



sustainable thriving achieving

**East Dunbartonshire Council**

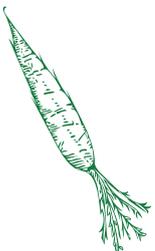
[www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk)



EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE'S

# FOOD GROWING STRATEGY

2026 - 2031



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## Foreword

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The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 empowers local authorities to support equitable and sustainable social wellbeing, and our Food Growing Strategy is a cornerstone of this effort. This document isn't just a plan; it's a reflection of the commitment of our communities to self-sufficiency, health, and environmental stewardship.

Food growing isn't a new concept in East Dunbartonshire. For years, residents have embraced "growing your own" through allotments and community gardens, including our Council-run allotments at Rosebank in Kirkintilloch and Etive Park in Bishopbriggs. Food growing initiatives have long provided social, environmental and economic benefits. With increasing challenges like climate change, the increased cost of living and supply chain disruptions, ensuring access to nutritious food is more important than ever to combat food poverty and promote wellbeing. We are actively working to expand opportunities for food growing and enable more people in East Dunbartonshire to enjoy the benefits. The Council opened a new allotment site at Etive Park in 2025 and will continue to work to deliver more whilst supporting local groups eager to start their own food growing journeys.

Our Food Growing Strategy allows us to build on the strong base of local knowledge and experience by extending food growing provisions across East Dunbartonshire in a systematic and considered way. This Strategy reflects the many views contributed by communities and individuals through a series of engagement events including extensive early engagement, the public consultation carried out on the draft Strategy and an additional engagement exercise on the updated Strategy. The final Strategy has taken account of these views to ensure that it responds to local needs and aspirations.

We have also collaborated extensively with a range of professional organisations. Food growing is relevant and important to the activities of many service areas within the Council and Health & Social Care Partnership, while also linking into the agendas of various external bodies, including East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action, Green Action Trust and Keep Scotland Beautiful. We are particularly grateful for the expertise and hard work of greenspace scotland, a key partner in the development of this document.

I look forward to sowing the seeds of a healthier, more active and more connected East Dunbartonshire.



*Councillor Ferretti  
Convener of the Council's  
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets Committee*

Is there anything better than the taste of freshly picked fruit and vegetables you've grown yourself? That crunch of a just-pulled carrot, the pop of a pea straight from the pod – nothing beats it.

greenspace scotland, the charity leading on parks and greenspaces across the country, is proud to support this local food growing strategy in East Dunbartonshire. Our aim is simple: to help more people enjoy the health, environmental and community benefits of growing their own food. More Scots want to grow fruit and veg, but finding space is often the hardest part. That's why we've helped communities take a fresh look at local land, including parks and public spaces, and reimaged them as places to grow.

Food growing is good for more than your plate. It encourages healthy eating, boosts mental wellbeing, builds community, and brings people together. It's a great way to cut down food miles and protect nature by increasing local biodiversity. We've worked closely with East Dunbartonshire Council to create a framework that supports people to grow locally. Together, we're helping communities grow well, live well – and eat well.

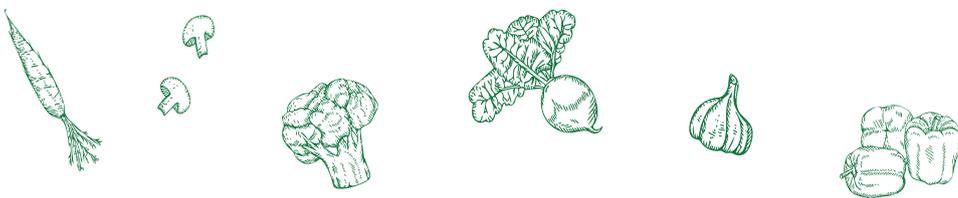
*The greenspace scotland Team*

By combining clear direction with supportive measures, this Food Growing Strategy establishes a strong foundation for delivering meaningful opportunities that will strengthen local biodiversity, enhance community wellbeing, and create a wide range of lasting benefits for residents.

Its ambitions are both clear and inspiring, backed by practical, constructive actions designed to make a real and enduring difference. Crucially, the Strategy contributes directly to the delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network, a priority within the National Planning Framework.

Looking ahead, this Strategy will serve as a valuable resource for all those involved in developing and sustaining growing spaces across East Dunbartonshire—supporting local communities well into the future.

*Green Action Trust*



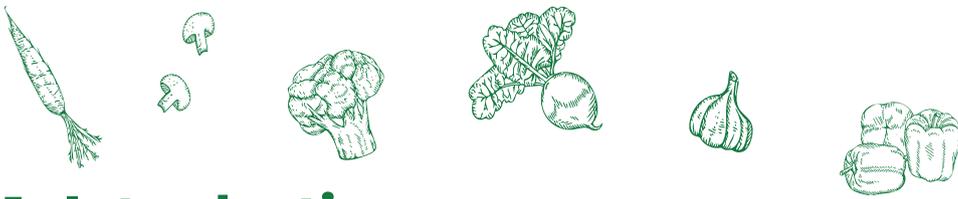
## East Dunbartonshire's Food Growing Strategy: An Overview

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East Dunbartonshire's first Food Growing Strategy outlines the benefits of engaging in food growing activity and our approach to delivering more opportunities for food growing for the people of East Dunbartonshire. The Strategy identifies the need for additional allotment sites that could contribute to meeting our statutory duties to meet demand for allotments, set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, and provides guidance to support community groups in starting their own food growing journey. The Council is also committed to delivering on the wider benefits of food growing including skills development, training, health and wellbeing and sustainability as set out in the Delivery Programme in Chapter 11. The timescales for the actions set out in the Delivery Programme are categorised as short term, medium term and long term. Short term refers to actions set to be delivered from 2026 – 2027, medium term from 2028 – 2030 and long term is set to be delivered by or beyond 2031.

The Strategy sets out a framework for realising the Mission for Food Growing in East Dunbartonshire for the next five years, in partnership with key Council Services and external organisations. The Mission is set out in **Chapter 1, section 1.3** of the Strategy.



# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 Purpose and Scope

This Food Growing Strategy aims to improve access to affordable, healthy, sustainable food by increasing opportunities for people in East Dunbartonshire to 'grow-your-own' ('GYO'). The Strategy is based on an assessment of current demand for facilities to grow food across our area and sets out how these needs can be met. In East Dunbartonshire's Food Growing Strategy, food growing refers to any GYO opportunity where people are able to grow vegetables, fruits, herbs and/or flowers at varying scales.

It aims to define and identify opportunities to increase food growing provision in East Dunbartonshire in response to our legislative duties under Part 9 of the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) – 'the Act', encompassing food growing in its widest sense and the many benefits it offers. Though, traditionally, the cultivation of food has been in the form of allotments, there has been a more recent shift towards other types of growing models within a number of different settings, including community growing, community gardens, school grounds, parks, raised beds in private gardens and growing on buildings' windowsills.

The Strategy establishes an approach to support and develop food growing initiatives for communities and individuals. It outlines the mechanisms needed to build to an engaged, empowered and knowledgeable network of local growers over the next 5 years. By taking a balanced and considered approach, the Strategy aims to encourage and sustain both new and existing growing spaces, helping to fulfil food growing aspirations and meet local needs.

## 1.2 Background

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 provides a legal framework that promotes and encourages community empowerment and participation. It creates rights for community bodies and places duties on public authorities.

Part 9 of the Act introduces new rights for communities to have access to and the rights to lease allotments as well as duties for local authorities to maintain an allotment waiting list, increase the provision of allotments, and prepare and review a local food growing strategy for its area. It offers protection for allotment tenants where the allotment is owned or leased from the local authority only – privately owned or leased allotments are not protected by the Act – in terms of restrictions to the sale or change of use of the land or renunciation of leases without the consent of Scottish Ministers.

Local authorities are required to carry out or deliver the legislative functions set out in Part 9 of the Act. The Council are fully committed to meeting these requirements, including the production of this Food Growing Strategy. For more information on the timeline of Strategy development and reasons for the delay to meet the requirements, see **Chapter 3**. The duties set out in Part 9 of the Act are detailed in **Appendix A**.



### 1.3 A Mission for Food Growing in East Dunbartonshire

The Strategy's mission, aims and objectives have taken into account local priorities and the views of our communities, gathered through early engagement exercises and consultation on the draft Food Growing Strategy.

#### Strategy Mission

Everyone in East Dunbartonshire who wishes to grow their own food will have access to opportunities that support a healthier, more sustainable environment. By cultivating fruit, vegetables, herbs, and flowers, individuals and communities can contribute to local food resilience, well-being and biodiversity.



### 1.4 Aims and Objectives

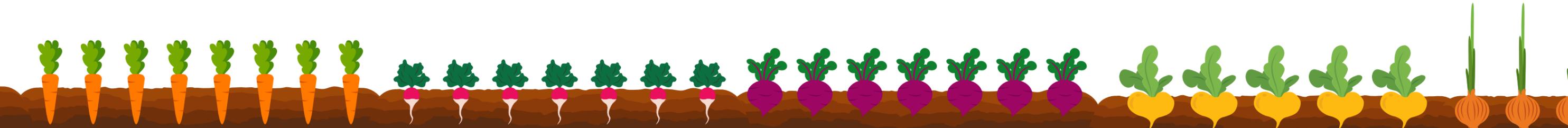
Each of the aims below reflects the links between food growing and other social, economic and environmental priorities in both East Dunbartonshire and Scotland as a whole. A number of objectives have also been established to help set out how each of the aims will be met. These objectives have been broken down into a set of proposed actions which are set out in the Delivery Programme (**See Chapter 11**). The Delivery Programme demonstrates where there are interlinking priorities and will pursue an efficient, joined-up approach by seeking to deliver cross-cutting benefits wherever possible and within available funding.

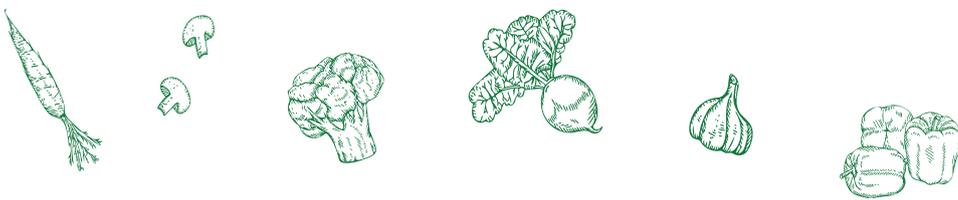


# AIMS

## OBJECTIVES

<p><b>Aim 1. Community Engagement:</b></p> <p>Empower and engage with communities to take forward food growing projects, to learn from each other and to have opportunities to develop skills to achieve grow-your-own aspirations</p>	<p><b>Aim 2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities:</b></p> <p>Increase food growing opportunities by highlighting the need to increase allotment and other growing provision, as well as supporting the development of sustainable growing spaces across East Dunbartonshire.</p>	<p><b>Aim 3. Understanding and Skills Development:</b></p> <p>Give all generations an understanding of the benefits associated with food growing, access to skills development and growing spaces, and encourage intergenerational activities.</p>	<p><b>Aim 4. Health and Wellbeing:</b></p> <p>Promote grow-your-own initiatives to support healthier, more active lifestyles and reduce physical, mental health and wellbeing inequalities.</p>	<p><b>Aim 5. Sustainability:</b></p> <p>Contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the enhancement of local biodiversity and natural spaces through growing activities.</p>
<p>Communities who want it will know where to receive support to help start their journey towards growing their own fruit, herbs, vegetables and flowers. They will be encouraged to work with each other for support to share expertise and resources in order to sustain a food growing network.</p>	<p>We will support our communities to identify land with potential suitability for allotments as well as sites for other forms of food growing where there is demand.</p>	<p>Schools and nurseries in East Dunbartonshire will be encouraged to engage in food growing projects.</p>	<p>Growing opportunities will encourage inclusive and safe spaces where people can meet like-minded people as part of a resilient and empowered network of growers and provide a space for low impact physical activity through food growing to promote wellbeing.</p>	<p>All growing activities will support both regional and local green infrastructure, nature networks and biodiversity priorities with consideration for heritage, organic growing and quality soils, where possible.</p>
<p>The benefits of food growing and links to health and wellbeing, a reduction in food waste, access to locally grown produce and its role in creating a high-quality built and natural environment will be understood.</p>	<p>Our allotment waiting list management and signposting to grow-your-own opportunities will be up to date and transparent. It will give local people fair and equal opportunities to access good quality land and support for food growing in compliance with the provisions of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.</p>	<p>All generations will be encouraged and supported to grow their own and access locally grown food.</p>	<p>Vulnerable people and their carers will be supported to participate fully in their communities.</p>	<p>New and existing growing spaces will be encouraged to implement best practice growing techniques and innovative design features to mitigate and adapt to local climate change issues.</p>
<p>Partners will work towards sharing training and skill development initiatives to support community food growing.</p>	<p>The number of people on the allotment waiting list will be reduced and the number of people participating in grow-your-own activities will increase.</p>	<p>Everyone will be given opportunities to take part in skills development, food growing education and practical gardening training.</p>	<p>We will support growing opportunities for therapy, other physical and mental health inequalities and help to alleviate food poverty.</p>	<p>All growing spaces will be accessible to all. New spaces will be located near high quality cycling and pedestrian routes and within a 10-minute walk from regular public transport routes.</p>



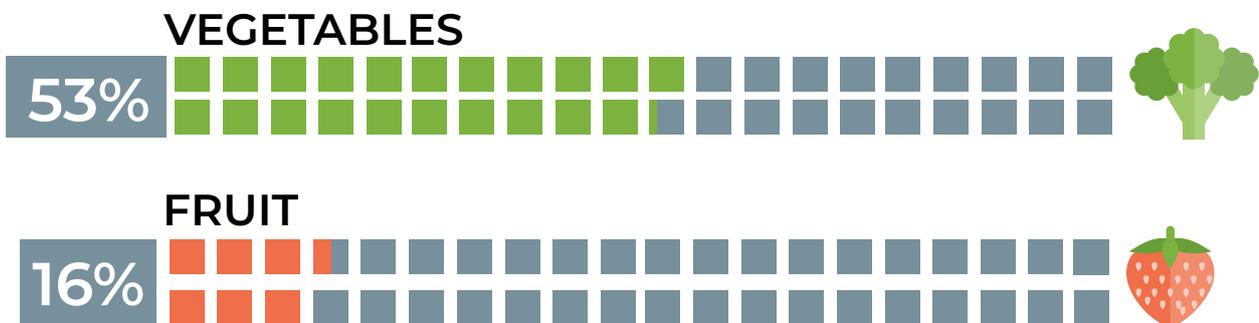


## 2. Strategic and Local Context

### 2.1 Food Growing in the UK and Scotland

As food has become more readily available for everyone, with access to food from all over the world, only 58% of food consumed in the UK is also produced in the UK; 24% of imports are from the EU; with Africa, North America, South America and Asia [contributing around 3-4% each](#). Fruit and vegetables are the most imported food commodity groups. According to the UK Food Security Index, in 2023, only 53% of the vegetables and 16% of the fruits consumed in the UK [were also produced there](#).

