



## Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill

To: All Chief Executives, Main Contacts and APSE Contacts in Scotland. For information only to England, Northern Ireland and Wales

### Key Issues:

Scottish Government introduced the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill on 7th October 2021. The Bill requires local authorities to publish good food nation plans which are designed to ensure “good quality, locally sourced and produced food is a practical everyday reality for everyone” and to “make provision as to the effect of those plans”. The plans will support “social and economic wellbeing, the environment, health and economic development”.

[This is a link to the Bill](#)

### 1.0 The Bill

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill was introduced on 7 October 2021 by Mairi Gougeon MSP to support the ambition of the Scottish Government that Scotland becomes a Good Food Nation by 2025. The main points of the Bill are:

- Section 7 imposes a duty on relevant authorities to publish a good food nation plan - this includes local authorities, health boards and public authorities.
- These relevant authorities must publish good food nation plans within 12 months of the Bill coming into force.
- The relevant authorities’ good food plans should have regard to the national food plan and should set out the main outcomes that they wish to achieve in their area of responsibility.

- The relevant authorities' plans should consider the scope for food related issues such as social and economic wellbeing, health, economic development and the environment.
- They should also consult on the drafts of the plan and consider responses gathered during the consultation process.
- The national good food nation plan has to set out the main outcomes that the Scottish Ministers want to see achieved in relation to Scotland.
- The national plan must also set out the performance indicators and other measures of progress that are being used, and the policies that the Ministers intend to use to ensure the outcomes are achieved.
- The reporting period is set for every 2 years.
- The national plan will be reviewed by Scottish Ministers every 5 years.

## **2.0 APSE Comment**

APSE notes the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill, having previously produced [APSE briefing 19/14](#) on the consultation on the various proposals for the legislation. APSE has been a keen supporter of the work of local authority soft facilities management staff in bringing about positive changes in school food, and has actively participated in Scottish Government working groups on related issues such as healthy eating in schools and nursery milk.

APSE was also part of a working group from across the school food sector, comprising of fifteen organisations including ASSIST FM, COSLA, The Soil Association and Nourish Scotland. The working group produced a discussion paper on Scottish Government's commitment to the introduction of Universal Free School Meals for primary school children by 2022, which is a key step on Scotland's journey to becoming a "Good Food Nation" (see [briefing 21-37](#) for more information). As a member of that working group, APSE encourages our members to consider how the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill will impact their authority. APSE believes that this represents a unique opportunity not only to both invest in producing and serving food with a range of wide-reaching benefits for children and young people, communities, the environment and Scotland's economy but

also for all local authority services and public sector partners to collaborate and develop key partnerships to help deliver the “good food case”.

APSE would also welcome the opportunity with our membership to assist in developing the key performance indicators and measures of progress being employed to ensure that the right data is being captured.

[APSE Scotland’s Soft Facilities Management advisory group](#) is a key discussion forum and information sharing hub for local authority catering managers and councillors. We plan to have further discussions on the Bill at upcoming meetings and for more information please [click here](#) to access the advisory group diary of dates.

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