



LET'S GROW TOGETHER

Glasgow Food Growing **Strategy**

2020 - 2025

DRAFT



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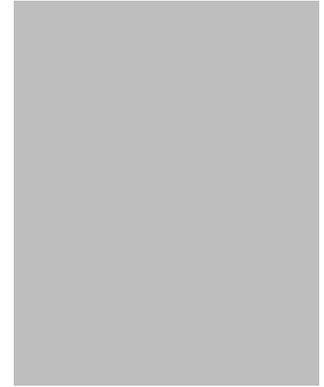




Introduction

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1.0 Our Vision

Our vision is that Glasgow citizens wishing to grow their own fruit and vegetables will have access to a range of community growing opportunities in their area.

1.1 Achieving Our Vision

Since 2016 we have held 15 engagement events across the city, to get the views of allotmenters, community growers and fellow Glaswegians on how food growing in the city should be supported and enhanced.

Based on this feedback, this strategy outlines how we will support current community growing provision, develop additional sites for use and support new approaches to growing.

In addition, it will also show you how to get projects off the ground and how to start growing your own fruit and vegetables. It also identifies key organisations that can help you, and your group, and will guide you through the processes involved.

The Strategy shows our aspirations for community growing and how we intend to meet our obligations under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.



1.2 Strategic Context

Achieving this vision and developing this strategy must be delivered within the context of a variety of external influences at both national and local level. These strategic or policy influences are outlined below.

National Strategies and Policies

The Community Empowerment 2015 (Scotland) Act, Part 9, places a duty on every local authority to prepare a food growing strategy which must be published by 1st April 2020, i.e. within two years of section 119 coming into force. (For more specific details of the legislation please see [Appendix 1](#)). This is the main national influence on the Glasgow Food Growing Strategy as its associated guidance contains suggestions, recommendations and proposals on what such a strategy should contain.

Going forward, as the Scottish Government continues to develop its national food and drink policy – “[Becoming a Good Food Nation](#)”, it is anticipated that there will be further impacts on local food growing strategies.



Local Strategies and Policies

At a local level, Glasgow's Open Space Strategy (OSS) "sets out a long term vision for Glasgow's open spaces". It also "provides an overarching framework to guide the development and implementation of supporting strategies and action plans".

The Glasgow Food Growing Strategy is a key supporting strategy that will contribute to this vision in conjunction with several other important strategies.

The other City Council Plans and Strategies that have "informed the development of both the Open Space Strategy and the Parks and Greenspace Vision" and, therefore, will influence how the Food Growing Strategy will go forward are noted in diagram below. Links to the plans, strategies and policies noted below are included in [Appendix 2](#).





2.0 Community Growing Options

There are several ways that you, as an individual, or perhaps jointly with local schools or community groups, can grow your own fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers. The table in [Appendix 3](#) shows many types of potential growing spaces that you could consider and the type of growing they may be suitable for.

The following are some of the currently most popular, and successful, ways of growing in Glasgow.

2.1 Allotments – a long established or traditional style of community growing whereby individuals rent their own plots of land for growing usually from an allotments association or a local authority. Although, in some cases, community groups or schools may also have a collectively managed plot.



2.2 Community Gardens – usually a single piece of land gardened collectively by a group of people. They normally provide either individual or shared plots on private or public land while producing fruit, vegetables, and/or plants.

Example: *“Shettleston Community Growing Project consists of 44 raised beds for food growing, six greenhouses, polytunnel, community garden, soft fruit area(s) and a wildlife garden.*

The project recognises that getting plotholders to volunteer at weekends is, and always will be, a challenge but they have a dedicated group of volunteers that always give lots of support for the project and help keep the project running. Some of the reasons why are listed below -

Volunteer 1 - *I love volunteering at the allotments, it is my wee happy place and I would be lost without it, the project and people at the project have saved my life following the death of my mother.*

Volunteer 2 / Plotholder 1 – *It is a brilliant laugh at the allotments, nothing is taken seriously but at the same time we are shown what to plant, how to plant it and how to look after our vegetables and I had a really good crop of everything that I planted.*

Plotholder 2 *I used to be a volunteer and now I have my own plot. I had bad depression before I came here to volunteer and now I have learned enough to look after my own wee bit and it tastes so much better than vegetables from the shops.”*



2.3 Backcourts (and private gardens) – growing can take place in the backcourts of privately owned blocks of flats or those provided by Housing Associations and, as such, can be initiated by the owners or the association itself.

Example: Roots of Ruchill is an award winning community garden, driven by the needs of local people, to grow fruit and veg and develop new skills through volunteering. It also acts as a hub for a culturally diverse community.

2.4 Stalled Spaces - a GCC programme to support community groups and local organisations across the city develop temporary projects on stalled sites or underutilised open spaces. In many cases these spaces are used to support community growing projects.

Example: *“Greyfriars Garden is a ‘Stalled Spaces’ community garden on the site of the Franciscan Friars (Greyfriars) medieval monastery. It provides 45 raised bed plots for residents of the Merchant City & Trongate areas and Ladywell and High Street. The plots are 1 or 2 metres squared and are the perfect height for those with mobility problems. It is a unique space in the city centre. A bee corridor, a green lung and a refuge from the hustle and bustle of city centre living. It is space which has supported activities that brings people together and bridges generational, cultural, gender and socio-economic gaps. It is on the move to a bigger site up High Street as the current space is up for development.*

We hold social events and open days and have worked with St Stephen’s Primary in Sighthill creating a garden discovery quiz for them.



Growing fresh vegetables as part of an inner city commune is quite a utopian solution to issues around what we eat and how we feel. Loneliness, poor health and pollution have been identified as inner city issues with many, if not most, of the residencies in Glasgow city centre being single occupancies. Greyfriars Garden's policy of inclusion allows for people of all incomes, genders, ethnicities and abilities to become involved".



2.5 School Grounds growing locations in schools can vary from individual planters, to raised beds or directly in the ground.

Example: "Mount Vernon Primary have been using 7 outdoor boxes to try growing food within the grounds. In previous years our Eco group have grown carrots, onions, potatoes and beans and sold them in bags to parents.

In the school year 2018-2019 we grew potatoes, onions, broad beans and herbs. The potatoes were not very successful but we think this may be due to the fact that we did not give them enough depth to enable good growth. Our onions and beans produced a great crop in August after being ignored all during the summer holidays! They were enormous and the staff and families had a competition to see what delights they could make using our home grown produce. We had wild flowers in one of our boxes to encourage the bees and support the growth of our food.

We have a plastic bottle greenhouse that we have made which we plan to make good use of. One of our classes have made and planted bee bombs for the wild flowers we need. Currently we have sprouts in one of our boxes but have plans to plant many more types of vegetables at the appropriate time of year using the guide for West of Scotland planting seasons".



2.6 Social Enterprises – businesses owned collectively by their employees, such as social enterprises, are in many cases involved in growing food as part of their business.

Example: Greenheart Growers, are a social enterprise in Parkhead growing vegetables for sale to cafes, restaurants and local people, and working with the local community to connect people to food, nature, and one another.

2.7 Hospital Grounds – hospitals may have large areas of land as part of their grounds that would be suitable for a growing project. Alternatively, some hospitals have organised their own growing project as they have recognised the many health benefits associated with food growing.

