

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 30 November 2021

City of Edinburgh Council response to the Local food for Everyone consultation

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Routine All
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1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Policy and Sustainability Committee:
 - 1.1.1 Approves the Council's response to the Scottish Government consultation on Local Food for Everyone; and
 - 1.1.2 Notes that the consultation closes on 26 November 2021, but that permission has been granted for the Council to submit our response a few days late following this Committee meeting.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Fiona Macleod, Senior Policy and Insight Officer

E-mail: fiona.macleod@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3513



City of Edinburgh Council response to the Local food for everyone consultation

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report seeks Committee's approval for the Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the three pillars of its Local Food Strategy and related activity. The Council's response broadly welcomes the work the Scottish Government is doing on local food but calls for more investment and support at the local level in order to achieve the aims of the strategy and ensure access to local food for everyone.
- 2.2 The response is compiled based on feedback from service areas and alignment with Council outcomes and priorities, particularly the Council's ambition for Edinburgh to be a net zero climate resilient city by 2030 and a sustainable food city.
- 2.3 Food plays a crucial role in helping achieve the Council's ambition of net zero emissions and adapting Edinburgh to the impacts of climate change by 2030 (as set out in the draft 2030 Climate Strategy), as well as helping to tackle other key issues in relation to protecting and enhancing biodiversity, alleviating poverty and improving health.
- 2.4 The Council, as a lead member of the Edible Edinburgh partnership, is working towards developing Edinburgh as a sustainable food city and is in the process of implementing Growing Locally, Edinburgh's first Food Growing Strategy.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Government's Ambition 2030, the Good Food Nation policy and the Agriculture Bill set out its aspirations for Scotland to become a Good Food Nation, driving environmentally sustainable, inclusive growth and making sure everyone can afford a healthy diet. The Good Food Nation Bill, temporarily paused in the last parliamentary session as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, is to be brought forward in this year's Scottish Government legislative programme.
- 3.2 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a requirement on councils in relation to producing a local food growing strategy. The Scottish Government's Local Food Strategy consultation is the first stage in a national strategy to make high quality food accessible to all and promote the benefits of local

food. The Scottish Government aims to start a conversation about local food in Scotland, inviting contributions about how everyone involved in food in Scotland could work together to build a food system base around quality production and short and circular supply chains, to make high quality Scottish produce available to all.

- 3.3 Therefore, the aim of this consultation is to help shape the Scottish Government's first ever local food strategy. Private individuals, businesses and organisations are being urged to take part in the consultation to ensure the Scottish Government is learning from others, adopting good practice, and removing the barriers that are stopping people growing, using, choosing or buying Scottish food. Additionally, a commitment was made to support the development of vertical, low carbon farms, fuelled by renewable energy, to produce more of Scotland's fruit and vegetables. Given the relevance to local food production, this consultation is also seeking views on the potential for vertical farming in Scotland.
- 3.4 The Council's response to the consultation on the Good Food Nation Bill was approved by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee on [14 May 2019](#).
- 3.5 The Council signed up to the Glasgow Declaration on Climate and Food in August 2021. The Declaration seeks a commitment from local and regional governments to helping tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies through renewing their commitment to sustainable food policies and joined up action. It calls on national governments to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to these emergencies.
- 3.6 The Edible Edinburgh partnership, chaired by Councillor Gordon, works towards developing Edinburgh as a sustainable food city and outlines actions for delivering this transformation through its Sustainable Food City Plan.
- 3.7 Growing Locally, Edinburgh's first Food Growing Strategy was approved by Committee on [20 April 2021](#).
- 3.8 The Edible Edinburgh partnership is a member of the United Kingdom (UK) Sustainable Food Cities Network which supports over 55 UK cities in developing cross sector approaches to building healthy and sustainable communities by transforming food systems. The Sustainable Food Cities network hosts an annual conference bringing together cities to celebrate achievements, share experience and good practice and provide networking and learning opportunities.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The Scottish Government's consultation on Local Food for Everyone is being undertaken to support the development of a national Local Food Strategy, to make high quality food accessible to all and promote the benefits of local food. It is expected there will be a further consultation on a draft national strategy in the future.