Percentage of vegetables and fruits consumed in the UK that were also produced there.

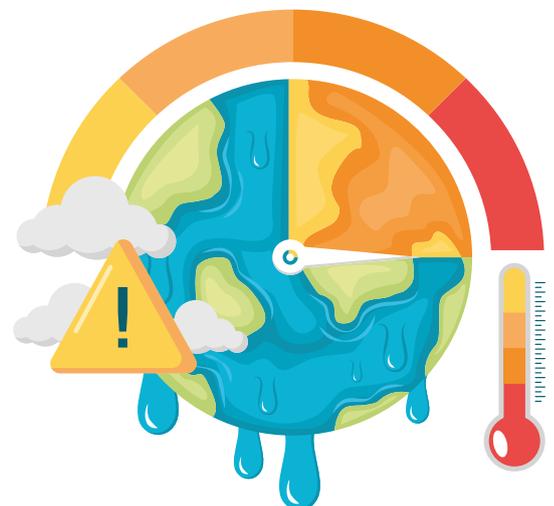


Whilst importing produce from around the globe can increase diversity and help to improve food security, global demand and large-scale industrial agriculture is putting increased pressure on the food supply internationally and is affecting the health of soils and availability of land to support food growing. The increasing trend towards globalised food production and consumption has also contributed to the growing carbon footprint of food as food is shipped longer distances, often in refrigerated containers. An increased emphasis on locally produced food would contribute to international and national commitments to reduce carbon emissions, helping mitigate the effects of climate change.

[A special report on climate change](#) produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2023 highlighted that accelerating climate change is resulting in:

- more frequent and extreme weather events,
- changes in local and regional weather patterns,
- increased flooding,
- biodiversity loss and
- increased food insecurity.

Climate change is accelerating at an unprecedented rate with the most recent decade registering as the hottest in 174 years of global observational [record keeping](#).



In Scotland, our hottest days are getting hotter and our wettest days are [becoming wetter](#). Scotland's ten hottest years have all occurred [since 1997](#) with the highest temperature officially recorded in Scotland of 34.8°C registering in 2022 - almost 2°C above the [previous record](#). Average precipitation [has risen by 20%](#) and Glasgow experienced a doubling in rainfall during summer 2024, making it the [wettest on record](#). Climate impacts in Scotland originally projected over the next three decades are already [happening today](#).

While some of these changes may be beneficial in agricultural terms, more frequent droughts and floods, changes in wind patterns and extreme weather, and rising temperatures are increasing the vulnerability of world agriculture. Farmers in the UK are already starting to experience the negative impacts from climate change from increased frequency and severity of flooding events. In the autumn of 2024, widespread flooding in England caused fruit and vegetable crop yields to fall by 5-7%, with one farmer reporting a loss of 12% of their [crop yield](#). These climate change trends are expected to continue and accelerate further, affecting agricultural outputs globally and having a significant impact on food security, an issue that is predicted to worsen over time without intervention.

One farmer  
reported a loss of  
**12%**  
of their crop yield  
in 2024.



In addition to climate change, global issues and events beyond local control can also have a drastic impact on food availability, diversity and security. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on food supply and food insecurity in the UK. The Food Foundation found that food and nutrition insecurity in the UK increased during the pandemic - from 7.6% of adults being food insecure pre-COVID, to 9.7% at the start of the pandemic and increasing to 9.9% by [July 2021](#). Global events, such as a pandemic or political tensions, result in potentially significant challenges on both local and global scales if proactive changes are not made to ensure that everyone locally has access to a healthy, fair and sustainable food system. The UK's food system faces significant pressures due to a combination of climate change, supply chain disruptions and economic uncertainty, increasing the cost of food and increasing food insecurity. An increase in food insecurity is likely to lead to a change in behaviour in how we shop and access food, including a potential drive towards more home-grown food, in response to increased cost and potential supply issues. Supporting a growth in opportunities for local food growing helps to improve the resilience of our communities in the face of these challenges as well as providing a broader range of benefits including social inclusion and reducing the anxiety and stress that global pressures can cause.



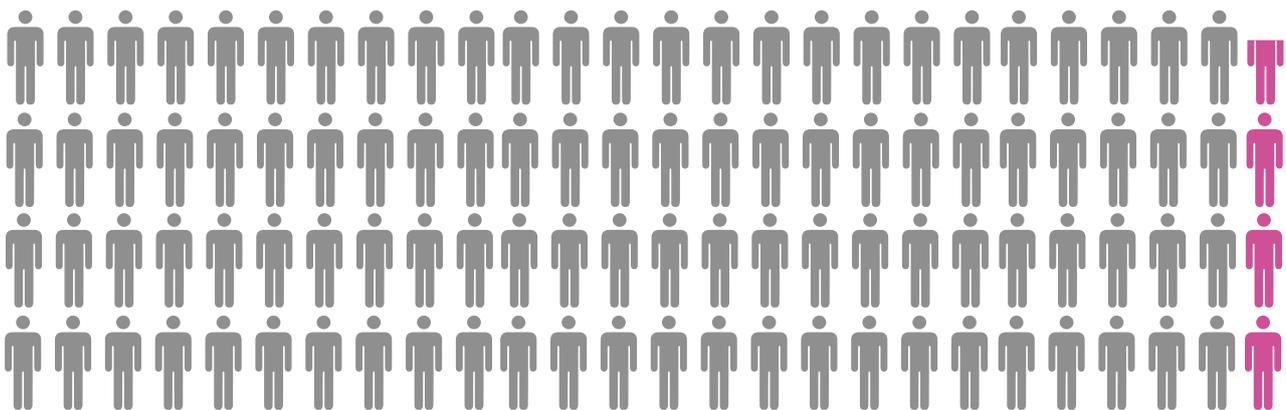
In Scotland, the diversity of produce grown locally is limited with barley being the most common cereal crop. In total, approximately 450,000 hectares of cereals - including barley, wheat, oats and rapeseed - were grown, compared to only 21,000 hectares of other fruits and [vegetables](#). The diversity of food production is low in Scotland and therefore our current food system is reliant on imports to increase variety in diets.

The issues that we are currently facing and are expected to face in the future relating to maintaining good access to a diverse and nutritious food supply demonstrate that there is scope, driven by the requirements of the Act, to increase community growing participation and thereby local food production. Supporting and encouraging local food growing acts as a means of not only addressing the climate emergency by reducing carbon emissions and food miles, but also helps reduce food insecurity and promote community resilience, particularly for our more disadvantaged communities.

## 2.2 Local Area

East Dunbartonshire is made up of the towns of Bearsden, Milngavie, Kirkintilloch, Bishopbriggs and Lenzie and the villages of Milton of Campsie, Twechar, Lennoxton, Torrance and Balmore, as well as the clachans such as Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie. These towns and villages make up 77 square miles in a mosaic of urban and rural landscapes, against the backdrop of the Campsie hills.

The 2022 Census total population estimate for East Dunbartonshire was 109,000, which is a 3.7% increase from the 2011 census. Scotland's total population increased by 2.7% over the same period.



Census Population estimate increase for East Dunbartonshire from 2011 to 2022.

## 2.3 Our Communities

Despite evidence of healthier and safer communities with high standards of care for older people and exceptional achievements in education, as shown in **East Dunbartonshire's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017 – 2027**, it is recognised that there are some individuals and community areas facing socio-economic disadvantage. [Surveys and data analysis](#) identified communities in East Dunbartonshire where people are experiencing relatively poorer outcomes when compared nationally or to the rest of East Dunbartonshire. These communities are: Auchinairn; Hillhead and Harestanes; Lennoxton; and Twechar, and they are known as our 'Place Areas' in the Council's LOIP and [Locality Plans](#) (formerly Place Plans). Locality Plans were prepared for each of these communities to set out the particular needs and aspirations of people in each of the communities in areas of life such as health and wellbeing, local economy and environment. Community growing has the potential to make a considerable contribution to improving the quality of life in these areas. This strategy highlights a number of existing food growing projects in these areas as well as aims to create new opportunities. In accordance with section 119 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Strategy will support and promote community growing as a means of reducing socio-economic disadvantage in these areas.

There are also members of our communities who experience food insecurity. The NHS Greater 2022/23 [Greater Glasgow and Clyde Adult Health and Wellbeing Survey – East Dunbartonshire Report'](#)

, highlighted that 8.5% of respondents reported experiencing food insecurity in the last year. This is an increase from the 2017/18 Health and Wellbeing Survey, which 5.7% of respondents reported experiencing food insecurity. Those who are facing economic disadvantages, are more likely to experience food insecurity. 20% of respondents who are considered the 'most deprived' reported experiencing food insecurity in the last year (as of 2022/23). Ensuring access to nutritious food is more important than ever to combat food poverty and promote wellbeing in our communities.



## 2.4 Green Networks and Nature Networks

Food growing is a vital component of green networks and nature networks, contributing to both environmental sustainability and community wellbeing. National Planning Framework 4 defines the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) as a National Development, reinforcing its role in addressing the twin crises of [climate change and biodiversity loss](#). The **CSGN Delivery Plan 2025** provides strategic direction to ensure the [network meets its vision](#), including a commitment to seven key activity areas, one of which is community growing, aiming to triple the amount of community food growing space between 2010 and 2050. Food growing activities in East Dunbartonshire align with this vision, demonstrating good practice in community growing within the wider Central Scotland region. In 2017, the Council renewed its concordat with the CSGN Trust (now Green Action Trust) to work together to improve the social, physical, cultural and environmental wellbeing in the area.

Food growing spaces can help contribute to East Dunbartonshire's **emerging Greenspace Strategy (GSS)** and the vision of the CSGN by delivering a range of economic, environmental and social benefits that enhance life, open up opportunities to improve health and wellbeing, improve biodiversity and the access to nature, and can help mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. The emerging GSS will replace the Council's Open Space Strategy (2015-2020) and Green Network Strategy (2017-2022) and will set out the actions to deliver local nature networks, including blue and green infrastructure nature-based solutions, to improve ecological connectivity and build resilience into open and green spaces across East Dunbartonshire. Community growing will play an essential role in meeting the aims of the emerging GSS.

The purpose and function of the nature networks will be explained further in the Council's forthcoming GSS.



## 2.5 National and Local Influences

In addition to international policy influences (**Appendix B**) there are a number of national and local policies that the food growing agenda will influence or be influenced by. It is important that existing policies relevant to the Strategy are given cognisance to reduce conflict and strengthen compatibility with other strategic priorities.

**Figure 1** depicts the strategies, action plans and other documents that provide context for and influence the development of local food growing from the national to local scale.



