



**Glasgow City Council**

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

**Item 4**

**8th June 2021**

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

**Contact: Seamus Connolly Ext: 76528**

**GLASGOW FOOD GROWING STRATEGY –  
ACTION PLAN**

**Purpose of Report:**

To update Committee on the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy action plan.

**Recommendations:**

That Committee notes the contents of report and action plan.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The City Administration Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, approved the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy:  
<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=97756>

- 1.2 Committee also:

“Agreed to bring the first action plan to the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee for consideration within 6 months’ time, covering the following:

- (i) How implementation of the strategy could be accelerated and supported with specific, measurable objectives.
- (ii) Specific, measurable proposals to meet rising demand for growing spaces in the context of COVID-19 recovery, Brexit and ongoing food poverty issues.”

- 1.3 This Committee meeting represents the earliest opportunity to deliver on the above commitment and update Committee on the action plan.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The Glasgow Food Growing Strategy (FGS) contains sixteen, high level actions so that the city delivers more growing spaces and supports more growers. These actions are listed in the table below - it should be noted they are not in order of priority.

Action Number	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	Signposting to resources for getting community support for a new growing project and/or for capacity building advice for new growing group(s)
8	To signpost to funding support resources
9	To consider introducing a “Let’s Grow Together” fund to assist new growing projects
10	To signpost to growing advice resources

11	To develop and issue a “Let’s Grow Together” growing guide
12	To develop, maintain and enhance the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy webpage
13	To initiate a GCC officers internal Food Growing Group
14	To initiate a Food Growing Strategy Mentoring Group involving citywide stakeholders
15	To produce an Annual Allotments and Food Growing Report
16	To monitor and assess progress within SIMD areas

2.2 Information provided to this service, subsequent to the FGS engagement events, has suggested that demand for food growing space has grown substantially over the last year, reflecting the ‘Better Outside’ approach to taking social and physical activity outdoors as COVID restrictions ease, as well as the food insecurity issues many will have experienced, as a result both of socioeconomic-disadvantage as well as potential changes to supply chains as the ongoing implications of COVID-19 and Brexit become understood.

2.3 Officers will continue to liaise with Glasgow Community Food Network, and Food Pantries within Glasgow, to understand how actions taken within the Food Growing Strategy can contribute to the City Food Plan Theme 1: Fair Food for All. Specific measurable proposals are set out as part of Actions 1 and 2 outlining how we will accelerate the delivery of additional growing spaces to meet this increased demand.

### 3. **Glasgow Food Growing Strategy - Action Plan**

3.1 Full details on the individual actions are included in Appendix 1, with key development summarised below, under the following four broad headings along with their associated specific actions.

- Increase Growing Spaces – actions 1, 2, 13, 16
- Increase and improving sources of information – actions 5, 7, 8, 10, 11
- Support greater networking and information sharing – actions 3, 4, 12, 15
- Support policy and process improvements – actions 6, 9, 14

#### 3.2 **Increase Growing Spaces**

In its 2020-21 budget GCC allocated £200,000 to Food Growing advising that the budget allocation was aimed at:

‘Investment to support delivery of the city’s Food Growing Strategy (FGS), lowering emissions and increasing access to healthy, nutritional, local food, including in schools.’

The detail below provides a breakdown of where the funding could be allocated which would also draw in match funding for Developer contributions to make a real impact to not only our objectives to delivering more opportunity for residents to become involved in growing within their communities but also reduce the allotment waiting list.

The opportunity now exists to:

- Create an additional **259** growing plots across the city (Please see Appendix 2).
- Draw in match funding of **£218,750** via ENV2 contributions
- Overall potential funding package: **£418,570**
- Have a new growing or expanded allotment project in each Ward.

3.3 Actions 1, 2, 13 and 16 all support increasing the number of growing spaces in Glasgow. Project timescales will reflect the characteristics of each site and the communities wishing to grow there.

Several projects have been facilitated in the last year and are now reaching key milestones. These include the following:

- Additional plots created at two existing GCC allotment sites.
- Site start made at a new growing site in Drumchapel.
- Social enterprise leasing the former plant nursery in Bellahouston Park.
- New growing spaces being developed at the former changing rooms in Queens park Recreation Ground.
- Design and costings produced for Greyfriars Garden expansion/relocation.

3.3.1 We are supporting Food and Climate Action activators based in St Paul's Youth Forum to expand and develop an existing growing space utilising land within the Education Estate. This offers a model for co-location within growing spaces by both the schools and wider growing community with benefits including activity being programmed year-round as well as inter-generational learning.

### 3.4 Increase and improving sources of information

3.4.1 Actions 5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 will all enhance the information available to aspiring growers or communities wishing to identify potential growing spaces in their area. The webpage includes digital mapping of such potential growing sites but will also include advice on how to access permission to develop the site, find funding and where to get help to start growing:

<https://glasgowgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=d277ea6d8d7c4e07b4fbcd01ff05a3f0#>

Recent actions include the following:

- Approximately 170 sites nominated at the FGS engagement events have been mapped so far. Further assessment of the sites will provide details on what sort of growing they may be suitable for.
- A Growing Handbook to assist new growers has been developed with the support of the allotment community

3.4.2 Launched in February 2019 in conjunction with the RHS and 'Learning for Sustainability', the Glasgow's Growing Schools Project is expected to

recommence once COVID-19 restrictions permit. The project provides a series of four thematic CPD twilight sessions for Educational Staff delivered by the RHS to provide the basic skills to set up a growing projects within schools and contribute to the Curriculum for Excellence.