- 4.2 The current preparatory consultation asks for views on the actions currently being taken at national level to support local food, and on what more can be done to create a future where all Scotland's citizens can enjoy locally produced, sustainable food. A final section of the consultation asks for views on the development of vertical farms in Scotland.
- 4.3 A draft consultation response is presented at Annex A. It welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation and broadly agrees with the Scottish Government's definition of local food and its benefits. As stated in the draft response, it is crucial to ensure when designing local food systems that food poverty is tackled and costs are kept low to ensure locally grown food is accessible for all. This aligns with the work the City of Edinburgh Council is doing to tackle poverty and food insecurity by increasing the amount of money available to people through fair employment and access to advice and support on entitlements; ensuring that people can access emergency food provision where it is needed and to support food as a way to improve wider wellbeing, including healthy eating as we recover from the pandemic.
- 4.4 The response also highlights that not all food needs could or should be met in Scotland, given the climate, competing land demands, the energy needed to produce certain foods out of season or not normally grown in Scotland, food costs and availability, and the potential to support sustainable food production elsewhere in the world such as through Edinburgh's Fair Trade initiative. The response highlights the need to consider these issues in relation to different types of food, required at different times and to different scale, and to weigh the social, environmental and economic impacts of options available.
- 4.5 The consultation also asks for feedback on the three pillars of the Scottish Government's local food strategy
- 4.5.1 Connecting people with food;
 - 4.5.2 Connecting Scottish producers with buyers; and
 - 4.5.3 Harnessing public sector procurement.
- 4.6 The Council response broadly agrees with the Scottish Government's priorities but highlights the importance of ensuring accessibility and affordability of local food so that everyone can benefit, the importance of leveraging of public sector buying power to support Scottish producers, and the need for investment to support local authority and other public, private and third sector work to help achieve these aims. Healthy and sustainable food needs not only to be accessible, but also affordable for all and work to tackle food insecurity and child food poverty needs to continue to be a national as well as local priority. Support and investment is needed for the establishment of local food hubs and markets, and we need to ensure that all our citizens have access to healthy, sustainable and affordable local food within a 20-Minute radius of where they live.
- 4.7 The consultation seeks information about local activity and three best practice examples are given of work being done in Edinburgh by partner organisations to support the local food agenda. These examples are from our Edible Edinburgh

partners, Transition Edinburgh and Edinburgh Community Food, and the exemplar work that is being done at Inch View Care Home.

- 4.8 The final consultation questions focus on the development of vertical farming techniques in Scotland. The draft response agrees that vertical farming could be one of the options considered as part of developing a local food economy, and highlights work by Scotland's Rural College to open a vertical farm for research and education purposes in Edinburgh. The Council, through its work with the Edible Edinburgh partnership, will collaborate with the Rural College to learn more about this technology, its feasibility, costs and the business opportunities it could open up for sustainable food production. Lauriston Farm is given as a further example of how a different approach to sustainable food production can be developed in an urban setting, providing not only a sustainable urban farming model but also a place where food could be grown in ways that protect and enhance nature and benefit the local community.
- 4.9 A draft response to the Consultation has been prepared and is attached in Appendix 1 for approval.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If approved, the Council's response will be submitted through the Scottish Government's consultation page: <https://consult.gov.scot/agriculture-and-rural-economy/local-food-for-everyone/consultation/subpage.2021-08-04.5263911372/>

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial impacts arising from this report.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The response to the consultation has been developed based on engagement with and feedback from Council service areas including Policy and Insight, Commercial and Procurement services, Property and Facilities Management and Parks.
- 7.2 This report has been assessed in respect of the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties. In summary, the proposals in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because they support Council action in partnership across all sectors, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the city's resilience to climate change impacts and improve social justice, economic wellbeing and environmental good stewardship.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Declaration on Food and Climate](#), Policy and Sustainability Committee, 3 August 2021.
- 8.2 [Scottish Government Consultation on the Good Food Nation Bill](#).
- 8.3 [Edible Edinburgh website](#).
- 8.4 [Edible Edinburgh – A Sustainable Food City – Progress Report](#).