**Figure 1: List of influencing documents**

## 2.6 National

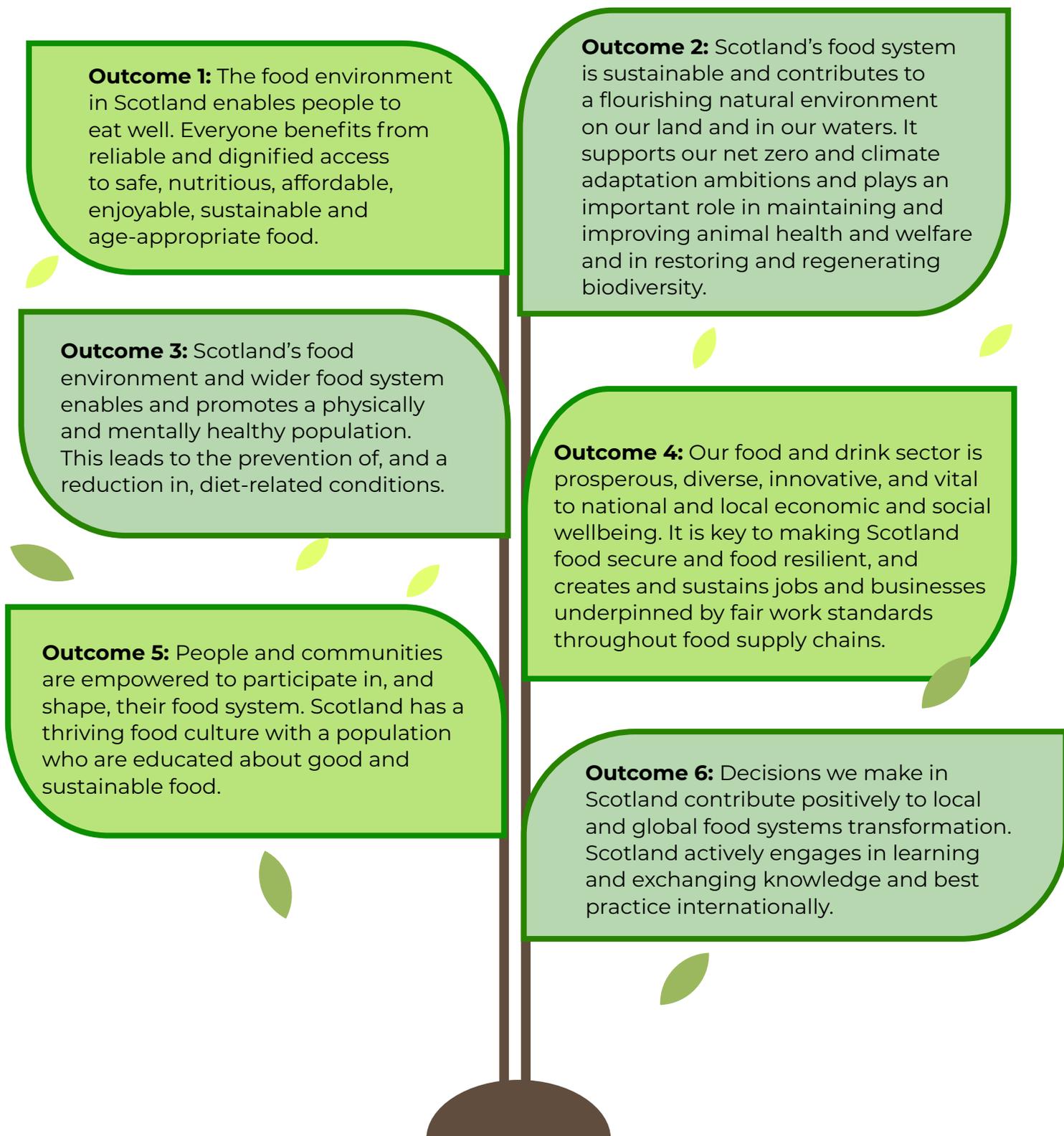
Historically, the requirements for allotments have been determined by the Allotments (Scotland) Act of 1892, as amended by the Land Settlement (Scotland) Act 1919 and Allotment (Scotland) Acts of 1922 and 1950. More recently, the **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015** modifies allotment legislation in Scotland with updates for local authorities to provide allotments under Part 9. This has built upon support for Scotland's first Food and Drink Policy '[Recipe for Success](#)' in 2009 and subsequent '[Good Food Nation](#)' strategy in 2014, both of which seek to encourage the production of locally grown food in all forms, helping to enable everyone in Scotland to buy, eat and serve food that is affordable, healthy and sustainable and allows them to make good food choices. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 sets new responsibilities on local authorities to maintain an allotment waiting list, identify land for food growing provision and support access to growing in areas of social and economic disadvantage, as part of a Food Growing Strategy. Parts 4 and 5 of the Act for community rights to buy land and community asset transfers, respectively, will support allotments and other food growing provision for communities.

The Scottish Government has set a vision for Scotland to be *"a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day"* in its 2014 food and drink policy. The newer **[Good Food Nation \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#)** places duties on Councils to produce Good Food Nation Plans which set out the main outcomes and policies to be achieved in relation to food-related issues such as:

- the environment
- social and economic wellbeing
- people's health and physical and mental wellbeing
- education
- economic development
- animal welfare
- child poverty



Under the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022, Scottish Ministers are also required to produce a national Good Food Nation Plan which sets out the Government's goals for food policy and how it intends to achieve them. The Proposed Nation Good Food Nation Plan was laid out before Scottish Parliament in June 2025, which includes six dynamic, overarching outcomes that intend to guide food aspirations for everyone in Scotland. The six outcomes are as follows:



Each local authority is required to prepare a Good Food Nation Plan for their area. Further guidance on local Good Food Nation Plans was published by the Scottish Government in March 2025, which is intended to give an overview of the steps that relevant authorities should [follow when writing these plans](#).

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 will ultimately act as an instrument for guiding the food agenda for Scotland and will be complemented by local Food Growing Strategies and Good Food Nation Plans.

**The National Performance Framework** sets a ten-year vision for Scotland to measure national wellbeing, and reflected the outcomes of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Framework is currently under a period of reform to support the development and implementation of a more strategic and impactful framework for Scotland, following the recent statutory review of the National Outcomes and the subsequent [Scottish Parliament inquiry](#). The Framework originally set out eleven National Outcomes relating to a range of economic, environmental, social and health factors with indicators to demonstrate Scotland's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Several of these National Outcomes closely align with East Dunbartonshire's vision for food growing as follows:

- We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe
- We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society
- We are healthy and active
- We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment.

**National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)** explores the idea that land for sustainable food production within our urban environment in Scotland is becoming increasingly important to support our communities. The Framework highlights the role that planning can have in protecting, enhancing and promoting green infrastructure, including areas of open space and our green networks, as an integral component for creating successful places. NPF4 Policies that are relevant to food growing include Policy 1: Tackling the climate and nature crisis, Policy 2: Climate mitigation and adaptation, Policy 3: Biodiversity, Policy 4: Natural Places, Policy 5: Soils, Policy 8: Green belts, Policy 12: Zero Waste, Policy 15: Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, Policy 20: Blue and green infrastructure, Policy 23: Health and safety, and Policy 25: Community wealth building.

**Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65: Planning and Open Space** recognises allotments and community growing spaces as an opportunity for community access to open space and outlines the need to address the demand for these provisions.



### [Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy 2021-2026](#)

is also a vital national plan for long-term, sustainable use of land resources delivering benefits to the wellbeing of the population and environment as a result. For food growing, this Strategy sets out an objective to give opportunities for urban and rural communities to connect and enjoy the land in both a positive and sustainable way. The Strategy has a greater emphasis on the roles of communities in influencing land use with strong links to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and recognition that community influence on the use of land can increase access to the outdoors, ability to grow their own fruit and vegetables, and eat more healthily.

In support of the need to address poor health due to diet, the food growing agenda in East Dunbartonshire can contribute to a local level approach to increase the availability and accessibility of healthy food options, while reducing health inequalities by aligning with the outcomes of the Scottish Government's [Population Health Framework](#) and can support the outcomes of the [Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#).

There are also policy influences that demonstrate the need and demand for food growing opportunities, as well as a number of funding sources to support growing projects. The important role of the **Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN)** in delivering food growing is highlighted in **section 2.4** above. [The greenspace use and attitude survey](#), conducted by greenspace scotland in 2017, highlights the importance of accessible greenspace demonstrated by increasing evidence of a demand for food growing opportunities and identifies the barriers relating to support and provision, particularly in urban areas.



The [Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017-2027](#) recognises that pollinators are an essential part in our environment and greenspaces that our communities enjoy, including food growing spaces. The strategy sets out how Scotland can continue to be a place where pollinators thrive, while halting and reversing the decline in native pollinator populations. Pollinators are put at risk with the use of fertilisers, pesticides and impacts from climate change. With more than 75% of the global food crops relying to some extent on [animal pollination](#), it is essential that designs for food growing spaces account for and support our pollinator populations. The Food Growing Strategy will ensure that procedures set out within the strategy are not only in line with the Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017-2027, but also the **Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)** as a support mechanism to increase diversification of pollinator friendly planting for all growing opportunities across East Dunbartonshire.

At a national level, the Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) programme of Climate & Nature Friendly Communities Network, for example, supports and celebrates the achievements of groups delivering their [food growing aspirations](#). See **Chapter 9** for more information on the support programme.



## 2.7 Local

There are a number of local level plans and strategies that interact with the Food Growing Strategy, with supporting actions and visions that can be integrated and explored further through the Strategy.

The **Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)** is a shared plan for East Dunbartonshire's Community Planning Partnership (CPP), as required by Part 2 Section 6 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. It responds to local needs, circumstances and aspirations of different communities and sets the priorities for the Council and Community Planning Partnership over the next ten years. The local outcomes and guiding principles directly linked to the intended outcomes of the Food Growing Strategy, and the benefits are shown in **Figure 2** and discussed in **section 2.3**.

Other local strategic documents that interact with the food growing agenda include the **Local Development Plan 2** including the **Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance** and **Town Centre Strategies**, emerging **Economic Development Strategy**, **Local Biodiversity Action Plan**, forthcoming **Climate Action Plan**, emerging **Greenspace Strategy**, **Circular Economy Strategy**, **Community Learning and Development Plan** and the **Sustainability and Climate Change Framework**.

**East Dunbartonshire's Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Strategic Plan 2025 – 2030 and Public Health Framework 2024 - 2027** both explore options for improving the health of our communities including opportunities relating to physical, mental and social wellbeing, as well as maintaining a healthy environment. Community led food initiatives, increased local growing and food production, increased access and availability to allotments and improved health through activities such as walking, gardening and socialising can help deliver the strategic priorities of the HSCP Strategic Plan and the Public Health Framework. Health and social benefits from participation in food growing activities are detailed in **Appendix D**.

The actions within the Food Growing Strategy can be used as a tool to represent East Dunbartonshire Council's approach to a range of wider agendas and drivers including:

- Reducing health and wellbeing inequalities;
- Food security;
- Climate change adaptation;
- Addressing socio-economic disadvantages; and,
- Complimenting land use planning.



# Local Outcomes

Figure 2:  
East Dunbartonshire  
Local Outcome  
Improvement Plan



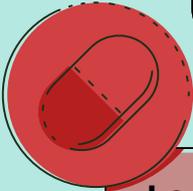
**Local Outcome 2:**  
Our people are equipped with knowledge and skills for learning, life and work



**Local Outcome 3:**  
Our children and young people are safe, healthy and ready to learn



**Local Outcome 6:**  
Our older population and more vulnerable citizens are supported to maintain their independence and enjoy a high quality of life, and they, their families and carers benefit from effective care and support services



**Local Outcome 5:**  
Our people experience good physical and mental health and wellbeing with access to a quality built and natural environment in which to lead healthier and more active lifestyles



## Guiding Principles



Coproduction and engagement



Fair and equitable services



Planning for place



Sustainability





### 3. Strategy Development

The Strategy has been in development since the beginning of 2017; initially with a series of early public engagement events in May 2017, followed by a public consultation on the draft Strategy in spring 2019. The subsequent approval of a final Food Growing Strategy was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and strategy development was restarted in 2025. Key elements and outcomes from the initial development of draft Strategy, including consultation and site assessments, informed this updated Strategy, while current waiting list demand figures and policy context were used to reflect today's reality. The draft development was supported by a partnership with greenspace scotland, as well as other partners. A stakeholder group of Council representatives and external organisations have also met regularly at key stages of the Strategy's development to help shape a Strategy that responds to the needs and interests of Council services, partners and local communities. **Figure 3** shows a timeline of the various stages in the Strategy development process. **Figure 4** describes key elements in the development of the Strategy; full details are provided in **Appendix C**.

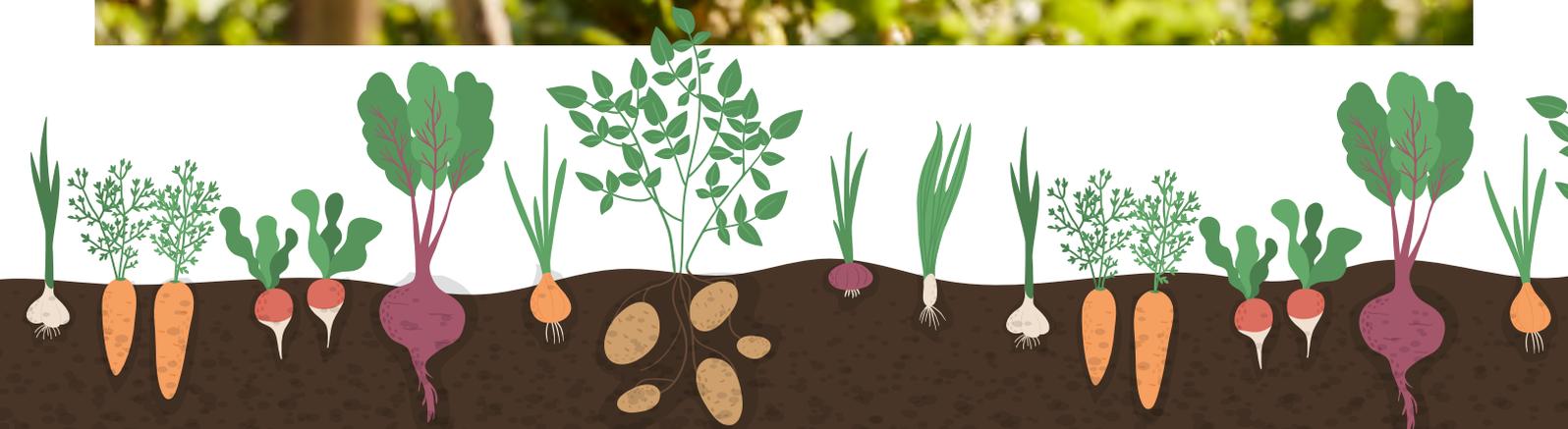




Figure 3: Stages of strategy development



## Partnerships

East Dunbartonshire Council was selected as one of six pilot areas to benefit from support from greenspace scotland during the development of the draft Strategy. Support included identifying links between the FGS and other national/local commitments, planning engagement with stakeholders and the community, and facilitating meetings, events and workshops.

East Dunbartonshire Council has been a member of the Grow Your Own Working Group (GYOWG) since 2016 and has had the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the GYOWG's work programme, become involved in national events for local authorities, contribute to national consultation and receive first-hand advice from organisations involved in the food growing network.

East Dunbartonshire Council contributed to the Scottish Government's Tripartite group to help develop guidance in relation to Part 9 Allotments of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The guidance supported the development of the draft Strategy.

The Council engaged with the original partners during the development of the final Strategy in 2025 to ensure agreement with the updates to approach and delivery.

The Council will continue to work with partners to support existing food growing initiatives around the local authority, as well as identify and support creating new food growing projects in our communities.

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## Strategy Development

Several engagement opportunities informed the draft and final Strategy. Strategy development began in 2017 with early community engagement to understand local demand for food growing and identify potential growing sites. Site assessments were conducted in 2018 with further community engagement on those identified sites following. Public consultation on the draft Strategy took place after approval by PNCA in 2019. An additional engagement exercise took place in 2025.

The approval of the final Strategy was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Strategy development was revisited in 2025, with a new high level approach to account for the consultation feedback on the draft Strategy and to recognise individual potential growing sites will need bespoke consideration with public buy in.

