottish Ministers to publish a National Good Food Nation Plan. This was published on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
- 1.2 The Act also requires relevant authorities to develop and publish a local good food nation plan which “has regard” to the National Plan.
- 1.3 The Highland Council is a relevant authority within this context and hence has a legislative duty to develop and publish a good food nation plan as required by the Act.
- 1.4 This report seeks to raise awareness of the Good Food Nation Act, update Members on progress towards the initial stages of developing a Highland Good Food Nation Plan and provide clarity on the approach being taken to comply with the legislative requirement.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
  - i. **Note** the report
  - ii. **Agree** that future reports will be considered by the Redesign Board.

## 3. Implications

- 3.1 **Resource:** The Food in Schools Lead will lead the development of the Good Food Nation Plan as many of the areas covered by the legislation will also impact on the Food in Schools project. The Senior Responsible Officer is the Strategic Lead Commercialisation and project sponsor is the Chief Officer, Revenues and Commercialisation.

Information is being sought from Scottish Government via CoSLA regarding the supporting resources, including funding, to be made available to councils. It is likely that clarity regarding this may not be available until after the Scottish Parliament elections in May. CoSLA have made it clear to Scottish Government that local

authorities cannot be expected to begin developing plans until they are clear on resources available for both development and implementation.

Updates relating to funding will be brought to Redesign Board as they become available.

3.2 **Legal:** The Act requires relevant authorities to produce and report on the progress of their Good Food Nation Plans every two years. Local authorities must “have regard” to the National Plan when exercising functions, ensuring local plans align with national food strategies.

3.3 **Risk:** The main, identified risk at this stage in the development of our Good Food Nation Plan is the lack of clarity from the Scottish Government on funding for both the development and implementation of the Plan. To mitigate this risk our initial focus will be on activity around existing workstreams.

Future risks are identified via the council risk management process and monitored through the established governance arrangements and are reported by exception only.

3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people):** There are no immediate health and safety implications arising from this report.

3.5 **Gaelic:** The Highland Good Food Nation Plan will reflect the strength of the Gaelic language as an asset in the promotion of food and drink from the Highlands. This aligns with strategic priority 3.1 within The Highland Council Gaelic Language Plan 2025-2029.

#### 4. Impacts

4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children’s Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. As this is an update report, an impact assessment is not required.

During the production of the Plan a full integrated impact assessment will be undertaken at the appropriate time.

#### 5. Good Food Nation - Background

5.1 Following the publication of the Good Food Nation Act 2022, the Scottish Government launched a consultation on the National Good Food Nation Plan on 24 January 2024. The Council established an internal officer group to develop a council response and also engaged closely with NHS Highland and the Highland Good Food Partnership. The Council submitted its response on 22 April 2024, a copy of which is provided at Appendix 1 to this report

5.2 The [National Good Food Nation Plan](#) was published by the Scottish Government, taking into account consultation responses, on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

- 5.2 The National Plan sets out a 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*”.
- 5.3 It then describes in greater depth how the Good Food Nation vision might look in practice for different groups of society such as children, adults, out of home (food retailers and restaurants) and food producers and processors.
- 5.4 The National Plan sets out six overarching outcomes as set out below: -
- **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.
- 5.5 The Plan aims to create coherence in national and local food policy, ensuring that actions relating to health, the environment, the economy, and community wellbeing are coordinated. The Good Food Nation framework provides the structure to integrate these interdependent policy areas.

## **6. Council Action**

- 6.1 In March 2025, the Scottish Government published guidance for relevant authorities on drafting a Good Food Nation Plan. Details of the requirements are set out in Appendix 2.
- 6.2 The publication of local Good Food Nation Plans is required within 12 months of the commencement of section 10 of the Good Food Nation Act. The Scottish Government anticipates that section 10 of the Act will commence by the end of March 2027 therefore the Highland Council Good Food National Plan will require to be published around March 2028.

