



Glasgow City Council

**Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods
City Policy Committee**

**Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods,
Regeneration & Sustainability**

Contact: Denise Hamilton Ext: 76603

Item 3

11th June 2024

Food Growing Strategy Update

Purpose of Report:

To update Committee on the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy and Action Plan.

Recommendations:

That Committee notes the contents of the report and action plan.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1 Introduction

1.1 The Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods Committee will be aware of the [Food Growing Strategy Update](#), which was presented on 14th March 2023 and noted:

1.1.1 The Food Growing Strategy's (FGS) 16 high level actions are designed to assist the city to deliver more growing spaces, support more growers, and monitor progress made against these actions and sets out.

a) Information in relation to waiting lists; and

b) That in line with the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 each local authority would prepare and publish an annual allotments report and that this would be presented to this committee for consideration prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

2 Background

2.1 The Food Growing Strategy sets out how the Council will support community ambitions for more food growing opportunities and meet the statutory requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

2.2 The Food Growing Strategy is informed by existing GCC policies and strategies, including the Glasgow City Food Plan (GCFP). The Plan has been co-designed and created with communities, by the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership, in which the Council works closely with Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Glasgow Community Food Network. Launched in June 2021, a second Glasgow Food Summit, was held in September 2023

2.3 The Summit considered food growing amongst other themes and identified a range of priority actions for over the next 2-3 years of the 10-year action plan. These include:

- Increase land used for commercial/market-scale food growing.
- Increase training opportunities and economic support for local food growing.
- Increase access/routes to markets for locally produced food (Glasgow and Scotland).
- Increase the use of more nature-friendly techniques (including organic growing) in food production.

2.4 The event was attended by 110 people, including representatives of key organization's working in different parts of the food system, people interested in the food work in Glasgow, and many stakeholders involved in the GCFP. This is a testament to how the city has mobilised around improving inequalities and food systems.

- 2.5 The increase in interest and activity is also matched by the increase in demand for food growing spaces which is described later in the report (section 3). The appetite for change is an indication of the opportunity for Glasgow to build in the successes to date.
- 2.6 In addition to growing food for personal use, there has been increasing interest in developing a local food economy – bringing together local food producers with outlets for their produce, such as cafés, restaurants, local markets, caterers and processors. Growing the local food economy has the potential to deliver a variety of benefits to the city, including: fresher and better quality food for consumers; less pollution and fewer food miles; enhanced economic development and more jobs; a better skilled workforce; and sustainably produced food, with health and wellbeing benefits for growers and the contribution the positive impacts in relation to biodiversity, landscape and animal welfare.
- 2.7 The Food Growing Strategy and other related plans and policies provide the opportunity for transformational change in Glasgow.
- 2.8 The 16 FGS actions set out in table 1 will allow the city to deliver more growing spaces and support more growers - it should be noted they are not in order of priority.

Table 1		
Action Number	Theme	Action
1	Increase Growing Spaces	To increase the number of plots on existing allotment sites
2	Increase Growing Spaces	To develop new allotment sites
3	Support policy and process improvements	To engage with the planning process regarding new growing sites within new developments
4	Support greater networking and information sharing	To engage with Housing Associations to encourage the development of more growing sites
5	Increase and improve sources of information	To develop and maintain an online map of both existing and potential growing sites
6	Support policy and process improvements	To review current procedures for accessing GCC potential growing sites
7	Increase and improve sources of information	Signposting to resources for getting community support for a new growing project and/or for capacity building advice for new growing group(s)
8	Increase and improve sources of information	To signpost to funding support resources

9	Increase Growing Spaces	To consider introducing a “Let’s Grow Together” fund to assist new growing projects
10	Increase and improve sources of information	To signpost to growing advice resources
11	Increase and improve sources of information	To develop and issue a “Let’s Grow Together” growing guide
12	Increase and improve sources of information	To develop, maintain and enhance the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy webpage
13	Support greater networking and information sharing	To initiate a GCC officers internal Food Growing Group
14	Support greater networking and information sharing	To initiate a Food Growing Strategy Mentoring Group involving citywide stakeholders
15	Increase and improve sources of information	To produce an Annual Allotments and Food Growing Report
16	Support policy and process improvements	To monitor and assess progress within SIMD areas

2.9 Full details on the individual actions are included within Sections 3-6 of this paper, with key developments summarised below under the following four themes:

- Increase Growing Spaces (Section 3)
- Increase and improve sources of information (Section 4)
- Support greater networking and information sharing (Section 5)
- Support policy and process improvements (Section 6)

3 Theme Updates

3.1 Increase Growing Spaces

3.1.1 To inform the reasonable steps which will be taken to meet obligations under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Table 2 provides data on the current waiting list information available and the number of plots that would be required to be developed to meet our legislative obligations.