2.8 Housing Associations – in addition to a potential role in supporting backcourt growing, housing associations also could have areas of land that could support a community growing project.

Example: Queens Cross Housing Association has three Growing Spaces community gardens projects that provide weekly horticultural learning sessions in otherwise grey urban spaces. These projects have a focus on food growing from seed and supporting people's wellbeing. The project has advised that *"they can help to build people's confidence and they have been reported to benefit people suffering with mental health issues. In fact, some have managed to stop medication as a result"*.



3.0 What You Said! – Community Consultations 2015 to 2019

Since 2015, and our allotment's consultation "[Glasgow Allotments Say](#)", we have engaged with Glasgow growers and citizens on a number of occasions. The following issues were the main points raised across all events:

A: Better access to land and growing spaces was the key issue raised by our consultations. Feedback included requests for:

- **Availability of a wide variety of plot sizes (allotments)**
- **An easy system for permission to use land owned by the council**
- **"Buy in" from Housing Associations**

B: How to start up and maintain a community growing project i.e. how to access –

- **Land**
- **Community Support**
- **Group Development Support**
- **Funding**
- **Growing Skills Advice**

C: Whilst opportunities for more community gardens and allotments were the overarching objective they were often grouped under the following **"key themes"** at the consultation events:

- **Health**
- **Social Enterprise**
- **Outdoor Learning**



4.0 Increasing space for community growing and allotments.

The Council must establish and maintain a list of people requesting an allotment plot. We also need to take reasonable steps to ensure that the number of people on the city-wide allotment waiting list is no more than half the number of Council allotments available. We are also expected to make sure that no-one is on the list for more than 5 years. Whilst doing this we will also be considering how our actions will impact on communities which experience socio-economic disadvantage.

We will do this by helping individuals or groups find spaces for community growing and by continuing to look for locations where we can develop additional allotments/growing spaces.

Everyone will be able to follow our progress towards meeting these objectives, as we will be producing an allotments report annually that will highlight what actions have been taken forward and how the numbers are changing.



4.1 Allotment sites

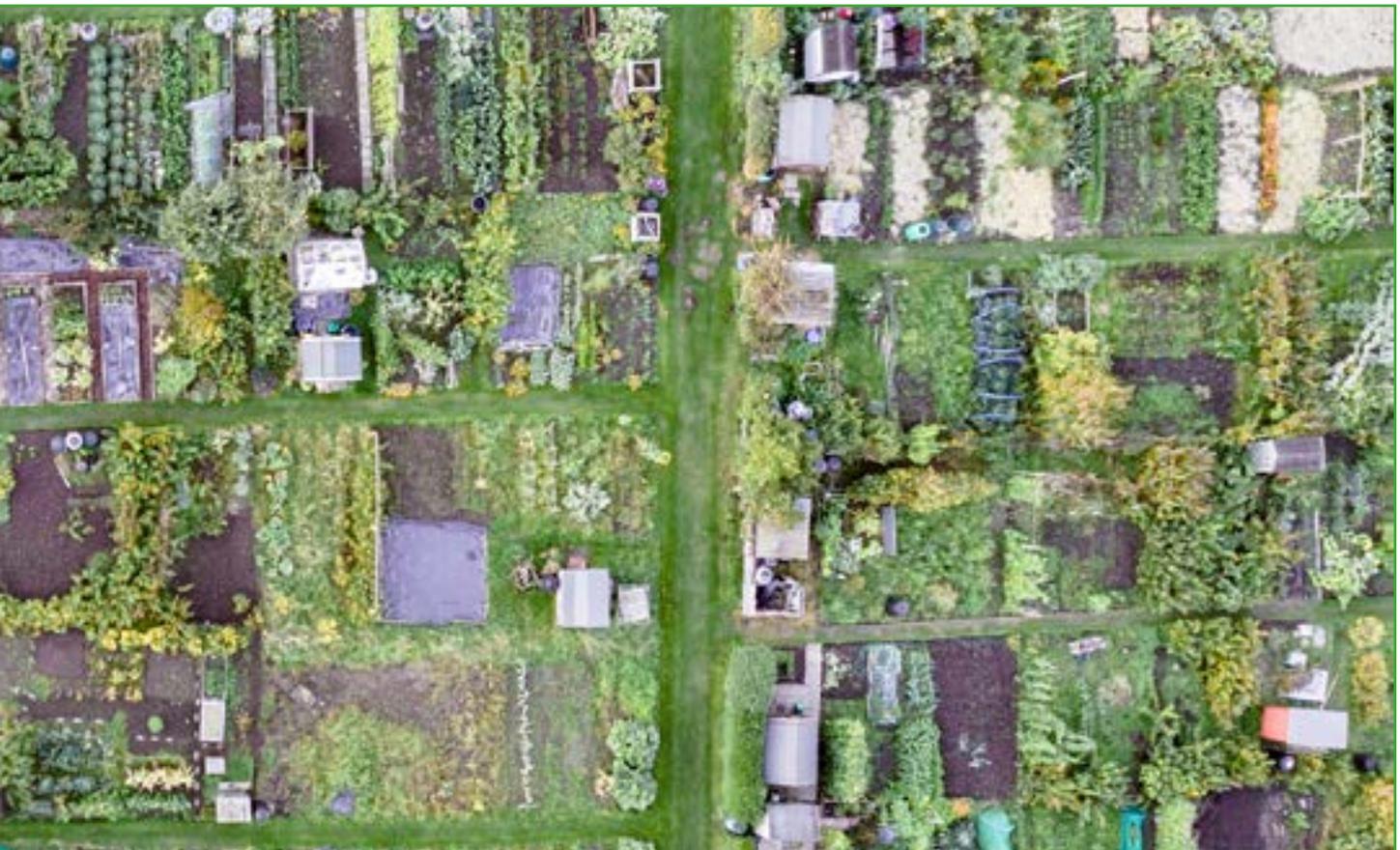
The Community Empowerment Act (Part 9) provides a legal definition of what an allotment is and how a local authority should consider its provision in relation to allotment waiting list numbers.

As noted in section 3, the community engagement events all mentioned the demand for allotment spaces but, also, the subsequent difficulties in getting one - especially in certain areas of the city. This demand is further confirmed by the overall city-wide waiting list.

Therefore, to increase the availability of allotment plots we will look to create new allotment sites wherever there is an opportunity. This could come from a variety of sources including, GCC land or within a new housing development. In addition, we will also look at the potential for increasing the number of allotment plots within our existing allotment sites.

ACTION 1: We will facilitate the most effective use of our existing allotment sites by increasing the number of available plots wherever suitable land is available.

ACTION 2: We will develop new allotment sites where suitable locations are identified and there is recognised local demand.



4.2 Community growing groups and spaces

Through the associated development work, stemming from this food growing strategy, there will be more opportunities for individuals or groups to form their own community growing projects. Potential locations will be identifiable through the mapping initiative noted in section 5.1 i.e. from the maps it will be possible to find existing growing projects or nearby land that could be developed for use by the local community.

The mapping webpage will be accessed here - (this page will not be available until the FGS is published)

We will also be able to provide help or advice on various matters such as setting up groups, attracting funding and getting growing see section 5 and associated appendices.