- 6.3 To date the Council is engaging with CoSLA and has been working closely with the Highland Good Food Partnership and NHS Highland. The Council also participated in workshops arranged by the Highland Good Food Partnership which sought to look at what were some of the challenges and aspirations to any changes to the food system at a local level.
- 6.4 Within the context of joint working, the Council and NHS Highland have agreed that whilst there is a rationale for having separate plans, there is merit in considering a shared vision for a local good food plan and potentially developing a joint engagement strategy.
- 6.5 Cross-service collaboration across Council services will be vital to ensure the Plan represents and reflects all areas of Council service delivery within the context of the food system in our area.

## **7. Next Steps**

- 7.1 Work continues through the Lead Officer within Revenues & Commercialisation, to undertake the various activities both internally and externally to ensure Highland Council compliance with the legislative requirement to produce a Good Food Nation Plan.
- 7.2 A working group of relevant officers is being established to support the development of the local Good Food Nation Plan.
- 7.3 An update on progress will be reported to Redesign Board on 4 June 2026.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Corporate

Date: 4 February 2026

Authors: Sheila Armstrong, Chief Officer – Revenues & Commercialisation  
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## Respondent Information Form

**Please Note** this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:  
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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual  
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Highland Council

Phone number

Address

The Highland Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness

Postcode

IV3 5NX

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The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name  
 Publish response only (without name)  
 Do not publish response

### Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes  
 No

## Questionnaire

### Part A: Consultation on the national Good Food Nation Plan

#### Question 1

Does each individual Good Food Nation Outcome describe the kind of Scottish food system you would like to see?

**Outcome 1:** Everyone in Scotland eats well with reliable access to safe, nutritious, affordable, sustainable, and age and culturally appropriate food.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Outcome 2:** Scotland's food system is sustainable<sup>1</sup> 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.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Outcome 3:** Scotland's food system encourages a physically and mentally healthy population, leading to a reduction in diet-related conditions.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

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<sup>1</sup> According to the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) a “sustainable food system is one that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generation is not compromised.”

**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.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Outcome 5:** Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are interested in and educated about good and sustainable food.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

**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.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

## **Question 2**

What, if anything, would you change about the Good Food Nation Outcomes and why?

While the Council is generally supportive of the outcomes contained in the Good Food Nation Plan; there are several aspects set out below which have the potential to provide clarity and strengthen these outcomes.

### Outcome 1

- It would be helpful to define what is meant by reliable and perhaps the outcome should refer to the importance of improving national food resilience.
- Requirement to involve children and young people in designing school menus, supported by food education/learning for sustainability.
- Local authorities to have some discretion in relation to the size of food portions provided in schools to help reduce food waste.

- Introduce pre-ordering in the classroom for primary school meals to reduce waste and encourage healthier meal choices.
- allow more flexibility in the use of funding allocated for free school meals to ensure that the young people entitled to this access it.

#### Outcome 2

- This would benefit from being clearer on creating an improved connection to our food source. Encouraging more value on locally sourced food and wasting less is an essential measure for improving our food security, and for supporting progress towards net zero ambitions.

#### Outcome 3

- It is noticeable that there is no mention of alcohol harms.
- Involve a range of public, private and third sector partners in developing joint procurement strategy for catering in schools and hospitals.

#### Outcome 4

- Helpful to reference quality and be linked to UK Government policies; it is important that there is clarification on spheres of influence and who is responsible for delivery of the outcomes in general as well as specific elements of these outcomes. For example, local authorities cannot influence the level of Ultra Processed Food availability in retail outlets alone.
- This outcome should also include a reference to valuing workers in agriculture and aquaculture.
- Work with the food industry and training providers to encourage greater uptake of hospitality and catering careers, create apprenticeships in Food Tourism, Food Growing, Aquaculture.

#### Outcome 5

- This outcome needs to be more explicit, with perhaps a statement around “... A population who takes time to value food in their daily life” Terms such as “good” are somewhat vague.

#### Outcome 6

- This outcome is not clear. It feels like two different outcomes. One is about Scotland reputation and the second point learning from and sharing good practice. It is not clear what added value there is in having this as an outcome.

#### General Comments

- It would also be helpful if there was clarification as to who is responsible for each of these outcomes as the majority of these outcomes are outwith local government spheres of responsibility.
- There should be more focus on local sourcing of produce where that is available.

