



Glasgow City Council

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

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

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Item 7

1st February 2022

Glasgow Food Growing Strategy Action Plan - Update

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 Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction City Policy Committee on 8th June 2021, noted the updated Glasgow Food Growing Strategy Action Plan:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=100725>

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

3.2 Increase Growing Spaces

In its 2021/22 budget GCC made a one-off allocation of £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.’

Officers are starting to draw in match funding and engage with stakeholders to:

- Create an additional **259** growing plots across the city (Outlined in more detail
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/viewDoc.asp?c=P62AFQDNDXUTZ381NT>)
- 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. To offer some indication of timelines from inception to occupying the site at Growchapel took 30 months. Reflecting on statutory obligations under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 our approach was to focus on “shovel ready” projects in the first year of delivering the FGS Action Plan. This approach provided the opportunity to deliver several projects reaching key milestones. These include the following, which are included within Appendix 1:

- 22 additional plots at Mansewood Allotments, improved accessibility and development of an accessible growing space and an orchard bringing an additional 1800m² (0.18 hectares (ha)) into productive use.
- Delivery of an additional 14 entry level plots at Croftburn Allotments bringing an additional 370m² (0.037ha) into productive use.
- The delivery of an additional 36 plots, event space, outdoor education space, scented sitooterie, polytunnel, wildflower/biodiversity area and an orchard at the 6000m²(0.6ha) Growchapel site in Drumchapel.
- The development of the 2244m² (0.22ha) Sighthill allotments which will provide an additional 20 plots when populated in early 2022.
- The relocation/expansion of Greyfriars Garden and the development of Grow 21 site in Ruchazie will also add a further 5780m² (0.58ha) land into productive use and are currently programmed within the procurement calendar.
- Social enterprise leasing the 22000m² (2.2ha) former plant nursery in Bellahouston Park.
- New growing spaces being developed at the former changing rooms in Queens Park Recreation Ground 4600m² (0.46ha).

3.4 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 be programmed year-round as well as inter-generational learning on this 16,000m² (1.6 hectare) site.

- 3.5 In general we have prioritised projects where land has been available with consideration of communities of socio-economic disadvantage. Future reports will provide further updates on other actions being developed for delivery.

4. **Increase and improving sources of information**

- 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=d277ea6d8d7c4e07b4fbed01ff05a3f0>

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 and is available on the website.
- 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 is intended to provide 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. Due to ongoing restrictions the GGSP is being redesigned to be delivered on-line.

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 held its inaugural meeting on 7th 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 held its inaugural meeting on 15th June 2021 with quarterly meetings thereafter. This allows 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 held its inaugural meeting on 28th June 2021 with quarterly meetings thereafter. Officers presented 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.

6 Community Wellbeing

- 6.1 Many of the additional benefits arising from delivery of the FGS Action Plan are difficult to quantify, however, these can be evidenced qualitatively.

Recent examples include:

SACRO – Bellahouston

SACRO, have employed an Educational Gardener based in Bellahouston Demonstration Garden, complementing the Educational Gardener working at their plot in Tollcross Park Allotments as part of the wider Garden Project SACRO delivered in collaboration with Glasgow City Council. An additional project worker will provide practical and emotional support to participants across the two sites.

The project aims to teach some of the most marginalised members of the community gardening skills to encourage improved self-esteem, wellbeing and employability skills and address food poverty through the cultivation of organic produce.

An informative video on Sacro's work can be found at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46e5NuWChNE&t=83s>

Growchapel

The development of the Growchapel site has supported focus group work that provides growers with the opportunity to tell us what the site means to them and what benefits they feel from being involved in the space.

In addition, Children's Neighbourhood Scotland are working on site with young people who find the non-traditional educational setting to be of immense benefit and working with our colleagues in GGCNHS NW Health Improvement Team, a memorial tree planting ceremony took place on site in Dec 2020 as part of the White Ribbon project seeking an end to violence against women and equality for all.

We are aiming to replicate growing spaces with these holistic aims in the North East of the City to ensure each sector of the City has such a resource where citizens of this City sector can access these benefits too.

7. Support GCC internal policy and processes

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 In support of the ambition to provide starter funding the following actions have been carried out:
- 7.3 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 and the People Make Glasgow Communities process.

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. We aim to open to applications by February 28th each year with funding applications receiving funding by May 31st of each year.

- 7.4 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"
- 7.5 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 via a number of sources including the online mapping portal, Area Partnerships or local community groups.

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.

8. Future Reports

- 8.1 The Community Empowerment 2015 (Scotland) Act requires each local authority to prepare and publish an annual allotments report for its area. The information set out within this report will be presented to the Scottish Government for consideration.
- 8.2 Further to this requirement, GCC officers participating in the Tripartite Group comprising of Local Authority Officers, Scottish Government Good Food Nation Officers and Officers of Scottish Allotment and Gardens Society are aware that 14 Local Authorities have currently published Food Growing Strategies with 18 other Local Authorities still to complete and publish a Food Growing Strategy for their area.
- 8.3 The Tripartite Group are currently developing 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 and FGS for their area. GCC will deliver their Annual Allotment Report to the Scottish Government upon completion of this work with the Tripartite Group.
- 8.4 A number of allotment associations within Glasgow report that waiting lists have increased in line with wider interest in outdoor activity and food during the pandemic, with work underway by officers to gather in and process this information citywide. In light of our statutory duty to take reasonable steps to provide sufficient allotments to keep the waiting list at no more than half of the authority's current number of allotments, it is envisaged that future reports brought to this committee will provide further information in relation to waiting lists, and in relation to the resources associated with these steps.

9 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	The financial resources required both revenue and capital are covered by existing 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 – Priority 73 & 74

Outcomes are;

- citizens can access good facilities, jobs and services locally

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 the 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.

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

Supporting development of additional growing spaces in the City can support a reduction in in

*result of this
proposal?*

carbon emissions associated with Food supply
chains

*Will the proposal
contribute to
Glasgow's net zero
carbon target?*

Yes.

**Privacy and Data
Protection Impacts:**

10 Recommendations

That Committee notes the contents of report and action plan.