



**Embargoed until 00.01, Wednesday 29th May 2019**

## **HOW CAN GLASGOW BECOME A ‘GOOD FOOD CITY’?**

Today, Glasgow City Chambers will host a ‘food summit’ as part of the collective commitment to become a sustainable food city. The event will explore city-wide, holistic approaches to changing our food system in order to improve health, reduce food insecurity, build community resilience and reduce Glasgow’s impact on the environment. The growing recognition nationally and internationally of the important contribution that our food system makes to climate change, population health and to local economies emphasises the importance and urgency of the development of a food strategy for Glasgow.

Agreeing with the need to develop a food strategy for the city, Bailie Elaine Ballantyne, Chair of Glasgow City Council’s General Purposes Committee, stated: *“The work of the Food Inequality Inquiry has highlighted the many excellent community based initiatives and responses in Glasgow working every day with people in crisis. However to tackle this effectively we need a coherent strategy or plan for the city with clear outcomes that all partners are signed up to.”*

The event aims to build on the great work that is already established in Glasgow by bringing together a range of international, national and local experts and perspectives to explore the key aspects of a successful sustainable food system.

In anticipation of the event, **Jill Muirie**, Public Health Programme Manager from Glasgow Centre for Population Health stated *“Today’s food summit provides a great opportunity to celebrate the wide range of fantastic food-related projects across Glasgow which are reducing food insecurity, improving health, protecting the environment, building resilient communities and growing a stronger food economy every day, and to discuss how we can work together to develop a City food strategy to scale up this work and make good food a part of everyone’s life.”*

Continuing, Jill said *“Organisations and individuals also have a role to play for example, by reducing processed foods and increasing vegetable consumption, and supporting more local businesses that offer healthy and affordable food. Purchasing more local and seasonal food can also help by reducing emissions from food miles, as well as being better for the local economy. Food waste is also an important source of carbon emissions and it is vital that we all waste less food.”*

Speakers for the day include **Professor Corinna Hawkes**, a world renowned Food Policy Expert and Professor of Food Policy and Director, Centre for Food Policy at City, University of London. She says *“City authorities face so many challenges in keeping their economies going, building social cohesion, addressing environmental hazards, and supporting health and wellbeing. Food can help provide solutions to all of these challenges. Every city should have a food strategy to ensure they are leveraging the positive power of food.”*



Reflecting on the timeliness of the event, **Pete Richie**, The Executive Director of Nourish Scotland said: *“Glasgow has the need, the opportunity and the political will to transform its food system over the next decade. Let’s imagine what it really means to be a good food city, and then do what’s needed to let the people make it happen.”*

**ENDS**

### Notes to Editors

1. The Food Summit will take place Wednesday 29th May 2019 at Glasgow City Chambers. If you require a copy of the programme, further detail of the speakers or a press pass to attend please contact: [Riikka.Gonzalez@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Riikka.Gonzalez@glasgow.ac.uk) or [jennie.coyle@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:jennie.coyle@glasgow.ac.uk) Delegates will include food policy experts, decision and policy makers, food businesses and caterers, health improvement and public health professionals, community food workers, researchers and those interested in food poverty, sustainable food and health.
2. Keynote speakers will also include **Andrea Magarini**, the Coordinator of the Milan Food Policy and Chair of the Food of Eurocities Working Group (a network of 51 European cities active on food policy development).
3. The Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP) brings together key public, private and voluntary sector organisations with the objective of achieving a fairer, healthier, more sustainable and resilient food system in Glasgow. GFPP partner organisations include Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Community Food Network, The University of Glasgow, NHS Glasgow HSCP, Nourish Scotland, Community Food and Health Scotland, Zero Waste Scotland and Fareshare. Councillor Anna Richardson is also a member of the partnership in her role as the City Convener for Sustainability and Carbon Reduction. GFPP is part of the UK wide Sustainable Food Cities Network run in partnership by Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain.
4. The Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) is a key partner in the GFPP. The GCPH was established in 2004 to conduct research and support new approaches to improve health and address inequalities, working in partnership with local organisations and communities. The GCPH’s work is focused on Glasgow, with wider relevance across Scotland and it has a particular focus on poverty as a key determinant of a range of health and social outcomes. Since its inception the GCPH has recognised the importance of food, food poverty and the wider food environment in influencing population health and has undertaken a range of related research and learning projects. More information here: [www.gcph.co.uk](http://www.gcph.co.uk).

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