ACTION 3: We will further engage with GCC Development and Regeneration Services to ensure full consideration is given to the provision of growing spaces or allotments in new developments within the City Development Plan and associated policies.

ACTION 4: We will engage further with Housing Associations to encourage and support them with their plans to provide residents with growing spaces or allotments.



5.0 How do I get started?

The development of new allotment sites will take time and will be very much dependent on the availability of suitable sites. On the other hand, the creation of new community growing sites should be possible in much shorter timescales such as where only a “licence to occupy” or “lease agreement” is required.

Setting up your own community growing group can be straightforward especially if you follow the guidelines highlighted. This section of the strategy, therefore, provides help on getting started especially around key subjects where new groups could struggle to get projects off the ground. In particular, it gives guidance to accessing:-

- **Land**
- **Community support**
- **Group development**
- **Funding**
- **Growing skills advice**

It should be noted that whilst these broad themes will cover the full growing site development process, they should not be viewed in isolation as in many cases action under one theme will support and assist with development in the others.



See [Appendix 5](#) for more information.

5.1 Finding Land for Growing

A key objective at our community consultation events was not only to establish current demand for community growing but also to find out from attendees if they knew of any potential growing sites in their local area that may not have been previously considered.

These nominated sites were then assessed under a variety of criteria such as ownership, growing suitability or accessibility - the criteria were based on a Greenspace Scotland advice note - [site assessment matrix](#).

All nominated sites, irrespective of ownership, were mapped to provide an indication of local interest in growing.

A subsequent action of the Food Growing Strategy will be to provide an online map for Glaswegians to find their nearest existing or potential growing space. The map(s) will include the following:

- **Existing allotment sites**
- **Existing community growing sites**
- **Stalled Space projects**
- **Potential GCC land for the creation of new allotment or community growing sites**

5.2 Getting Permission to use a Growing Site

Feedback at all the community engagement events highlighted difficulties that could arise when a community growing group sought permission to use a piece of land. This was especially focussed on getting sufficient security or length of tenure to make it worthwhile investing in the site. The proposed solutions included:

- **Longer leases**
- **An easy system for permission to use land owned by the council**

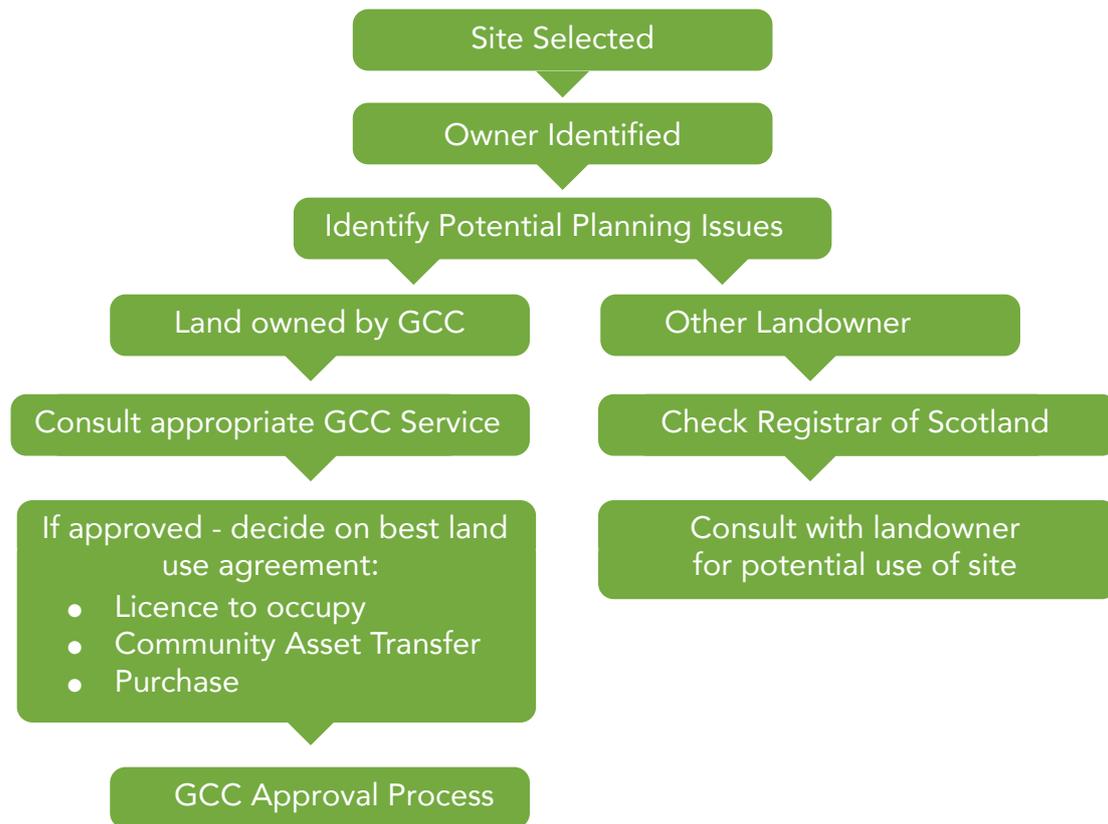
Some initial guidance on accessing a piece of land for a growing site is included below.

5.3 Who owns the land and do I need a lease?

To use a potential growing space and start your growing project you will, in all cases, need the landowner's permission. Therefore, in the first instance go to our on-line map and check the text-box associated with each mapped potential growing location to see who owns the land.

If it is indicated that GCC owns the land then you can contact the council/us at the details in the text-box. Alternatively, if the land is in private ownership then further details can be obtained from the Registrar of Scotland for a small fee (OS Map). Contact details are indicated in Appendix 5.

The flow diagram below provides an overview of the various stages that you would need to consider before being able to use the site:



5.4 Dealing with planning requirements

Many of the mapped sites with potential for use as a growing site may have had alternative uses in the past, be in areas with specific development constraints or may require enhancements to make them suitable for use. In such cases planning consent may be required, examples include:

- **Change of use of land, for example from green space to allotment;**
- **Any works within a Conservation Area; and**
- **Structures on site, including:**
 - **Outbuildings and sheds on each individual plot;**
 - **Communal buildings;**
 - **Fencing; and**
 - **Parking facilities.**

In such cases, early discussions with the GCC Development and Regeneration Services is encouraged. They can be contacted at: details to be confirmed.

ACTION 5: We will maintain and update an online map of nominated growing sites and identify whether each site is owned by GCC or not.

ACTION 6: We will review and simplify the current Permission to Use/ Licence to Occupy process to encourage easier use of available GCC sites.



5.5 Getting community support or developing your community group

Finding a site in your local area is a great start to setting up your growing project. This can be the catalyst to gather interest and momentum for your project and will also allow discussion for the later development stages but it can also be an incentive for others to become involved and help establish the initiative.

Our 2018 city-wide consultation on food growing - [“Go Grow Glasgow”](#) - raised a variety of topics that our citizens felt that they would like more advice or assistance on - including on starting a community growing project. Similar issues were raised in the local ward consultation events.

Of course, you will find it helpful if you have the initial support from your local community - either immediately next to your growing site or in the larger area - as it is from this support that you are likely to find the individuals who will be part of your community growing project and who will help you develop the site.