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – The City of Edinburgh Council’s response to the Scottish Government’s Local Food for Everyone consultation.

Local food for everyone: a discussion



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Respondent Information Form

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response. To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

The City of Edinburgh Council

Phone number

0131 529 3654

Address

Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street
Edinburgh

Postcode

EH8 8BG

Email Address

Paula.mcleay@edinburgh.gov.uk

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (without name)
 Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

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.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

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

B. Please provide further detail on what local food means to you in the text box below.

The Scottish Government definition takes in most aspects of local food including local production, short supply chains, sustainability and fairness although growing organically and growing with nature should be referenced within the definition to provide clarity and an enhanced focus on sustainability.

The City of Edinburgh Council through its Food Growing Strategy, Allotment Strategy and other food-related work, and as a partner of the Edible Edinburgh sustainable food partnership, is committed to supporting production and consumption of locally grown sustainable food, shortening supply chains, and reducing the carbon and environmental impacts of food.

To achieve a more local accessible and sustainable food economy needs investment and support in order to produce local food sustainably, shortening supply chains, supporting small and community producers and ensuring that local food is available and affordable for all. It would be useful to add specific reference to food grown through more informal means such as community food growing, sharing schemes and other non-business related means.

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
- 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.

Agree in terms of the health, economic, environmental and community benefits of local food as well as the balance needed between what can be produced locally, regional and globally given economic, environmental, climatic and seasonality constraints. It is crucial to ensure when designing local food systems that food poverty and food deserts are tackled and costs are kept low to ensure locally grown food is accessible for all. This aligns with the work the City of Edinburgh Council is doing to tackle poverty and food insecurity by increasing the amount of money available to people through fair employment and access to advice and support on entitlements; ensuring that people can access emergency food provision where it is needed and to support food as a way to improve wider wellbeing, including healthy eating as we recover from the pandemic. Investment needs to continue and increase in order to ensure that these issues continue to be tackled as part of a green and just recovery from the pandemic. Investment and support are needed to help local food partnerships, community food organisations and social enterprises maintain and increase provision of locally grown food.

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

- a. Yes
- b. No

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

Expectations of what a local food system in Scotland could produce need to be realistic. Not all our food needs could or should be met in Scotland, given our climate, competing land demands, especially in urban areas such as Edinburgh, the energy needed to produce certain foods out of season or not normally grown in Scotland, food costs and availability, and work to support sustainable food production elsewhere in the world through initiatives such as Edinburgh's fair trade initiative. Economies of scale, seasonality of produce, and diversity of the products available, might make it difficult for large consumers such as local authorities to purchase exclusively from small local producers without financial support. The benefits of locally grown food must be balanced against the economic and environmental impacts of doing so. The advantages and disadvantages of providing different types of food locally need to be carefully assessed when developing Scotland's local food economy.

Local food can be more or much more expensive precluding many low income families from purchasing it. It is often not available to buy in local areas or in supermarkets so reducing its accessibility, particularly for those with limited transport means or time. The strategy should include measures to encourage and incentivise bigger and local retailers to supply local food at reasonable prices and to better support local farmers markets.

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

The Scottish Government's work to connect people with local food in legislation and through national agencies is welcomed, however it is at the local level that much of this is or will be implemented. Demand for land for food growing in urban areas such as Edinburgh is high and innovate ways need to be found to meet food growers' needs while balancing other competing demands for land. Sources of finance and support mechanisms need to be made available to ensure local authorities successfully implement their Food Growing strategies, especially in relation to allotment and community growing provisions.

In relation to food education, schools face many barriers to outdoor learning through growing, especially budget constraints. Local authorities are facing significant budgetary pressures as a result of responding to the pandemic. Increased funding to local government is needed to enable Councils to invest in school growing programmes and providing opportunities for children to cook and eat the food produced within the school. This is an important aspect in helping children learn about how food is produced and how its quality and taste is improved by consuming it when it is as fresh and local as possible.

