

Item 3

17th March 2026



Glasgow City Council

Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee

Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

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Food Growing Strategy

Purpose of Report:

To update Committee on the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee notes progress in relation to the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Further to the [Food Growing Strategy Update](#) provided to committee in 14th March 2023, the following report provides a review of the Food Growing Strategy 2020-2025 and the FGS 16 high level actions to assist the city to deliver more growing spaces and support more growers in the city along with key developments and the reasonable steps taken to provide allotments as detailed in Appendix III of the report;
- 1.2 Further detail in relation to waiting lists is set out in Appendix I of the report
- 1.3 That in terms 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 as detailed in Appendix II of the report.
- 1.4 That in terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Section 120 of the Act requires every local authority to review its food-growing strategy. This review must be carried out within 5 years of the date of the publication of the initial food-growing strategy, and every five years thereafter with details published thereafter,

2 Background

- 2.1 The Glasgow Food Growing Strategy (FGS) sets out sixteen high level actions to assist the city in delivering more growing spaces and in supporting more growers. These actions are listed in the table below - it should be noted they are not in order of priority.

Table 1

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 Full details on the individual actions are included in Appendix III (Action Tracker), with key development summarised below, under the following four broad headings along with their associated specific actions.

- Increase Growing Spaces
- Increase and improve sources of information.
- Support greater networking and information sharing.
- Support policy and process improvements.

3 Strategy Review Update.

3.1 The Community Empowerment Act sets out a requirement for Local Authorities to review their Food Growing Strategy every 5 years. To support this, review the Food Growers Forum was reestablished and met in November 2025 and January 2026, with a further meeting planned for March 2026. The current membership includes representatives from:

- Glasgow Community Food Network
- Glasgow Seed Library

- Glasgow Allotment Forum
- Greyfriars Biophilic Garden
- Glasgow City Council Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability
- Merrylee Plotolders
- St Paul's Youth Forum
- The Orchard Project
- Springburn Gardens Allotments

- 3.2 An assessment of the existing strategy, rather than a full review, was undertaken by the Food Growers Forum over the course of December 2025 and January 2026, leading to recommendations for how the strategy should be strengthened for the next five years.
- 3.3 The Forum noted the additional land made available for Food Growing over the life of the current strategy (See Appendix V) The Forum agreed that there was much more which could be achieved and committed to work together to consider how this activity could be accelerated. Further points were also noted, and which have been included in the relevant theme update.
- 3.4 It was noted by NRS officers attending that Actions 4 and 13 were tending to take place as individual site-specific discussions between Food Growing Team officers and our counterparts within Housing Associations and within other teams across the Council Family, as specific opportunities emerged, rather than as a recurring collective meeting looking at these topics citywide. NRS Officers then noted their intention to bring a short report on commitments arising from these meetings as an agenda item for future Forum meetings, and in future committee reports.
- 3.5 The Forum welcomed the investment in Food Growing as part of the Let's Grow Together Fund (see Appendix IV) and highlighted that the outcomes secured could be built upon, should this commitment be repeated in future. The Forum highlighted the scale of capital investment (see paragraph 4.1.6) which would be required in order to meet the demand for growing set out in table 4 and recommended a RAG ratings system to determine the feasibility of bringing sites to fruition. The Forum also highlighted the benefits of revenue funding which might allow the funding of posts to support new groups in accessing land and starting growing, and which might support existing groups to build their capacity and governance.

4 Theme Updates

4.1 Increase growing spaces.

4.1.1 Local authorities are required to take reasonable steps to meet a number of duties 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 will be required to be developed to meet our legislative obligations.

Current Number of Plots	1695	
Current Waiting List	3098 According to most recent data provided to the Local Authority by Allotment Associations	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.
Number of people on the waiting list over and above statutory limit of 848 (half of the total amount of available plots-1695)	2250	

4.1.2 Table 3 highlights growing spaces delivered and intending to be delivered over the duration of the Food Growing Strategy as resources become available. Further details on potential sites are included in Appendix V.

4.1.3 The Food Growing Forum noted that the use of Vacant and Derelict Land Funding had enabled Glasgow to tackle Vacant and Derelict land whilst making more land available for Food Growing. It highlighted that the nature of these sites will often be best matched to a raised bed style of growing, which can have benefits for accessibility. The Forum highlighted the value of new sites for in-ground growing to complement this, on sites unaffected by industry and noted that this may benefit from different funding and engagement models which included local greenspace and community bodies.