- 3.4.3 Sessions will upskill staff and provide an opportunity for networking and sharing of learning to support staff in delivering growing in schools. Planters have been provided by GCC to facilitate schools have a growing space within their grounds. Participants also become members of the RHS School Gardening Campaign which would provide access to the resources that come with this campaign. The project also provides information on funding and other resources and support available to schools.
- 3.4.4 The initial launch was attended by over 80 educational establishments, and GCC and RHS both remain committed to recommencing this project when restrictions around COVID 19 permit.

### **3.5 Support Greater Networking and Information Sharing**

Actions 3, 4, 12 and 15 all recognise that increasing the number of growing spaces in the city will be best accomplished with the support and input from within the Council family, public organisations, community groups and key stakeholders from the existing growing community. As such the following actions been initiated:

- GCC Officers Food Growing group has scheduled its inaugural meeting for 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021, with quarterly meetings thereafter. This will deliver a collaborative approach to Food Growing across the various properties managed by the Glasgow Family.
- The Housing Associations Forum has scheduled its inaugural meeting for 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 with quarterly meetings thereafter. This allow Housing Associations to share with us their aspirations for Food Growing and encourage Housing Associations to support the development of additional Growing Spaces across their land holdings.
- The Glasgow Community Food Growers Forum has scheduled its inaugural meeting for 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 with quarterly meetings thereafter. Officers intend to present details of the Let's Grow Together" fund at the second meeting of this forum. This fund is intended to support growers Citywide through knowledge exchange, mutual support, sharing of Best Practice and potential opportunities amongst other matters key to the delivery of more growing spaces. Through a participatory budgeting approach the group will administer the Let's Grow Together Fund. The group will also provide a platform for all growers Citywide to participate on a collaborative basis in governance, production and delivery.

### **3.6 Support GCC internal policy and processes**

- 3.6.1 Actions 6, 9 and 14 relate to matters that GCC will take forward 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.

3.6.2 In support of the ambition to provide starter funding the following actions have been carried out:

3.6.3 Details of a Let's Grow Together Funding will be brought forward and shared via the Food Growing Strategy webpage. Informed by the participatory budgeting process undertaken for the Wee Green Grants, a call for bids will be issued by Glasgow Community Food Growers Forum, inviting existing and aspiring growing groups across the city to submit proposals for capital projects which:

- Support delivery of the city's Food Growing Strategy.
- Create new growing spaces or plots.
- Include a proportion of accessible growing space, and
- Enable growing groups to play a more active role the management of their new sites by becoming constituted and via community asset transfer.

It is intended that a sum of £50,000 per year for 5 years from 2021/22 onwards is made available, from existing approvals, to build on this approach.

3.6.4 A sum of £115,000 is currently available citywide in support of food growing projects on vacant and derelict land. It is envisaged that this funding will be allocated to preliminary works by NRS which remove barriers to community food growing on such sites, such as the need for clearance works, soil analysis and other works required to ensure sites are "shovel ready"

3.6.5 A strategic sectoral allocation approach will be developed by officers, in line with City Development Plan guidelines, for use of £253,677 of developer contributions, and as informed by the sites which communities have identified as potential growing spaces in their area.

It is likely that some projects may receive funding from more than one of these sources, and from additional sources external to Glasgow City Council such as National Lottery.

#### **4. Future Reports**

4.1 The Community Empowerment 2015 (Scotland) Act requires each local authority to prepare and publish an annual allotments report for its area. It envisaged that this report will be presented to the Environmental, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee in early 2022 for consideration prior to submitting to the Scottish Government.

### **5 Policy and Resource Implications**

#### **Resource Implications:**

<i>Financial:</i>	The financial resources required both revenue and capital are covered by agreed budgets.
<i>Legal:</i>	The report raises no new legal issues.
<i>Personnel:</i>	There are no direct personnel implications.
<i>Procurement:</i>	Capital investment identified for action by GCC as a result of this Action Plan will be procured via the relevant Framework Agreement.

**Council Strategic Plan:**

A Healthier City - Priority 38

Outcomes are;

- Glasgow is healthier
- our services are focused on early intervention and prevention
- citizens and communities are more self reliant for their health and wellbeing

A Sustainable and Low Carbon City – Priority 72

Outcomes are;

- the city is clean and public spaces are well maintained
- we have a low carbon footprint as a council and as a city
- citizens use active travel including walking and cycling

Resilient and Empowered Neighbourhoods  
Priorities 73 & 74

Outcomes are;

- citizens can access good facilities, jobs and services locally- Outcome 2

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25*

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 datazones.

### **Sustainability Impacts:**

*Environmental:*

Individual projects arising from this Action Plan have the potential to positively impact on the wider environment, and to improve the quality of local greenspace, townscape and landscape. Opportunities for local food production have the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of the food we eat. It is considered that this action plan will contribute to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan

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

Individual projects arising from this Action Plan have the potential to positively impact on local community cohesion, and/or support job creation or skills development within social enterprises in Glasgow.

*Economic:*

Individual projects arising from this Action Plan have the potential to positively impact on local communities or social enterprises in Glasgow

### **Privacy and Data Protection impacts:**

No data protection impacts

## **6 Recommendations**

That Committee notes the contents of report and action plan.