



SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

BOARD MEETING: 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Community Planning Partnership Board of the purpose of the National Food and Drink Policy launched by the Scottish Government in June 2009 and articulate its importance to the work of East Ayrshire's Community Planning Partnership.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In autumn 2007, the Scottish Parliament agreed with the Scottish Government that a national food policy was needed for Scotland. Subsequently, a discussion document "Choosing the Right Ingredients" was launched in January 2008, which allowed anyone who wished to respond to have their say on what is important to Scots and Scotland in terms of food produced and food consumed.
- 2.2 As a consequence, the plan to produce a Food and Drink Policy was announced in July 2008 with the intention to "promote Scotland's sustainable economic growth by ensuring that the Scottish Government's focus in relation to food and drink, and in particular its work with Scotland's food and drink industries addresses quality, health and wellbeing and environmental sustainability and recognises the need for access to affordable food for all."
- 2.3 To ensure consistency and coherence on such a broad spectrum of cross-cutting objectives, a high level Food and Drink Leadership Forum was established led by the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Richard Lochhead MSP. In addition, five work streams were established to provide information to the Leadership Forum, as follows:
- Sustainable economic growth of the food and drink industry.
 - Healthy and sustainable food and drink choices.
 - Celebrating and safeguarding Scotland's reputation as a Land of Food and Drink.
 - Walking the talk - getting public sector procurement right.
 - Food security, access and affordability.

3. THE NATIONAL FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

- 3.1 The Policy supports the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, specifically "*to focus government and public services on creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth*"; and will contribute to achieving the National Outcomes on which the Single Outcome Agreement is based, in particular:
- National Outcome 2: We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people;
 - National Outcome 4: Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens

- National Outcome 6: We live longer, healthier lives;
- National Outcome 7: We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society; and
- National Outcome 14: We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

Monitoring Progress and Measuring Success

- 3.2 The Food and Drink Leadership Forum brings together some of the many different perspectives on food and drink which sets a challenging task for Scotland.
- 3.3 The next step in the development of the Policy is to set specific, measurable and meaningful targets and ensure that all elements of the food and drink chain, including wider environmental and health interests, are involved in driving the policy forward.
- 3.4 The National Food and Drink Leadership Forum will be tasked with exploring the need for further advocacy on food to reflect this wide agenda and set out conclusions and targets for Scotland as a whole.

4. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS - A FOCUS ON FOOD

- 4.1 It is clear that there is an opportunity to strengthen the role of the Community Planning Partnership and the Community Health Partnership in developing the concept of healthy sustainable food and that the Single Outcome Agreement provides a robust mechanism for the Community Planning Partnership to measure progress towards identified priority outcomes in this regard.
- 4.2 The Food Policy, when fully developed, will have direct relevance to building healthy, sustainable communities and a direct influence on the delivery of all public services which provide food, for example, in hospitals, prisons, colleges and schools.
- 4.3 Food has a key role in promoting sustainable development and impacts on education, good health, social justice, economic growth, and reducing harmful environmental impacts. The Food Policy has the potential to:
- provide stimulus for the local and regional economy of Scotland in the food and drink sector;
 - improve efficiency and security in the food supply chain;
 - reduce Scotland's ecological footprint from food production, consumption and waste;
 - promote social justice, health and environmental improvement through the provision of good quality sustainably produced food; and
 - engender cognitive and cultural change with an increased awareness of the value of food to the health of the individual, the environment and sustainable communities.
- 4.4 In addition, a sustainable Food Policy for Scotland fits with the priority areas highlighted by the European Commission, based on the Lisbon, Leipzig and Gothenburg agendas which address threats to human health, climate change, the management of natural resources, sustainable transport, economic and social renewal and growth of jobs.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Community Planning Partnership Board is requested to note:

- (i) the development of Scotland's first National Food and Drink Policy and consider how Community Planning Partners can contribute to its future implementation;
- (ii) that future targets for Food and Drink are being developed which, it is anticipated, will require to be formally adopted into Community Planning activity; and
- (iii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

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