



Glasgow City Council

**Item 3**

12th June 2018

**Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee**

**Report by Executive Director, Neighbourhoods and Sustainability**

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**FOOD GROWING – ALLOTMENTS AND GREEN SPACES**

**Purpose of Report:**

To provide committee with details of -

1. work undertaken to devise a Food Growing Strategy for Glasgow;
2. plans to develop a Food Growing and Allotments Handbook for Glasgow.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that committee notes the content of this report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 On 3 February 2016, the Sustainability and Environment Policy Development Committee was updated on progress in relation to Glasgow's Allotments Strategy. See undernoted link –

<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/viewDoc.asp?c=P62AFQDNT1ZL2UDNNT>

The report outlined upcoming statutory duties arising from the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015: Section 9 (hereafter referred to within this report as 'The Act') once brought into force.

- 1.2 The report also advised of the intention to carry out stakeholder engagement in relation to the changing legislative environment. To this end, consultants were commissioned to engage with communities to independently capture the ideas, vision and values of allotment communities in Glasgow. The subsequent full report 'Glasgow Allotments Say' is attached at Appendix 1, with a summary of key outcomes provided at Appendix 2.
- 1.3 It is noted that Scottish Government timescales for bringing Section 9 of The Act into force were amended within the interim period, and that our timescales have been aligned accordingly. Officers from Glasgow City Council have contributed towards work being done by the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and Scottish Allotment Gardens Forum towards draft guidance which formed part of the Secondary Legislation needed to bring The Act into force.
- 1.4 More specifically, The Act requires that Food Growing Strategies -
- identifies land in its area that the local authority considers may be used as allotment sites (in particular describing whether and how the authority intends to increase the provision in communities which experience socio-economic disadvantage),
  - identify other areas of land in its area that could be used by a community for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers (in particular describing whether and how the authority intends to increase the provision in communities which experience socio-economic disadvantage),
  - describe how (should certain criteria be met) the authority intends to increase the provision in its area of allotments, or other areas of land for use by a community for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers. In doing so, the local authority should have regard to the desirability of making available locations that are reasonably close to the residence of persons who have made the request.
  - are published electronically.
- 1.5 In meeting these duties, Glasgow will wish to support local communities to grow more within their own neighbourhoods and to encourage growing in all its forms and varieties. This mosaic of growing opportunities could range from

planters or raised beds to community gardens, allotments, orchards, small-holdings and market gardens.

- 1.6 Section 9 of the Act also requires local authorities to address specific “technical or administrative” matters relating solely to allotments. It is therefore envisaged that our work will address such matters for inclusion within the proposed Allotments Handbook.
- 1.7 In addition, the development of a Glasgow Food Growing Strategy will support broader ambitions to support the development of Glasgow as a Sustainable Food City, as set out within the Glasgow City Council Strategic Plan 2017 to 2022. It will also support other key food sustainability objectives and benefits such as economic development, health & wellbeing and reduction in food miles.
- 1.8 The Glasgow Food Growing Strategy will involve the wider Council Family and key Community Planning Partners e.g. Health and Social Care Partnerships, so that it also supports and takes cognisance of other key related GCC policies and strategies such as the Glasgow Open Space Strategy (City Development Plan), the Legacy Framework for Glasgow's Sport and Physical Activity and the emerging Parks and Greenspaces Vision, Co-operative Glasgow, Sustainable Glasgow and a Resilient Glasgow.
- 1.9 Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 has now come into force on 1 April 2018. Section 119 of the Act – the duty to prepare a food-growing strategy, means local authorities are now required to prepare their strategies, and to update local authority duties and powers in relation to allotments, by 1 April 2020.

## **2.0 Food Growing Strategy**

- 2.1 In preparation for meeting statutory requirements, consultants were commissioned to independently facilitate three workshops focussed on food growing potential in the city. These consultation events were held across the city, in the summer of 2017 and engaged with local people to find out why, where and how they would wish to be growing their own food. The subsequent full report, ‘Go Grow Glasgow’ can be accessed via this link -

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=41678&p=0>

with a summary of key outcomes provided at Appendix 3.

- 2.2 In addition, two further workshops were held in the autumn/winter of 2017 focusing on the Partick East/Kelvindale, Victoria Park, Southside Central, and Pollokshields wards which were identified as key areas of demand for food growing, either from the earlier workshops or from allotment waiting list information. These later workshops allowed community councils, allotment associations, community gardens, allotment waiting list holders, food networks and food poverty groups with an interest in food growing within

these wards, to identify specific sites they felt should be investigated as potentially suitable for allotments or community food growing.