Baseline data was reviewed including a review of the allotment waiting list, existing food growing opportunities and number of groups engaging in community growing.

Key elements and outcomes were reviewed from the initial development of draft Strategy, including consultations and site assessments, to inform an updated Strategy.

Current waiting list numbers were analysed to determine current allotment demand by settlement area (east and west). The current waiting list demand was used to help inform where allotment sites are needed. See Appendix 3 - Quantification Report.

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## Stakeholders

Stakeholders were identified during the draft Strategy development to allow cross-cutting priorities across the Council to be identified and were informed by other knowledge bases including organisations such as Keep Scotland Beautiful, East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action (EDVA) and Green Action Trust.

The input and buy-in from stakeholders, in addition to the local community, is essential in ensuring that appropriate actions are established in the final Strategy and for their deliverability.

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## SEA

A full SEA Environmental Report was developed for the draft Strategy.

Due to the passage of time and change to the overall approach, the updated Food Growing Strategy (FGS) was re-screened as a new strategy. It was determined through screening that the updated FGS is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. Therefore, the updated Strategy was not subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Environmental Report was not required.

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## Delivery and Monitoring

Collaboration between partner groups, including internal Council services, external groups, and the local communities, is essential for the delivery of the actions set out in this Strategy.

The Strategy Delivery Programme sets out three different delivery time frames for the actions: short term (2026 - 2027); medium term (2028 - 2030); and long term (2031+).

A monitoring framework for the Strategy will be developed in the short term following the approval of the Strategy as part of the Delivery Programme in **Chapter 11 (see Action 28)**.

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Figure 4: Key elements in the development of the Strategy





## 4. What is Food Growing?

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### 4.1 What is Food Growing?

Food growing is defined in the Act as the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers. There are a number of models varying from traditional types to innovative models, and each grow-your-own (GYO) approach will work best depending on factors such as location, infrastructure requirements, type of food wishing to be grown and the individual needs or capabilities of gardeners.

### 4.2 Types of Food Growing Approaches

This approach to community growing can be achieved by a range of models and scales in both rural and urban settings. The following describes the various models of GYO – some of which are already established in East Dunbartonshire – but alternative models may be more suitable depending on individual or local community aspirations. greenspace scotland's 'Our Growing Community' [map and resource pack](#) explores these models further and provides valuable information to support groups in setting up these initiatives. As part of greenspace scotland's 'Our Growing Community' resource pack, the Community Growing Matrix identifies the model of growing that would be suitable for different types of locations (See **Appendix E**). This Strategy will support the delivery of allotments, as a legal requirement of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, and other food growing opportunities, as outlined in the Delivery Programme.

#### Allotments

Allotments are defined in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as '*land that is owned or leased by a local authority, is leased or intended for lease by a person from the authority, and is used or intended for use wholly or mainly for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers and otherwise than with a view to making a profit*'. However, allotments may also be run by private allotment associations. Allotment plots can range in size and shape, but 200/250m<sup>2</sup> is most commonly regarded as a 'full plot' size. However smaller sizes, for example half or quarter plots, are often requested.

Allotment plot holders are required to enter a contract for the lease of a plot and have responsibility for using and maintaining their plot, including any structures that the plot has such as tool storage, compost bins or shelters. To assist local authorities, and the allotment association, in managing allotments, allotment regulations are put in place to inform holders of their best practice requirements on site.

Allotments offer multiple benefits and can also provide a context for not-for-profit sale of surplus produce to support sustainability of the allotment. Whilst the social benefits offered by allotments include social cohesion within an allotment community, they may differ from other community-focused benefits from other types of growing opportunities.

## Community Gardens

Community gardens are less traditional than allotments and often found in urban or semi-urban spaces. They are usually the result of an empowered group of growers wishing to grow their own food. They are distinct to allotments in that they are managed and used more communally, although they can still follow the traditional style of plots for individuals to grow in. All community garden models are different as they provide an environment to support a number of different purposes that extend further than just growing fruit and vegetables. Examples of this include educational and training platforms, opportunities to 'green' an urban area, upgrade underused or vacant and derelict land, community capacity building, recreation and market gardening.

This form of growing is shown to have significant social benefits due to the interaction between growers. A gardening project at HMP Dumfries, which allows prisoners to work in the garden to earn a weekly wage, presents an opportunity for skills development and social inclusion. This garden is also open to dementia patients to use, with support from Dumfries Health and Social Care Partnership and [Trellis](#), providing a space for supported therapeutic gardening to benefit both physical and mental health. Whilst the prisoners are not involved when dementia patients are using the space, the prisoners and prison staff help to look after the plants and prepare activities ahead of the group using the space. Examples such as this, that have benefits to wellbeing, can serve as inspiration for community garden projects in our local area.



## **Institutional Growing Spaces**

There may be opportunities for groups working at or using spaces such as schools, colleges/ universities, offices, Housing Associations and health and social care services buildings (hospitals, GP offices etc.), to develop small-scale food growing projects, similar to community gardens. Land at these institutions is often available and underused. Repurposing these spaces would not only provide a good environment to explore food growing opportunities but can help to improve the aesthetics and sense of wellbeing of the location.

## **At-Home Growing**

At-home growing can benefit those with garden space, window boxes or wishing to grow fruit and vegetables indoors. This type of growing is a good alternative to traditional allotments or community gardens for those wishing to grow on a smaller-scale. This type of growing is likely to be practiced on an individual basis rather than as part of a growing community, but still has the potential to offer a range of community growing benefits.

## **Community Orchards and Woodlands**

Similarly to community gardens, community orchards and woodlands provide an opportunity for the local community to take ownership of underused spaces and give people access to locally grown fruit. Community orchards and woodlands can contribute to improving and creating habitats, particularly in urban areas, to build resilience against urbanisation and impacts from climate change. This approach to community growing can offer a range of ecological benefits, such as improving connectivity and increasing greenspace in an area where traditional greenspaces are lacking, depending on the scale of the project.

Fruit orchards provide a welcoming environment for all age ranges to get involved in food growing as they are well suited to thriving in urban environments and require little maintenance compared to the cultivation of other fruit and vegetables.



## **Social Enterprises and Market Gardens**

GYO groups will often have surplus produce from growing spaces. To prevent the produce from going to waste, there are options to register a community group as a social enterprise or set up a market garden to sell produce to the local community on a not-for-profit basis. The money exchanged for produce can be reinvested into the community growing space to help create a sustainable site. Social enterprises and market gardens can also be set up as an aside to other types of food growing to help sustain any project. Through East Dunbartonshire's emerging Economic Development Strategy, social enterprises will be supported to grow. Groups wishing to explore social enterprise options for their food growing project should first consult with the Council's The Business Support Team about their proposals to get advice on the most suitable model to run their enterprise.

## Civic Planting, Edible Borders and Hedgerows

There is scope for less formal growing activities to be explored within communities – both official and unofficial – by planting and utilising produce grown in civic areas, underused spaces, borders and hedgerows. This type of growing is more commonly explored in urban areas whereby community groups and individuals seek permission from the landowner to grow in planters, raised beds, unused areas of grass or along verges.

## Hydroponics and Aquaponics

Food growing using a hydroponic or aquaponics system can challenge growers to try something that tests their traditional gardening skills by exploring two different techniques of growing in a soil-free environment.

Hydroponics involve plants being grown in water rather than soil and fed with water-soluble mineral nutrient salts. This type of growing is most suited to greenhouse crops such as cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers as well as some flowers such as [florists' roses](#). Successful growing of hydroponic plants requires moist, nutrient-rich and aerated conditions. This style of growing is best suited where traditional growing techniques cannot be practiced.

[Aquaponics](#) is a different style of growing technique that requires a hydroponic environment integrated with aquaculture, derived through the process of cultivating fish. The two processes are codependent on each other: the waste matter from fish is changed and used as a natural fertiliser for the plants, while fish benefit from the clean water produced by the plants.

Both systems can be done on a small scale, such as at home with the correct infrastructure and skills, although they are more commonly practiced on a larger scale, such as being integrated within a community garden scheme.



## Green Roofs and Walls

Elements of the built environment, including roofs and walls, can provide surfaces suitable for planting – such as using wall shrubs and climbers. Other greening opportunities include living wall models to create a more intensive green roof or wall. They can be beneficial in using a space that would otherwise be unused, as well as a number of other advantages including being a natural form of insulation for the building, a stepping stone for biodiversity and habitat enhancement and surface water management.

## Shared Gardens

A shared garden scheme allows people to have access to someone else's garden, or other similar space, to grow food. It stems from informal agreements between neighbours but is now widely promoted as an initiative to connect people wishing to grow with a space to do so. This can give elderly people with reduced ability to manage their own garden help, as well as social benefits and give growers the opportunity to gain knowledge from each other. There is often an agreement created to ensure sharing of the space and produce, although there is rarely a monetary fee for taking part in a shared garden initiative.

## Food Growing on Vacant Land

Vacant land can be used for food growing if suitability is demonstrated with no or minimal impacts to the natural and built heritage designations and the green network, and their use doesn't result in the removal of open space provision that would lead to a settlement falling below the minimum open space requirement.

There is also the potential to involve the temporary use of sites awaiting redevelopment, such as a housing development. With agreement from the landowner, community groups may be able to use such spaces on a temporary basis, for a given period for the purpose of food growing. This approach to food growing should make provisions so that items can be removed, and ideally located to a new space, at the end of the agreed term. This option is beneficial in terms of increasing diversity and temporarily upgrading underused spaces within the local area.

## Foraging

Food sources are also grown naturally in our local environment. Natural areas in Scotland can provide a variety of foods like brambles, wild garlic, hazelnuts and more [edible plants](#). Best practices for foraging are to take no more than you plan to consume, ensure the area is not a protected greenspace and know what you are picking. **It is essential to make sure you are absolutely certain of the identification of a plant or fungus before consuming, as some species that are look-alikes can be harmful.** Foraging should be done responsibly and for personal use only. It is important to note that foraging may not be permitted in certain areas, such as nature reserves or other protected areas, and plants should not be dug up or removed. For safe and responsible foraging, it is recommended to attend a foraging workshop or conduct expensive review of guides, regulations or any restrictions. The Woodland Trust provides a [guide](#) on how to forage safely and responsibly. NatureScot also provides a guide for responsible foraging of [wild plants](#). There are also several events around Scotland that provide guided foraging workshops or lessons, including the [Scottish Wild Food Festival](#).

When foraging, it is also important to leave plenty behind as the food provided in the wild is vital for local wildlife. [The Wildlife and Countryside Act \(1981\)](#) protects wild plants from being dug up or removed from the land on which it is growing without permission from the landowner or occupier. Some species are especially protected against picking, uprooting, damage and sale through [Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act \(1981\)](#).

## 4.3 Benefits of Food Growing

Food growing offers wide-reaching benefits, with diverse approaches providing opportunities for individuals and communities while addressing local needs. Many of these benefits are interconnected, contributing to multiple positive outcomes for the grow-your-own community. Research has shown that engaging in food growing activities, at any skill-level or scale, can generate significant social, economic, environmental and educational advantages. Appendix D outlines the range of benefits that may be realised by developing and getting involved in a community growing scheme. These benefits are also summarised in **Figure 5**.

### 4.3.1 Health Benefits from Food Growing & Therapeutic Gardens

It is well known that food growing can provide physical and mental health benefits. [Research funded by the Royal Horticultural Society](#), revealed that those who garden every day have wellbeing scores that are 6.6% higher and stress levels that are 4.2% lower than those who do not garden at all. Therapeutic gardens are a form of gardening where food growing and wellbeing are the central focus.

Local Good Food Nation plans, as required by the Good Food Nation Act 2022 (described further in **Chapter 2**), will also have a strong focus on how food can improve health and wellbeing. The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 will act as an instrument for guiding the food agenda for Scotland and will be complemented by local Food Growing Strategies. See further details on the health benefits of food growing in **Appendix D**.