- When money is spent in local food outlets it is then spent locally several times over and £10 spent locally can generate £25 in the local economy. Locally produced food bought from a local retailer can be worth up to ten times as much to the local economy as the same food from a long distant producer, purchased in a supermarket.
- A key aspect for the Council would be greater flexibility over public sector procurement regulations as purchasing power can be a driving force for realising some of the aspirations in this plan. So, the Council welcomes the commitment to continue work on this in the next version of the plan.

### Question 3

Do you think that these targets will contribute to achieving the overall Good Food Nation Outcomes?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

### Question 4

Would achieving these targets contribute to making the kind of Scottish food system you would like to see?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

### Question 5

If you have other comments on the suggested Good Food Nation targets, please comment:

#### [Targets for Outcome 1](#)

- Poverty is not solely determined by food; it is a factor but not the only one and therefore just focusing on poverty and deprivation is too narrow a focus. It should also be recognised that Remote and rural areas of Scotland, such as Highland suffer disproportionately from a range of factors which inhibit both access to, and the quality of, food, such as higher fuel and transportation costs, less availability of fresh food being available locally and hidden deprivation in areas not defined as deprived through SIMD.

- Targets and indicators should be included on the safety of food. These should be developed through discussions with Food Standards Scotland and Environmental Health teams within Local Authorities. Existing data sources such as the Food Hygiene Information Scheme could be utilised.

### Targets for Outcomes 2 and 5

- The focus on obesity and healthy weight for children and adults in the targets fails to do justice to the outcome related to improved physical and mental wellbeing.
- It says, “*To aim to halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reduce associated diet-related inequalities*”. This implies that the only diet related inequalities worthy of tackling are ones that are linked to obesity.
- The obesity focus needs to sit alongside other nutrition concerns that relate to diet quality and with specific reference to ultra-processed foods.
- Fruit and vegetable, fibre intake and energy density are all dietary goals that relate to obesity, but also to diet related illness independently of obesity and can be delivered through a focus on the reduced availability, promotion, and consumption of ultra-processed foods.
- There is no flow through from better mental health to the indicators and targets that would achieve this. Improvements to this could come from measurable changes in certain food types including more progress with oily fish, fibre and fruit and vegetables (All within current dietary goals) and a measurable reduction in ultra-processed foods (or proxy indicators of this such as a reduction in energy density, sugar, salt, fat or saturated fat).
- There is little mention of targets and indicators related to changes in food retailing (availability and promotion of foods inconsistent with Scottish Dietary goals. The lack of targets or indicators for food retailing makes it harder to achieve outcomes 1 and 3). That leaves too much responsibility on the shoulders of the consumer to makes “healthy choices”, rather than recognising the unhealthy food environment they are left to navigate.
- Targets could be set for the percentage of food procured by each local authority from local suppliers. To support this, legislation, procurement policies & procedures should be amended, adapted & simplified to promote & attract more local producers and provide a more sustainable platform for them to supply both private & public sector.
- There does not seem to be any targets/indicators in relation to the supply side of the food system.

### Targets for Outcome 2

- There is reference to climate change targets and an acknowledgement of the role that methane makes, but animal welfare and organic production targets will achieve very little regarding climate change and therefore it would be helpful if the Scottish Government was to be more explicit in its policy objectives in this regard.

- There is also an opportunity to link food waste reduction targets to the Courtauld Commitment 2030, or already aligned UK and international environmental goals. For food waste to deliver against the UK sustainable development goals (SDG12.3) requires a 50% per capita reduction in food waste by 2030 vs the UK baseline (covering manufacture, retail, hospitality and food service and households).
- Supportive of a target to “*reduce per capita food waste by 33% by 2025*”, however the target date may need to be reviewed.

### Targets for Outcome 3

- An explicit target for reducing the availability, promotion and consumption of energy dense ultra processed foods and increases in access to foods that are minimally processed.
- Supportive of a target to “reduce drop off in breastfeeding rates at 6 to 8 week point by 10% by 2025, however the target date may need to be reviewed.

### Targets for Outcome 4

- refers to “*Fair Work*” in the Scottish food system. This is strongly welcomed. In addition, given that many foods will continue to be imported from countries where fair work is not the norm, explicit targets or indicators for fair trade accredited foods would be a welcome addition.
- In addition, provision of a target for increasing small scale growers and crofters would be welcome as well as ensuring remote and rural producers are supported to remain viable.
- The target for outcome 4 seems to be somewhat vague and it is not clear what benefit having this target as currently stated will provide.