4.1.4 The success of the relocation of Greyfriars Community Biophilic Garden has provide a route map and toolkit to allow 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 thereby activating land that can support us to meet our statutory obligations and provide community wealth building opportunities where such sites may have previously been perceived as impacting negatively on the surrounding communities.

4.1.5 Table 4 provides information based on current waiting list data provided to the Local Authority by ward to provide a snapshot of current provision, land proposed, and land required to meet statutory obligations on provision.

Table 3. Number based on plots in a financial year			
Number of additional plots created in Year 2 of the Strategy (2023/2024)	83		Greyfriars 57, Sighthill 20, Rodney street 6
Number of additional proposed plots created in Year 3 of the Strategy (2024/2025)	24		Baillieston Demonstration Garden 4, Elderslie Street 20
Number of additional proposed plots created in Year 4 of the Strategy (2025/2026)	78	Tender documents under development	Yoker 8, Rodney Street 12, Westthorn Allotments 24, Hamiltonhill Allotments 10
Number of additional plots created in Year 5 of the Strategy (2026/2027)	40		Alexandra Park 20, Blairtummock Walled Garden 20, Former Ruchill Golf Course Phase 1
Number of additional plots created in Year 6 of the Strategy (2027/2028)	48		
Number of additional plots created in Year 7 of the Strategy (2028/2029)	48		

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	65	0.68	1.17	0.52	0.81
2	Newlands/ Auldburn	106	5.41	5.97	3.29	1.3
3	Greater Pollock	41	-	-	5.46	0.50
4	Cardonald	31	-	-	1.45	0.20
5	Govan	75	-	-	9.55	0.38
6	Pollokshields	370	1.21	1.56	3.21	2.98
7	Langside	340	-	-	4.64	4.63
8	Southside Central	341	1.46	1.6	2.03	4.26
9	Calton	119	1.33	1.8	8.08	1.48
10	Anderston/ City/Yorkhill	99	0.23	0.4	3.14	1.23
11	Hillhead	148	0.06	0.07	1.58	1.85
12	Victoria Park	276	0.62	0.8	24.39	3.45
13	Garscadden/Scotstoun	110	1.44	3.1	6.02	1.38
14	Drumchapel/Annie'sland	93	0.76	1.4	1.86	1.16
15	Maryhill	78	-	-	4.22	0.98
16	Canal	169	0.6	0.7	4.16	2.11
17	Springburn/ Robroyston	32	1.02	1.2	2.74	0.40
18	East Centre	127	2.96	3.9	2.07	1.56
19	Shettleston	87	0.55	0.8	2.75	1.10
20	Baillieston	7	0.09	0.1	0.22	0.00
21	Northeast	25	-	-	1.5	0.30
22	Dennistoun	82	0.34	0.6	1.12	1.30
23	Partick East/ Kelvindale	277	1.82	2.1	1.14	3.46
-	No Address Supplied	190				
-	Not within GCC Area	48				
Totals		3098	20.58	27.27	95.14	36.82

* Gross site area including paths, communal areas, storage and unused land

Image 1 offers a visual representation of waiting list data.