## Health

- A space to engage in low-impact exercise and physical activity
- Increased consumption and positive attitudes towards healthy food
- Opportunities for social interaction; this can improve mental wellbeing
- Organic food growing can improve population health due to an increased likelihood of nutrient value in crops and reduced levels of pesticides
- Reduces stress, which can improve mental and physical wellbeing



## Education

- Opportunities to link the food growing agenda to Scottish curriculums
- Aid in overall learning ability that can be translated into other areas of learning and support future job prospects
- Better understanding of where food comes from and healthy eating
- Food growing spaces can provide an environment for learning about related topics



## Environment

- Opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to contribute to net zero targets
- Spaces can provide climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, such as flood mitigation
- Opportunities to encourage low carbon behaviours e.g. food waste reduction, food security and consumption of local produce
- Benefits to local ecosystems, biodiversity and related ecosystem services
- Strengthen green networks, especially in urban areas
- Opportunities to practice food growing methods to improve soil quality and reduce soil erosion



## Enterprise & Economy

- Long-term potential financial efficiencies related to accessing home grown fruit and vegetables
- The selling of surplus produce can lead to an income generation for a group to be reinvested into the project on a not-for-profit basis
- Employment and volunteering opportunities at community gardens and allotments
- Access to food growing provision can give people better access to locally grown produce

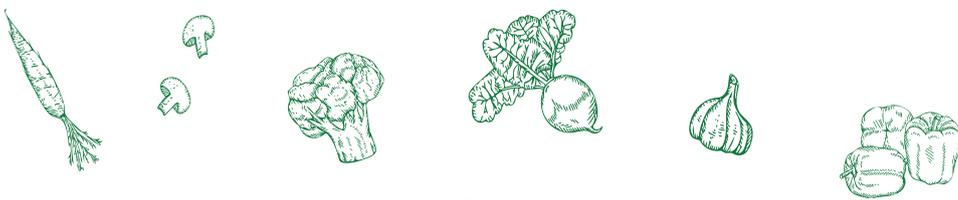


## Social

- Offer of training and skills development, which can help encourage confidence and social development
- Opportunities to create a sense of community to contribute towards improved placemaking



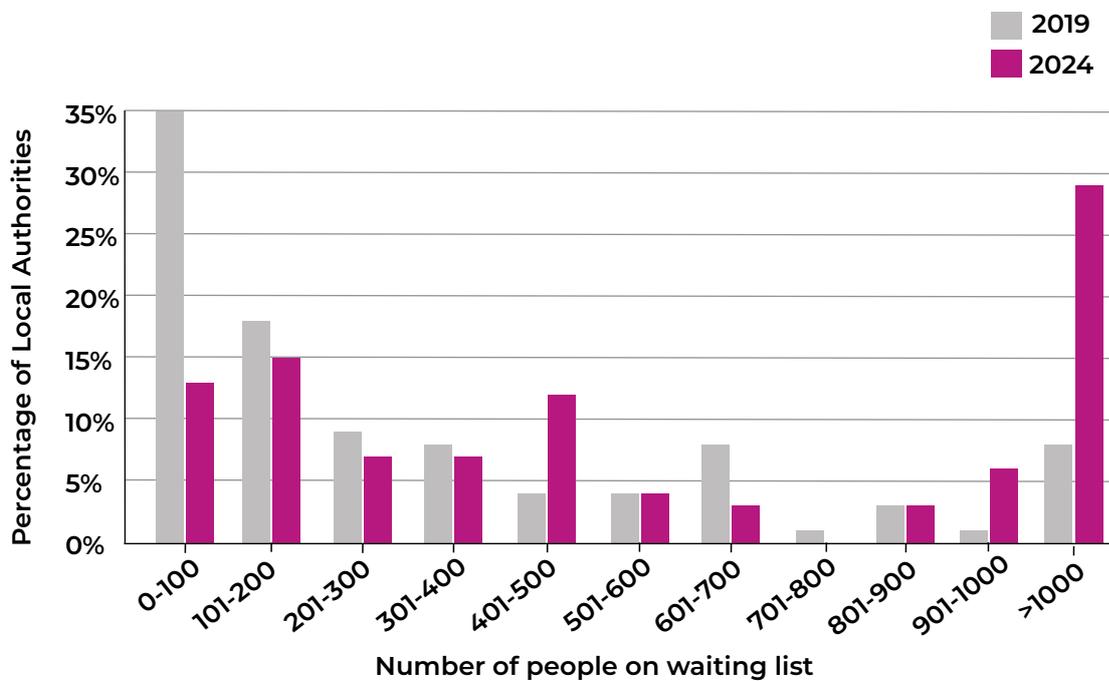
Figure 5: Summary of Food Growing Benefits



## 5. Food Growing in East Dunbartonshire: Historical and Present Day

### 5.1 National Participation and Demand in Food Growing

Community growing at a national level has most commonly been practiced in the form of allotments. However, a recent survey by the [Association for Public Service Excellence \(APSE\)](#) looking at local authority allotment services in the UK found that the number of people requesting allotments in 2024 has skyrocketed compared to pre-pandemic levels. APSE reports that the number of local authorities (LAs) with more than 100 people on the waiting list in 2024 increased by more than three times the amount in 2019 (See **Figure 6**). Economic pressures are one of the many reasons people move towards local food growing to combat food insecurity (See **Chapter 2**). This waiting list data demonstrates that behaviour change towards a desire for more home-grown food, in response to the increased cost and supply issues experienced during the pandemic.



**Figure 6: Waiting List Demand for Local Authorities in the UK (2019 & 2024) (APSE)**

Plot charges are also increasing across local authorities due to the need to account for increased maintenance of the sites, whereas many allotment services were subsidised in the past. Seventy percent of LAs concluded that leases will continue to rise over the next 5 years, or they are reviewing a potential increase. There has also been a reduction in plot sizes to address the high number of people on allotment waiting lists, with 73% of LAs reporting that they have reduced the size of plots to accommodate waiting list numbers. Another way LAs are accommodating the increase in waiting list numbers is by increasing the number of allotments, with 53% of LAs saying they have plans to increase the number of allotment sites. Comparatively, East Dunbartonshire has relatively few formal growing sites, with Etive Park in Bishopbriggs being the newest site allocating plots in 2025. **Actions 1-4** in the **Chapter 11** - Delivery Programme are focused on increasing the allotment site provision in East Dunbartonshire.

greenspace scotland conducted a '[Greenspace Use and Attitude Survey](#)' in 2017 which found that there had been an overall 8% decrease in people engaged in food growing between 2011 and 2017 in Scotland. However, there had been an increase of 6% in people growing their own food in areas of socio-economic disadvantage in this time period. The reasons for a decrease in food growing participation were noted as:

- A lack of space to grow at home,
- Limited knowledge and skills to grow fruit and vegetables, and
- Limited allotment plot availability.

The barriers noted are still expected to be the main reasons people are not currently involved in food growing in present day.

## 5.2 Local Participation in Food Growing

In East Dunbartonshire, GYO groups are actively engaging in community growing activities including community gardens, orchards, maintaining civic spaces, private shared gardens and school growing projects. This active engagement can support other members of the community get involved in food growing initiatives, by providing a space to grow food and assist in the development of knowledge and skills needed to grow fruits and vegetables.

East Dunbartonshire's network of formal allotment sites and community growing projects is varied and offers a multitude of benefits and opportunities for people to get involved. Through the delivery of **Action 15**, it is intended that active growing groups and current food growing projects will be signposted via the Council website. The sections below showcase some of East Dunbartonshire's food growing history (**section 5.3**), formal allotment sites (**section 5.4**) and current or recent community growing projects (**section 5.5**). Local primary and secondary schools have also been contributing to the food growing agenda by developing outdoor growing spaces for the pupils to utilise and learn about the benefits of food growing (**section 5.6**). Many schools are also connecting to local community groups demonstrating intergenerational food growing opportunities.

## 5.3 A History of Food Growing in East Dunbartonshire

Growing your own fruit and vegetables at home, in an allotment or community growing space has been practiced for many years. Most noticeably during and after both World War 1 and World War 2, there was an increase in people growing fruit and vegetables as a means to increase food for their family at a time when produce was scarce. At the end of the First World War, land was made available to all in response to returning servicemen through the Land Settlement Facilities Act 1919 giving fair access to land to everyone.

In East Dunbartonshire, there was a rise in allotments and growing at home during and after both World Wars, as evidenced in local newspapers and books. The origins of food growing in East Dunbartonshire is shown in **Appendix F**.

Nowadays, the necessity to grow to support a declining agricultural industry is not as prominent, and food is more readily available. However, many people choose to grow their own produce and flowers, either at home, an allotment or other community growing space, to supplement the food that they buy, as well as for the social and health benefits that gardening can offer.

## 5.4 Council Managed Allotments

### Rosebank Allotment, Kirkintilloch

Rosebank Allotment in Hillhead was East Dunbartonshire’s first formal modern-day Council-owned allotment - a project that started in 2009. The site now contains 43 mixed-sized plots which are rented by local residents.



Figure 7: Rosebank Allotment



Figure 8: Rosebank Allotment Location

## Etive Park, Bishopbriggs

Etive Park allotments is the Council's newest allotment site, completed in 2024 with plots allocated in 2025. The site contains 33 plots and was part of the development of East Dunbartonshire's first Climate Ready Park.



Figure 9: Etive Park Allotment



Figure 10: Etive Park Allotment Location

## Craigfoot Field, Milton of Campsie

Although not developed yet, Craigfoot Field is confirmed to join Rosebank Allotments and Etive Park in the Council allotment provisions. It is the intention that this allotment site will be designed and delivered in the short to medium term (See **Action 2**).

Additional allotment sites are expected to be identified in the Milngavie and Bearsden area. More details on the identification and delivery mechanisms for these sites are described in **Chapter 6** and **7**.

## 5.5 Community Growing Initiatives in East Dunbartonshire

### Bearsden

**Cairnhill Woods Group** have planted apple trees in the grounds of Westerton Primary School.

There are also small orchards planted at **King George V Park** and **Westerton Park** in Bearsden.

The **Kilmardinny Community Garden Project** is a community-led project to transform vacant land into a biodiverse, attractive and accessible space for all, including an element of food growing. The project is also part of [Keep Scotland Beautiful's It's Your Neighbourhood initiative](#). In 2024, the project grew a variety of produce, including herbs, lettuce, sugar snap peas and baby corn, to provide to the local community free of cost.

Other food growing opportunities include the recovery of brambles, wood sorrel and wild garlic at **Henderland Drive** in Bearsden and plum trees planted between Maxwell Avenue and Westerton Primary School by a local group of volunteers in Westerton.

The Council sheltered housing complex at **Jedworth Court** host two raised beds for residents to participate in food growing activities. The food grown in the raised beds are shared amongst the residents to use.

Bearsden Baptist Church grow herbs in raised beds, in addition to the fruit trees on the grounds and wildflower gardens to promote biodiversity. Bearsden Baptist welcomes all members of the community to spend time and enjoy the vast greenspace on the grounds. Students from the nearby Bearsden Primary School and residents at the local care home are often utilising the space. There are also several events hosted to promote food growing and overall wellbeing at the church, including tea tasting events under the cherry trees and the Well-come Café – which is a community space to promote wellbeing in the local community, where everyone is accepted. The location also has a long-standing history of food growing, with formal gardens and woodlands being situated on a historic Roman granary and fort along the Antonine Wall.

### Bishopbriggs

**BetterBriggs** is a not-for-profit community group that focuses on the improvement of Bishopbriggs. The group created a pop-up community garden in a town-centre car park after receiving funding in 2020 from Scotland's Towns Partnership. The group are actively looking to expand their food growing initiatives, including a space at the local library, to improve the local area and allow for more of the community to enjoy the benefits of food growing.

An orchard was also planted by **Woodhill Resident's Group** near Bishopbriggs Academy.



## Kirkintilloch Hillhead Community Garden

The community garden in Hillhead, Kirkintilloch, was set up by Hillhead Housing Association with support from the Big Lottery Fund's Community Spaces Programme. Initially a storage space, two disused plots of ground were reclaimed and developed into community growing and recreational spaces. The project now has raised beds, a large polytunnel and an orchard, as well as a space for the community to relax with seating and a growing-free area to utilise. The volunteers of the garden have dedicated time to growing a range of fruit trees, vegetables and have features to attract wildlife and improve biodiversity. There are also herb planters where members of the community are welcome to take and use for cooking.

The garden provides a valuable community space with additional benefits to improve the local environment, promote community involvement and provide activities that will reduce isolation and inequalities locally. The project has involved local primary schools, nursery schools, the Justice Service, social groups and charities, community growing groups and individual users, where they have the opportunity to utilise the garden and orchard to grow their own food and attend workshops run by volunteers. The volunteers involved share valuable skills and knowledge through workshops and community events.

**Before**



**After**



**Figure 11: Transforming Hillhead Community Garden**

**Ramekin and Rolling Pin** is a social enterprise cookery school and community kitchen. The school hosts a community garden on the grounds with raised beds and a polytunnel. All proceeds from the cookery classes go towards providing free workshops to the local community. The community kitchen also provides a space for the local community to cook low-cost meals.

The **New Roots** initiative provides hands-on learning experiences in sustainable food production with a particular goal to teach food growing and additional life skills to the neurodivergent members of our local community. The organisation provides gardening workshops, cooking classes and tailored programmes to support young adults with different abilities. A new growing site is being developed at Easter Cadder Farm near Kirkintilloch which will include an orchard and raised beds in polytunnels. New Roots intends to also utilise the site to teach people how to graft and prune fruit trees, as well as increase the overall biodiversity of the site to make it more pollinator friendly. The initiative has also recently obtained funding from the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, which allows the employment of two part-time staff members to work with local Primary and Secondary schools – Harestanes and Holy Trinity Primary schools, and secondary pupils from Woodland View and Well-being Support Centre. Some of these school projects in Kirkintilloch have created new raised bed mini gardens for students to utilise. New Roots also run other growing sites based in Twechar and Milngavie.

The **Kirkintilloch Men's Shed** was launched in 2015 and is a community based, non-commercial organisation that provides a supportive environment for its members as well as an outlet for their creativity. This group is part of a worldwide Men's Shed movement. Members of the Kirkintilloch Men's Shed have created raised garden beds that support the food growing projects of local schools and other groups throughout East Dunbartonshire, such as Baljaffray Primary School, Hillhead Nursery and the Hive Lennoxton.

## Lenzie

Volunteers with **Lenzie Community Development Trust** care for two community gardens in the settlement.

## Milngavie

**Lennox Park** hosts an orchard space with a variety of heritage fruit trees and an edible hedge. There are also a number of raised beds in the park used for food growing activities.

There is ongoing work by East Dunbartonshire Council in collaboration with **Mains Estates Residents Association (MERA)** at **Mains Estate Park**. This has led to improvements to facilities and planting within Mains Park, including the planting of bulbs and crab apple trees. Furthermore, the frequency of grass cutting in the park has been reduced to encourage the growth of wildflowers and encourage biodiversity. There will be opportunities to plant some native fruit trees, such as apple, pear and cherry as part of future tree planting.



## Milngavie in Bloom

[Milngavie in Bloom](#), an organisation of volunteers, has been undertaking floral and sustainable planting in and around Milngavie since 2008. Their work aims to bring colour to the town and includes the planting of flowers and other shrubs in raised beds and planters in order to improve spaces. Some of the projects they are involved in include:

- Large planters, railing planters and tubs in the town centre.
- Floral fountains in conjunction with Milngavie Business Improvement District (BID).
- The Fraser Centre Garden - which includes a community bed where different organisations plant up each year using flowers or vegetables.
- Antonine Garden.
- Herbs at the fish ladder along the Allander.
- Spinal Injuries garden at Clober Farm in conjunction with their own volunteers from Clober Primary School and the farm itself.
- Carers' Link garden at Milngavie Enterprise Centre.
- Improved planting at the entrance to the West Highland Way in partnership with the local Ramblers Association.
- Working with the local schools to provide advice on planting flowers, fruit and vegetables in their school areas.

