

## Community Action

METHODS	ACTIONS
<b>FUNDING</b>	Scottish Government to invest in viable initiatives (commercial and voluntary sectors) to ensure long term sustainability
	Funding a few sustained projects is the wrong way direction as it compromises smaller community-led initiatives. Instead , government should increase community funding, perhaps through an increased health promotion budget.
	Increase health promotion budget beyond the 1% of NHS monies. More preventative work to fund community action on health
	Government to increase community funding ie via the health promotion budget
	Ringfence CHP/ CHCP money available for food activities
	Embed support (capacity building funding) to communities/ organisations within LA and NHS (CHP's)
	Government investment in community infrastructure
	Long term funding
	Government funding for community food hubs and distribution networks e.g. EKOS report applied
	More sustainability in funding for core resources – e.g. staff
<b>FOOD CHAIN</b>	<b>Retailers to work more closely with community groups to increase fresher, local produce use. The Government should incentivise this</b>
	Supermarket chains to operate under tighter controls and standards eg less packaging, using locally grown produce, pay farmers a fair rate
	Efficient dialogue with local industry
	Creating incentives for companies to aid their local communities and achieving Healthy Working Lives Award
	Drawing in food industry manufacturers and retailers to aid communities – financial incentives, corporate responsibility
	Minimise the use of chemicals in food production
	More support for local food producers and community projects e.g. Scottish honey
<b>SCHOOLS</b>	<b>Ensure all primary and secondary schools have kitchen facilities and making sure the local community has access to them</b>
	Open up school kitchens as a community training resource
<b>NETWORKING</b>	Sharing information (food projects and contacts) through directories and working groups
	Development of a national co-ordination of local food networks
	Co-ordinate and share food and health information

	eg through a website possibly linked to the Food and Health Alliance website to ensure consistent messages and actions are being shared
<b>VOLUNTARY &amp; COMMUNITY SECTOR</b>	<b>Raising the awareness/development of social enterprise as part of a sustainability strategy</b>
	Communities need to be adequately resourced and supported to develop and grow and sustain to ensure they are meeting objectives and outcomes
	Voluntary sector to take control of own monitoring and evaluation
	Voluntary sector measure and identify best practice in food and health
	Train community leaders as agents of change to improve health, diet, cooking skills via community food initiatives and community dietitians
	Co-ordinate voluntary sector in more 'horizontal' manner-share like sector
	Identify projects such as Borders Berries and High 5 Fruit which need longer term evaluation and follow up
	Encourage the use of home grown food and 'allotment' training grounds to educate people on how to grow their own food
<b>SOCIAL MARKETING</b>	National agencies should liaise with local service providers i.e. current PR material to access and achieve consistent messages
	Consistent messages and actions e.g. physical activity leisure centres serving chips and fizzy drinks
<b>LA PLANNING</b>	Ensure that land is set aside for future potential food growing ie allotments, community farms and gardens within new housing schemes

Please note that the text in bold are the prioritised actions.

### 1. Is the vision or 'direction of travel' correct?

On a broad scale the vision was agreed with by the group. However there was a desire for greater clarity. The vision shouldn't be too prescriptive.

The group felt that schools have a great influence in the local community and it would be best if they were used more to achieve the vision. The scale and capacity of their contribution to deliver was raised by schools as a potential issue. One group discussed the wish to see more emphasis on cooking in schools, not just home economics but cooking for fun.

Sustainable action is needed to achieve the long term vision.

Learning from each other and all sectors is important. Just have to act on this learning and invest in it.

One thing the group felt was missing from the vision is actually growing food as it covers a range of issues including health, sustainability and environmental. This

could be in the form of making allotments more available, having community gardens or in schools. LA Planning could ensure that empty spaces are used in this manner.

## **2. Do you agree with the proposed actions in the discussion document?**

Once again the group broadly agreed with the proposed actions set down in the discussion document.

The group felt that some of the vision required greater clarity and there were some problems with the definitions with people taking different meanings from the language. They felt it needed to be broken down into more detail.

There is a need to encourage people to grow or buy healthier, greener food. The actions should address the need to maintain and support health initiatives at community level to ensure that food is accessible and affordable and people are encouraged to make healthier food choices.

The group also felt that the food industry, particularly the major supermarket chains, needs to be included in the action as they hold such a power base in communities. More control needs to be had over the food industry and incentives are needed to convince these businesses to take a greater interest in the local community. Could the food industry support community action and help build links in sourcing and distribution?

## **3. How do we get there/ how do we do this?**

Learning from each other is crucial but equally important is acting on that learning and then investing in it. There is a need to share good practice.

See table above.