In particular, for most potential growing projects it will be really helpful to have access to funding or resources to prepare or develop the site – and fortunately there are a many such resources available. However, most funding organisations will only fund “constituted” groups. The same will be true for getting formal permission to use a site.



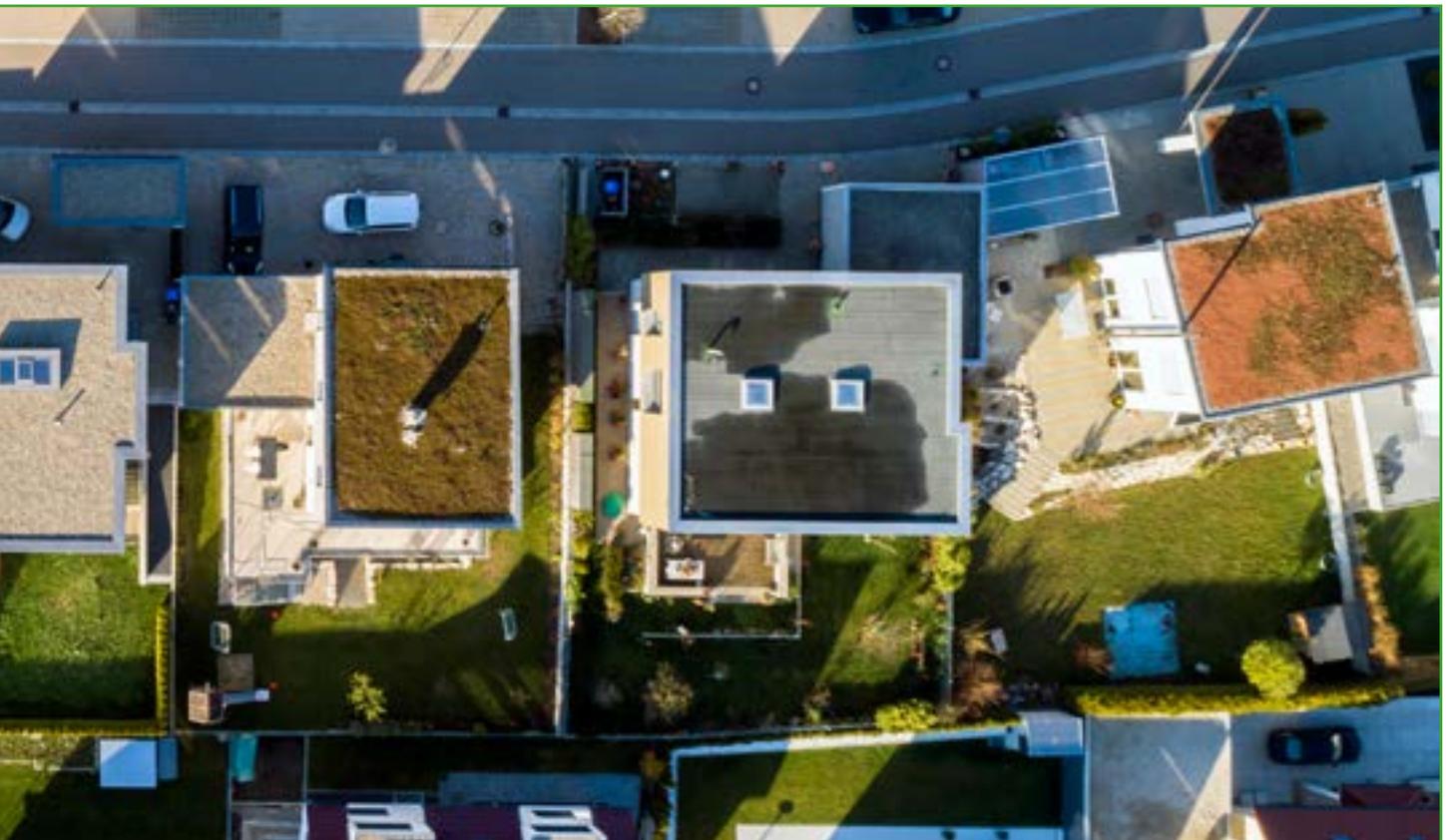
Therefore, forming a constituted group for your growing project will allow you to use or even take ownership of the growing space and attract funding to develop the site for growing.

Once you have gathered the support from a group of like-minded, enthusiastic individuals and have become a “constituted” growing group then the development process is likely to be much smoother especially if actions are shared amongst other group members.

The momentum of getting the site operational will sustain the group in the short term especially if it is well organised. However, the future development stages will require different skills i.e. to ensure the longer term maintenance and sustainability of the site but also the growing group itself. If your group understands how to maintain commitment and where to get support when it is needed then it is more likely that the growing space will flourish.

[Appendix 5](#) includes an initial list of some organisations that will help you get community support for your project, how to set up a growing group and subsequently how to maintain the group over the life of the growing site. This information will be made available online at our website and regularly updated.

ACTION 7: To provide signposting to resources that will help potential growers access community support for their project and/or will assist them with setting up their community growing group and will help them maintain it into the future.



5.6 Access to Funding

The next stage once you have followed the process of finding a site, got permission to use it, received local community support and set up your growing group is to source funding to develop the site. This was identified by consultees as a major issue on which more resources were desired.

[Appendix 5](#) provides details of two key resources that will let you see the variety and range of funding sources that are available to help you develop your growing project. This GCC Community funding guide is also accessible from the following link: details to be confirmed.

In addition, as a further response to consultation feedback on access to growing project development funds, we will assess the range of existing GCC funding for growing sources and look to develop this into an easily accessible funding source.

ACTION 8: On our website we will maintain “sign-posting” to funding resources and the GCC issued funding guide.

ACTION 9: We will consider setting up the Let’s Grow Together Fund. This fund, for community groups, will provide initial or seed capital funding to assist in the establishment of new community growing projects.



