

Choosing the Right Ingredients – The Future for Food in Scotland: Discussion Paper

Response from TRANSform Scotland
Friday 25th April 2008

1. Introductory comments

- 1.1 Transform Scotland is the national sustainable transport alliance. We campaign for a more sensible transport system, one less dependent on unsustainable modes such as the car, the plane and road freight, and more reliant on sustainable modes like walking, cycling, public transport, and freight by rail or sea. We are a membership organisation bringing together rail, bus and shipping operators; local authorities; national environment and conservation organisations; local environment and transport campaign groups; and individual supporters.
- 1.2 We welcome the Scottish Government's national discussion on food. Transport is essential in getting food from the producer to retailers and from retailers to consumers. As an organisation concerned principally with transport matters, we will limit our comments to issues relevant to transport.

2. General comments

- 2.1 We welcome the fact that the document does make some references to the links between transport and food (e.g. p.9 "We drive our cars to the shops when we could walk or take public transport").
- 2.2 It is however disappointing that transport does not feature in the "Our vision" section, and we have recommended a change at §3.1 below.
- 2.3 The document makes little comment on the freight implications of the food that is consumed in Scotland. There has been wide awareness of the "food miles" issue for over a decade, but there is no discussion of this matter in the document (although we would concede that there is a general encouragement towards the purchase of locally-sourced foods).
- 2.4 There is also little specific in terms of how people should be encouraged to use sustainable transport modes (walking, cycling, public transport) when accessing retail outlets.

3. Specific comments

- 3.1 In the paragraph 'A greener Scotland' (p.3), insert the word "transport" after "manufacturing" (i.e. to read "... production, processing, manufacturing, transport and consumption ...").
- 3.2 In the 'Retailers' section (p.13), insert "Use rail and sea freight for transporting goods wherever possible".
- 3.3 In the 'Retailers' section (p.13), insert "Provide home delivery services, good cycle and pedestrian facilities, and links to the public transport network."
- 3.4 In the 'Local Government' section (p.16), insert "Provide high quality walking, cycling and public transport routes to key food retail areas."
- 3.5 In the 'Local Government' section (p.16), insert "Discourage out-of-town car dependent retail outlets."

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