Milngavie in Bloom is also part of [Keep Scotland Beautiful's Beautiful Scotland project](#) and the Allander Road Group of Milngavie in Bloom participates in the [It's Your Neighbourhood project](#). The Allander Road Group of Milngavie in Bloom received a Level 5 – *Outstanding* Certificate of Distinction for the project in 2024.



Figure 12: Flowers on West Highland Way    Figure 13: Community bed at Fraser Centre

There are other local groups such as **Milngavie Community Development Trust**, **Woodhill Residents Association** and **Friends Of** groups who are also taking part in local GYO activities.

The [New Roots](#) initiative provides hands-on learning experiences in sustainable food production with a particular goal to teach food growing and additional life skills to the neurodivergent members of our local community. The organisation provides gardening sessions tailored support young adults with different abilities. The site in Milngavie at the Allander Resource Unit contains raised beds for food growing. New Roots also run other growing sites based in Twechar and Kirkintilloch.

## Milton of Campsie

A charity in Milton of Campsie, [Silver Birch](#), provides food growing training opportunities to adults with learning disabilities. The group also run a small social enterprise garden centre where all earnings are reinvested back into the organisation.

## Torrance

The **Torrance Ornamental and Demonstration Garden** is an example of how a community growing project can provide a relaxing space that can be enjoyed by all. The garden demonstrates a variety of different planting, from trees to shrubs and flowering plants, as well as a small pond to provide a valuable habitat and attract wildlife.



Figure 14: Torrance Ornamental & Demonstration Garden

## Twechar

**Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre** and **Twechar Community Action** group are at the forefront of food growing in East Dunbartonshire with a number of different projects active within the community, collectively known as '**Edible Twechar**'.

There is now a training garden, several orchard sites around the village, including ones near Kennedy Avenue and Baird Drive, polytunnels, and several areas designated for community growing with raised beds and communal social areas. The various opportunities in Twechar are open to all and volunteers to help manage the sites are always welcome. In addition, the Centre supports apprenticeships and skills development through training opportunities and the training garden.

The [New Roots](#) initiative provides hands-on learning experiences in sustainable food production with a particular goal to teach food growing and additional life skills to the neurodivergent members of our local community. The organisation provides gardening workshops and tailored programmes to support young adults with different abilities. The growing site at Twechar is the current centre of operations for the organisation. The site hosts raised beds and a polytunnel for food growing. New Roots also runs other growing sites based in Milngavie and Kirkintilloch.



## 5.6 Food Growing at local schools

Various schools across East Dunbartonshire are also engaging in food growing activities. Many schools have raised beds on school grounds where student pupils, staff and local parent volunteers manage the space to grow a variety of crops such as potatoes, carrots and herbs. There are also a number of orchard trees, such as apples, plums and cherries, at local schools around East Dunbartonshire. Some schools make use of a successful harvest for a snack or as part of cooking and healthy eating modules.

Some local schools have tied in food growing to sensory gardens, health and sustainability focused modules and communal spaces. Many local schools have also been successful over the years in obtaining funding for to help start their food growing projects.

The following are a show case of some of the food growing projects conducted at local schools. This is not an exhaustive list, as many schools do participate in some form of food growing activities. These projects listed can be used as an example.

**Turnbull High School** took an innovative approach to starting their food growing aspirations by building a greenhouse made from 2000 litre plastic bottles. The project took a full year to complete with help from pupils, staff and community members. Pupils collected plastic bottles from home and deposited them at school; to support this, a 'bottle lotto' was held with prizes awarded for participation. The project has since progressed through the help of parents, Morrisons, B&Q and Homebase who have all offered to help to provide materials or give discounts. The project was complete and fully functional by summer 2018. The greenhouse is now used as a store and base for gardening supplies, while alternative spaces are used for growing.

The school has also planted a variety of fruit trees in 2022, including apples, pears and cherries. There are additional growing spaces on the school grounds in the form of raised beds, where school pupils and staff work together to maintain.



Figure 15: Greenhouse made of plastic bottles and planters at Turnbull High School

**Craigdhu Primary School** has recently planted a variety of fruit trees including apples, pears and plums. The trees were supplied by the Woodland Trust and planted by the local community. The school also hosts different growing spaces like raised beds and polytunnels. Volunteers from local community groups, such as Milngavie in Bloom, work closely with the school and utilise the growing spaces.



To complement the cooking kitchen within the school, which is used to teach cooking skills to pupils, **Torrance Primary School** hosts growing spaces such as raised beds and indoor spaces to grow various herbs, potatoes and onions. The growing projects are cared for by school pupils and staff, in addition to support by volunteers from the Torrance Greenspaces community group.

Horticulture has increasingly been explored at **Douglas Academy**. The Health and Food Technology department has been utilising micro leaves, such as parsley and rainbow chard, that have been grown at the school in classes. Apple juice and apple crumble has been made using self-grown apples from orchard trees at the school to celebrate the autumn apple harvest. Flower beds are also prepared for spring through the planting of both edible and decorative plants, including tulips and dahlias. The flowers grown and wildflowers sown provide a valuable habitat to attract bees. The polytunnel on site can be used to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers too. Volunteers from local community groups, such as Milngavie in Bloom, work closely with the school and utilise the growing spaces.



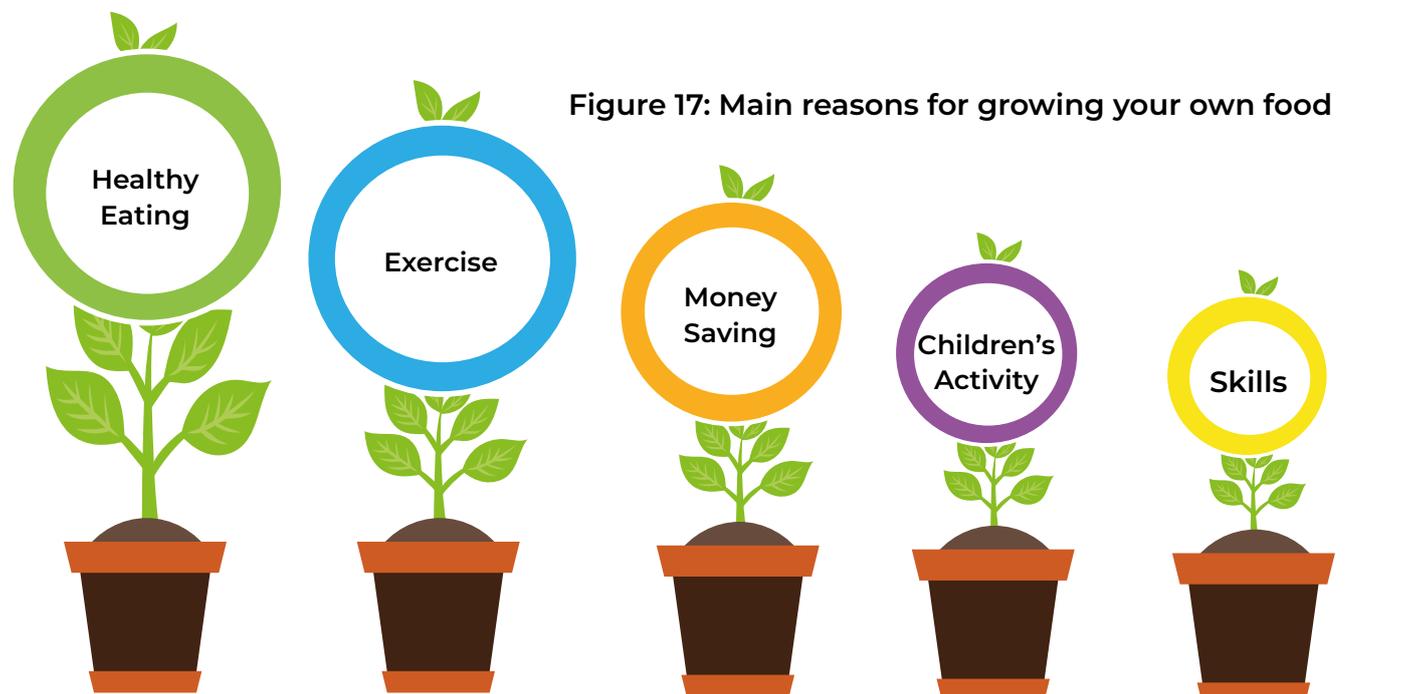
Figure 16: Plants grown at Douglas Academy

## 5.7 Growing Demand

The different projects in East Dunbartonshire and previous community consultation have demonstrated that there is a local demand for different types of food growing activities, from less formal initiatives such as growing within school grounds and orchards to larger community gardens and allotments. Local demand for allotments is also evidenced by our allotment waiting list which has been held for over fifteen years. Over the years, people have added their name to the waiting list to register their interest for a plot; many people have been successful in leasing a plot at Rosebank Allotment or Etive Park. Our approach to addressing allotment demand and the process for registering interest in leasing a plot is discussed in **Chapter 7**.



The principal reasons why people do or do not want to grow their own food were investigated as part of early engagement in 2017 and 2018. It was also noted that growing your own food as a means of healthy eating, exercise, money saving, children's activity and skills development also help to promote positive mental and physical wellbeing, enjoyment, a reduction in carbon footprint and allowed food to be cultivated that tasted better, presented a better and wider range than found at supermarkets. **Figure 17** identifies the main catalysts for 'growing your own food' in order of most to least preferred based on early engagement responses.

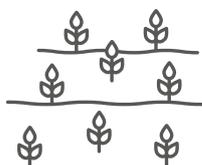


Despite current food growing opportunities, previous engagement with the public highlighted that many people would still like to have opportunities to grow more to support their families, either at home or in a communal space, but noted barriers to doing so. The following are the barriers mentioned, which supports the national data presented in greenspace scotland's survey:



### SKILLS

People report not having the necessary skill sets to set up a food growing space as well as skills relating to choosing the right plants for their space, sowing, pruning, maintenance and using the produce.



### SPACE

Having adequate space for food growing, whether its window boxes, planters, raised beds or an allotment, is limited for some. A lack of space to suit individuals' needs discourages participation.

The barriers identified in this initial engagement are expected to still be the reason people are not involved in GYO projects today and are addressed in the forthcoming Chapters and Delivery Programme.

In response to global challenges and the increasing impacts of climate change, it is anticipated that demand for local food growing is likely to grow in the future. This Strategy outlines opportunities for expansion of current food growing activity and the Delivery Programme (**Chapter 11**) includes a commitment to work with local communities to understand the local demand for food growing opportunities and identify suitable sites, where evidence supports the need to develop new food growing opportunities. While the Delivery Programme prioritises our Place Areas, it recognises that demand may also emerge elsewhere. Therefore, we will also assist communities in other areas to identify sites for food growing and provide advice on developing these where necessary.





## 6. Strategic Options and Delivery Mechanisms

There are several ways in which we intend to not only meet our legislative duties to increase local allotment provision but also support our communities to find an existing food growing opportunity or set up their own community growing project. This chapter identifies the main sites that will work towards meeting the need for food growing and explains the associated delivery mechanisms.

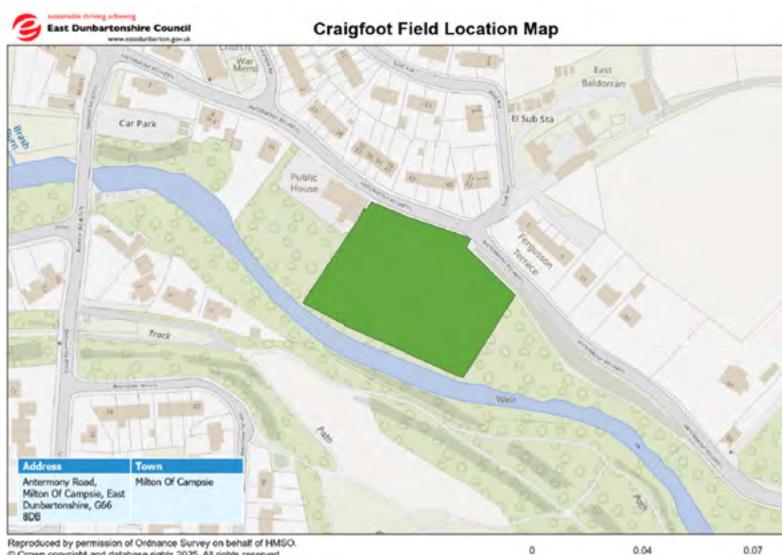
### 6.1 Identifying Strategic Site Options

#### 6.1.1 Allotments

Identification of sites suitable for allotments was initially informed by the early engagement exercises, demand for plots and plot preference based on the current allotment waiting list.

Having taken feedback from public engagement into account and assessed demand for new allotment spaces, a Council-owned allotment site has been identified for development at Craigfoot Field in Milton of Campsie (**Figure 18**). This will increase allotment provision and help to reduce the current number of people on the allotment waiting list in East Dunbartonshire. Etive Park in Bishopbriggs was also identified following the engagement but has since been delivered with plots allocated. The site at Craigfoot Field will add to the allotment capacity already provided at the Council's Rosebank Allotments in Kirkintilloch and Etive Park in Bishopbriggs. Craigfoot Field is located to provide food growing opportunities that are accessible to communities in the northern area of the Council. Further site identification will be needed for potential allotment sites in the west since there is currently no allotment provision in that area of the Council – including in Bearsden which currently has the highest number of residents from any settlement on the allotment waiting list (as of May 2025). The intention over the life of the Strategy, in addition to delivering the allotment site at Craigfoot Field, is to identify in the short term and deliver a site at Milngavie in the medium to long term, as well as identify a site in Bearsden which will be delivered in the longer term. Oakburn Park is included as a consideration as a potential allotment site, which will be dependent on feasibility studies and subject to public consultation (**Action 3**).

Our approach to developing new allotments, including our approach to meeting the demand across the different localities in East Dunbartonshire, is explained further in **Chapter 7** and relevant actions are detailed in the Delivery Programme in **Chapter 11** (see **Actions 1-4**).