5.7 Access to Growing Advice

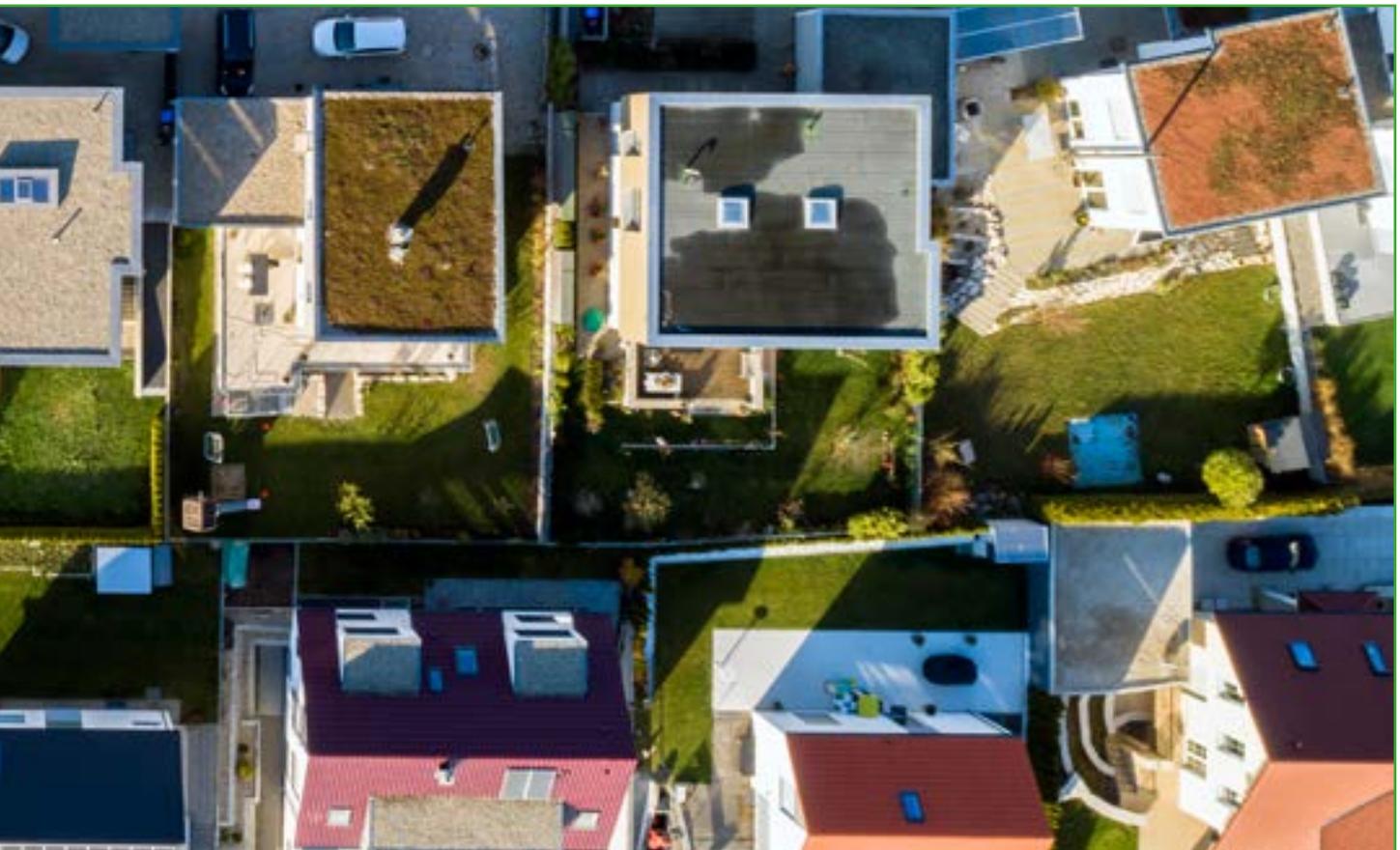
Growing your own fruit and vegetables is very rewarding but it can sometimes make things easier if you can access some assistance or advice to get started or how to keep things going successfully.

If you are starting out on an allotment plot then many of your fellow allotmenters will be able to give you the benefits of their years of experience on what to grow and when to start planting or even what to plant. Similarly, on a community garden site there are likely to be fellow growers to help you develop your growing space in the optimum way.

Access to training and growing support was highlighted at the majority of our consultation events. A variety of ways to deliver this were also proposed. In response, in conjunction with professional trainers and long term growers a starter guide - “[Lets Grow Together](#)” - to growing “vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers” was produced. This guide will evolve based on feedback from groups and individuals as they start their growing project.

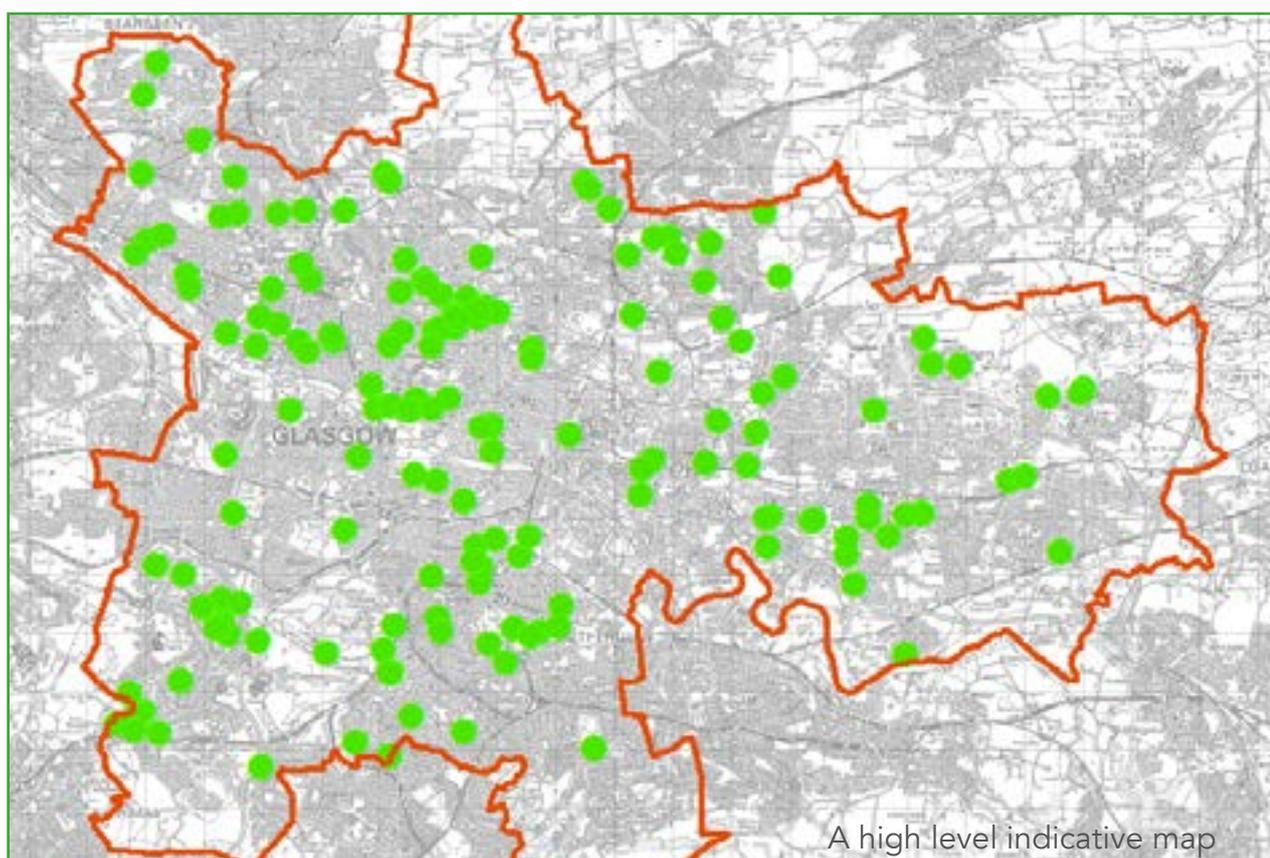
In addition [Appendix 5](#) will also have details of existing growing advice resources.

ACTION 10: To collaboratively develop “[Let’s Grow Together](#)” – Glasgow’s Growing Guide to provide growing advice and tips to new growers and maintain sign-posting to existing growing advice resources.



6.0 How do I find out about community growing in my area?

As already noted, we held community engagement events in all areas of Glasgow and at these events we asked people to let us know if they felt that there was a forgotten but potential growing site in their area. All these publically nominated sites have been assessed and mapped. This map is available at details to be confirmed.. If you click on each site there will also be some information on who owns the land and what type of growing it could potentially be used for.



