



Glasgow City Council

**Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods
City Policy Committee**

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

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Item 2

14th March 2023

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 report and action plan.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee on 8th June 2021, noted the updated [Glasgow Food Growing Strategy Action Plan](#)
- 1.2 Committee also:
 - Noted that the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy (FGS) contained 16 high level actions to assist the city in delivering more growing spaces and support more growers
 - Noted that information provided to this service, subsequent to the FGS engagement events, had suggested that demand for food growing space had grown substantially over the last year.
 - Noted that officers would continue to liaise with Glasgow Community Food Network and Food Pantries within Glasgow to understand how actions taken within the FGS would contribute to the City Food Plan Theme 1: Fair Food for All
 - Were presented with the key developments and individual actions in the FGS Action Plan, as detailed in the appendices to the report; and
 - That the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 required each local authority to prepare and publish an annual allotments report for its area and it was envisaged that this report would be presented to committee in early 2022 for consideration prior to its submission to the Scottish Government.
- 1.3 On February 1st 2022 the committee noted the updated Glasgow Food Growing Strategy action plan.
- 1.4 The committee also noted that future reports would inform the committee on the requirement for each local authority to:
 - Prepare and publish an annual allotments report for its area (see Appendix II)
 - That GCC would deliver their Annual Allotment Report to the Scottish Government upon completion of work with the Tripartite Group (comprising of Local Authority Officers, Scottish Government Good Food Nation Officers and Officers of Scottish Allotment and Gardens Society) to develop a forum for Local Authority officers to share experience of developing and delivering FGS's to encourage and support all Local Authorities in achieving their requirement to publish a FGS for their area.
 - That reports brought to this committee will provide further information in relation to waiting lists, (see Appendix I) the reasonable steps taken to provide sufficient allotments (see Appendix III) to keep the waiting list at no more than half of the authority's current number of allotments or for no applicant to be on the waiting list for more than 5 years and the resources associated with these steps.
- 1.5 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 to assist the city in delivering more growing spaces and support 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 Full details on the individual actions are included in Appendix III, 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

2.3 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.

2.4 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.

3 Glasgow Food Growing Strategy – Themes

3.1.1 Increase Growing Spaces

As the local authority is required to take reasonable steps to meet their obligations under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the undernoted table 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.

Increase Growing Spaces		
Current Number of Plots	1657	Narrative
Current Wait List	1790 According to most recent data available	Local authorities should take reasonable steps so that 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

	from Allotment Associations	the waiting list for more than 5 years from the date of application
Number of people on the waiting list over and above the statutory limit of 828 (half of total amount of available plots – 1657)	962	

3.1.2 The following table highlights growing spaces to be delivered, from available resources, over the duration of the Food Growing Strategy.

Number based on plots created in a financial year			
Number of additional plots created in Year 1 of the Strategy (2022/23)	72		Growchapel 36 Mansewood 22 Croftburn 14
Number of additional plots created in Year 2 of the Strategy (2023/24)	99		Greyfriars 47 Yoker 8 Sighthill 20 Centurion Way 20 Baillieston Demonstration Garden 4
Number of additional proposed plots created in Year 3 of the Strategy (2024/25)	76		
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		

3.1.3 Whilst the above highlights provision from the resources available to the Local Authority to deliver additional growing spaces, groups and individuals wishing to act themselves are warmly encouraged to do so with the following funding initiatives available for communities and individuals to become proactively involved such as the Let's Grow Together Fund, Parks and Open Space Investment Fund, Area Partnership funding and other funding streams not accessible by Local Authorities.