\*The area shown for Craigfoot Field in this map is meant to only highlight the general location of the space relative to the surrounding area and not to give an exact outline of where the allotment spaces are planned to be developed. The border for the area will likely differ from the shape drawn once the design process is complete.

**Figure 18: Craigfoot Field Allotment location\***



## 6.1.2 Community Growing Opportunities

Other than the allotment sites identified in **section 6.1.1** above, which will be developed and managed by the Council, other community food growing opportunities will be community-led. While support will be provided to groups to identify and develop sites to enable local food growing, responsibility for their development and ongoing management and maintenance will rest with the community group.

However, there are some Council owned projects that plan to incorporate food growing opportunities. The Council is currently looking to include food growing as part of the Station Park Lennoxton Greenspace Project. This project would include an enclosed, secure community growing space for local organisations to utilise and would enable restoration and re-use of public land that is currently underused. The community growing space would include raised bed planters, a polytunnel, composter and additional amenities. With there being a long-standing demand for food growing spaces in Lennoxton, this project will help provide the desired opportunities for food growing (**Action 19**).

Potential sites for local community food growing were also identified as part of the site assessments in the initial draft Strategy but, given the very limited interest in this type of food growing across East Dunbartonshire as a whole, as evidenced from the draft Strategy consultation, these have not been carried through to the final Strategy. However, **Action 21**, as well as a number of other supporting actions, in the Delivery Programme (see **Chapter 11**) will support development of such sites where demand arises. Local groups will be expected to ensure that the local community is involved in the process of identifying sites and the Council will support development of sites of an appropriate scale and in a suitable location.

The Scottish Government's 'Allotments – Further Guidance for Local Authorities' (June 2018) states that "*local authorities should incorporate growing spaces in all planning briefs for regeneration and new developments, preserving sufficient good quality land to satisfy current and future demand*". Accordingly, where local demand for food growing is evident which cannot be satisfied through existing or planned allotment provision set out in this Strategy, the emerging Local Development Plan 3 will support the promotion of food growing and take into account the requirements of Locality Plans, including food growing as a Key Requirement for new development sites, where relevant. **Action 16** in the Delivery Programme sets out this requirement.

### 6.1.3 Locality Plans and Place Areas

The legislation requires the authority to describe whether and how it is intended to increase the provision of land for food growing in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage. The issue of health inequalities has been given strong emphasis through our Place Planning process, and an important priority of the Food Growing Strategy is to promote grow-your-own initiatives to support healthier, more active lifestyles and reduce physical and mental health and wellbeing inequalities. Identifying community growing opportunities in our Place Areas – Auchinairn, Hillhead and Harestanes, Lennoxton and Twechar – is therefore an integral part of the Food Growing Strategy.

Twechar is home to a number of community growing projects including a training garden and orchards around the village. Many members of the community volunteer to maintain the spaces as well as providing opportunities for individuals to receive formal horticultural training and skills development. No requirement for additional food growing space has been identified but continued support for these established projects and any potential new projects is important.

The community garden in Hillhead also offers opportunities for volunteers to get involved in food growing at a local level and contributes to supporting food growing activities and related skills development to local primary schools. Continued support for this established project, including linking in with funding where available and building capacity with volunteers is important.

Whilst Hillhead and Twechar host community growing opportunities, there are limited opportunities to get involved in food growing within Lennoxton and Auchinairn. As such, East Dunbartonshire Council is committed to working with our local communities in these areas through community planning to identify spaces and take forward community food growing projects, where demand is evidenced.

In Auchinairn, a priority of this Strategy is to work with the community in Auchinairn to identify a suitable site for community food growing (**Action 18**).

In Lennoxton, the delivery of the community growing space as part of the Station Park Lennoxton Greenspace Project will help work towards meeting the food growing demand in the settlement (**Action 19**). Additional information on the regeneration project can be found in **section 6.1.2**. It is still a priority of the Strategy to work with the community to identify further suitable sites for community food growing, where demand is evidenced.

### 6.1.4 New Schools

The development of new schools and Early Years Centres in East Dunbartonshire provides a good opportunity to consider food growing opportunities on site to be used by school pupils, teachers and parents. The Council will consider integrating on-site food growing opportunities for all new schools and Early Years Centres where demand is recognised.



## 6.2 Delivery Mechanisms

### 6.2.1 Allotments

It is intended that two allotment sites – Craigfoot Field in Milton of Campsie and a site to be identified in the short term in Milngavie, with delivery in the medium to long term – will be developed by the Council in line with the planned outcomes and timescales set by the Food Growing Strategy. A third site in Bearsden will also be identified in the short to medium term, through feasibility studies and public consultation, but delivery will be taken forward in the longer term. Some further investigation will be required to determine the need for any appropriate remedial measures or mitigation for identified land constraints at these sites before progressing to design and construction stages. This will be done in line with the procedures set out in **Chapter 7**. The actions set out in the Delivery Programme in **Chapter 11** will also support the delivery of new allotments over the life of the Strategy; the box below sets out some of the key actions proposed in the Delivery Programme.

#### We will...

1. Work with the community as part of the preparatory and development stages of any new Council allotment sites (**Actions 1 - 4**).
2. Work towards meeting the demand for allotments, in partnership with local community groups (**Action 1**).
3. Encourage and support the establishment of Allotment Associations in order to give community groups more ownership of their growing space (**Action 6**).
4. Support community-led allotments and continue to encourage communities to be empowered to find additional sites suitable for allotments in the future (**Action 6**).
5. Promote food growing as part of the emerging Local Development Plan 3 (**Action 16**).
6. Review our allotment regulations on a regular basis to better reflect present day best practices, while still being in alignment with the requirements of the Act (**Action 5**).



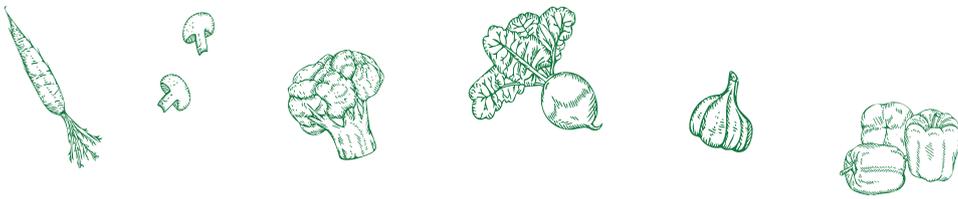
## 6.2.2 Community Growing Spaces

Community groups are encouraged to consider what spaces in their local community, particularly those that are underused or derelict, could be upgraded to support a GYO project. East Dunbartonshire Council welcome communities and individuals to identify areas they wish to use. A number of actions are set out in the Delivery Programme in **Chapter 11** are in relation to other community growing spaces. Some of the key actions proposed in the Delivery Programme are set out below.

### We will...

1. Support food growing projects where appropriate by assisting with identifying potential funding, guidance on governance and best practices for social enterprises, charities and/or non-profit community growing groups (**Action 11**).
2. Provide advice and support in local communities to identify potential sites for community food growing opportunities (**Action 21**).
3. Share information, promote local and national food growing campaigns and promote advice on our website (**Action 29**).
4. Work with local communities and individuals our Place Areas to understand the local demand for food growing opportunities and to identify appropriate sites, where demand is evidenced (**Actions 13, 18, 19 & 20**).
5. Establish baseline information of active growing groups and individuals and signpost to growing projects. Promote existing growing projects for those interested in joining a GYO project (**Action 15**).





## 7. Allotments

While the Council is committed to encouraging and supporting community-led food growing opportunities, as explained in **Chapter 8**, the Council must also take reasonable steps to increase allotment provision. Delivering additional allotment sites over the next 5 years will significantly contribute to reducing the number of people on the allotment waiting list, and therefore demonstrate reasonable steps towards meeting the requirements of the Act. As stated in Part 9 Section 112 of the Act, a local authority must take reasonable steps 'to ensure that the number of persons entered in the [allotment waiting] list... is no more than one half of the total number of allotments owned and leased by the authority, and that a person entered in the list does not remain in the list for a continuous period of more than 5 years'.

Identifying new sites has been informed by the current waiting list demand by settlement (See **Appendix 3 – Quantification Report**). Of those on the waiting list, 56% reside in settlements in the east and 44% in the west of the local authority. We will see the development of at least two new allotment sites in East Dunbartonshire over the life of the Strategy, along with the identification of a third site which will be developed after the life of this Strategy. The confirmed site is at Craigfoot Field in Milton of Campsie and is expected to be delivered in the short to medium term (**Action 2**). An additional site in Milngavie will need to be identified in the short term, through feasibility studies and public consultation, and delivered in the medium to long term (**Action 3**). Feasibility work and public consultation will also be carried out to identify potential options for a further allotment site in Bearsden in the short to medium term, with delivery anticipated in the longer term (**Action 4**).

**Table 1** sets out the current and expected allotment sites over the course of this Strategy. Further detail on current allotment demand, site identification and delivery are set out in the corresponding sections below. There is a need to identify additional sites, particularly in the west where there are currently no formal allotment sites. Potential sites will formally be identified after feasibility studies and a public consultation is conducted.

**Table 1 - Current and expected allotment provision over the life of the Food Growing Strategy**

Allotment Site	Status
Rosebank Allotments - Kirkintilloch	Existing site
Etive Park Allotments - Bishopbriggs	Delivered, plots allocated in 2025
Craigfoot Field – Milton of Campsie (Action 2)	To be delivered in the short to medium term.
Allotment site in Milngavie (Action 3)	To be identified in the short term. Delivery expected in the medium to long term.
Allotment site in Bearsden (Action 4)	To be identified in the short to medium term. Delivery to be in the long term.

## 7.1 Local allotment plot allocation and demand

Rosebank Allotment in Hillhead and Etive Park in Bishopbriggs are East Dunbartonshire's only two formal Council-owned allotment sites. Rosebank Allotment was introduced in 2009 as a joint project between East Dunbartonshire Council's Streetscene Technical Support Team and Social Care, although it is now managed solely by Streetscene Technical Support. It hosts 43 mixed-sized plots leased to local residents. Plots at Etive Park were allocated in 2025 and the site hosts 33 plots as part of the Climate Ready Park project.

East Dunbartonshire Council holds a central allotment waiting list for people to register their interest in a plot. As plots become available those entered on the list will be asked if they would like a plot. To help manage the demand for allotment sites, the Council approved new allotment regulations and a waiting list matrix in January of 2025. The primary reason for the introduction of new Allotment Regulations was to create a Council-wide policy in the use and maintenance of allotments. The previous set of regulations, known as the Constitution and Rules for Rosebank Allotments, only set out the framework for that specific site. With the allotments at Etive Park being allocated in 2025, it was evidenced that a new set of regulations was needed to cover all sites. Any newly developed allotment site will follow the requirements set out in the new Allotment Regulations. The regulations are expected to be reviewed on a regular basis (every three years) and revised as necessary to stay up to date with current food growing outlooks and best practices (**Action 5**).

A new waiting list matrix was proposed and approved in January of 2025. The matrix provides a rank order in which residents are prioritised in the assignment of a Council led allotment. The methodology uses a combination of distance and time spent on the waiting list as the main drivers for assigning residents on the waiting list an allotment. It assigns a greater weighting to those residents who are located closest to the allotment site or who have spent the longest time on the waiting list. An example of plot allocation using the waiting list matrix can be found in **Appendix H**.



It might be that people remain on the waiting list for extended periods of time if plots are full until new sites are created, but the Council will take reasonable steps to ensure that a person entered in the list does not remain in the list for a continuous period of more than 5 years. Parallel growing activities, including the community growing initiatives set out in **Chapter 5**, can be considered by those on the waiting list as alternative options for growing until plots are available.

Understanding the current demand for allotments in East Dunbartonshire, as demonstrated by the allotment waiting list, is essential to ensuring adequate provision throughout the life of the Strategy. We will strive to meet as much of the current demand as is reasonably possible during this period while continuing to work towards fully meeting demand beyond the Strategy's timeframe. As of 5 May 2025, the existing number of plots is 76 and the number of people on the waiting list is 267.

Waiting list members were asked to provide their plot size preference when submitting an allotment application. From the current allotment waiting list (as of May 2025), about 55% would either prefer a quarter sized plot or have no preference in plot size (See **Appendix 3 – Quantification Report**). Approximately 27% of those on the waiting list would prefer a full-sized plot and 18% would prefer a half-sized plot. The preference for a smaller sized plot has grown in recent years. A survey was sent to waiting list members in 2022 enquiring about preferred plot sizes. The results from that survey showed that only 34% of respondents would prefer a quarter size plot or had no preference in plot size. The current plot size preference will help inform potential site identification as well as design for identified sites.



If you wish to register your name on the Allotment Waiting List please contact [greenspace@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:greenspace@eastdunbarton.gov.uk) or visit the [Council's website](#)

## 7.2 Addressing the Demand for Allotments

There are currently 267 people on the waiting list (as of May 2025) who wish to lease a plot. Local authorities have a duty under Part 9 Section 112 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to *'take reasonable steps to ensure that the number of persons entered in the list...is no more than one half of the total number of allotments owned and leased by the authority, and that a person entered in the list does not remain in the list for a continuous period of more than 5 years'*. Taking into consideration the current waiting list demand (as of May 2025), East Dunbartonshire would need 230 plots to meet the requirements. This plot requirement is likely to change as plots are assigned or more people join the waiting list. The required number of plots is currently not met with existing allotment provision locally at Rosebank Allotments and Etive Park. Therefore, new allotments sites will need to be delivered to work towards meeting the demand evidenced by the current waiting list.

Craigfoot Field in Milton of Campsie has been prioritised for development as a new allotment site. The site has been assessed suitability including accessibility, although further work will be required including soil analysis and a detailed design. The intention is to deliver the allotment site during the short to medium term (**Action 2**).

Delivery of Craigfoot Field in Milton of Campsie for allotments has been ongoing. The local community has been consulted on the proposal and given their feedback for the site which has informed initial designs. Discussions around the updated site design are still ongoing. Despite the constraints on site, such as limited access from the main road and the site's topography, it is anticipated that at least 21 plots could be provided through the development of Craigfoot Field.