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This map will be regularly updated so if you discover any new potential food growing sites then simply complete the update form which is available on our webpage and send it to glasgowfoodgrowing@glasgow.gov.uk .

ACTION 11: We will maintain and regularly update the GCC Food Growing Strategy webpage with the latest information on community food growing in Glasgow.

7.0 Key Growing Themes / Opportunities Going Forward

The city-wide and local consultations revealed strong demand for growing sites of all types and forms. There was also a desire for subsequent support or assistance in setting them up and helping them to flourish. The consultation also highlighted the existence of current growing projects.

In many cases, the objectives of existing or planned growing projects help address broader, strategic ambitions of several GCC Services or even the wider public sector. This was especially relevant at the consultation events that considered the positive role growing can have for social enterprises, in outdoor learning and improving both mental/physical health at both individual and community level.

In recognition of the overarching role that community growing can have on several of the City Council's strategic objectives, and the ongoing development of the Glasgow City Food Plan, there will, in the future, be opportunities to link with other Council Services or other public bodies to ensuring these benefits will be realised.

In addition, over the five year period of this strategy, GCC will be continuously reviewing its assets and its service provision. As a result, there may be opportunities in the future for additional growing sites on our surplus to requirements sites.

ACTION 12 : We will encourage cross-service joint actions on food growing by introducing a GCC internal Food Growing Officer Working Group.

ACTION 13 : We will respond to opportunities that arise for growing spaces on former GCC sites.



8.0

Monitoring and Review

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, part 9 section 121 asks that an “[Annual Allotments Report](#)” is provided to the Scottish Government on actions taken to provide more allotment plots or to reduce waiting lists for an allotment plot (alongside a variety of other requirements).

In addition to reporting on progress on allotments provision, Glasgow will, at the same time, also provide an update on its actions that have supported the overall aim of advancing community growing in the city. This report will be provided to the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Policy Committee prior to submitting to the Scottish Government.

In addition to reporting on Glasgow’s food growing progress annually, the Community Empowerment Act also requires that we review and revise the Food Growing Strategy within five years of its adoption and publication. As with the development of this first strategy, all future strategies will be based on the feedback and views of Glasgow’s growing community and, to support this, we will introduce a Community Food Growing Mentoring Group.

In addition we will specifically monitor the impacts of the food growing strategy in areas experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.



ACTION 14: We will produce an annual Allotments and Community Food Growing Report.

ACTION 15: We will introduce a Community Food Growing Mentoring group, with representatives from growing groups, community groups and GCC, to assist with the monitoring of the strategy action plan.

ACTION 16: We will continue to monitor the impacts and response to food growing initiatives in areas experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. In the event of low impact we will look to provide more resources to support individuals or groups to develop their growing projects.



9.0 Next Steps/Action Plan

This Food Growing Strategy is for the five year period, 2020-25. It will be reviewed and updated every five years.

Strategy Timeline: 2020 to 2025	Year1 2020/21	Year2 2021/22	Year3 2022/23	Year4 2023/24	Year5 2024/25
Increasing Growing Spaces A1 Increase plots on existing allotment sites A2 Develop new allotment sites A3 Engage with DRS A4 Engage with Housing Associations	→	→	→	→	→
Getting Simpler Access to Growing Spaces A5 Maintain/update online map A6 Review current procedures for using potential GCC growing sites	→	→	→	→	→
Getting Community Support & Capacity Building A7 Signposting to resources	→	→	→	→	→
Getting Funding Support A8 Signposting to resources A9 Consider introducing "Lets Grow Together" Fund	→	→	→	→	→
Getting Growing A10 Issue "Lets Grow Together" growing guide and signpost to resources	→				
Awareness Raising A11 Maintain Food Growing Strategy Webpage	→	→	→	→	→
GCC – Strategy Support and Actions A12 Introduce GCC Officers Food Growing Working Group A13 Respond to opportunities that arise for growing spaces on former GCC sites	→	→	→	→	→
Strategy Review A14 Annual Allotments and Food Growing Report A15 Introduce Strategy Mentoring Group A16 Assess Progress in SIMD areas	→	→	→	→	→



10.0 Appendices



Appendix 1 Food Growing Strategy Legislation

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, Part 9 Allotments

119 Duty to prepare food growing strategy

- (1) Each local authority must prepare a food growing strategy for its area.
- (2) A local authority must publish the food growing strategy before the expiry of the period of two years beginning with the day on which this section comes into force.
- (3) A food growing strategy is a document—
 - (a) identifying land in its area that the local authority considers may be used as allotment sites,
 - (b) identifying other areas of land in its area that could be used by a community for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers,
 - (c) describing how, where the authority is required to take reasonable steps under section 112(1), the authority intends to increase the provision in its area of—
 - (i) allotments, or
 - (ii) other areas of land for use by a community for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers, and
 - (d) containing such other information as may be prescribed.
- (4) The description required by paragraph (c) of subsection (3) must in particular describe whether and how the authority intends to increase the provision of the types of land mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) of that subsection in communities which experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- (5) The authority must publish the food growing strategy on a website or by other electronic means.

120 Duty to review food growing strategy

- (1) Each local authority must review its food growing strategy before the end of—
 - (a) the period of 5 years beginning with the day on which the strategy is first published under section 119(2), and
 - (b) each subsequent period of 5 years.
- (2) If, following a review under subsection (1), 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.



Appendix 2 Key Policies and Strategies

Open Space Strategy - currently, the Council is preparing a city-wide Open Space Strategy that will set out a series of actions to ensure the City's open spaces contribute positively to: Glasgow's liveability; the health and well-being of Glasgow's human population and of its flora and fauna; and to Glasgow's long term resilience to threats such as climate change.

www.glasgow.gov.uk/ossconsultation

Parks and Greenspace Vision – parks and greenspaces will be lively, welcoming and safe places; sustainable, well connected and accessible to all, providing opportunities for activities and shared for current and future communities.

www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/23699/Parks-Vision

Local Biodiversity Action Plan – the aim of the Glasgow LBAP is to conserve and enhance natural habitats in the city, and to address the decline in biodiversity with a focus on species of national and local conservation concern.

www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity

Sports Pitch Strategy – this emerging strategy is currently being prepared. The following link to the OSS contains some further background.

www.glasgow.gov.uk/ossconsultation

Other Council Plans and Strategies

The Council's Strategic Plan 2017 - 2022 - aims to encourage, "A world class city with a thriving and inclusive economy where everyone can flourish and benefit from the city's success".

www.glasgow.gov.uk/strategicplan

The Community Plan – the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership (GCPP) brings together public agencies, the third sector, and the private sector, to work to improve the city, its services, and the lives of people who live and work here.

www.glasgowcpp.org.uk/

The City Development Plan - a clear 10 year planning framework for the City is set out in the plan, including a spatial strategy, policies and proposals for the future use of land and infrastructure.

www.glasgow.gov.uk/cdp



The Strategic Plan for Cycling 2016 - 2025 - Glasgow is the only UK city to be awarded the title of “UCI Bike City”. This is in recognition of the major cycling events it has hosted and the goal to make everyday cycling safe and attractive to all, residents and visitors alike.

www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=33403&p=0

Glasgow Economic Strategy 2016 - 2023 - sets out a range of commitments which aim to create economic growth, tackle health inequality and make Glasgow the most productive city in the UK. Following a recent refresh, its commitment to sustainability has been strengthened, including a commitment to encouraging ethical food growth and increasing the number of trees and green space in the city.

