

Response ID ANON-1EPT-UGTV-Z

Submitted to **A healthier future - action and ambitions on diet, activity and healthy weight**

Submitted on 2018-01-31 17:08:35

Transforming the food environment

Promotions

1 Are there any other types of price promotion that should be considered in addition to those listed above?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer.:

2 How do we most efficiently and effectively define the types of food and drink that we will target with these measures?

Please explain your answer.:

Advertising

3 To what extent do you agree with the actions we propose on non-broadcast advertising of products high in fat, salt and sugar?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer.:

Out of home sector

4 Do you think any further or different action is required for the out of home sector?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer.:

Planning system and the food environment

Labelling

5 Do you think current labelling arrangements could be strengthened?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer.:

Reformulation and innovation

6 What specific support do Scottish food and drink SMEs need most to reformulate and innovate to make their products healthier?

What specific support do Scottish food and drink SMEs need most to reformulate and innovate to make their products healthier?:

Food and drink levies

Living healthier and more active lives

Developing a positive relationship with food from birth to adulthood

7 Do you think any further or different action is required to support a healthy weight from birth to adulthood?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer.:

Supported weight management

8 How do you think a supported weight management service should be implemented for people with, or at risk of developing, type 2 diabetes - in particular the referral route to treatment?

How do you think a supported weight management service should be implemented for people with, or at risk of developing, Type 2 Diabetes - in particular the referral route to treatment?:

Healthy living and other interventions

9 Do you think any further or different action on healthy living interventions is required?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer.:

Physical activity

10 How can our work to encourage physical activity contribute most effectively to tackling obesity?

How can our work to encourage physical activity contribute most effectively to tackling obesity?:

Paragraph 2.33 of the consultation document states that the Scottish Government is "committed to putting active travel at the heart of our transport planning". RTPI Scotland suggests that this commitment should go further, to put active travel at the heart of place-making.

Planning can promote the appropriate location of developments to encourage more active travel, ensuring close proximity to existing bus and rail services with good access to stations and bus stops on foot and by cycling. As well as location, planning can influence the density and design of development. Higher residential density within urban centres can be associated with supporting more active lifestyles. Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (paragraph 45) recognises the important role for design in making it easier for all people to move around a place by prioritising accessibility for people, not vehicles. When realised in developments, together these three factors can enable people to make healthier choices in their day-to-day lives.

The current review of the Scottish planning system has highlighted how planning – making decisions about places – is however often not fully integrated with decision making about other decision making and investment, for example City Region Deals, Community Planning Partnerships and extending to the National Transport Strategy. The ongoing review of the planning system, which currently sees a Planning Bill progressing through the Scottish Parliament, presents opportunities for integration at every scale.

RTPI Scotland is calling for the proposed strengthened National Planning Framework to be better integrated with all other national strategies - particularly relevant to this consultation the National Transport Strategy. At the regional level, the Planning (Scotland) Bill currently in the Scottish Parliament provides for the abolition of Strategic Development Plans, which cover Scotland's four principle city regions. The Scottish Government has proposed that their replacement will be non-statutory regional partnerships. RTPI Scotland see the potential for these partnerships to make stronger horizontal and vertical connections between different investment decisions. We are concerned however about the absence of a requirement for the partnerships to require high level agreement on cross border outcomes. RTPI Scotland is therefore urging the Government to place a duty on neighbouring local authorities to agree key spatial outcomes. Within this scope would be agreement on the broad scale and location of infrastructure needed to support active travel and physical activity, and how this would be integrated with homes, schools, hospitals, places of work and other community facilities.

At the local level, RTPI Scotland supports the proposal included in the Planning (Scotland) Bill to create a specific statutory link between local outcome improvement plans and local development plans. We believe that implementation of this link should extend to making locality plans a core part of efforts to extend community involvement in planning. The Planning Bill provides for the introduction of local place plans. In conjunction with local development plans and locality plans, and if properly resourced, these could play an important role in helping communities to identify the changes they need to enable more active travel.

The National Walking Strategy also provides a framework for the actions needed to support greater rates of everyday walking. The implementation of this strategy should be joined up with efforts to tackle levels of obesity through increased physical activity.

As well as encouraging active travel by providing the infrastructure to support it and making judgements on the best location for development, planning has a role to play in supporting design that encourages physical activity. This includes ensuring the delivery of accessible green space and sport facilities as part of new development, and the redevelopment of existing communities.

Leadership and exemplary practice

Leadership

11 What do you think about the action we propose for making obesity a priority for everyone?

What do you think about the action we propose for making obesity a priority for everyone?:

12 How can we build a whole nation movement?

How can we build a whole nation movement? :

Our answer to question 10 highlights the importance of making links between different investment strategies and public policy initiatives at the national, regional, local and community levels. The National Walking Strategy is a particularly important example of such a strategy. A 'whole nation movement' will depend on ensuring that this integrated approach is taken by those responsible for policy implementation. Planning and planners are specialists in considering how different changes will all come together and impact places. Local development plans and the National Planning Framework, and potential future local place plans, can help to ensure that initiatives to support active travel and increased physical activity take account of and respond to the geography and context of Scotland's communities.

Evidence-based improvement

13 What further steps, if any, should be taken to monitor change?

What further steps, if any, should be taken to monitor change?:

The World Health Organisation's November 2017 report Towards more physical activity in cities does not just highlight best practice in creating healthy cities, but also the importance of policies whose impact can be measured and evaluated. The impact of proactive planning can be difficult to measure, given that it can occur over the short, medium and long term, and requires control samples which are difficult to identify in real world scenarios. RTPI Scotland believes that the evidence we do have in exemplar places shows that investing in planning and place-making can have a positive impact on behaviour, including active travel and take up of physical activity. To ensure that funding for the necessary infrastructure can be secured in a competitive environment, it is essential that the efficacy of building in activity can be evidenced. Policies to this end should be designed so that their impact can be measured.

14 Do you have any other comments about any of the issues raised in this consultation?

Do you have any other comments about any of the issues raised in this consultation?:

RTPI Scotland is encouraged that paragraph 1.24 of the consultation recognises a role for planning in creating healthy places. We do not object to planning policies that aim to restrict the number of hot food takeaways in a given area. It is important to recognise however that this is a blunt instrument: not all hot food takeaways will necessarily sell 'unhealthy food', and such a policy would have no effect on outlets already in existence. RTPI Scotland advocates a much more strategic approach to using the planning system to support healthy places, as described in our answers to other consultation questions.

About You

What is your name?

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

RTPI Scotland

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us the type of organisation for which you are providing a response.

Other (please note in the text box provided)

If other, please specify.:

Professional body

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?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

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

Slightly dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Difficult to navigate between the text and answer boxes.