

# Item 1

4th February 2020



Glasgow City Council

Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Sustainability

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## DRAFT GLASGOW FOOD GROWING STRATEGY – “LETS GROW TOGETHER”

### Purpose of Report:

To update committee on the emerging draft Food Growing Strategy.

### Recommendations:

That committee notes the report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide:

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

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## **1. Introduction**

1.1 A report was brought to the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee on [12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018](#), advising of:

- Progress on Glasgow's Allotment Strategy and its links with the statutory duty, under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to undertake a Food Growing Strategy (FGS) for the city.
- The details of what a FGS for Glasgow should contain.
- The FGS linkages to broader City strategic objectives.
- Previous stakeholder engagement events undertaken in relation to the FGS and plans for future events.

1.2 The report summarised the key actions that would be taken forward in the immediate two years as:

- holding a series of community consultations focussing on specific area partnerships to ascertain existing and potential growing sites;
- aligning the sites identified to the Glasgow Open Space Strategy process;
- developing an online or publicly accessible map outlining potential growing sites;
- carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment;
- developing options and funding bids in support of any actions recommended to increase the provision by Glasgow City Council of allotments, or other areas of land for use by a community for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers within the life of the Strategy; and
- signpost communities to resources which may support them in bringing forward their own food growing proposals.

1.3 This report provides an update and further details on the key actions noted above including an outline of the initial draft Glasgow Food Growing Strategy – “Lets Grow Together”.

## **2. Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Part 9 Allotments**

2.1 Section 119 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Part 9 outlines the “Duty to prepare a food-growing strategy”. A summary of the main requirements is noted below:

- Each local authority must prepare a food-growing strategy for its area.
- It must publish the strategy within two years from the day section 119 comes into force.
- The strategy should identify land the local authority considers may be used as allotment sites or other areas of land that could be used by a community for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers. It should also describe the “reasonable steps” the authority intends to increase the provision in its area of such sites.

- It should also outline how the authority intends to increase the provision of the types of such growing sites in communities which experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- The strategy should be published on a website or by other electronic means.

2.2 In addition, section 120 outlines the duty to review the food-growing strategy every five years.

### **3. Food Growing Strategy and related consultation(s)**

3.1 In 2014/16, work was underway to refresh the Allotments Strategy i.e. consultants were commissioned to engage with the allotments community. However, this process was subsequently overtaken by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which required each local authority to develop a Food Growing Strategy. This strategy was expected to consider how to assist and enhance the opportunities for both allotments and food growing projects. It was, therefore, considered appropriate that this consultation would contribute to the development of the strategy along with the additional consultations outlined in the following points.

3.2 In 2017, the Scottish Government commissioned Greenspace Scotland to work with six local authorities on the development of their food growing strategies. Glasgow was one of those selected and two engagement events were held for four wards with recognised high demand for additional community growing sites.

3.3 In Spring 2019, a further eight community engagement events were held for the remaining 19 wards. The same process as the 2017 events was followed and they were, again, facilitated by Greenspace Scotland.

3.4 In addition, all local Area Partnerships were offered more detailed, individual feedback on the engagement events.

3.5 Greenspace Scotland reports for the events are available on the Food Growing Strategy website at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/foodgrowing> . In addition there is a summary report, based on all the events which is also available on the website.

3.6 As noted in 3.1, in 2016 a consultation specifically regarding allotments sought the ideas, visions and values of allotment gardeners within Glasgow. This consultation involved two community engagement events plus a questionnaire to plot holders and those on the allotments waiting lists.

3.7 In 2017, a citywide consultation engaged with people to find out why, where and how they would wish to be growing their own food. This consultation involved three community engagement events and an online survey. These events/survey were open to all members of the public but specific invitations were also made to growing groups, allotment associations, individuals on

allotments waiting list and other relevant organisations. The feedback from these events provided the basis for the subsequent consultations.

#### **4. Glasgow Food Growing Strategy – “Let’s Grow Together”**

4.1 As noted above, the draft Glasgow Food Growing Strategy is based upon four years of complementary consultations with citizens and growers, held at both citywide and local level, whilst also engaging with local community representatives and the organisations they represented. The broad structure and contents of the strategy are outlined below with more detail in subsequent sections:

- Strategic Vision
- Strategic Context
- Potential Types of Growing
- Summary of consultation feedback
- Increasing potential growing sites – allotment and community gardens
- Guide to starting growing
- Finding growing sites in a local area
- Key Themes
- Monitoring and Review
- Action Plan
- Appendices

4.2 The Strategic Vision is *“that Glasgow citizens wishing to grow their own fruit and vegetables will have access to a range of community opportunities in their area”*.

4.3 The Strategic Context will outline how the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy will respond to, and support, both the legislative requirements and the various current and emerging national and local policies around food growing, the climate and ecological emergency declaration and sustainability.

4.4 Potential types of growing provides general information on various types of growing options/locations. This will highlight some examples of good practice in Glasgow where appropriate.

4.5 The Consultation will provide a summary of the key issues raised at the various consultation events and which have consequently provided the basis for the strategies key actions.

4.6 Increasing the number of growing spaces in Glasgow will also feature within the document and will provide a general outline of the opportunities to support allotments and community gardens.

4.7 Guidance on how to develop a growing space, from concept to implementation will also feature and is based around the following five themes:

- Access to Land

- Access to Community Support
- Access to Group Development
- Access to Funding
- Access to Growing Advice

4.8 Finding growing sites in a local area will advise of the ongoing, online, mapping of potential growing spaces and the linkages with the ongoing Open Space Strategy.

4.9 Key themes with longer term potential were recognised from the various consultations. These opportunities which will form the basis for enhancing food growing in Glasgow in the medium term. This will be based around the demand or interest in food growing for educational purposes, health impacts and for social enterprises. This will also take cognisance of the Climate and Ecological Declarations at local and national level.

4.10 Monitoring and review will assess progress on how the strategy actions including the legal requirement to produce an “Annual Allotments Report” and how this will be enhanced by the inclusion of an update on the broader food growing actions.

4.11 The action plan summarises the various draft actions contained throughout the strategy. The actions also have an indication of implementation timelines. The proposed or current actions are summarised in the table below but may be updated or amended based upon the results of the final consultation process.

| Action Number | Draft Action   |
|---------------|--|
| 1             | To increase the number of plots on existing allotment sites  |
| 2             | To develop new allotment sites   |
| 3             | To engage with the planning process with regard to new growing sites within new developments   |
| 4             | To engage with Housing Associations to encourage the development of more growing sites   |
| 5             | To develop and maintain an online map of both existing and potential growing sites   |
| 6             | To review current procedures for accessing GCC potential growing sites   |
| 7             | Provide signposting to resources for getting community support for a new growing project and/or for capacity building advice for a new growing group |
| 8             | To signpost to funding resources   |
| 9             | To consider introducing a “Let’s Grow Together” fund to assist new growing projects  |
| 10            | To develop and issue a “Let’s Grow Together” growing guide in addition to signposting to existing growing advice resources                           |
| 11            | To develop, maintain and enhance the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy webpage   |
| 12            | To initiate a GCC officers internal Food Growing Working Group   |

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 13 | To respond to opportunities that arise for growing spaces on former GCC sites       |
| 14 | To produce an Annual Allotments and Food Growing Report                             |
| 15 | To initiate a Food Growing Strategy Mentoring Group involving citywide stakeholders |
| 16 | To monitor and assess progress within SIMD areas                                    |

## 5. The Next Stages

- 5.1 An online consultation on the draft Glasgow Food Growing Strategy –“Lets Grow Together” will commence on 5 February 2020 and run until 16 March 2020.
- 5.2 Based upon the results of the online consultation a final draft strategy will be presented to the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee on 28 April 2020.
- 5.3 A final draft strategy will be presented to the City Administration Committee on 21 May 2020 for approval.
- 5.4 The final strategy will be made accessible online. In addition, a limited number of printed copies will be available on request.

## 6. 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) has further requirements regarding allotments rules and regulations.

*Personnel:* No direct personnel implications from the report: 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:

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

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

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

Objective 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. Significant impact especially around individuals within disability equality characteristics.

*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*

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

*Procurement  
Directive:*

*Economic:*

The Food Growing Strategy will contribute to the Circular Economy.

**Privacy and Data  
Protection impacts:**

## **7. Recommendations**

That committee notes the report.