



Glasgow City Council

Environment, Sustainability and Carbon  
Reduction City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Sustainability

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**Item 4**

8th September 2020

**GLASGOW FOOD GROWING STRATEGY –  
“LETS GROW TOGETHER”**

**Purpose of Report:**

To outline to Committee the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy and Action plan, including the public consultation feedback.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) Notes the public consultation feedback.
- (ii) Notes the content of the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy and Action Plan.
- (iii) Refers the report to the City Administration Committee for final approval.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No  consulted: Yes  No

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report will outline the key findings of the recent public consultation undertaken to gather feedback in relation to the draft Food Growing Strategy and summarise its findings.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Members will be aware that a report was brought to the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee on [4<sup>th</sup> February](#), 2020, advising of:
- The emerging Glasgow Food Growing Strategy (FGS) and included a draft Glasgow Food Growing Strategy – “Lets Grow Together”.
  - The public consultation that was due to take place from February 5<sup>th</sup> until March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 2.2 This report provides details on the results of the public consultation (see appendix 1) and includes the proposed final FGS (see appendix 2).
- 2.3 This report will continue to inform the implementation plan being prepared for consideration by Committee in response to the Climate Emergency, specifically Action 36, “The Council and its partners publish a sustainable food strategy for the city within the next year and that the Council considers making space for food growing a requirement of new housing developments.”

## **3. Food Growing Strategy Consultation – Key Outcomes**

- 3.1 The consultation was available to the general public and all stakeholders through the Council’s website ([www.glasgow.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/consultations)). The consultation was extensively promoted through the Council’s social media channels and shared with a wide range of stakeholders.
- 3.2 In total there were 110 responses received. The main points from the feedback are noted below:
- 91% of respondents had read the strategy before completing the consultation questionnaire.
  - A clear majority of respondents found the strategy easy to read and to follow whilst most thought it was comprehensive (65% agreed and 19% were neither/nor) - see appendix 1.
- 3.3 The consultation sought feedback on whether respondents agree or disagree with the overall vision of the draft FGS:

**Our vision is that Glasgow citizens wishing to grow their own fruit and vegetables will have access to a range of community growing opportunities in their area.**

- 3.4 84% of respondents supported the vision, 7% no opinion and 9% disagree.
- 3.5 Around 10% of the consultation respondents disagreed with the strategy vision and also its legibility and scope. These respondents wished us to further strengthen links and alignment with other issues and strategies such as health, wellbeing, climate change and the environment. In addition, there was a request for the vision to include “opening up land for commercial growers, not just community”.

#### **4. Community Growing Options**

- 4.1 Respondents were also asked to suggest other areas that could be utilised for growing.
- 4.2 Respondents were particularly keen to see unused and derelict sites brought back into use as areas to grow food, including brownfield sites, such as disused railway lines.
- 4.3 In addition it was highlighted, that sports facilities, including golf courses, bowling greens, football pitches, etc. which are ‘under used or not maintained’ could be re-purposed as growing areas. Areas within parks and other green spaces where there was a need identified by local communities was also highlighted:

*‘Parks and greenspaces could incorporate elements of growing, either by including a community garden in their design, or by more informal foraging, or edible planting.’*

#### **5. FGS Priority Actions**

- 5.1 The draft FGS contained a number of actions which the Council and its partners will seek to take forward over the period of the Strategy.
- 5.2 Respondents were asked to rank these in terms of priority (see appendix 1). The results are broadly similar to those within the draft strategy though adjustments have been made to reflect the priorities emerging from the consultation.

#### **6. Other Proposals**

- 6.1 Other proposals arising from the consultation include:
- More education on food growing;
  - The provision of more information and signposting;
  - More allotments and supporting infrastructure and greater security of tenure
  - Additional funding;
  - Clearer links to available GCC support.
  - Greater opportunities for commercial growing and the links from local growers to local food supply chains.