### Targets for Outcome 5

- Food education is very broadly spoken about and seems to be community focused and with little mention of the school day. The targets are only related to obesity and healthy weight in this section. Education Scotland already has several tools related to food education e.g. whole school food policy, Curriculum for Excellence and these could be more effective by: -
  - setting targets for the number of schools adopting whole school food policies
  - supporting a healthy structure to the school day to give emphasis and place to eat food in a relaxed and encouraging atmosphere.
  - introducing further food qualifications e.g. Food Systems Higher
  - setting targets for more Home Economics teachers
  - providing a broader understanding of food and its effect on mood & behaviour as part of general primary teaching qualifications
  - effective food education in schools to include the impact of food waste on climate change could assist in reducing food waste levels in school dining halls.

- There is also a case for establishing a target for increasing the number of school allotments through requiring the inclusion of these in all new school builds.

### Question 6

Do you think these indicators will be useful for measuring progress towards the Good Food Nation Outcomes?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Why or why not?

The Council would mostly agree that these indicators will be useful for measuring progress towards the Good Food Nation Outcomes, however the following points are worth considering.

#### Indicators for Outcome 1

- There could be indicators developed around what food is available to people and what types of food is consumed by demographic.

#### Indicators for Outcome 2

- In relation to food waste, it is the case that nationally, information on food waste has become clearer through legal requirements for separate collection from most households and businesses. For example, in Highland a rural exemption has applied, that requirement has changed through the Scottish Government update to Urban Rural Classification which will result in food waste collections doubling over the next year. This in theory would make reporting for an indicator easier.

#### Indicators for Outcome 4

- Indicators could include % of people in agricultural sector and % of increase in number of small producers.

#### Indicators for Outcome 5

- These indicators are not relevant to the outcome which is about educated and interested in food. Therefore, indicators around community activities, food festivals etc and providence of food, use of seasonal produce are perhaps more relevant.

#### Indicators for Outcome 6

- Having an indicator on the number of engagements with international colleagues on food system for outcome 6 does not seem to be entirely useful and reinforces the concern that outcome 6 is not particularly meaningful as currently stated.

**Question 7**

What other indicators, if any, would you like to see included?

The outcomes in this draft plan aspire for cultural change, which requires community support and the building of momentum. However, the targets and indicators do not really reflect that. The presence of community food projects, gardens, allotments and community kitchens for example would both contribute to and indicate cultural change in food. So, there could be a case for developing indicators around the numbers of community food projects in the country, the amount of funding made available for such projects, and the number of community food growing strategies.

**Indicators for Outcome 1**

- Indicators relating to number of pupils registered for free school meals is confused by the universal provision of free school meals in primary schools, consequently, there would be benefit in clarity being provided on this point.

**Question 8**

If you have other comments on the suggested Good Food Nation indicators, please comment:

No further comments.

## Question 9

### Snapshot Box: As a child in 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

Does this reflect what you think life should look like for a child in Scotland as a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

- The importance of food security and poverty is very welcome. However, children (and adults) will experience hunger. It is a natural physiological state. The real issue is ensuring that children having security and certainty over the availability of food and therefore clarifying the wording over this would be helpful.
- A further bullet point could be added around – *“I enjoy time to eat as part of my social interaction with friends and family”*.
- Food related education in the third bullet point is not specifically joined up with educating teachers on how to deliver this anywhere in the plan. The Council has made some suggestions in changes to indicators & targets for outcome 5 at question 5.

### Snapshot Box: 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 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

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a parent/carer in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

- It is important to not lose reference to “access” in first bullet of the parent/carer snapshot box. There should also be reference to “affordable food” in the first bullet rather than only referring to where to go to for support in the second bullet.

## Question 11

### Snapshot Box: 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

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

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

The following changes are suggested: -

- Bullet 3 could say “.... *healthy, sustainable, and affordable...*” The importance of affordability is not sufficiently covered by bullet 2.
- It might also be helpful to add “*I am knowledgeable about how to prepare healthy and nutritious meals*”.
- A bullet point could be added around growing food such as “*I am able to grow my own food if I want to through access to garden, community garden, allotments as well as having the skills and support to learn how to grow food*”.