[Website link currently being updated](#)

Social Enterprise Strategy (2018 - 2028) - co-produced by GCC and the Glasgow Social Enterprise Network is a broad, longterm, ambitious framework designed to support the social enterprise sector by stimulating social enterprise activity, developing stronger organisations and realising market opportunity. We are already working with a wide range of food related social enterprises and growing projects. There are currently over 800 social enterprises in the city and the sector has grown by 16% in the last four years.

www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=42639&p=0

Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership – has a vision to transform how the city region thinks about and manages rainfall to end uncontrolled flooding and improve water quality. This vision to sustainably drain Glasgow will be realised through partnership working shaped by the MGSDP Guiding Principles.

www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/20020/Metropolitan-Glasgow-Strategy-Drainage-Partnership-MGSDP

City Centre Strategy – outlines how Glasgow city centre will provide an excellent and sustainable quality of life and experience for citizens, visitors and investors that will drive growth in employment, population and shared prosperity.

www.glasgowcitycentrestrategy.com/

Core Paths Plan - the aim of Glasgow City Council’s Core Paths Plan is to ensure that important paths and routes are recorded and promoted, helping to achieve a “connected Glasgow” where residents and visitors can move easily around the path network on foot, by bike, and by other non-motorised means; it includes ‘Core Paths on Water’ for rowers, kayakers and other non-motorised water users.

www.glasgow.gov.uk/corepaths

Climate Ready Clyde (Regional Adaptation Strategy) - an initiative bringing regional partners together to consider climate adaptation risk and required action across Glasgow and the Clyde Valley.

www.climatereadyclyde.org.uk/

“Our Resilient Glasgow” Strategy - makes several references to the need to strengthen and create more resilient communities and a more resilient local economy.

www.glasgow.gov.uk/resilience

Climate Emergency Working Group (Report) - meet on a regular basis to consider a range of issues relating to climate and sustainability. Recommendations made by the working group relate to the entire scope of the Council’s powers, activities and interests. Recommendation 36 relates directly to the need to consider food (and food growing) as part of this system change i.e. that *“The Council and its partners publish a sustainable food strategy for the city within the next year and that the Council considers making space for food growing a requirement of new housing developments”*.

www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=94239

Other non-GCC Key Policies, Strategies or Research

Glasgow Food Policy Partnership: Good Food For All - a group of public, private and voluntary sector organisations who believe that a fairer, healthier, more sustainable and resilient food system would make Glasgow an even better city to live in.

www.goodfoodforall.co.uk/

Propagate Roots to Market - a report on research that aims to show the need to support the emergence and development of a local food economy.

www.glasgowfood.net/assets/images/roots-to-market-FINAL-low-res.pdf

Adam Smith Business School (Glasgow University) “Sustainable Communities of Care” - this report outlines research exploring grassroots community garden groups and the inter-relationships between sustainability, health, well-being and the urban environment.

www.eprints.gla.ac.uk/114500/7/114500.pdf

Greater Glasgow Clyde Valley Network “Sow and Grow Everywhere” - a strategic study focused on ‘urban food growing’ in the Glasgow Metropolitan Region.

www.gcvgreennetwork.gov.uk/publications/282-sow-and-grow-everywhere-final-report



Appendix 3 Community Growing Matrix

This table lists different types of growing locations and the type of growing they may be suitable for.

	Abundance & foraging	Allotments	Beekeeping	Community gardens	Community market gardens	Community orchards	Community small holdings	Community supported agriculture (CSA)	Container growing	DIY growing	Edible landscape & borders	Forest gardens	Healing & therapeutic gardens	Land share	Nectar bars	Raised beds	Roof gardens	Temporary growing	Vertical growing
Allotment sites			■												■				
Backcourts and backgreens		■		■		■			■							■			■
Balconies and terraces									■	■									■
Cemeteries and church yards						■					■					■			
Civic and public buildings											■					■	■		■
Community centres				■		■			■							■			
Community woodland		■		■		■		■				■				■			
Derelict and undeveloped land			■						■						■	■		■	
Ex-educational ground		■		■	■	■			■							■			
Farm and agricultural land		■		■	■	■	■	■											
Forestry Commission Scotland managed land		■	■		■	■	■	■								■			
Golf courses		■							■		■					■			
Green corridors	■					■				■									
Health sector land and NHS estate		■		■		■			■				■			■			
Historic buildings and estates		■		■	■	■		■			■								
Individual gardens	■					■				■				■					
Ministry of Defence sites		■	■		■	■	■	■								■			
Public parks and gardens		■		■		■					■								
Rail and bus stations									■		■								
Residential and amenity spaces				■		■					■				■				
Roadside verges and underpasses									■	■	■								
Rooftops			■						■		■				■		■		
School grounds		■		■		■					■					■			
Sheltered housing and care homes				■		■							■			■			
Town centres and high streets						■			■		■								■
University and college grounds		■	■	■		■			■		■								
Work places		■				■			■							■			

Appendix 4a

Food Growing Strategy Community Engagement 2017 and 2019

In the Autumn of 2017, the Scottish Government commissioned greenspace scotland to work with six local authorities on the development of their individual food growing strategies. Glasgow was one of those selected and two engagement events were held for four wards with recognised high demand for additional community growing sites.

At these events, attendees were asked for feedback on:

- **Existing growing sites in their local area**
- **Potential growing sites in their local area**
- **Why they participated in community growing or what was stopping them**

Subsequently in Spring 2019, a further eight community engagement events were held for the remaining 19 wards. The same process as the 2017 events was followed and they were, again, facilitated by greenspace scotland. Details of the events are noted below.

2017 Community Engagement Events

- **Event 1 – Pollokshields (Ward 6) and Southside Central (Ward 8)**
- **Event 2 - Partick East / Kelvindale (Ward 23) and Victoria Park (Ward 12)**

2019 Community Engagement Events

- **Event 1 – Shettleston (Ward 19) and Baillieston (Ward 20)**
- **Event 2 – Anderston/City/Yorkhill (Ward 10) and Hillhead (Ward 11)**
- **Event 3 – Springburn/Robroyston (Ward 17) and North East (Ward 21)**
- **Event 4 – Maryhill (Ward 15) and Canal (Ward 16)**
- **Event 5 – Linn (Ward 1) and Newlands/Auldburn (Ward 2) and Langside (Ward 7)**
- **Event 6 – Garscadden/Scotstounhill (Ward 13) and Drumchapel/Anniesland (Ward 14)**
- **Event 7 – Calton (Ward 9) and East Centre (Ward 18) and Dennistoun (Ward 22)**
- **Event 8 – Greater Pollok (Ward 3) and Cardonald (Ward 4) and Govan (Ward 5)**

The greenspace scotland reports for the events, including a summary report on all 2019 events, are available at www.glasgow.gov.uk/foodgrowing.

Area Partnerships - In addition to the various community engagement events, all local Area Partnerships were offered more detailed, individual feedback on the events. The majority of partnerships accepted this offer.



