

Agenda Item	6
Report No	RDB-07-26

The Highland Council

Committee: Redesign Board

Date: 04 June 2026

Report Title: Good Food Nation Plan - Progress report

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive – Corporate

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following the introduction of the Good Food Nation Plan to Redesign Board on 19th March, Members requested that updates on progress be presented to the Board at regular intervals.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on actions that have taken place since 19th March in relation to National and local Good Food Nation Plans.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is invited to:-
 - i. Note the progress to date.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Resource:** There are no resource implications arising as a direct consequence of this report.
- 3.2 **Legal:** There are no legal implications arising as a direct consequence of this report.
- 3.3 **Risk:** There are no risks arising as a direct result of this report. Project/Programme risks are identified via the council risk management process and monitored through the Portfolio Boards 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:** There are no implications arising as a direct result of this report.

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. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 This is an update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required. When further action plans are developed these will be assessed for impacts accordingly.

5. Good Food Nation Plan

- 5.1 Section 10 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 commenced on 1 April 2026. The commencement of this section of the Act sets in place the timeline for publication of relevant authorities' Good Food Nation Plans. The timeline for publication of our Plan is now set and we are required to publish the Highland Council Good Food Nation Plan by 1 April 2028.
- 5.2 The Scottish Food Commission, which will oversee the development of Good Food Nation Plans, was established on 19 March 2026.
- 5.3 Given the broad, cross-service impact of the Good Food Nation Plan an officer working group has been established to provide technical expertise to guide production of the Plan. This group meets for the first time on 26 May 2026. The officer working group will provide much of the technical detail for how the Good Food Nation Plan integrates with existing policy and practice across services and how those services can impact on the development and implementation of the Plan.
- 5.4 As mentioned at Redesign Board on 19 March 2026, the lead officer Good Food Nation has been liaising with NHS Highland to ensure alignment between the Plans for Highland Council and NHS Highland. NHS Highland have recently commenced a public engagement survey, data from which will be shared with The Highland Council. In addition, recent research from Citizens Advice Bureau and the Rowatt Institute has highlighted key issues around food insecurity in rural areas of Highland, with discussions now ongoing with the research writers to identify areas where Highland Council may have potential to intervene within the context of our GFN Plan.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 Following officer working group, begin work on structure of Highland Council GFN Plan involving technical experts from officer working group.
- 6.2 Provide update report to Redesign Board on 27 August 2026.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Corporate

Date: 14 May 2026

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