The Scottish Government's investment in supporting low income households to access locally produced food, support local initiatives and tackle food insecurity is very welcome. This aligns with the work the City of Edinburgh Council is doing to tackle poverty and food insecurity by increasing the amount of money available to people through fair employment and access to advice and support on entitlements; ensuring that people can access emergency food provision where it is needed and to support food as a way to improve wider wellbeing, including healthy eating as we recover from the pandemic,. Investment needs to continue and increase in order to ensure that these issues continue to be tackled as part of a green and just recovery from the pandemic.

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

The City of Edinburgh Council is committed to developing a circular economy through shortening supply chains and building a local and sustainable food economy for the city. This is challenging. Substantial investment is needed to develop local food markets and eradicate food deserts, ensuring that local, healthy, sustainable and affordable food is within a 20 minute walking distance for all of Edinburgh's citizens. Logistical support is needed for small producers to access local food markets and for larger retailers to stock local produce and reduce food and packaging waste. The investment provided to support low income households needs to continue to ensure that none are left behind as Scotland recovers from the pandemic. Healthy and sustainable food needs not only to be accessible but also affordable for all and work to tackle food insecurity and child food poverty needs to continue to be a national as well as a local priority.

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

The Council adopted its Sustainable Procurement Strategy in March 2020. The Strategy has 7 key objectives, including making Council spend more accessible to local SMEs/third sector and helping deliver the Council's 2030 net zero carbon city target. As such, the Council very much agrees that the leveraging of public sector buying power to support Scottish producers is crucial. Education authorities must be given the resources and ability to procure local and sustainable produce in school catering and Scotland Excel processes must be able to support this.

Issues of economies of scale, seasonality of supply, availability of certain organic products within local areas and the logistical problems of using local and small producers in large public sector catering contracts remains and will need to be resolved.

There is opportunity to work further with large existing intermediary suppliers on ways to have a greater proportion of their product range from local manufacturers and growers. To have an even greater impact there may be opportunity to expand work with smaller local intermediaries to help them scale-up and widen their range and volume of supplies. Increased capacity in local markets could also help meet the needs of private sector purchasing as well, increasing the supplier customer base and the sustainability of the food purchased.

Under the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Regional Deal, work has been undertaken with Prof. Andy Sherlock and team (University of Edinburgh / University of Strathclyde) to illustrate how data analysis can support decision making and interventions in relation to the regional supply chain. To date mapping has shown all food and drinks businesses in the ESES City Region. There is potential to show how supplies move across as well as into and out of the region and delve into what is produced and where. This information may be used to consider additional supplies that can be sourced and used by the public sector, and in turn helping build capacity. We would encourage dialogue on investigating the potential for extending of this work.

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

By working with large businesses and supermarkets, as well as smaller producers to ensure that the barriers to selling locally produced, sustainable food are removed. Supporting the development of local food markets and reducing food costs, especially in disadvantaged areas would ensure that sustainable and healthy food is accessible to all. Supporting community groups and third sector organisations working to promote food growing, increase healthy eating and alleviate food insecurity, helping to develop the mechanisms and support services needed to ensure that they can continue to operate and thrive.

Questions 8 - 13 are aimed at individuals. Please skip to question 14 if you are answering on behalf of a company or NGO

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?

As stated earlier, limited land availability due to competing land demands is a significant barrier to expanding food growing in urban areas. Programmes such as the Stalled Spaces Scotland programme that encouraged and supported communities to bring stalled spaces or derelict and vacant land back into temporary use need to be relaunched with appropriate timescales to support food growing in areas where land availability is limited.

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Mostly | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Somewhat | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Not at all | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. I don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

The strategy focuses on school procurement but doesn't sufficiently cover other areas of public sector procurement, which make up a significant proportion of spend and is therefore a missed opportunity.

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

The City of Edinburgh Council has achieved Food for Life programme bronze accreditation for all of its schools and six of its care homes and silver accreditation is being trialled at two Council schools and Inch View Care Home. The allocation of additional funding to support local authorities to increase their participation in this programme is very welcome. However more needs to be done to help support public institutions to participate in this programme and work together on achieving this joint aim.

