Dear candidate councillor,

POLICY ASKS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2017

This short election briefing outlines Nourish Scotland’s policy asks on food for the Scottish Local Government elections in 2017.

1. DEVELOP EFFECTIVE CROSS-SECTOR FOOD PARTNERSHIPS

We want to see each Local Authority in Scotland develop an effective cross-sector food partnership that works to embed good food in policy and practice. Also we call on candidates to ensure good food is included in the revised Single Outcome Agreements and considered as a tool for delivering local outcomes across all areas of policy.

2. LEAD BY EXAMPLE IN PUBLIC SECTOR FOOD

Public procurement of local and sustainable food is one of the most powerful mechanisms to build shorter, greener and fairer supply chains. We want to see our public kitchens support local producers and source a minimum of 15% organic by 2020 over the next council period.

3. INCREASE AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

We’d like Local Authorities to actively support local food producers, build stronger urban–rural links and increase access to affordable fruit and veg for local communities. We ask candidates to consider:

• Supporting (covered) farmers’ markets and other outlets
• Using planning powers to support local and independent food retailers and restrict unhealthy food outlets;
• Supporting every school in Scotland to link up with a local farm and/or community growing project or plant their own orchard and veg garden.

Image credit: Clem Sandison
4. DEVELOP & SUPPORT DIGNIFIED RESPONSES TO FOOD INSECURITY

We call on all Local Authorities to work with others, particularly those with lived experience of food insecurity, to develop and implement Community Food Plans. Special consideration should be given to children, with support going to breakfast clubs, programmes tackling holiday hunger and measures increasing local uptake of Healthy Start Vouchers to 80% by 2018.

5. INCREASE PROVISION OF LAND FOR FOOD PRODUCTION

We want to see areas of land safeguarded for food production in and around our cities and towns - with particular protection for Grade I agricultural land. As provisioned for by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Local Authorities should co-produce ambitious Food Growing Strategies with local communities to ensure that everyone who wants to produce food can access land to do so - whether it is allotments, community growing spaces or farmland.

6. INVEST COUNCIL PENSION FUNDS IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

Nourish supports the Reinvest Scotland campaign that calls on council pension funds to divest from fossil fuel companies. We want to see a proportion of these funds to be re-invested in sustainable food businesses and farmland, as part of a wider socially responsible investment portfolio.

7. STOP SPRAYING PESTICIDES AND START GROWING FOOD IN PUBLIC SPACES

We call on Local Authorities to ban the spraying of glyphosate and other pesticides on all public access land by 2018. We also suggest using sections of our parks and verges to grow vegetables, fruit and herbs for and with local communities.

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