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Require the production and implementation of food justice strategies to eradicate food poverty; to make provision as regards the content of those strategies; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:—

## 1 Food Poverty and Food Justice

- (1) In this Act the term ‘food justice’ means the right of every person to have reasonable access to an adequate supply of food.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act, a person is to be regarded as experiencing ‘food poverty’ if he does not have such reasonable access to an adequate supply of food because of—
  - (a) inadequate income;
  - (b) unreasonable difficulties of distance, transport or similar matters; and
  - (c) inadequate information.
- (3) The following provisions of this Act shall apply for the purposes of promoting food justice and of eradicating food poverty.

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## 2 Establishment of local food authorities

For the purposes of this Act a district, metropolitan borough, London borough or unitary council or the Council of the Isles of Scilly shall be the local food authority for its area.

### 3 Local food justice strategies

- (1) For the purposes of—
- (a) assisting the Appropriate Authority in discharging its functions under section 4 below; and
  - (b) assessing what measures are in its opinion needed to be taken in each area to
    - (i) eradicate food poverty; and
    - (ii) promote food justice
- it shall be the duty of every local food authority to prepare, within 12 months of the passing of this Act, a local food justice strategy (“local strategy” in this Act) and any such strategy may, if in the opinion of the authority it is desirable to do so, form part of a wider strategy being prepared by the authority.
- (2) A local strategy shall set out the local food authority’s assessment of—
- (a) the extent and nature of food poverty in the authority’s area;
  - (b) the measures that, in the opinion of the authority, are needed to eradicate food poverty and to promote food justice in its area; and
  - (c) the cost and environmental impact of such measures.
- (3) In preparing its local strategy a local food authority shall consult—
- (a) all other relevant statutory bodies in its area;
  - (b) persons in its area experiencing food poverty;
  - (c) organisations operating in its area which have experience in dealing with the issue of food poverty or promoting food justice; and
  - (d) any other person it considers appropriate.
- (4) The Appropriate Authority may issue guidance to local food authorities in relation to their preparation of local strategies.
- (5) A local food authority shall send a copy of its local strategy to the Appropriate Authority.
- (6) It shall be the duty of a local food authority to take reasonable steps to implement its local strategy.
- (7) A local food authority may arrange for the discharge of its functions by a joint committee (a “Partnership Committee” in this Act) consisting of representatives from the authority and from other local statutory bodies and from relevant local organisations and communities.

### 4 National food justice strategy

- (1) It shall be the duty of the Appropriate Authority to prepare and publish, within 2 years of the passing of this Act, a national food justice strategy (“national strategy” in this Act), which shall set out policies for promoting food justice and for ensuring that, as far as is reasonably practicable, food poverty is eradicated.
- (2) The national strategy shall—
- (a) describe the categories of persons to which it applies;

- (b) specify measures for ensuring easier access for such persons to food which will provide a healthy diet;
  - (c) specify interim objectives to be achieved and target dates for achieving them; and
  - (d) specify a target date, which shall be no later than 15 years after the publication of the national strategy, for the achievement of the objective of ensuring that, as far as reasonably practicable, food poverty is eradicated. 5
- (3) In preparing the national strategy, the Appropriate Authority shall—
- (a) take into account the local strategies submitted to it under section 2 above; and 10
  - (b) consult—
    - (i) persons experiencing food poverty;
    - (ii) persons or organisations with relevant expertise or experience in relation to food poverty or promoting food justice; and 15
    - (iii) such other persons as it thinks fit.
- (4) The Appropriate Authority shall take such action as is necessary to implement the national strategy.
- (5) The Appropriate Authority shall from time to time assess the impact of action taken under subsection (4) above, and progress made in achieving the objectives and target dates of the national strategy, and shall— 20
- (a) make any revision of the national strategy which he considers appropriate in consequence of the assessment; and
  - (b) publish a report on the assessment.
- (6) If the Appropriate Authority revises the national strategy, it shall publish the strategy as revised. 25

## 5 Content of strategies

- (1) Any strategy or revision thereof prepared pursuant to this Act shall include policies or measures to promote—
- (a) more equitable access to food which has been produced to high animal welfare and environmental standards including but not restricted to food produced according to organic standards. 30
  - (b) the improvement of the health of people in the area covered by the strategy or revision;
- and shall consider the development of local food economies in the area covered by the strategy or revision including but not confined to policies to reduce food miles. 35
- (2) Any strategy or revision thereof prepared pursuant to this Act shall clearly indicate the way in which it has taken into account the matters stated in subsection (1) above, and any such strategy may set targets in relation to those matters. 40

## 6 Interpretation

In this Act—

“Appropriate Authority” means

(a) as regards measures which are reserved matters the Secretary of State; and

(b) as regards measures which are devolved matters in England the Secretary of State and in Wales the National Assembly for Wales

“food miles” means the total distance travelled by produce from the place of growth or production to the place of retail;

“local food economies mean” the growing, raising, processing or marketing of food within a local area for consumption within that same area.

## 7 Financial provisions

*There shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament—*

(a) *any expenditure incurred by the Appropriate Authority in consequence of this Act;*

(b) *a reasonable allowance for any expenditure required to be incurred by a local food authority in consequence of this Act; and*

(c) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable out of money so provided by virtue of any other Act.*

## 8 Short title and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Food Justice Strategies Act 2003.
- (2) This Act subject to subsection (3) below extends to England and Wales only.
- (3) This Act extends to Scotland as regards measures taken by the Secretary of State that are reserved matters pursuant to the Scotland Act.







# Food Justice Strategies Bill

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*Ordered to be brought in by Alan Simpson,  
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Mr Simon Thomas, Mr David Drew, Dr Ian Gibson,  
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to be printed, 13th February 2003*

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