

## Response ID ANON-ZP2H-KQPH-R

Submitted to **Guidance for Local Authorities when carrying out their new duties and functions under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015**

Submitted on 2017-11-17 19:49:07

### Questions

#### Section 110. Offer to lease allotment

110 - To what extent do you agree with this statement?:

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Comment::

#### Section 111. Duty to maintain list

111 - To what extent do you agree with this statement?:

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Comment::

#### Section 112. Duty to provide allotments

112 - To what extent do you agree with this statement?:

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Comment::

#### Section 114. Access to allotment and allotment site

114 - To what extent do you agree with this statement?:

Strongly Agree

Comment::

#### Section 115. Allotment site regulations; Section 116. Allotment site regulations: further provision

115 & 116 - To what extent do you agree with this statement?:

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Comment::

#### Section 119. Duty to prepare food-growing strategy

119 - To what extent do you agree with this statement?:

Strongly Agree

Comment::

The food growing strategies should take a much wider view than allotments. They should consider how communities can be empowered to grow and access local food, whether in private gardens, community farms gardens, allotments or farms and market gardens within the local authority area. Communities should be empowered to produce and source more of their own food locally, and the local food-growing strategy should consider how local food production can be enhanced. This may involve for example the local authority providing horticultural advice to people wanting to grow food in their own gardens; supporting garden share schemes; acquiring land and renting it on a secure basis to new entrants wanting to produce local food; supporting local distribution through providing affordable, attractive and well-located venues for produce markets, encouraging community supported agriculture, and so on.

As part of community empowerment, local authorities should also support communities to acquire land for food growing, whether in urban or rural areas.

Contaminated land may provide a suitable site for enclosed food growing, whether glasshouses, closed-loop fish farms or vertical farms.

Local authority planning policies should explicitly encourage the provision of food-growing spaces (including rooftops) as part of all development and regeneration activities.

Food growing strategies should also take into account biodiversity duties, and there should be a general presumption against the use of pesticides on allotment land, private gardens and community gardens.

#### Section 120. Duty to review food-growing strategy

120 - To what extent do you agree with this statement?:

Strongly Agree

Comment::

The review of the food-growing strategy should be much wider than allotments. Councils should be encouraging people with private gardens to produce food, and should use existing survey data where available to benchmark the percentage of the population growing some of their own food. Where data not available,

councils should consider adapting existing survey instruments to include questions on food-growing.

### Section 123. Delegation of management of allotment sites

**123 - To what extent do you agree with this statement?:**

Neither Agree nor Disagree

**Comment:**

### Section 124. Promotion and use of allotments: expenditure

**124 - To what extent do you agree with this statement?:**

Neither Agree nor Disagree

**Comment::**

### Further Guidance

**Further Guidance - Do you think we have captured all those sections, relating to functions of local authorities that require further guidance?:**

Strongly Disagree

**Comment::**

The duty to prepare, publish and review a food-growing strategy goes much wider than the provision of allotments and should cover all types of food-growing in the local authority area. The strategy should also go further than simply looking at land availability and include skills development, nature-friendly production methods, and supply chains for local food.

Local authorities may also want to look, individually or regionally, at the opportunities for local farmers to supply food to schools, hospitals and other public bodies in the area.

This should be seen as one element in the broader expectation on local authorities to develop cross-cutting food policies which is likely to form part of the Good Food Nation bill.

### About You

**What is your name?**

**Name:**

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**What is your email address?**

**Email:**

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**Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?**

Organisation

**What is your organisation?**

**Organisation:**

Nourish Scotland

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

Publish response with name

**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

### Evaluation

**Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)**

**Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:**

Slightly dissatisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**

Part 9 is a slightly anomalous element in a Bill which happened to be passing at the time. Within Part 9, the duty to prepare, publish and review a food-growing

strategy is itself also anomalous and was originally inserted with a wider purpose in mind - namely to encourage a proactive approach from local authorities to supporting local food production (as happens extensively in other EU countries). However, the duty has been narrowly interpreted to be focused on allotment provision.

**Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:**

Very satisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**