



Glasgow City Council

**Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods
City Policy Committee**

Report by Cormac Quinn, Corporate Policy Manager

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Item 5

29th April 2025

Update on Glasgow City Food System Development

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update on Glasgow City Food System Development in the context of the Food Plan and the next set of recommended actions to be undertaken by Glasgow City Council and partners.

Recommendations:

The committee is asked to consider contents of report and proposed approach going forward

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1. Background

- 1.1 As reported to this [Committee on the 25th April 2023](#) an Officer/ Member Short Life Working Group led by Councillor McSporran was instigated to deliver on the Council's commitments to the [Glasgow City Food Plan](#) (GCFP) with regards to development of food system in the city. This paper provides an update of current and proposed activities working with partners and third sector organisations.
- 1.2 Food provision and access within the city is a significant issue. The Council, to date, has used the Place Fund to support Pantries, Community Supermarkets and increase growing spaces across the city. Significant work is also undertaken through the [Food Growing Strategy](#) which is centred on allotments and in supporting community gardens on Parks.
- 1.3 There are increasing pressures on access to good quality and sustainable food in the city. Food price inflation is [40% above baseline](#) inflation and is projected to continue due to the effects of climate change and other global pressures. This is further compounded with pressures on charitable food provision because of constrained availability of revenue funding to support access to low-cost food. Without a significant step change in approach such issues are likely to lead to an even higher proportion of people facing food poverty.

2. Proposed Approach

- 2.1 The Council working across different departments and in partnership with key external agencies and the Third Sector is seeking to increase resilience and efficiencies through a number of actions. These activities range from use of GCC land for food growing, '[Cash First Pilot](#)' providing financial resources to families under food stress and work in schools to reduce food waste and increased education on value of good nutrition. Increased alignment of activities between Council departments and other partners is to continue alongside development of the city's food system.
- 2.2 Council-owned assets provide a significant opportunity. The Council will support re-use of Council assets through [People Make Glasgow Community](#) and particularly with development of Community Hubs with short and long term actions:
 - Building on previous Place Funding and similar capital support the Council will continue to align available funding to development of food production and provision with reuse of Council-assets.
 - Supporting good practice across the Community Hub network, for example with educational programmes ensuring that communities have the skills and capacity to utilise food with the food kitchen model
 - Building increased resilience with co-location of other partners in local delivery through the Community Hubs (for example with NHS) as well as

Council initiatives and in turn develop shared best practice between organisations

- Longer term to explore raising capital through community bonds to invest in renewable energy and potentially in food production itself (eg district heating system in food production) with many Community Hubs having 'available' land, and some will have appropriate buildings

2.3 In addition to use of Council assets, the Council will also prioritise support to address [Food Deserts which exist within Glasgow](#) . This will include proactively targeting identified areas with available funding and support as well as ensuring that legislative context supports provision throughout the city, for example through the [upcoming City Development Plan](#) as well as lobbying government to ensure that no food is wasted and ends up in landfill.

2.4 Reducing supply chains and building community food production are other key strands.

- With respect of third sector led local food growing a pilot project is already underway between The Scottish Pantry Network and [Kinkell Farm](#) which is located within East Dunbartonshire. There is a potential opportunity for this model to be rolled out elsewhere and Council Officers will explore both private sector funding opportunities as well as potential public sector capital funding with development of a Business Case accordingly.
- Development of a buyer's consortium and suppliers co-operative (potentially aligning with Government Farming Subsidies), a local distribution network would be established to support the short supply chains.

3. Next Steps

3.1 Officers will monitor the effectiveness of funding and support by measuring the positive impact which an organisation has on its local community. Such measurement will adopt an internal framework which defines specific outcomes, which focus on relieving disadvantage with individuals. An overview of this shall be expressed within the organisation's Mission Statement.

3.2 It should also be noted that the Council's Food Plan Working Group, led by the Convenor, hosted a Workshop Session in March 2025, to bring together the Council and ALEO partners involved in the delivery of the Plan for the Council. As well as focussing on some of the key areas noted above, it also highlighted areas for possible future development, including

- Enhancing links to food related activity with Justice (community payback orders and potential links to Growing Initiatives)

- Exploring the parameters around access to market for existing and planned Growing Initiatives
- Focus on healthy eating initiatives and potential for greater promotion.

- 3.3 A further session is planned for Autumn 2025 at the Hidden Gardens in advance of the next scheduled update to Committee. This session will widen the focus to include the broader city delivery partners (GCPH and third sector partners) as well as the Council Food Plan Working Group.
- 3.4 It is intended that this be an annual report to Committee with other updates made as required.

4. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

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| <i>Financial:</i> | None identified at this stage |
| <i>Legal:</i> | None identified at this stage |
| <i>Personnel:</i> | Not applicable at this stage |
| <i>Procurement:</i> | None identified at this stage |

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| Council Strategic Plan: | This supports the Grand Challenge of Enabling staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities |
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Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

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| <i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.</i> | Yes, as it supports Outcome 3: Service users are provided with information accessible to them on services provided by the Council Family |
| <i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i> | No significant impact identified at this point; although the accessibility of performance data will be considered as the proposal develops |

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| <p><i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.</i></p> | <p>Access to good quality food for all us a key outcome in addressing socio economic disadvantage.</p> |
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Climate Impacts:

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| <p><i>Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:</i></p> | <p>Through supporting Sustainable growing and food sourcing; it supports Action 30 within Glasgow's Climate Plan</p> |
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| <p><i>What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?</i></p> | <p>A reduction in emissions associated with the support of a local food economy network.</p> |
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| <p><i>Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?</i></p> | <p>Yes, through a reduction in food miles and reduction in food waste.</p> |
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Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

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| <p>Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N</p> | <p>No</p> |
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If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

5 Recommendations

The committee is asked to consider contents of report and proposed approach going forward