

National Food Strategy – Call for Evidence

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in England,

For information: Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Key Points

Following the launch of an independent review into the National Food Strategy on 27 June 2019, details have now been published regarding a Call for Evidence to support the development of the strategy. This briefing provides an overview of the evidence that is being sought by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

1.0 Background

On 27 June 2019, an independent review was launched into the National Food Strategy. Details of the proposed review are outlined in [APSE Briefing 19-25 – National Food Strategy](#).

As part of the review and to develop a food strategy DEFRA have published a call for evidence. This briefing outlines details of the consultation.

2.0 Consultation description

The purpose of the call for evidence is to gather inspiration to help inform and transform our food system. Defra want to hear from anyone who has a good idea: producers, processors, retailers, consumers, academics, policy specialists, inventors, farm labourers, factory workers, health care practitioners, charity workers, or simply interested citizens.

They are looking for ideas big and small. From government policies to simple practical things that make a difference in the community or in business. These might be things that are already working well, here or abroad, and that could be scaled up or used differently. Or they might be new ideas: things that haven't been tried yet at scale but have the potential to improve the system. DEFRA would like to understand the rationale for the proposals and study the accompanying evidence.

The scope of the strategy is within England, but evidence is also welcomed from people in the devolved administrations or abroad.

In addition, they are looking for innovations that work in the home, the neighbourhood, or business, in this country or beyond: ideas that help citizens make informed decisions about the food they eat, or which increase access to and affordability of high-quality food; ideas that make food production more environmentally sustainable, creating a flourishing countryside rich in wildlife; ideas that help farming, fishing and food businesses and communities thrive, benefitting employees and the wider community; or that promote the highest standards of animal health and welfare; or that could put England at the forefront of innovation and reshape our food system in the coming years.

A summary of the responses will be published on the government website 12 weeks after the consultation closes on 25 October 2019.

3.0 Submitting Evidence

Details can be submitted via the online survey [National Food Strategy - Call for Evidence survey](#).

Questions one to 17 set out to establish who is responding and details of their organisation, with question 18 and 19 seeking the respondent's views. Details of the survey questions are set out in Appendix One of this briefing.

It is requested that the submissions should be 1,000 words or fewer, not including the list of references and supporting evidence. Where references are made with supporting documents, it is requested that these are described accurately with the correct author, titles, date, and publisher, so these can be followed up.

Defra will be reviewing previous consultations and calls for evidence and will build on the work underway in the Agriculture Bill, the Environment Bill, the Fisheries Bill, the Industrial Strategy and the Childhood Obesity Plan.

4.0 APSE Comment

APSE welcomes the launch of the independent review into the National Food Strategy and the proposals set out to consult and seek evidence from across all aspects of the food sector.

Local Authorities play a key role in the food sector and there are several examples such as:

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- Environment Health teams enforcing the relevant laws for food and animal feed ensuring the food consumed is safe to eat;
- Public Health taking an active role in combating childhood obesity which has been acknowledge in the Childhood Obesity Plan – Part Two, with local authorities leading on the pilot for the Trailblazer Programme and
- Local Authority catering services providing high quality, nutritious meals to children and the elderly, through social care and meals on wheels services.

APSE welcomes that consideration is being given to not only the role of central government departments but also the role that local councils and city authorities can play in meeting the aims of the strategy.

APSE also supports the proposal to look at how food production can be made genuinely sustainable for the future.

On a final point, APSE will be looking to respond to the call of evidence on behalf of APSE Members and would welcome any information that local authorities are happy to share to support the submission.

Details can be forwarded to vhacking@apse.org.uk by **Friday 4 October**.

Vickie Hacking
Principal Advisor, APSE

APPENDIX 1 - National Food Strategy: Call for Evidence survey

Call for evidence questions

Confidentiality

1. Would you like your response to be confidential?

YES / NO

Please explain clearly in writing why you need to keep these details confidential

Introduction

2. What is your name
3. What is your email address
4. What is your organisation
5. Are you a;
 - a) Business - In an official capacity representing the views of an individual business – please skip to question 6
 - b) Individual - You are responding with your personal views, rather than as an official representative of a business / business association / other organisation – please skip to question 11
 - c) Non-Governmental Organisation - In an official capacity as the representative of a non-governmental organisation / trade union / trade body / other organisation – please skip to question 15
 - d) Academic or Academic Institution
 - e) Public Sector body - In an official capacity as a representative of a local government organisation / public service provider / other public sector body in the UK or elsewhere – please skip to question 17

About your business

6. How many employees are in your business?
 - a) 1-9
 - b) 10-49
 - c) 50-249
 - d) 250+
7. Where does your business operate (please select all that apply)
 - a) North East
 - b) North West
 - c) West Midlands

- d) East Midlands
- e) South West
- f) South East
- g) Yorkshire and the Humber
- h) East of England
- i) Greater London
- j) Northern Ireland
- k) Wales
- l) Scotland
- m) Outside the UK

8. What sector of the economy does your business primarily operate in?

- a) Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- b) Manufacturing
- c) Water supply, Sewage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities
- d) Construction
- e) Wholesale and Retail Trade
- f) Transportation and Storage
- g) Accommodation and Food Service Activities
- h) Information and Insurance Activities
- i) Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities
- j) Administrative Support Services Activities
- k) Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security
- l) Education
- m) Human Health and Social Work Activities
- n) Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
- o) Other Service Activities
- p) Activities of Households as Employers, Undifferentiated Goods-and-Services-Producing Activities of Households for Own Use
- q) Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies
- r) Other

