

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:



Image credit: Clem Sandison

- 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**.

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#### 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.