6.2 In response to the proposals highlighted in 6.1, it should be noted that the following actions are currently ongoing or being brought forward:

- Working with two social enterprises to develop their food growing capacity and services.
- Supporting and contributing to the development of the Glasgow Food Plan with its emphasis on the broad range of sustainable food issues.
- Recognising the role that food growing will play in responding to the climate emergency and supporting delivery of action 36 (see 2.3).
- Supporting schools to link growing to the Curriculum for Excellence via the Royal Horticultural Society- School Gardening Campaign.
- Supporting further education opportunities in conjunction with the Scottish Rural College and their course at Glasgow Botanic Gardens. Further details can be found here: <https://www.sruc.ac.uk/glasgow>
- Collaborating with Police Scotland to help bring nature based solutions to key community issues.
- Continue to work with Planning colleagues ensuring delivery via the City Development Plan to encourage the cultivation of food locally by protecting existing allotments and supporting the creation of new allotments/growing spaces via Interim Planning Guidance 12 (IPG12) – Delivering Development and Interim Planning Guidance 6 (IPG6) – Green Belt and Green Networks.
- Continuing to work in partnership with the NHS on social prescribing or horticultural therapy by using existing projects as examples and to encourage and support the development of ongoing and future examples.

## **7. Conclusion**

7.1 In summary, the consultation highlighted broad agreement with the FGS, the vision and its proposed actions. The comments and suggestions, generally, reinforced the existing strategic themes, issues and key stakeholders or potential participants. It was also clear that the provision of allotment sites or new plots was a focus for many responders as was easier access to potential growing sites across the city.

7.2 It should be further noted that a major impact of the recent lockdown has been a surge in demand for local food growing opportunities. This can clearly be seen by the 700% year on year increase in demand for allotment plots - this figure is taken from 7 sites out of 35 who responded to our request for an update on applications received.

7.3 In addition, it should also be noted that our allotment sites have remained accessible during the current pandemic, with relevant restrictions in place. The clear mental and physical health benefits from food growing was a key impetus for facilitating all allotment sites to remain open throughout this period.

## **8. Next Steps**

8.1 Informed by the consultation and appropriately amended, a final version of the strategy is attached for consideration (see appendix 2).

- 8.2 In planning the engagement with stakeholders to inform action plan delivery and in light of current public health advice, officers are examining opportunities to direct and support stakeholders towards a blended engagement approach which combines distanced and digital engagement methods. Officers are also looking to include Food Growing topics within wider greenspace engagement being undertaken citywide. The action plan will continue to be updated as this approach develops.
- 8.3 A progress report will be submitted annually to Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee for discussion.

## 9. Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* Resources for joint working are covered by existing departmental budgets. There could be a stream of specific projects which are developed as part of this joint-working and each one will be assessed against the overall funding envelope prior to progressing.

*Legal:* The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (Part 9) requires all local authorities to produce a Food Growing Strategy for their area which outlines how they will support community growing. There are further requirements regarding allotments rules, regulations and waiting lists (numbers and time on waiting list).

*Personnel:* No immediate direct personnel implications from the report as the projects will be supported through existing resources.

*Procurement:* No specific procurement resource implications identified.

**Council Strategic Plan:** The Strategic Plan sets out a vision for Glasgow becoming the most sustainable city in Europe, and a resilient city. The implementation of a Food Growing Strategy will contribute to this and to the following specific objectives:

Priority 6 - Support small businesses and encourage business diversity in local high streets across the city.

Priority 63 - Give all children better access to outdoor play by upgrading school playgrounds and play areas.

Priority 71 - Promote and enhance our city's natural resources including nature reserves and public parks.

Priority 72 - Support the development of Glasgow as a Sustainable Food City.

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22*

Yes, outcome 9. Barriers to participation in arts, learning, physical activity, learning and culture will be reduced for people with protected characteristics.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

An EQIA screening has been undertaken. Potential positive impacts noted for people with disabilities.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.*

The strategy will assess its impact within SIMD areas and appropriate responses taken based upon the results.

**Sustainability Impacts:**

*Environmental:*

The implementation of the Food Growing Strategy will have a positive effect on the environment.

*Social, including opportunities under Article 20 of the European Public Procurement Directive:*

Social benefits around identifying opportunities for communities to work collectively on developing and maintaining community growing spaces.

*Economic:*

The Food Growing Strategy will contribute to the Circular Economy.

**Privacy and Data Protection impacts:**

None.

## **10. Recommendations**

It is recommended that committee:

- (i) Notes the public consultation feedback.
- (ii) Notes the content of the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy and Action Plan.
- (iii) Refers the report to the City Administration Committee for final approval.