9. If in the agri-food sector which subsector does your businesses primarily operate in?

- a) Arable farming
- b) Grazing livestock farming
- c) Pigs / poultry farming
- d) Horticulture
- e) Aquaculture
- f) Fishing
- g) Food & drink manufacturing
- h) Distribution
- i) Wholesale
- j) Retail
- k) Catering / hospitality
- l) Other

10. Please describe in a few words what the primary activities of your business are?

About you

11. What area of the UK do you currently live?

- a) North East
- b) North West
- c) West Midlands
- d) East Midlands
- e) South West
- f) South East
- g) Yorkshire and the Humber
- h) East of England
- i) Greater London
- j) Northern Ireland
- k) Wales
- l) Scotland
- m) Outside the UK

12. If you are working, what sector of economy does your employer primarily operate in?

- a) Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- b) Manufacturing
- c) Water supply, Sewage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities
- d) Construction
- e) Wholesale and Retail Trade
- f) Transportation and Storage
- g) Accommodation and Food Service Activities
- h) Information and Insurance Activities
- i) Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities
- j) Administrative Support Services Activities
- k) Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security
- l) Education
- m) Human Health and Social Work Activities
- n) Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
- o) Other Service Activities
- p) Activities of Households as Employers, Undifferentiated Goods-and-Services-Producing Activities of Households for Own Use
- q) Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies
- r) Other

13. If you work in the agri-food sector, please specify which area you primarily work in.

- a) Arable farming
- b) Grazing livestock farming
- c) Pigs / poultry farming
- d) Horticulture

- e) Aquaculture
- f) Fishing
- g) Food & drink manufacturing
- h) Distribution
- i) Wholesale
- j) Retail
- k) Catering / hospitality
- l) Other

14. Please describe in a few words what the primary activities of the business you work for are?

About your organisation

15. What area does your organisation primarily operate within?

- a) The prevention or relief of poverty
- b) The advancement of education
- c) The advancement of religion
- d) The advancement of health or the saving of lives
- e) The advancement of citizenship or community development
- f) The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science
- g) The advancement of amateur sport
- h) The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity
- i) The advancement of environmental protection or improvement
- j) The relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage
- k) The advancement of animal welfare
- l) The promotion of the efficiency of the armed forces of the Crown, or of the efficiency of the police, fire and rescue services or ambulance service
- m) Trade body or union
- n) Any other charitable purposes

16. Where does your organisation operate? (please select all that apply)

- a) North East
- b) North West
- c) West Midlands
- d) East Midlands
- e) South West
- f) South East
- g) Yorkshire and the Humber
- h) East of England
- i) Greater London

- j) Northern Ireland
- k) Wales
- l) Scotland
- m) Outside the UK

Public sector body

17. What type of body are you:

- a) Central Government Department
- b) An Arms-Length Body / Non-ministerial department/Government agency
- c) Local government
- d) Devolved government

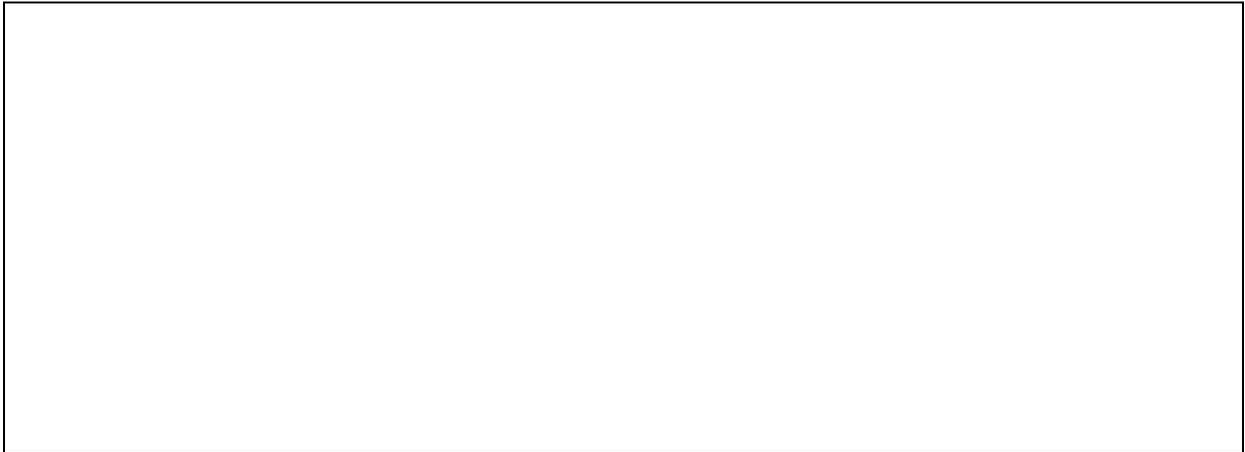
Other Your views

18. Remember, we want to use this process to discover actions and policies both big and small to help transform the food system. This might include ideas that:

- help citizens make informed decisions about the food they eat,
- increase access to and affordability of high-quality food;
- help prevent diet-related disease;
- make food production more environmentally sustainable, and help prevent climate change
- create a flourishing countryside rich in wildlife;
- support farming, fishing and food businesses and communities thrive, benefitting employees and the wider community;
- promote the highest standards of animal health and welfare;
- put our food system at the forefront of innovation

19. We would like to understand the rationale behind your idea and study any accompanying evidence. For example, it might be an innovation that is already working well in your home, neighbourhood or business and could be scaled-up; or perhaps it is already happening in other countries. It could be a policy which could take a smaller idea to scale, or make a big idea a reality. We are also open to new ideas that might not have been tested but which you think have the potential to improve the system.

Please enter your response in the box below.



20. Which of the following areas does your response best relate to? (please select all that apply)

Agriculture

- a) Economy
- b) Environment
- c) Food Security
- d) Health
- e) Other (please specify below)