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

Attitudes have changed due to the coronavirus pandemic and related restrictions. Food poverty is a growing issue in Edinburgh, and the challenges and solutions to improving food security have been incorporated within the city's plan to eradicate poverty by 2030. A cash first approach to tackling food insecurity in the city aims to build on the recommendations of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, building income security and providing access to emergency food provision where it is needed in a way that is coordinated and maintains dignity and respect.

Community groups working on emergency food provision have increased in Edinburgh due to the coronavirus pandemic and related restrictions. Edinburgh has a network of locally based foodbanks to support households that needs to access emergency food help. A growing number of pantries or low-cost food outlets are also opening across the city. Some of these run as a pop-up market at schools or community centres.

During the pandemic interest in and purchase of locally produced food has increased with more people regularly buying food from local shops and suppliers, and ordering vegetable delivery boxes. People are far more aware of the fragility of supply chains and therefore have greater interest in the availability of locally provided food; more awareness of the real cost of food - both financial and environmental and a greater understanding of food inequality and a greater desire to reduce food waste.

The need to create a more sustainable, local and circular economy is growing including encouraging business to stock more local produce and support local food businesses in their recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

18. 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.

Edinburgh's community café network aim to address issues around sustainability, community cohesion and inclusion. They provide a friendly and welcoming environment, helping to reduce isolation through the provision of healthy and affordable food that is, where possible, local and ethical. Some cafes provide for their immediate community. Others may be a hub for a specific group. The network brings the different cafes together to help increase the community café brand and to bridge, bond and link their social capital. As a network they share skills, training and knowledge as well as increasing the impact the different cafes have within their associated communities. Community cafes in the network support one another and work on projects which benefit everyone. The network is facilitated by Edinburgh Community Food and supported by the Healthy Living Award and NHS Lothian.

Transition Edinburgh South (TES) supports [Gracemount Community Garden](#) which grows fruit and vegetables in the walled garden in the grounds of Gracemount Mansion house. Their part-time gardener works with local volunteers using organic regenerative horticulture. All who are involved are welcome to harvest the produce and much of it goes home with local school children. The project works very closely with local schools. Children from the primary school visit the garden once a week. Agroecological growing is practiced at the garden and children learn about growing in this way. The project also works with community groups, the local residents' association, youth group, churches and organisations promoting nature, mental welfare and well-being. The aim is to help tackle climate change by providing access to locally produced, low-carbon food for local people, while creating a pleasant outdoor space and a friendly project for all who want to join in. TES also works with Edinburgh Food Social to provide a free community lunch, run workshops on cooking using their seasonal local food, helping people gain food hygiene certificates, and giving tips about reducing food waste.

The [Grove Community Garden](#) are a mobile community garden established by the local community that make use of two temporary sites in Edinburgh. They have transformed an unused development site into a garden and community hub and are gardening on a second unused development site (owned by Edinburgh City Council) which is only a 3 minute walk from the first garden. One part of the garden is dedicated to pallet bed units giving local people the chance to growing their own vegetables, fruit and herbs in an inclusive and supportive surrounding. The rest of the garden is a shared communal space, with the garden being ideally placed to accommodate social, cultural and environmental activities. They have a welfare container where they can boil the kettle and a storage container for their tools.

15.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.

Inch View Care Home opened in 2011 as a purpose-built care home specialising in looking after residents with dementia. Inch View became the first care home in Scotland to win the Soil Association's prestigious Silver Food for Life Served Here Catering Mark. The council-run home achieved the Silver Catering Mark through its commitment to sourcing most of its food locally and from organic suppliers. The home is not only supporting local suppliers but also growing its own food. It has a wheelchair- accessible polytunnel, which was built in the grounds of the home by volunteers, local pupils from Liberton High School and Food for Life Scotland team members. The garden is looked after by a volunteer gardener and has helped improve the health and wellbeing of its residents, some of whom play an active part in the garden's development and care.