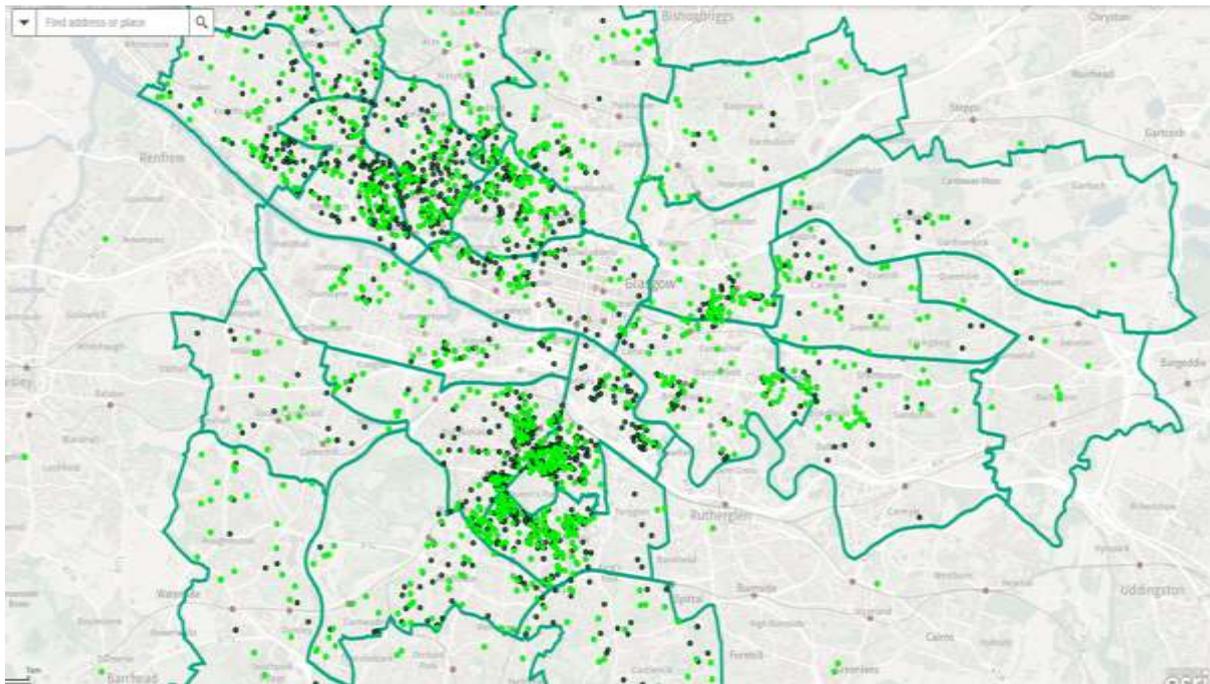


Image 1 Waiting List data.

4.1.6 In terms of next steps, it is the intention of the service to expand the hectareage information to provide a mapping layer which will advise on those sites that can be activated from funding available to the local authority.

As the Food Growers Forum recognised the quantity and quality of information within the mapping had an important role to play in making new growers aware of land, which is potentially suitable, officers will also explore the potential to include the following mapping functionality.

- Date information for each site last updated.
- Contact officer for the group taking the site forward- if available
- Contact details for Food Growing team if not.
- Whether likely to be in-ground or raised beds, orchard market garden, urban farm beekeeping or allotments.
- Whether site is shown on atom to have former industrial use
- Note of whether the site is currently managed by the council.
- Some scoring or consideration of how achievable it is.
- Any allotment sites nearby which have short waiting lists.
- Likelihood of plots being disabled accessible
- What phase of development a site is currently at.

4.1.7 Following discussion, the Food Growers Forum identified that priorities for action included the theme of Increase Growing Spaces (actions 1 and 2) and highlighted the importance of actions 5 (To develop and maintain an online map of both existing and potential growing sites) and 6 (to review current procedures for accessing GCC potential growing sites) in achieving this.

It was recommended that the resource of the Forum generally, and of the Food Growing Team within Glasgow City Council, focus on action in support of this approach.

- 4.2 Officers have been working with colleagues to identify 77 additional sites for inclusion in the City Development Plan 2 as potential Food Growing spaces.

5 Let's Grow Together Fund.

- 5.1 Our aim is 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 2020-2025. Capital grants of up to £5000 per organisation are distributed at each round of the Fund.

- 5.2 During the term of this strategy, the Let's Grow Together Fund has made £250k of capital funding available to 58 emerging and existing food growing groups across the City with the 2026/2027 round launched on January the 26th. As detailed in Appendix IV the Let's Grow Together Fund has activated 0.4 ha of Growing space providing an additional 314 additional spaces so far.

*It should be noted these figures do not include totals from 2025/2026 funding which is scheduled for reporting in Q1 of 2026/2027. Figures for 2026/2027 will be reported in 2027/2028.

- 5.3 The Food Growers Forum will meet as a panel in March 2025 to assess bids for the 2026/27 round of the Let's Grow Together Fund.

6. Increase and improve sources of information

- 6.1 As recognised by the Food Growers Forum and referenced in 4.1.7 the mapping information on potential Food Growing sites supports new/emerging growers to identify land. Arrangements will be made for sites subsequently identified as unsuitable following site assessment to be removed from the mapping.

- 6.2 Current mapping available to the public includes information layers on:

- Sites nominated at the Food Growing Strategy engagement events.
- Vacant and derelict sites that could be developed using the Greyfriars Garden toolkit.
- Vacant and Derelict sites that are eligible for funding.
- Allotment sites.
- Individual plot sizes on allotment sites.
- Parks and green spaces

- Electoral Ward

Further functionality will be explored as referenced in 4.1.7 and where possible, will be hosted at the following link: [Food Growing Storyboard](#)

7. Support Greater Networking and Information Sharing.

7.1 Volunteer hours – Over the course of the strategy, administration of allotments by associations has averaged 1900 hours per annum.