3.1.2 As previously noted, the appetite for food growing is now outstripping provision (Table 2), therefore a plan has been put in place to provide over the next few years for 261 additional plots (Table 3), that will increase provision to 1,391 across the city by 2026/27. The Let's Grow Together Fund, People Make Glasgow's Communities and pilot Food Systems Fund provide other ways to

meet the appetite for food growing and a holistic approach will be taken to meeting demand.

Table 2		
Methodology	Calculation	Narrative
The Waiting List should be no more than half the current number of allotment plots		The number of people on allotment waiting lists should be no more than 50% of the total number of allotments owned and leased by the authority nor on the waiting list for more than 5 years from the date of application.
Current Waiting List	1823	According to most recent data provided to the Local Authority by Allotment Associations
Current Number of plots	1678	
Current number of plots divided by 2	839	
Numbers on the waiting list, over the statutory limit of 839	984	

3.1.3 Greyfriars Community Biophilic Garden offers a case study which could inform the approach to other smaller areas of open space and vacant and derelict land that may not be suitable for the traditional allotment format to be brought forward for consideration as Growing Spaces.

3.1.4 Table 3 highlights growing spaces delivered and intending to be delivered over the duration of the Food Growing Strategy as resources become available.

3.1.5 Table 4 provides information based on current waiting list data which has been provided to the Local Authority. This provides a ward-by-ward snapshot of current provision and land required to meet statutory obligations.

Table 3 below:

Table 3			
Financial Year	Number of plots	Status	Narrative
Number of additional plots created in Year 2 of the Strategy (2023/24)	83		Greyfriars 57, Sighthill 20, Rodney street 6
Number of additional proposed plots created in Year 3	70	Tender documents currently under development	Yoker 8, Centurion Way 20, Baillieston Demo Garden 4, Rodney Street 12,

of the Strategy (2024/25)			Westthorn Allotments 12, Hamiltonhill Allotments 10, Elderslie street 4
Number of additional proposed plots created in Year 4 of the Strategy (2025/26)	78		
Number of additional plots created in Year 5 of the Strategy (2026/27)	30		

Table 4 Land Availability						
Ward Number	Ward Name	Waiting List Total	Existing Growing Space (Ha)	Existing Growing Space Total site area (Ha)	Public Proposed Growing spaces (Ha) Total	Ha required to meet 50% of Waiting List
1	Linn	36	0.68	1.17	0.52	0.45
2	Newlands/Auldburn	41	5.41	5.97	3.29	0.51
3	Greater Pollock	13	-	-	5.46	0.16
4	Cardonald	16	-	-	1.45	0.20
5	Govan	24	-	-	9.55	0.30
6	Pollokshields	238	1.21	1.56	3.21	2.98
7	Langside	187	-	-	4.64	2.34
8	Southside Central	232	1.46	1.6	2.03	2.90
9	Calton	45	1.33	1.8	8.08	0.56
10	Anderston/City/Yorkhill	56	0.23	0.4	3.14	0.70
11	Hillhead	80	0.06	0.07	1.58	1.00
12	Victoria Park	180	0.62	0.8	24.39	2.25
13	Garscadden/Scotstoun	62	1.44	3.1	6.02	0.78
14	Drumchapel/Anniesland	48	0.76	1.4	1.86	0.60
15	Maryhill	46	-	-	4.22	0.50
16	Canal	36	0.6	0.7	4.16	0.45
17	Springburn/Robroyston	5	1.02	1.2	2.74	0.06
18	East Centre	26	2.96	3.9	2.07	0.33
19	Shettleston	23	0.55	0.8	2.75	0.29
20	Ballieston	0	0.09	0.1	0.22	0.00
21	Northeast	11	-	-	1.5	0.14
22	Dennistoun	29	0.34	0.6	1.12	0.36
23	Partick East/Kelvindale	186	1.82	2.1	1.14	2.33
-	No Address Supplied	190				
-	Not within GCC Area	13				
Totals		1823	20.58	27.27	95.14	17.8