## Question 12

### **Snapshot Box: 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

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

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

- Bullet point 2 or 3 could include “*Fairly traded*” (where appropriate)
- All public caterers would relish the ability to deliver all these bullet points. However, the key barriers to this are constrained budgets and public procurement procedures. This needs to be reflected in the plan and the Council have made suggestions to Outcomes 2 & 5.

## Question 13

### Snapshot Box: 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

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

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

- This could include *“I create a store environment that makes nutritious and sustainable food choices more likely than choices that are ultra-processed, less nutritious, or unsustainable”*.
- Information should be included on the crucial statutory role local authority environmental health teams undertake in food safety regulation in terms of retail, restaurants and food processing. Overall, local authorities in Scotland work to ensure that food businesses operate safely and hygienically, thereby protecting public health and consumer confidence in the safety of the food supply. Their responsibilities include:
  - Inspections: Local authorities are responsible for inspecting food businesses within their jurisdictions to ensure compliance with food safety standards. This includes restaurants, cafes, supermarkets, food manufacturing facilities, and other establishments involved in food production, handling, and distribution.
  - Enforcement: If food businesses are found to be in violation of food safety regulations, local authorities have the authority to take enforcement actions. This may include issuing warnings, improvement notices, or even prosecuting businesses that pose a serious risk to public health.

- **Sampling and Testing:** Local authorities carry out sampling and testing of food products to monitor their safety and quality. This helps identify any potential hazards or contaminants that may pose a risk to consumers.
- **Education and Guidance:** Local authorities provide education and guidance to food businesses on best practices for food safety. They may offer training sessions, resources, and advice to help businesses understand their legal obligations and implement appropriate food safety measures.
- **Support food export and import** by provision of export health certificates to local business and the undertake official controls at border control points.
- **Investigation of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks:** In the event of a foodborne illness outbreak, local authorities play a key role in investigating the source of the outbreak and implementing measures to prevent further spread of the illness.

## Question 14

### Snapshot Box: 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

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

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

The Council would mostly agree with the aspirations behind these objectives in this snapshot but would suggest the following changes.

- The use of the word “*celebrate*” seems a little unnecessary.
- It refers to fresh and seasonal but there is no reference to nutritious (except in bullet point 2 where customers are informed of its nutritional value). It should say “Fresh, seasonal and nutritious”. One cannot cover nutrition simply with fresh and seasonal.
- The wording around food waste should be strengthened.

Therefore, the Council would suggest revised wording for the first and last bullet points as follows: -

- “*I provide fresh and nutritious produce and align my menu with seasonal choices*”.
- “*I have reduced avoidable food waste as much as possible, and I ensure that unavoidable food waste is disposed of in a sustainable and legal manner*”.

## Question 15

### Snapshot Box: 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

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

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

While the Council agrees with this aspiration, the reality for farmers and crofters in the Highlands is different, they are struggling to get a fair price for their produce. Costs are increasing and the margins are becoming tighter. Consequently, any National Food Plan needs to interact with agricultural policy. These two policy areas need to be aligned with complementary objectives.

There will always be a balance between selling locally and nationally. The key aspect is to ensure that there are opportunities for selling produce locally.

For local authorities, there needs to be a recognition that public procurement regulations need to be reviewed to provide local authorities with greater flexibility to procure local produce.

It would also be helpful if reference was made to the following: -

- *“I respect and develop my workforce, ensuring they can enjoy opportunities to enhance their skills whilst benefiting from a safe working environment”.*
- *“I am supported in reaching a variety of local customers”.*

Reference is made to veterinary support, and fundamental need for good livestock welfare. Information should be included on the key statutory animal health and welfare duties carried out by local authorities to support farmers and producers e.g. by reference to the Animal Health and Welfare Framework created in partnership between the Scottish Government, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland (SCOTSS), the Society of the Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland (SOCOEHs) and the Animal and Plant

### Question 16

#### **Snapshot Box: 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

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

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

[No comments.](#)

## Question 17

### Snapshot Box: 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

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

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

It would be helpful if there was a reference to sourcing Fairtrade where possible.

Information should be included on the key statutory food labelling and food standards duties carried out by local authorities to support food businesses in meeting these requirements and carrying out proportionate and appropriate enforcement on businesses misleading consumers.

## Question 18

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

The key question is what added value will be achieved from the Good Food Nation Plan as it currently stands. So much of it is reiterating what already exists in other plans, so the question is how will the Good Food Nation Plan add value to those initiatives? The indicators do not really address that.

Without adequate additional resources, it is difficult to see how local authorities or health boards will be able to effectively implement local Good Food Nation Plans in a meaningful way that delivers the Scottish Government policy objectives.

## **Part B: Consultation on specified functions for the national Good Food Nation Plan**

### **Question 19**

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

[No comments.](#)

### **Question 20**

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

[No comments.](#)

## Appendix 2

### National Good Food Nation Plan

#### The Legislative Requirements

Developing the Plan	
Requirement	Notes
Publish a Good Food Nation Plan within 12 months of the day that Section 10 of the GFN Act comes into force.	Scottish Government have confirmed that relevant authorities will receive 12 months' notice of the commencement of Section 10. Thereafter relevant authorities will have 12 months in which to complete the development of local Good Food Nation Plans.
<p>The Good Food Nation Plan must set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The main outcomes in relation to food-related issues which the relevant authority wants to be achieved within the relevant authority's areas of responsibility,</li> <li>(b) Indicators or other measures by which progress in achieving the outcomes may be assessed, and</li> <li>(c) the policies which the relevant authority intends to pursue in order to secure the achievement of the outcomes.</li> </ul> <p>A relevant authority's good food nation plan may include such other material in relation to food-related issues as the relevant authority considers appropriate.</p>	<p>Our Good Food Nation Plan <b>must</b> cover the points listed (a)-(c).</p> <p>We have the flexibility to set our own outcomes - these do not have to be the same as those in the national Plan.</p> <p>We also have flexibility to include other material if we feel it is useful or necessary.</p>
<p>In determining the content of its good food nation plan, a relevant authority must have regard to the scope for food-related issues to affect outcomes in relation to, among other things—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social and Economic Wellbeing,</li> <li>2. The environment, including in particular in relation to— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) climate change, and</li> <li>(ii) wildlife and the natural environment,</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Health and Physical and Mental Wellbeing (including in particular through the provision of health and social care services),</li> <li>4. Economic Development,</li> <li>5. Animal Welfare,</li> <li>6. Education,</li> </ul>	<p>When putting together our Good Food Nation Plan, and determining our outcomes, this is the list of issues that we <b>need</b> to take into account. We <b>must</b> be able to demonstrate that we have considered these issues.</p> <p>This list is only a starting point: we can and should also think about other issues as well.</p> <p>If the Scottish Ministers decide to add any other matter to this list, it would be via secondary legislation, and we will be given plenty of notice.</p>

<p>7. Child Poverty, and 8. Any other matter specified by the Scottish Ministers.</p>	
<p>In preparing a good food nation plan, a relevant authority must have regard to-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the fact that each part of the food system and supply chain plays an important role in the provision of food,</li> <li>(b) the role of a sustainable food system and supply chain in contributing to mitigation of climate change, halting and reversing of loss of biodiversity and improvement in animal welfare,</li> <li>(c) the ability of high quality, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to improve the health and physical and mental wellbeing of people,</li> <li>(d) the fact that adequate food is a human right (as part of the right to an adequate standard of living set out in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and essential to the realisation of other human rights,</li> <li>(e) the importance of the food business sector- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. continuing to be a thriving part of the Scottish economy,</li> <li>ii. having resilient supply chains,</li> <li>iii. operating with fair work standards, and</li> <li>iv. contributing to resilient local economies across Scotland.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>When preparing our Good Food Nation Plan we <b>must</b> take these principles into account, and <b>must</b> be able to demonstrate that we have done so.</p>
<p>In preparing a good food nation plan, a relevant authority must have regard to the national good food nation plan.</p>	<p>When preparing our Good Food Nation Plan, we <b>must</b> take into account the content of the national Plan, and be able to demonstrate that we have done this.</p>
<p><b>Consulting on the Plan</b></p>	
<p>When preparing a good food nation plan, the relevant authority must publish and consult on a draft of the Good Food Nation Plan and have regard to any responses received.</p> <p>When consulting, the relevant authority must have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the importance of communicating in an inclusive way, and</li> <li>• the importance of communicating in a way that is effective in engaging children and young people.</li> </ul>	<p>Broadly, we can consult however and with whomever we choose. However, when consulting we <b>must</b> think about the importance of communicating in an inclusive way, and about the importance of communicating effectively with children and young people.</p>