7.2 Community Involvement

7.2.1 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](#)

7.3 RHS Collaboration

7.3.1 Colleagues from RHS and GGCNHS developed the New Growers Network in Northeast Glasgow with a series of workshops delivered from Auchinlea House, Cranhill Development Trust and Shettleston Community Growing Project in 2025.

7.3.2 GCCNHS

A working group has been develop with GGCNHS, NRS and other stakeholders to explore the potential to develop a multi-functional growing space.

7.4 Housing Association Working Group and Internal Officer's Working Group.

7.4.1 It was noted by NRS officers attending the Food Growers Forum that Actions 4 and 13 were tending to take place as individual site specific discussions between Food Growing Team officers and our counterparts within Housing Associations and within other teams across the Council Family, as specific opportunities emerged, rather than as a recurring collective meeting looking at these topics citywide.

7.4.2 Projects being progressed*through development and delivery stages by Housing Associations include those being brought forward by:

- Queens Cross Housing Association
- Elderpark Housing Association
- Glasgow West Housing Association
- Maryhill Housing Association

- 7.4.3 As noted in 4.2 officers have been working internally across the Glasgow Family to bring forward sites for consideration for inclusion in City Development Plan 2 as Food Growing spaces.

Officers have also been working with officers from Economic Development, Planning, Glasgow Life, Education Dept, Parks Operations and Procurement Services to bring further projects to fruition.

8.1 Support Policy and process improvement.

- 8.1.1 GCC will take forward actions to assist potential growers in meeting their ambition to develop a growing site. We will provide information on how groups can access land and, in some cases, have provided starter funding.
- 8.1.2 A sum of £400,000 is available citywide in support of food growing projects on vacant and derelict land and is supporting 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' and to support the delivery of a further 3 growing spaces citywide employing the Greyfriars Community Biophillic Garden model to deliver raised bed growing on sites which would not otherwise be suitable for growing. A further £825,000 is available through developer contributions to support the development of existing and new sites.
- 8.1.3 Further applications for vacant and derelict land funding will be submitted in 2026 to continue to support the development of sites to make them shovel ready.

8.2 Waiting List Management

- 8.2.1 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 thinks fit. The duty to maintain a list includes a duty to remove from the list the name 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.
- 8.2.2 An online form has been available since May 2024, for persons who make a request to the local authority, and we have also facilitated Allotment Associations, where both the Association and the individual, wish to do so, to add their waiting list data to ours.
- 8.2.3 Applications are now received online and are 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.
- 8.2.4 It should be noted that incomplete applications will not be registered as a request to lease an allotment plot, nor will those from residents outwith

Glasgow. It should also be noted that waiting list data solely held by third parties, where this is not shared with Glasgow City Council, is not considered to form part of our statutory obligations.

8.3 Allotment Invoicing

- 8.3.1 Officers have worked to resolve an invoicing issue which has impacted on our 2025/2026 billing to customers, and are in the process of communicating this and apologising to individual customers affected.
- 8.3.2 Officers will contact allotment associations to advise on payments options available for plot rental fees including direct debits and standing orders which can offer more convenient payment options.

9 Future Reporting

- 9.1 In light of the review, the Food Growers Forum confirm that priorities for actions have been reviewed and identified that priorities for action for the next 5 years included the theme of Increase Growing Spaces (actions 1 and 2) and highlighted the importance of these actions being supported by the theme of establish replicable process for land activation and action 5 (To develop and maintain an online map of both existing and potential growing sites) and action 6 (to review current procedures for accessing GCC potential growing sites) in achieving this.

For further details on proposed projects please see Appendix V.

- 9.2 Funding available to support the project pipeline is as follows:

• VDL/VDLF	£400,000
• Capital Funding	£63,000
• Developer Contributions	£670,000

- 9.3 This funding will bring forward a further 19 sites for development over the duration of the next period of the Food Growing Strategy, activating over 5 hectares (ha) of land for food growing.

- 9.4 For further details on proposed projects please Appendix V.

- 9.5 The term of the next Food Growing Strategy will address the same actions however will have a concentrated focus on the priority actions 1, 2,5 & 6 as referenced in the report.

10. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: The financial resources both revenue and capital are covered by existing budgets

Legal: The report sets out action undertaken in support of statutory duties

Personnel: There are no direct personnel implications

Procurement:
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: 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 – 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 2025-29? 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. A number of 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 will improve access to 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 Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report N

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact

Assessment (DPIA) has
been carried out

11 Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee note progress in relation to the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy.