

Local food for everyone: a discussion



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Respondent Information Form

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

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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
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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.

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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

Local food for everyone: a discussion

Consultation questions

PART A – Local food

1. Do you agree with the Scottish Government definition of local food as set out in the strategy?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know

The Food and Drink Federation Scotland represent food and drink manufacturers in Scotland, and is part of the Food and Drink Federation which represents members across Great Britain.

We recognize that local food and artisanal production has an important role to play, not least in providing support to local communities and in enhancing our reputation as a tourist destination and as a land of food and drink.

We do, however, express concern that the role of high quality and high volume food manufacturing is not more celebrated in this definition. Scottish food and drink manufacturers, no matter their size, are proud of their products whether they are sold locally, across Scotland, across the UK or into export markets. We do not agree with the assumption at the start of this paper that high volume does not equal high quality. The export statistics and economic value quoted at the start of the paper come in high degree from our larger manufacturers.

In terms of a definition of local we do not like the explicit assumption that 'non-local' food does not hold some of the characteristics that have been defined. In particular we think:

- Local is Scotland. Whilst smaller geographical areas may have some tourism, business support or other benefits, from a broad standpoint investment in Scotland as a whole be preferred over smaller groupings.
- Short supply chains are of value if they are of high quality and based on long-lasting contracts and relationships. Short supply chains do not automatically deliver this, and work must be put in to ensure high standards and availability.
- On the definition of sustainable production then any kind of assertion here must be science-based and specific. The assertion that local food is more sustainable is a generic assumption. Supporting small and medium-sized food producers to be more sustainable is a laudable goal; claiming that they are without having done any specific environmental impact assessment is not, and potentially damaging to the environment.
- Similarly, any assertion that local food is fairer, builds more trust or provides more information than other parts of the food and drink industry is not something that can be substantiated.

As a definition we would prefer that – if one has to even be delivered – that it might be just 'food produced or manufactured in Scotland'. That will not stop the Scottish Government having a local food strategy that supports small and medium-sized businesses to shorten supply chains, develop more sustainable production and build a fair relationship with consumers – indeed we would encourage this.

- B. Please provide further detail on what local food means to you in the text box below.
2. Do you agree with the benefits associated with local food as set out in the strategy?
- a. Yes

- b. I agree with some but not all of the benefits X
- c. No
- d. I don't know

B. Please provide further detail on your response, including whether there are there any further benefits not captured. Please provide examples if possible.

FDF Scotland values food production in all parts of Scotland, including where that is done by assembling ingredients from other parts of the world, and exporting products too other countries.

It is important that there is relevant infrastructure, transport, broadband and other services in all of Scotland, including in the remote and rural areas where food production can be the major employer within communities. This production is provided by companies of all sizes, from large international firms to small food producers who support jobs and supply chains across the country.

3. Are you aware of any disadvantages of local food?

- a. Yes X
- b. No

B. Please provide further detail about your response. Please provide examples if possible.

As noted above in response to question 1, local food is not, inherently, better or worse than any other type of food.

Individual local food producers may be better or worse than other companies – for the environment, for health and for the economy.

4. Do you have any comments on the first pillar of the Scottish Government's local food strategy: connecting people with food?

FDF Scotland has strong links with food education for careers in the industry with our 'A Future in Food' programme which is currently funded by the Scottish Government as part of the Scotland Food & Drink recovery plan. This concentrates on supporting the skills framework across Scotland and working with Developing the Young Workforce Groups around the country on careers education. We work closely with a range of Food Education Partners including the Royal Highland Educational Trust. We highly value this collaboration and the joint activity that we do together.

5. Do you have any comments on the second pillar of the Scottish Government's local food strategy: connecting Scottish producers with buyers?

There has been a lot of positive work delivered here. In particular we would highlight the local food groups as worthy of long-term investment to support thriving local food economies going forward, and as a useful way to support a wider range of small businesses in local areas in Scotland.

6. Do you have any comments on the third pillar of the Scottish Governments local food strategy: harnessing public sector procurement?

There has been significant local work done on procurement- from East Ayrshire originally to the Soil Association Food for Life programme. We would point out that in some instances the new rules for food in schools promoted by the Scottish Government and enacted by the Scottish Parliament have led to less rather than more local Scottish produce – and fruit juice - qualifying in the rules.

7. Are there any areas related to local food where Scottish Government involvement could bring further benefits or reduce disadvantages?

No response

The next set of questions are aimed at individuals. Please skip to question 14 if you are answering on behalf of a company or NGO

8. Please indicate how willing you are to pay more for local food?

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Very willing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Willing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Neutral | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Unwilling | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Very unwilling | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. I don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> |

9. Please indicate how willing you are to go to more/different shops to access local food?

- a. Very willing
- b. Willing
- c. Neutral
- d. Unwilling
- e. Very unwilling
- f. I don't know

10. Please indicate how likely you are to change your diet, for example to eat fewer exotic foods or to eat more seasonally, in order to eat more local foods?

- a. Extremely likely
- b. Likely
- c. Neutral
- d. Unlikely
- e. Very unlikely
- f. I don't know

11. Are you aware of where you can access local food?

- a. Yes, and I buy it frequently
- b. Yes, and I buy it occasionally
- c. Yes, but I don't buy it
- d. No, I am not aware of where I can access local food

B. Please provide further detail about your answer above.

No response

12.A) Are you currently able to buy healthy, affordable food groceries within a 20 minute walk (approximately 800 metres) of your home?

Note: This question is focused on local access to healthy and affordable food. The next question is focused on local access to local food specifically.