Appendix 4b

Food Growing Strategy
Community Engagement
2017

This Spring/Summer 2017 consultation engaged with local people to find out why, where and how they would wish to grow their own food. This consultation involved three community engagement events and an online survey. These events/survey were open to all members of the public but specific invitations were also made to growing groups, allotment associations, individuals on allotment's waiting list and other relevant organisations.

The report outlines several recommendations under 7 broad themes:

- **Help Getting Started**
- **Scalable Projects**
- **Land Access and Security**
- **Growing is a Profession**
- **Information and Resources**
- **Funding**
- **Collaboration**

The individual (and summarised) recommendations are noted in the table below including an indication of how the next steps could be taken forward. For more details the original report should be consulted at www.glasgow.gov.uk/foodgrowing.

	Recommendations / Wish List	Action in support planned by GCC	GCC will signpost growers to resources available	GCC to initiate discussion with stakeholders to establish what actions stakeholders may wish to take
1	"Getting Started" Web Resource	■	■	■
2	Tool Library		■	■
3	Encourage/Support Open Days		■	■
4	Support "Mosaic" or Hierarchy of Growing Opportunities		■	■
5	Provide Greater Security of Tenure to Growers	■	■	■
6	Paid Training / Apprenticeships for Growers and Gardeners		■	■
7	Access to Information		■	■
8	Access to Funding		■	■
9	Greater Collaboration Between Growers			■

The individual (and summarised) recommendations or “wish list” are noted in the table below including an indication with whom the next steps may lie. For more details the original report should be consulted at www.glasgow.gov.uk/foodgrowing.

	Recommendations / Wish List	Action planned by GCC	GCC will signpost growers to resources available	GCC to initiate discussion with stakeholders to establish what actions stakeholders may wish to take
1	Organic Growing		■	■
2	Livestock	■	■	■
3	Recycling and Waste Disposal	■	■	■
4	Encourage Plot Biodiversity		■	■
5	Consultation on New Facilities		■	■
6	Toilets and Communal Facilities		■	■
7	Paths and Fences	■	■	■
8	Manure and Compost		■	■
9	Waiting List Engagement		■	■
10	Shared, Starter and Temporary Plots	■	■	■
11	Mixed Plot Sizes	■	■	■
12	Training and Support		■	■
13	Glasgow-Wide Allotments Network		■	■
14	Cross Allotment Learning			■
15	Clear Constitution	■	■	■
16	Independent Plot Inspections		■	■
17	Governance Support and Training		■	■
18	Complaints	■	■	■

Appendix 5 Help and Resources

5.1 Access to Land

The Glasgow Food Growing Strategy webpage will contain a link to a map identifying existing and potential growing spaces. General enquiries should be made at glasgowfoodgrowing@glasgow.gov.uk. In the meantime, if you wish to propose a growing site then please complete and return the site nomination form on this webpage: [www.glasgow.gov.uk/site nomination form](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/site-nomination-form)

5.2 Access to Community Support

5.2.1 Who can help you get your growing project off the ground?

There are a variety of organisations that can advise you in getting your growing project off the ground or to get more involvement from your local community. Some are listed in the table below alongside their current contact details.

Organisation	Email	Website
Planning Advisory Service (PAS)	office@pas.org.uk	www.pas.org.uk/
Your Local Community Council	see website	www.glasgow.gov.uk/communitycouncils
Scottish Allotment Garden Society	secretary@sags.org.uk	www.sags.org.uk/
Social Farms and Gardens	admin@farmgarden.org.uk	www.farmgarden.org.uk/your-area/scotland
GCC – Parks Development	glasgowfoodgrowing@glasgow.gov.uk	www.glasgow.gov.uk/foodgrowing

5.2.2 How do I set up my group?

There are a variety of organisations that can assist you with setting up your group and some are listed in the table below alongside their current contact details.

Organisation	Email	Website
Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector (GCVS)	information@gcvs.org.uk	www.gcvs.org.uk/
GCC – Parks Development	glasgowfoodgrowing@glasgow.gov.uk	www.glasgow.gov.uk/foodgrowing
Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC)	info@scdc.org.uk	www.scdc.org.uk/



5.2.3 Capacity Building for Groups or Individuals

There are a variety of organisations that can assist you with sustaining your group and some are listed in the table below alongside their current contact details.

Organisation	Email	Website
Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector (GCVS)	information@gcvs.org.uk	www.gcvs.org.uk/
Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC)	info@scdc.org.uk	www.scdc.org.uk/

5.3 Access to Funding

5.3.1 Funding Advice

Once you have formed your group, and put in place the structures that will assist you to start growing, in many cases you will be seeking funding to allow you to develop the site or get equipment. There are many organisations that can provide funding support either as small grants or as larger amounts. Two, key “[signposts](#)” to funding sources are listed in the table below.

Organisation	Email	Website
Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector (GCVS)	information@gcvs.org.uk	www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/glasgow/
GCC – Parks Development (Funding Guide)	glasgowfoodgrowing@glasgow.gov.uk	see 5.3.2 below

5.3.2 Funding Guide

The funding guide, referred to in the table above, is a simple and easy to use guide to seeking funding. It will give you some help on the following matters. It is available at: [Website link currently being updated](#)

- **Getting Started**
- **Identifying Project(s)**
- **Project Costs**
- **Finding Funders**
- **Writing an Application**
- **Things to Consider**
- **Help and Support**
- **Developing a Funding Strategy**
- **Glossary of Funding Terms**



5.4 Access to Growing Advice

5.4.1 I want to grow fruit and veg. Who can help me?

Help can also be provided a variety of organisations including the following:

Organisation	Email	Website
GCC – Parks Development (Growing Guide)	glasgowfoodgrowing@glasgow.gov.uk	see 5.4.2 below
Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)	scotland@rhs.org.uk	www.rhs.org.uk/scotland
Glasgow Allotments Forum (GAF)	glasgowallotments.org/about-us/contact/	www.glasgowallotments.org
Garden Organic	www.gardenorganic.org.uk/contact	www.gardenorganic.org.uk

5.4.2 "Lets Grow Glasgow" Growing Guide

The "Lets Grow Glasgow" guide to getting started growing was developed by a mix of growers from the local authority, allotment holders and community growers. It offers guidance on the following matters. It is available at:

[Website link currently being updated](#)

1. **Introduction**
2. **Planning**
3. **Site and Soil Assessment**
4. **Soil preparation**
5. **Tools and Maintenance**
6. **Planting and Growing**
7. **Plant Health**
8. **Harvesting and Storing**
9. **Glossary**



Appendix 6 Thanks

We would like to thank the hundreds of people, as individuals or as members of organisations, who attended and supported the consultation events and related matters.

In particular we would like to thank the following groups that presented at this year's food growing strategy ward consultations:

- **Merrylee Allotments**
- **Urban Roots**
- **RHS**
- **Roots to Ruchill**
- **Propagate**
- **Ibrox Primary**
- **Greenheart Growers**
- **Yorkhill Community Growing Space**

In addition, we would like to thank the following for assisting with the development of the "Lets Grow Glasgow" Growing Guide:

- **Glasgow Allotments Forum**
- **RHS**
- **GCC Training Co-ordinator**
- **CSG Neighbourhood Safety**





information contact department...