## Publishing the Plan

When publishing its good food nation plan, a relevant authority must publish an accompanying statement which sets out how in preparing the plan it complied with sections 11 and 13.

When we publish a final version of our Good Food Nation Plan, we must publish a statement alongside it that outlines how we have complied with the requirements to have regard to the National Good Food Nation Plan and to have regard to the list of principles set out in section 11 of the Act.

The Act does not specify the format of this statement, only that each relevant authority must publish one alongside their Plan.

## Implementing the Plan

A relevant authority must, when exercising a specified function or a function falling within a specified description, have regard to the relevant authority's good food nation plan.

This is the part of the legislation that gives effect to the Good Food Nation Plans.

Each relevant authority must have regard to its Good Food Nation Plan when exercising certain functions. Those functions, or the description within which they fall, will be specified in secondary legislation.

For example, a description might be the "provision of food in schools" or "all functions of the local authority relevant to the provision of food in schools in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980".

This would mean that when exercising any function in relation to the provision of food in schools, or any function of the local authority relevant to the provision of food in schools in the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, the local authority would have to have regard to its Good Food Nation Plan.

The specified functions that apply to relevant authorities will be set out in secondary legislation. This will be brought forward by the Scottish Government, following appropriate consultation, and will come into force at around the time that the first relevant authority good food nation plans are published.

## Reviewing the Plan

As soon as practicable after the end of each reporting period, a relevant authority must publish a report setting out progress made

These reports must be published as soon as practicable after the end of each reporting period. The Good Food Nation

<p>towards achieving the outcomes set out in the Good Food Nation Plan, by reference to the indicators or other measures that are set out in the plan.</p>	<p>(Scotland) Act 2022 defines the first reporting period as a period of 2 years, which begins on the day that the relevant authority publishes its first Good Food Nation Plan. Thereafter, the reporting period is each subsequent period of 2 years.</p>
<p>A relevant authority must review its good food nation plan every 5 years.</p>	<p>When reviewing our Plan, we must have regard to any formal recommendation that has been made by the Scottish Food Commission as to action the Commission thinks we should take in relation to our Plan.</p>
<p>Following a review, the relevant authority may revise the plan as the relevant authority considers appropriate.</p> <p>When preparing a revised good food nation plan, the authority must comply with sections 10(4) to (6), 11, 12 and 13 of the Act.</p> <p>When publishing a revised good food nation plan, the authority must also publish an accompanying statement which sets out how the revised statement has complied with sections 11 and 13 of the Act.</p> <p>As soon as practicable after revising the plan, the relevant authority must publish the plan.</p>	<p>We <b>may</b> revise your Good Food Nation Plan following a review, but do not have to do so.</p> <p>If revising our plan, sections 10(4) to (6) on the content of the plan, section 11 on the principles to which regard must be had in the preparation of the plan, section 12 on consultation and section 13 on the regard to be given to the national good food nation plan when preparing a plan, all apply in same way as they do to the preparation of the initial plan.</p> <p>We must publish our revised Plan as soon as practicable after we have finished revising it.</p> <p>When publishing our revised plan, we must publish a statement that sets out how in revising the plan, we have complied with the requirements to have regard to the principles in section 11 and the National Good Food Nation Plan.</p>
<p>In publishing a document under sections 10 to 17, a relevant authority must have regard to the importance of communicating in an inclusive way.</p>	<p>When publishing any of the documents required by the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022, we must have regard to the importance of communicating in an inclusive way.</p>

Note: it is for individual relevant authorities to seek appropriate legal advice as to whether their Plans meet all of the above requirements.