- 3.1.6 It is intended that reports will be brought back to this committee which set out specific plots of land which will be made available for food growing to deliver the hectareage of land in Table 4 and provide detail on how this would be considered to meet our statutory obligations.
- 3.1.7 It is considered that this land could be identified as being available for food growing through the People Make Glasgow Communities process, facilitating communities being able to secure land and supporting them in bringing forward any funding bids, statutory consents and works required. It is not considered, for the majority of plots, that the resources currently available to this service will allow the service to lead on this.
- 3.1.8 It is considered that such an approach would align to the wider principles of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act and related Glasgow City Council initiatives such as People Make Communities Glasgow.
- 3.2 Glasgow City Council aims to ensure that all communities can access, enjoy, and celebrate growing spaces within Glasgow. The Let's Grow Together Fund is designed to help support these spaces and encourage Glasgow citizens to become involved and grow their fruit and vegetables locally. This is an annual fund of £50,000 which was introduced to support the aims of the current iteration of Glasgow's Food Growing Strategy 2020-5. Capital grants of up to £5000 per organisation are distributed at each round of the fund.
- 3.2.1 Officers have used the second round of the Let's Grow Together Fund in 2023/24 as an opportunity to align food growing activities with wider Council strategies such as the Climate Plan, Strategic Plan 2022-2027 as well as the City Food Plan. In addition to increasing the number of foods growing spaces projects that achieved outcomes linked with the above strategies were supported.
- 3.3 The number of applications received was 38. There were 14 successful proposals receiving a share of the total amount allocated this year - £48,365.29.
- 3.4 Table 5 provides an overview of the 2023/24 Let's Grow Together Awardees, grouped by theme their projects would support:

Table 5	
Organisation name	Project Theme
Queens Cross Housing Association	Promoting and supporting improved physical, mental and emotional health, and wellbeing.
Stepping Stones for Families	
Treetop Outdoor Nursery	
Blaeloch Community Land	
Sacro	
Friends of Maryhill Park (FOMP)	Supporting the creation and maintenance of good quality, multifunctional open space to help reconnect communities with nature.
Gathering Ground CIC	
We Together CIC	
SWG3 Community Allotment Growers	
Victoria Park Community Trust	

Kings Park Secondary School	Supporting food growing, waste reduction and recycling in schools.
SiMY Community Development	
Battlefield Primary school	
The Indigo Group	Supporting food waste reduction and reuse of materials in the community.

- 3.5 For further details about the 2023/24 round of the Fund see Appendix III FGS Action Plan Tracker. The second round of the Fund will be evaluated in Spring 2024 with an update provided to Committee in the next Food Strategy update.

4 Increase and Improvement in Sources of Information

- 4.1 Officers regularly review the FGS webpage to ensure up to date and relevant information is included. This can then be utilised by Glasgow's diverse growing community or potential new groups. There are a range of links to information and resources from promoting food growing, supporting positive climate and biodiversity outcomes to signposting to support organisations who guide groups through initiating a food growing project and accessing land.
- 4.2 The Growing Spaces Map accessed via this webpage shows sites which have been identified through the engagement process that informed the first iteration of the strategy.
- 4.3 Officers have added new layers to the map to provide interested parties with a visual tool for understanding land availability for potential food growing. These layers include:
- Sites nominated at the Food Growing Strategy engagement events.
 - Vacant and derelict sites that could be developed using the Greyfriars Garden toolkit.
 - Allotment sites
 - Individual plot sizes on allotment sites
 - Parks and greenspaces
- 4.4 A new version of the platform hosting the growing spaces map is being developed to make navigation more user-friendly. Interested parties will be able to nominate sites they consider appropriate for food growing using a new form that integrates with a new mapping layer, too.

5 Support Greater Networking and Information Sharing

- 5.1 The contribution that Allotment Associations make to local open spaces under their management is recorded as 1,980 hours, with figures reported within our Key Performance Indicator reporting for open space volunteering.

5.2 Community involvement

5.2.1 Groups and individuals wishing to bring forward growing spaces themselves are encouraged to review funding initiatives available for communities and individuals to become proactively involved: Let's Grow Together Fund, Parks and Open Space Investment Fund, Vacant and Derelict Land Fund, Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme, Area Partnership funding and other funding streams not accessible by Local Authorities.