- a. Yes, I have a variety of options
- b. Yes, but there is limited choice
- c. Partially, I have to travel further to buy certain products
- d. It is not possible for me to buy healthy and affordable food within 20 minutes walking distance of my home
- e. I don't know

B) Please provide further detail about your answer above, particularly focusing on any barriers to your ability to access healthy, affordable food.

No response

13. Are you currently able to buy local food within a 20 minute walk (approximately 800 metres) of your home?

- a. Yes, I have a variety of options
- b. Yes, but there is limited choice
- c. Partially, I can access some local food but have to travel further to buy certain products
- d. It is not possible for me to buy local food within 20 minutes of my home
- e. I don't know

B) Please provide further detail about your answer above, particularly focusing on any barriers to your ability to access local food.

No response

14. Do you have any further comments on improvements that could be made to allow for everyone living in Scotland to have better access to healthy, affordable and locally sourced food?

No response

15.A) Do you think that Scotland's schools, hospitals and other public institutions provide sufficient access to healthy, locally sourced food?

- a. Yes
- b. Mostly
- c. Somewhat
- d. Not at all
- e. I don't know

B) Please provide further detail about your answer above, focusing on any changes you think could be made to improve access to healthy, locally sourced food within schools, hospitals or other public institutions

See answer to 8 above

In addition, our Reformul8 programme, funded by the Scottish Government continues to be a success working with SMEs across Scotland to remove hundreds of millions of calories from products made in Scotland. It is vital that this project continues to be funded and it would be an interesting development to provide additional services to support businesses involved in public procurement.

16.A) Are you aware of any examples of schools, hospitals or other public institutions that have been particularly effective in providing healthy, locally sourced food?

- a. Yes
- b. No

B) If you responded 'Yes' to the question above, please provide further detail on these and why they were effective.

No response

17. A) Has your attitude to local food changed at all due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and related restrictions?

- a. Yes
- b. Somewhat
- c. Not at all

B) Please provide more detail about your answer

There is an opportunity to capitalise on a 'local food' sentiment that is perhaps more pronounced after coronavirus. Scottish Government should continue to support projects which help SMEs capitalise on this sentiment.

18.A) Are you aware of any organisations or schemes that have been particularly effective in providing local food during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- a. Yes

b. No

B) If you responded 'Yes' to the question above, please provide further detail on these and why they were effective.

We are aware of a range of FDF Scotland members who provided products for care packages and who donated products to voluntary efforts.

In many cases these are significant local employers, even when they would not be thought of as 'local' food businesses. For example Burton's Biscuits (based in Edinburgh, Livingston and Arran) donated at least 200 cases to local charities and hospitals.

19.A) Are you aware of any organisations or schemes that have been particularly effective in developing a strong sense of local food culture and community?

a. Yes

b. No

B) If you responded 'Yes' to the question above, please provide further detail on these and why they were effective.

No response

20.A) Are you aware of any organisations or schemes that have been particularly effective in reducing the distance that food travels from being grown or produced to being eaten (the number of 'food miles' travelled)?

a. Yes

b. No

B) If you responded 'Yes' to the question above, please provide further detail on these and why they were effective.

No response

21.A) Are you aware of any organisations or schemes that have been particularly effective in the increasing availability of locally produced food?

- a. Yes
- b. No

B) If you responded 'Yes' to the question above, please provide further detail on these and why they were effective.

No response

PART B – Vertical farming

- 22.A) Have you considered using vertical farming technologies?
- a. Yes, I have or work with a vertical farm, or I am currently planning to
 - b. Yes, but I have not yet made a decision/do not have enough information
 - c. Yes, but I decided not to go ahead because I faced barriers
 - d. No, it's not suitable for me/my product/my industry
 - e. No, I don't know what vertical farming is

B) Please explain your reasoning.

Vertical farming is a developing technology. It has potential to support production in Scotland, in particular for products that cannot be produced in Scotland, or that have particular environmental requirements. For production of produce through vertical farming to thrive in Scotland it will need an economic model that supports its use and can deliver in conjunction with traditional farming.

FDF Scotland are aware of the world-leading work being delivered by Intelligent Growth Systems and are supportive of their work, which is a real technical opportunity for Scotland. The Scottish Government should consider how best to support and promote their work, and looks forward to working with Scottish food producers who use vertical farming as part of their process.

If you answered E, 'I don't know what vertical farming is', you do not need to answer question 23 to 25 and can skip to question 26.

- 23.A) What effect would increased usage of vertical farming have on food imports to Scotland?
- a. Significantly reduce
 - b. Slightly reduce
 - c. Have no effect
 - d. Slightly increase
 - e. Significantly increase
 - f. I don't know

B) Please provide further detail about your answer.

No response

24.A) Would vertical farming cause an increase, decrease or have no effect on the following concerns compared with conventional production?

	Increase	Decrease	No effect	I don't know
a. Emissions from transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Pesticide and fertiliser usage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Water usage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Electricity usage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Packaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Land use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Labour requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Seasonality of produce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Freshness of produce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Cost of production	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B) Please give examples.

No response

25.A) What barriers do you see to the uptake of vertical farming in Scotland?

Tick all that apply.

- a. Regulatory barriers
- b. Capital expenditure costs
- c. Economic return/cost per unit too high
- d. Lack of supply chain integration
- e. Lack of awareness of vertical farming techniques
- f. Lack of knowledge or skill in vertical farming techniques
- g. Lack of market
- h. Other
- i. None

B) Please give examples.

No response

26. A) Are you aware of any other technologies, other than vertical farming, which would help Scotland produce more of its own food?

- a. Yes
- b. No

B) If you responded 'Yes' to the question above, please provide examples.

No response