- 2.3 The workshops successfully highlighted areas of land that were considered potentially suitable for allotments or for use by a community for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers. These sites were assessed relative to criteria developed by Greenspace Scotland, with the best scoring sites being reported back to relevant Area Partnerships and to the Glasgow Open Space Strategy team.
- 2.4 This model for identifying land has proved positive and will now be the basis for a similar community engagement processes city-wide.
- 2.5 These workshops will identify sites which may be suitable, their current status and local demand to form a publically accessible online map of land that may be suitable for food growing in some form. It was noted that a significant number of Glasgow City Council owned sites were identified, and that these may provide growing communities with the potential for early action. It is also noted that many of the sites identified are existing greenspaces, and that growing communities will wish to engage with other communities of interest and the local community in respect to any change of use planned.
- 2.6 To support the further development and use of the land highlighted on these maps for allotments and other forms of growing, it is envisaged that the Strategy and Handbook will signpost potential growers to funding sources, training & mentoring opportunities and other external resources which may be available such as tool sharing options.
- 2.7 In summary, the key Food Growing Strategy actions going forward in the following two years will be –
  - holding a series 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.
  - signpost communities to resources which may support them in bringing forward their own food growing proposals.

### **3.0 Allotments and Allotments Handbook**

3.1 In parallel with the development of the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy, The Act also requires local authorities to carry out certain actions that specifically relate to allotments i.e.

- Offer to lease allotment
- Duty to maintain list
- Duty to provide allotments
- Access to allotment and allotment sites
- Allotment site regulations
- Allotment site regulation: further provision
- Delegation of management of allotment sites
- Promotion and use of allotments: expenditure

3.2 They also include a requirement for a local authority to take steps to manage allotment waiting lists within certain parameters and similarly to take reasonable steps to keep allotment applicants time on a waiting list to a maximum of 5 years. It is noted that this represents a change from existing arrangements whereby waiting lists are managed by the Allotment Association. Consideration will be given to what opportunities there may be, within the context of the Act, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) consultation with stakeholders and available technology solutions, for the waiting list to be maintained by GCC, but for a number of the waiting list activities to be delegated to the Allotment Association.

3.3 It is envisaged that Glasgow City Council will respond to these requirements through preparation of an Allotments Handbook. This handbook will be developed by 1 April 2020, via engagement with Allotment Associations, Glasgow Allotment Forum, ploholders and waiting list members. It is envisaged that it will be published online, and will be made up of a number of constituent documents, covering the points listed in 3.1 amongst other matters.

3.4 The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requires privacy statements in relation to data held or shared by GCC relating to current plot holders and those on waiting lists.

3.5 In summary, key Allotments and Allotments Handbook actions going forward in the following two years will be -

- consultation(s) reflecting the various legislative changes to the way local authorities manage their allotment sites.
- requirements for the management and reporting of waiting lists and how this is achieved.
- in cognisance of the GDPR and the amended legislative reporting requirements, appropriate software will facilitate management of the waiting list, and delegation where appropriate and agreed.
- carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment.
- identifying the format for annual reporting to the Scottish Government
- consider community empowerment opportunities and legislative requirements in the context of the needs of allotment associations, individuals on allotment waiting lists, as well as alignment to other areas of GCC service delivery.

#### 4. Progress

4.1 As we progress towards the 2020 delivery date, the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Sustainability will provide further updates on the actions within this report.

#### 5. Policy and Resource Implications

##### **Resource Implications:**

- Financial:* None at this stage, although it is likely the Food Growing Strategy will have capital and revenue implications when brought back to this Committee. There will be financial implications associated with personnel recommendations listed below.
- Legal:* Statutory Duties under the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015: Section 9, came into force on 1 April 2018. All local authorities are required to develop a Food Growing Strategy by 1 April 2020. The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) requires privacy statements in relation to data held or shared within GCC relating to current plot holders and those on waiting lists.
- Personnel:* It is recommended that a further post is established to assist in the delivery of the statutory duties, support waiting list actions and support community empowerment. Revenue funding associated with these posts was approved as part of the City Government Budget 2018/19.

*Procurement:* None at this stage, although it is likely the Food Growing Strategy, once drafted, will recommend procurement activity when it is brought back to this Committee.

**Council Strategic Plan:** Food Growing – Allotments and Greenspaces would support the following Council Plan Priorities -

A Thriving Economy

A resilient, growing and diverse city economy where businesses thrive.

A Vibrant City

Glaswegians are active and healthier.

A Healthier City

Citizens and communities are more self-reliant for their health and wellbeing.

A Sustainable and Low Carbon City

We have a low carbon footprint as a council and as a city.

Resilient and Empowered Neighbourhoods

Citizens can access facilities, jobs and services locally.

**Equality Impacts:**

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

Yes- an initial screening has been carried out in relation to work undertaken to date. See undernoted link.

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=41762&p=0>

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

Potential for positive impacts in relation to health and economic equalities. Further demographic data will be requested from growers to support a more comprehensive assessment of equalities, over the course of the strategy preparation.

**Sustainability Impacts:**

*Environmenta l:*

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

resilience, contributing to a reduction in food miles and food waste and supporting biodiversity.

*Social:* There will be social benefits around identifying opportunities for communities to work collectively on developing and maintaining community growing spaces.

*Economic:* The Food Growing Strategy may identify opportunities for social enterprises and other SME's to grow food and develop food related businesses within Glasgow.

**Privacy and Data Protection impacts:** The proposed Allotment Handbook will outline measures required to address privacy and data protection arrangements.

## **5 Recommendations**

It is recommended that committee notes the content of this report.