5.2.2 Individuals and organisations can nominate sites they consider suitable for food growing. An assessment process is required to establish the potential suitability of each site. Following a series of checks nominated sites are uploaded on the [Food Growing Storyboard](#)

5.2.3 Support can be provided to growing groups to support them in progressing site development and engagement with local growing communities, to ensure that site and community development processes are carried out in parallel, building local growing capacity.

5.3 During 2023, the Royal Horticultural Society Cultivating Wellbeing, Growing Connections Programme, in collaboration with multiple partners, delivered 24 sessions with 9 program partners involving 509 participants. A New Growers Network program supported community gardeners, groups, organisations and community members. The activities were intended to be suitable for beginners and experienced gardeners alike, providing knowledge and content for participants to reap the wellbeing benefits of community gardening projects and to garden in an environmentally friendly way.

5.4 Programme Overview:

- Monday 26th February FARE Lochend - Kick Start Your Growing year
- Friday 22nd March Platform – community engagement new growers' fun day kokedama
- Monday 20th May – Grow with it, Composting tips, and tricks, Polyunnel growing
- Date to be confirmed – July – Let's Get Growing
- Date to be confirmed – August – Keep growing
- Date to be confirmed – September/October – Harvest Festival
- Date to be confirmed – November/December – Celebration Event Festive Wonderland

5.4.1 Shettleston Community Growing Project is hosting a programme to support community gardeners, groups, organisations, and community members. The activities are suitable for beginners and experienced gardeners alike, providing knowledge and content for participants to reap the well-being benefits of community gardening projects and to garden in an environmentally friendly way.

5.4.2 Programme Overview:

- Sunday 3rd March – Kick Start Your Growing year.
- Date to be confirmed – May/June – Let's Get Growing.
- Date to be confirmed – August – Shettleston Gala Day.
- Date to be confirmed – September/October – Harvest Festival.
- Date to be confirmed – November/December – Celebration Event Festive Wonderland.
- Wellbeing Workshop for Shettleston HA Rooftop Garden makeover.
- The RHS will host three twilight sessions in 2024 (in April, June, and September) at each of two separate locations, Cranhill Primary School in the Northeast, and Netherlee Primary School to the south of the city. These sessions will be open to all school staff in Glasgow.

5.5 Engagement

- 5.5.1 Officers from the Food Growing Team were participants in the assessment board for applications received to the City Food Systems Development Fund. Seventeen food-growing projects in Glasgow have received a share of £475,857 in grants, which support community-led projects delivered by third sector organisations whose work contributes to the Glasgow City Food Plan.
- 5.5.2 The funding process invited applications for projects which would have a long-term impact, with a direct improvement to the resilience of the city's food system, including the growing or production of food, its distribution and disposing of waste. The maximum award was £50,000.
- 5.5.3 The Glasgow Food System Development Fund was created through the support of the Scottish Government's Place Fund.
- 5.5.4 Officers will continue to employ place-based practices to identify partners to develop other Growing Spaces citywide utilising learning captured from the development of Bellahouston Demonstration Garden, Growchapel Community Allotments, Greyfriars Biophilic Community Garden and Sighthill Community Allotments.

6 **Support Policy and Process Improvements**

- 6.1.1 Glasgow City Council will take forward actions to assist potential growers meet their ambition to develop a growing site. We will provide information on how groups can access land and, in some cases, provide starter funding.
- 6.1.2 Applications for Vacant and Derelict Land Funding have been submitted by the Food Growing Team, which would, If successful, support development of a further four growing opportunities on vacant sites. This would be informed by the approach the model adopted at the Greyfriars Community Biophilic Garden.
- 6.1.3 City Development Plan guidelines provide for new Allotment and Community Growing projects to be supported by developer contributions from the same

sector of the city, with £636,182 available citywide for this purpose. It is likely that some projects may receive funding from more than one source.