3.1.4. Sites can be brought forward by accessing the Public Survey Data Sheet available at the following link: [Food Growing Site Proposals](#)

3.1.5. Sites currently proposed via this process can be viewed at the following map: [Growing Space Story Map](#)

3.1.6 The following table highlights the contribution such additionality can bring to service delivery.

Additional Food Growing Opportunities Developed beyond Waiting Lists			These are sites where anchor organisations have been supported to occupy, providing Food Growing opportunities that contribute to delivery of the Food Growing Strategy, out with the traditional Allotment Site Format
Social Enterprise	Ward 6 – Pollokshields Social enterprise leasing the 22000m2 (2.2 ha) former plant nursery in Bellahouston Park with site occupancy commencing 2019/20.	60 entry level raised beds	
	Ward 9-SCIO leasing the 4800m2		

	(0.48ha) changing Rooms at Queens Park Recreation Ground		
	Ward 10 - SCIO managing under PTU, the 140m2 (0.014ha) Orchard/Food Forest at Elderslie St, Anderston		
Let's Grow Together Fund	<p>Kelvindale Growers- Ashburton Rd/Weymouth Drive G12. Ward 23 - Partick East / Kelvindale</p> <p>Brighter Baillieston – Demonstration Garden G69 Ward 20 - Baillieston</p> <p>Central and West Integration Network – Lambhill Allotments G22 Ward 16 - Canal</p>	<p>There is a core of 50 growers, with that number doubling for open events, tree plantings, harvest meals and big planting days.</p> <p>Addition of 4 raised beds to community garden and create social space</p> <p>Create 6 growing spaces for a group of asylum seekers and refugees on community plot at Lambhill Allotments</p> <p>Purpose built shelter to support engagement activities at Lochend Community</p>	<p>14 projects have been funded from the Let's Grow Together Fund to develop additional growing opportunities City wide.</p> <p>More than 150 new growing spaces of various sizes will be created as a result.</p>

	<p>FARE Scotland – Lochend Community Allotments G34 Ward 21 - North East</p>	<p>Allotment. Increase growing space. 400 monthly users.</p> <p>Doubling the growing space available from 40 to 80 sqm</p>	
	<p>Galgael - Growing Ibrox Commons, 26 Ibrox Terrace G51 Ward 5 - Govan</p>	<p>24 Raised bed planters to maximise the use of a private lane into a community growing space</p> <p>Transform an undeveloped plot into an outdoor learning space for young people with additional support needs</p>	
	<p>Glen Carin Lane Action Project Pollokshields G41 Ward 6 - Pollokshields</p>	<p>60 entry level raised beds bringing the total on the site to 120.</p>	
	<p>Govan High School – Bellahouston Demonstration Garden Bellahouston Park, G55 Ward 6 - Pollokshields</p>	<p>9 raised beds (outdoor); 8 raised beds (polytunnel)</p> <p>20 planters improving the local environment and providing opportunities for food education</p>	

	<p>Locavore CIC, Former Bellahouston Nursey, Bellahouston Park, G55 Ward 6 - Pollokshields</p>	<p>3 raised beds; 3x5m polytunnel</p>	
	<p>Pollokshaws Area Network, 132 Shawbrige St, G43 Ward 2 - Newlands / Auldburn</p>	<p>Supporting new community allotments site, allowing Growing21 to use 1 plot to grow food for their community café and pantry.</p>	
	<p>Romano Lav/ Govanhill Baths Trust – Various locations throughout Govanhill. Roma Youth Grow Together, G42 Ward 8 - Southside Central</p>	<p>Install 10 new raised beds; create seating area; Support general improvement of growing spaces</p>	
	<p>SiMY Comunity Development Trust , Lister St, G4 Ward 10 - Anderston/City/ Yorkhill</p>	<p>Transform a waterlogged, shaded, underdeveloped allotment plot into a growing space consisting of polytunnel and raised beds</p>	
	<p>Growing 21, Community Development Trust, Gartloch Rd, Ruchazie, G69 Ward 21 - North East</p>		

	<p>St Paul's Youth Forum/ Local schools Blackhill. Provanmill & Riddrie Ward 21 - North East</p> <p>The People's Plot, Community Benefits Society, South Western Allotments Pollok Country Park, G41 Ward 2 - Newlands/Auldburn</p>		
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3.1.2 Increase and improve sources of information

3.1.3 FGS Storyboard

The webpage includes digital mapping of potential growing sites and also includes advice on how to access permission to develop the site, find funding and where to get help to start growing, [Growing Space StoryMap](#). The webpage is scheduled to be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Actions include the following:

- Approximately 170 sites nominated at the FGS engagement events have been mapped. 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

3.1.4 RHS collaboration

Launched in February 2019 in conjunction with the RHS and 'Learning for Sustainability', the Glasgow's Growing Schools Project recommenced once COVID-19 restrictions permitted. 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 growing projects within schools and contribute to the Curriculum for Excellence.