The [Real Junk Food Project Edinburgh](#) aims to raise awareness of the issue of food waste, help people to eat and cook better and instigate change towards a more sustainable, efficient and just food system. They intercept food before it goes to landfill, cook and serve it to all comers on a Pay As You Feel basis. Working with supermarkets and smaller retailers, farms and other producers, and consumers they try to reduce waste at all levels of the supply chain. The Pay As You Feel (PAYF) policy encourages a mixed demographic to be involved in the project, allowing the food poor and those with means to pay for their food to eat together, developing a sense of community and awareness of local food insecurity. The aim is that this will also get people thinking about the value of food as a resource in a different way.

16.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.

Edinburgh Community Food (ECF) has supported citizens to access fresh food and nutritional education for 25 years. ECF has been a key partner in the City of Edinburgh Council's Discover! programme since it started, working closely with Lifelong Learning teams across the city to develop a blended range of themed activities, supporting over 330 children and families. For Discover! 2020, a Scottish-themed food and activity box was developed and delivered to families. ECF commissioned seasonal vegetables grown locally at Jock Tamson's Gairden. ECF's nutrition team built a recipe plan around this fresh produce to share with children and families. Basic cooking and preparation equipment were supplied. A 'Plot to Pot' step-by-step video, sharing skills and nutritional facts was produced. Children and families used the locally grown food to make a healthy nutritious soup. Many shared the results on a (closed) Facebook page set up for on-going advice and peer-to-peer support.

[Pilton Community Health Project](#) work with volunteers and local partners to support local people develop their understanding and knowledge to eat healthily on a budget including cooking skills, budgeting, meal planning and wider food issues. They run cooking lessons, 'cook and taste' sessions in the community, delivering 'bite size' sessions on healthy eating and much more. The project also supports and offers the local community access to food related training courses to enable their skills.

PART B – Vertical farming

17.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 could be one of the options that the Council could consider as part of developing a local food economy, reducing food miles and re-purposing buildings now vacant following buildings closures because of the pandemic. Scotland's Rural college is opening a vertical farm for research and education purposes in Edinburgh. This provides the ideal opportunity to learn more about this technology, its feasibility and costs and the business opportunities for sustainable food production it could provide.

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.

18.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.

Dependant on scale, it could either significantly or slightly reduce imports of certain food products to Scotland, especially outwith Scottish growing seasons for produce such as salad items, certain fruits and seasonal vegetables.

19.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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Pesticide and fertiliser usage | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Water usage | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Electricity usage | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Packaging | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Land use | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Labour requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Seasonality of produce | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Freshness of produce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. Cost of production | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Reduction in carbon emissions would come from reducing food miles especially for seasonal products if the vertical farm was located in a local area near food suppliers and retailers. As the land requirements are small, this would also have a positive impact on the environment as would the decrease in pesticide and fertiliser use. Freshness of produce would also be increased depending on location. However energy emissions would increase if not fuelled by renewable energy sources. Promotion of renewable energy sources for vertical farm food production needs to be a central criteria of developing vertical farms in Scotland.

B) Please give examples.

20.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.

As stated in the answer to question 17.

21. 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.

While other/new technologies may help Scotland produce more of its own food other approaches should also be considered. Support is needed for new and innovative ways to produce food in Scotland in sustainable ways that benefit communities, produce locally and protect and enhance the surrounding environment. This includes farming methods that have significantly less impact on the environment such as promotion of more organic, permaculture and restorative models of land management, benefiting nature and local communities.

An example of this is the development of a new urban farm near Edinburgh's coast.

Lauriston Farm aims to be Edinburgh's first agricultural enterprise and learning centre. The project is being taken forward by Edinburgh Agroecology Cooperative (EAC) through a long-term lease with the Council. EAC aims to transform this 100-acre (40 ha) farm in North Edinburgh, delivering significantly scaled up food production, providing employment, training and volunteer opportunities with a strong focus on biodiversity enhancement and soil restoration, bringing the community together through hosting community activities and events. A Biodiversity Management Plan is being developed with a focus on coastal bird habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement throughout the farm. These interventions will all contribute to Edinburgh's Local Biodiversity Action Plan. A Community Interest Company and Workers Cooperative have been established to work jointly with the local community to start growing food and continue to develop a thriving local business.