6.2 Waiting List Management

- 6.2.1 Under Section 111 Duty to Maintain a List, each local authority must establish and maintain a list of persons who make a request to the local authority. The list may be established and maintained by the local authority in such form as the authority deems appropriate. The duty to maintain a list includes the removal from the list of any person whose request is agreed to, or who withdraws such a request before it is agreed to, and any other information relating to any such person.
- 6.2.2 Development work is scheduled to bring forward an application that will streamline current application and allocation processes with the aim of relieving administrative burdens on allotment associations and improve the data available to applicants.
- 6.2.3 In terms of next steps, the development work will provide a process where applications are received online and automatically populated to the waiting list spreadsheet. As vacancies arise the programme will match applicants to vacancies on a sectoral neighbourhood approach based on chronological date of application.
- 6.2.4 It should be noted that incomplete applications will not be registered as a request to lease an allotment plot. It should also be noted that where allotment associations fail to share waiting list data held that such cannot be included in consideration to inform our requirements to meet our statutory obligations.
- 6.2.5 Where associations seek to include waiting list management in delegated functions that the local authority would need evidence of the capacity to manage data compliant to General Data Protection Regulations.

7 Future Reporting

- 7.1 Section 120 of the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 states that each local authority must review its food-growing strategy before the end of the period of 5 years beginning with the day on which the strategy is first published, and each subsequent period of 5 years thereafter. If, following this review, the authority decides that changes to its food-growing strategy are necessary or desirable, the authority must publish a revised food-growing strategy on a website or by other electronic means.
- 7.2 The next iteration of Glasgow's Food Growing Strategy is due for publication in 2025-6. Officers will plan a review and stakeholder engagement process to take place before the end of the 2024-5 financial year.
- 7.3 The Community Empowerment 2015 (Scotland) Act requires each local authority to prepare and publish an annual allotments report for its area. It is envisaged that this report will be presented to the Environment and Liveable

Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee for consideration prior to submitting to the Scottish Government.

8 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: Measures set out within this report would be delivered from existing resources.

Legal: **The report advises in relation to Statutory Duties set out in Section 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. It is envisaged that, where** Allotment Associations seek devolved management functions in line with the provisions of The Act, that this may be covered by a form of legal agreement.

Personnel: There are no direct personnel implications

Procurement: Works identified for action by GCC as a result of this Action Plan will be procured via the relevant Framework Agreement

Council Strategic Plan: Grand Challenge – Reduce Poverty and Inequality in our Community.

Mission 3:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.
- Work with partners to promote and support people in Glasgow to achieve improved physical, mental and emotional Health, and Wellbeing.

Grand Challenge – Increase Opportunity and Prosperity for all our Citizens.

Mission 3:

- Raise attainment amongst Glasgow's Children and Young People.
- Support School Food Growing, Waste Reduction and Recycling and work on Achieving Silver and Gold Food for Good Awards

Grand Challenge – Create Safe, Clean and Thriving Neighbourhoods

Mission 1:

- Deliver the Food Growing Strategy and Increase the number of Allotments and Community Growing Spaces across the City.
- Help communities to acquire and manage land as recreational green space including parks, land manage for nature, community orchards and growing projects.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.

Yes – Supports outcomes 2.3.and 6

What are the potential Equality impacts as a result Of this report?

An EQIA screening has been undertaken. Some potential positive impact- individual projects arising from this action plan will provide accessible growing spaces and remove potential barriers.

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

Delivery of a number of the projects within Actions 1 and 2 will improve access to nutritious produce and physical activity for households living within SIMD data zones.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan Actions? Please Specify

Climate plan Theme 1: Communication and Community Empowerment

To engage with communities about the climate challenge
To foster participation and collaboration.

Climate plan Theme 2: Just and Inclusive Place

Empower and invigorate our communities, strengthening local economies

Share the benefits of climate action widely, ensuring that costs are distributed based on ability to pay

Climate plan Theme 4: Health and Wellbeing

To protect and enhance local habitat connectivity and biodiversity in the city.

To support creation and maintenance of good quality, multifunctional open space to help reconnect communities with nature.

To support equitable access to good quality open space and green infrastructure in the city.

Climate plan Theme 5: Green Recovery

Supporting a transition towards a circular economy

Supporting tree planting and maintenance, peatland restoration, and green infrastructure

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal

Supporting development of additional growing spaces in the city can support a reduction in carbon emissions associated with Food supply chains

Will the proposal contribute To Glasgow's net zero carbon Target?

Yes

Privacy and Data Protection Impact:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report y/n

No

If yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

9 Recommendations

9.1 That Committee notes the contents of report and action plan.