- May 2022, 3 sessions, one for each of the city sectors (north-west, north-east, and South)
- North-East - Tuesday, 3rd May 4-6pm, hosted at Hamiltonhill Early Learning Centre, 10 individuals attended from 6 different schools
- North-West - Wednesday 4th May 4-6pm hosted at Woodside Nursery, we had 11 attend from 9 different schools
- South, Thursday 5th May, 10 am – 12 noon, hosted at Hampden Primary School, 11 individuals attended from 8 different schools
- Total for May 2022 - 32 individuals from 22 different schools

Additionally, we ran two twilight events in October 2022

- North - Tuesday, 11th October 4-6pm hosted at Kelvindale Primary, 8 staff attended from 6 separate schools
- South - Thursday, 13th October 4-6pm, hosted at Cleaves Primary, 6 staff attended from 6 different schools.

Total for October 14 staff from 12 different schools

For the year, this breaks down to 45 individual staff from 32 different schools

3.2 Support Greater Networking and Information Sharing

3.2.1 Volunteering

Volunteer hours – Allotment administration by associations -1750hrs

In addition to all volunteering time completed by associations, the following events have been delivered in 2022:

- Corporate Volunteer Day – Bellahouston Demo Garden (all-day event took place on Thursday 9th June 2022)
- Lister Street Bowling Green, community planting of verge (12 – 4pm Friday 12th August 2022) [Bellahouston Allotments](#)
- Elderslie Street, fruit tree planting, 10am – 3pm, Saturday 17th September 2022.
- Growchapel - hedge planting with Propagate Sunday 17th Jan 2023 10am -3pm; -TCV hedge laying – Tues 7th and Wed 8th Feb 2023 10am – 2pm
- Development of the site over year 1 [Growchapel](#)

3.2.2 Working Groups

Further to the above actions, 3 working groups have been developed which are scheduled to meet on a quarterly basis to improve communication, information sharing and support policy and process improvement.

- Internal Officers Group
- Community Food Growers Forum
- Local Housing Organisation Group

Representatives from the following GCC Services meeting monthly in 2022/3 at the Internal Officers Group include:

- Community Empowerment
- Procurement
- Economic Development
- NRS

Officers are currently exploring the option to widen membership to include representatives from the following services and schedule meetings quarterly:

- Social work
- Education
- Learning for Sustainability
- Sustainability

3.2.3 Community Food Growers Forum

Representatives from the Community Food Growing Sector including Glasgow Community Food Network, Glasgow Allotment Forum, various Allotment Associations and Community Gardens have been meeting monthly in 2022/23 to:

- Deliver the Let's Grow Together Fund
- Monitor delivery of FGS Action Plan

3.2.4 Local Housing Organisation (LHO) working Group

Representatives of various local housing organisations have met quarterly in 2022/23 to:

- Develop a survey to identify barriers/challenges to growing space provision by LHO's
- Develop toolkit to support provision by LHO's

Officers are currently looking to refresh this group to widen the number of LHO's participating in the group. This action will be ongoing through 2023.

3.3 Support GCC internal policy and processes

GCC 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, have provided starter funding.

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

Details of a Let's Grow Together Funding (LGTF) launched in Sept 2022 has been shared via the Food Growing Strategy webpage. Informed by the participatory budgeting process undertaken for the Wee Green Grants, bids were received by Glasgow Community Food Growers Forum, from 30 organisations 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.

The total value of bids received in 2022 was £104k, more than double the intended sum of £50,000 available.

14 projects were funded at a value of £56k and will provide 150 new growing spaces of various formats and sizes. Due to the high-quality submissions received additional funding has been allocated to fund the successful projects. Unsuccessful applicants were provided with feedback where it was sought and signposted to other funding sources to support their projects.

The LGTF is scheduled to re-open to applicants in 2023 and will return annually until 2026.

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"

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

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.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:

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

Legal:

The report raises the possibility of leases being developed with Allotment Associations seeking devolved management functions

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 – 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 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

6 Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee notes the contents of report and action plan.