With the delivery of Craigfoot Field, together with the existing plots at Rosebank Allotment and Etive Park, an estimated total of 97 plots would be available for public use in the authority area. Assuming that all plots on the existing sites at Rosebank Allotment and Etive Park are already allocated, delivery of the Milton of Campsie site would only reduce the waiting list by 21.

Analysis of the current allotment waiting list numbers and the potential number of plots that could be delivered at each site, in addition to the plots available at Rosebank Allotment and Etive Park, has determined that new allotment provision at Craigfoot Field will not be adequate to meet the legislative requirements based on the current waiting list (as of May 2025).

**Actions 1-4** in the Delivery Programme identifies the need to identify more allotment sites throughout East Dunbartonshire to accommodate the growth in waiting list numbers. Adequate flexibility is provided to accommodate increased demand for allotments over the lifetime of the Strategy.



### 7.3 Further Delivery of Allotments

To work towards the requirements set out in Part 9 Section 112 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, additional allotment sites, not including the site already identified at Craigfoot Field, will need to be identified.

To address the need for additional allotments it is intended that a new site will be also delivered in Milngavie (**Action 3**) area during the life of this Strategy, in addition to Craigfoot Field in Milton of Campsie (**section 7.2**).

One option as a potential allotment site in Milngavie is Oakburn Park, although not officially identified as a potential site. The identification of Oakburn Park as a potential allotment site is subject to feasibility studies and consultation with the public and will be investigated as part of **Action 3** in the Delivery Programme. Due to this, it is unknown how many plots could be estimated without the site being formally identified as a potential site. However, it is expected that the additional provision of sites will demonstrate steps towards accommodating the current allotment waiting list. The size of the blaes pitch at Oakburn Park is approximately 5% larger than the allotment site at Etive Park. Due to this, it can be estimated that Oakburn Park could provide about 33 allotment plots if determined as a potential site from feasibility studies and public consultation, similar to that Etive Park.

The number of plots anticipated for the delivery of allotments in Milngavie is unknown at this stage due to a potential site yet to be identified. However, if Oakburn Park is identified as a potential site as described above, after feasibility studies and public consultation, it can be estimated that the number of mixed-size plots will be about 33 based on the size of the area compared to the existing allotment site at Etive Park.

With the delivery of Craigfoot Field and the Milngavie site together, in addition to the existing plots at Rosebank Allotment and Etive Park, an estimated total of 130 plots would be available for public use over the life of the Strategy in the authority area. This total number of plots alone will not provide adequate provision, so additional sites will be identified as part of the Strategy, with a particular focus on the Bearsden area since this settlement currently has the greatest number of people on the waiting list (**Action 4**). The identified site in Bearsden would not be expected to be delivered until the longer term. Identification of any additional sites would show steps towards meeting the duty under Part 9 Section 112 of the Act (**Action 1**). However, further sites will likely need to be found beyond those specifically mentioned to fully meet the demand on the waiting list, dependent on how many spaces become available in community led growing spaces over the next few years (see **section 7.4**).

The provision of the proposed delivery or identification of allotment sites will be delivered by a phased approach but the timescales for this, as outlined in **Table 1** above, are dependent on the availability of resources – including staff capacity and further site investigation – that will be needed for each site to address any potential site constraints.

In keeping with the nature of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, we will continue to work with local communities to ensure that the delivery of projects at these sites is carried out with community support and involvement.



## 7.4 Alternative Growing Options

Those on the waiting list wishing to lease an allotment for food growing have the alternative option of community growing spaces while they wait for the delivery of new sites and plot allocation. Community growing sites have the potential to provide the type of food growing those individuals on the waiting list intended to get from an allotment plot. Empowered individuals within a community can lead to the delivery of food growing opportunities in response to local need and demand. Action 21 in the Delivery Programme highlights how the Council intends to provide advice and support in local communities to identify potential sites for community food growing opportunities. Chapters 8 & 9 set out the steps needed and resources available to groups and individuals wishing to start their own community growing initiatives. Chapter 5 explores various community growing initiatives around East Dunbartonshire that individuals may want to be a part of.

## 7.5 Procedure for Identifying and Delivering Allotments

**Figure 19** outlines the procedure that will be undertaken when determining site suitability and getting agreement for the use and development of land for Council-led allotments for both of the proposed new sites and any future sites.



## 7.6 Allotment Management

For Council-leased or -owned allotment sites, the overall responsibility and management of the site and its waiting list lies with the local authority. However, Section 123 Delegation of management of allotment sites in the Act presents the opportunity for a person or group, usually an Allotment Association, to make a request in writing to the local authority to delegate certain functions and notices under Part 9 of the Act. These are:

- Request to lease allotment (Section 109(7))
- Duty to maintain list (Section 111(1))
- Display and copies of allotment site regulations (Section 116 (9) and (10))
- Promotion and use of allotments: expenditure (Section 124)
- Notice of termination of lease of allotment or allotment site (Section 126 (1))
- Notice of resumption (Section 127(2)(b))
- Notice of termination: sublease by local authority (Section 128(2)).

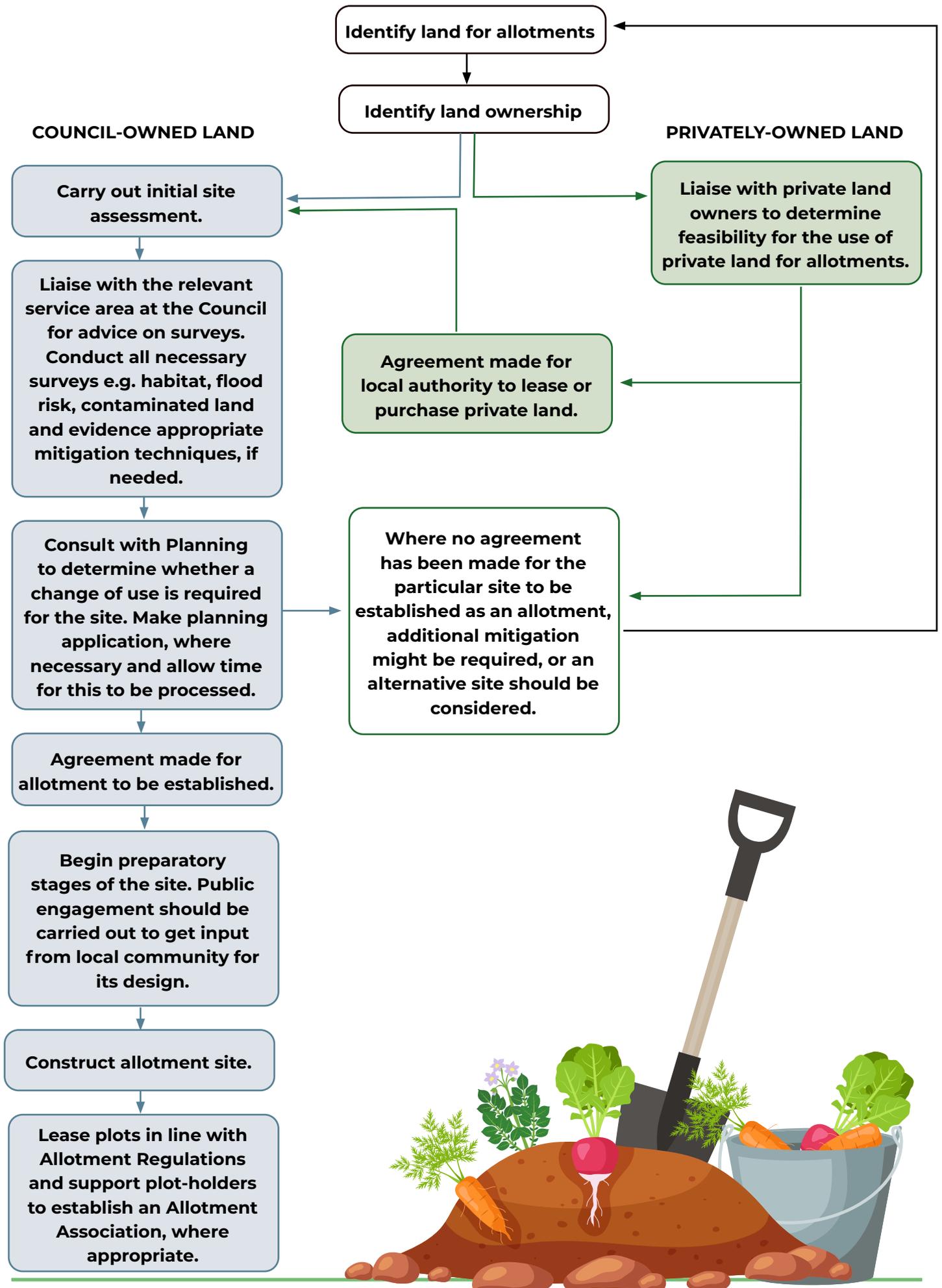
Where requests are made, the Council will consider the application on its merit to determine whether the proposal for delegation fulfils the obligations relating to each function in the Act. In the case of an agreement to delegate functions to a community body, a revised lease of terms and responsibilities will need to be put in place. However, the Council may recall the delegation if delegated functions are not being satisfactorily carried out or there is a material disagreement between the local authority and delegated body.

Plot holders are responsible maintaining and keeping their plot in good condition. Additionally, any communal areas within the allotment site will be maintained jointly by all the plot holders – including pathways between allotment plots. Tenants will be responsible for maintaining their own allotment plot and area around each allotment plot (See **Appendix G**). The Council will provide certain provisions at Council managed allotment sites for plot holders. These provisions include:

- A growing space - varying in plot size
- Topsoil/compost
- Compost areas
- Tool storage area
- Water supply
- Secure fencing with padlock
- Polytunnel or Polygrub
- Seating and/or picnic tables
- Noticeboard
- Allotment Regulations
- Skip twice a year



Figure 19: Procedure for identifying and developing Council-led allotments





## 8. Getting Involved in Community Growing

In addition to Council-led allotments to meet the duties of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Council supports community-led food growing opportunities. The Council recognises the importance of community empowerment for encouraging greater participation in local issues and provision as a way of improving the quality of life within communities. Empowered individuals within a community can lead to the delivery of food growing opportunities in response to local need and demand.

In order to give all individuals and communities fair and accessible opportunities to begin their own food growing journey, a process has been developed to support evolving aspirations for food growing (see **section 8.5**). The procedures address a number of key issues relating to land use that should be considered at the outset of any project proposal. The procedure is applicable to all types of food growing including allotments. **Chapter 9** explores the various support mechanisms and resources that are available to help people start or join a GYO project.

### 8.1 Legal Rights to Use or Own Land

#### 8.1.1 Asset Transfers

Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introduced a right for community bodies to make [Asset Transfer Requests](#) to local authorities, Scottish Ministers and a range of public bodies. This involves a process which, with agreement, transfers such land to a community transfer body, defined in Section 77 of the Act as a community-controlled body or a body designated by the Scottish Ministers. The public authorities must transparently assess requests against a specified list of criteria, laid out in the Act, and agree the request unless there are reasonable grounds for refusal.

#### 8.1.2 Community Rights to Buy Land

Everyone has the right to buy land, where there is a willing seller, as stated in Part 2 of the [Land Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2003](#) and the updates in the [Act](#). These legal provisions help to support communities to access land by giving them the opportunity to register a community interest in land, which gives them the first option to buy when land is offered for sale. This applies to both land in Council ownership and [private ownership](#). This initiative can assist in helping community groups to identify land suitable for their own food growing project where an Asset Transfer or lease is not feasible.



### 8.1.3 Community Right to Buy Abandoned or Neglected Land

Under Part 4 of the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#), community bodies are entitled to make an application to buy land that is abandoned, neglected or causing harm to the environmental wellbeing of the community. Successful applications to buy such land must demonstrate how the purchase and future use of the land will promote sustainable development that would otherwise not be met if the existing land owner continued to own the land and how this will provide community benefits. Where appropriate, a community might identify abandoned or neglected land with potential suitability to be transformed into a community food growing asset.

Like community rights to buy land and asset transfers, provisions to buy abandoned or neglected land is a step forward in ensuring that community groups have better opportunities to access land for food growing and, given that having a space to grow in East Dunbartonshire has been identified as a barrier for many people, options to access land through lease or purchase is pivotal for encouraging more people to get involved in community growing projects.

## 8.2 Planning Considerations

### 8.2.1 Permitted Development Rights

In November 2019, the Scottish Government conducted a consultation to review whether 'permitted development rights' could be extended to allow allotments and community growing schemes to proceed without the need for [planning permission](#). The outcome of this review was published in 2024 and has not yet resulted in any specific extension of permitted development rights for allotments and [community growing schemes](#).

While growing food itself does not require planning permission, it is important to note that structures such as sheds, greenhouses and polytunnels may require permission. **It is essential that groups wishing to set up their own community growing space engage with the Council at an early stage to determine any key issues relating to land use.** The Council's Development Management Team can provide pre application advice to ensure that the full proposals are understood at the early stages of the project. A guidance note for the pre application advice service can be found on the Council's website. For those seeking brief verbal advice over the phone, the Development Management Team offers a Planning Duty service, which can be accessed by calling 0300 123 4510.

## 8.3 Key Issues

**Figure 20** sets out the key issues that should be considered when assessing how suitable a site is for GYO projects. This will help to identify and eliminate any potential constraints from the outset. In turn, this proactive consideration of potential issues will strengthen the case being made in each Asset Transfer Request.

Having an understanding and clear vision for the intended use of the site will determine the types of assessments needed. The needs of the group should be considered and the most appropriate type of growing space determined based on skills, area and the characteristics of the land available. Before making a request to use the land it is important to identify the land owner – is the land owned by the Council or a private owner? The process required for getting permission to use the land will be dependent on ownership. When considering longevity of the project and to ensure that the growing initiative is sustainable and enduring, it is important to also take account of who and how the site will be managed.

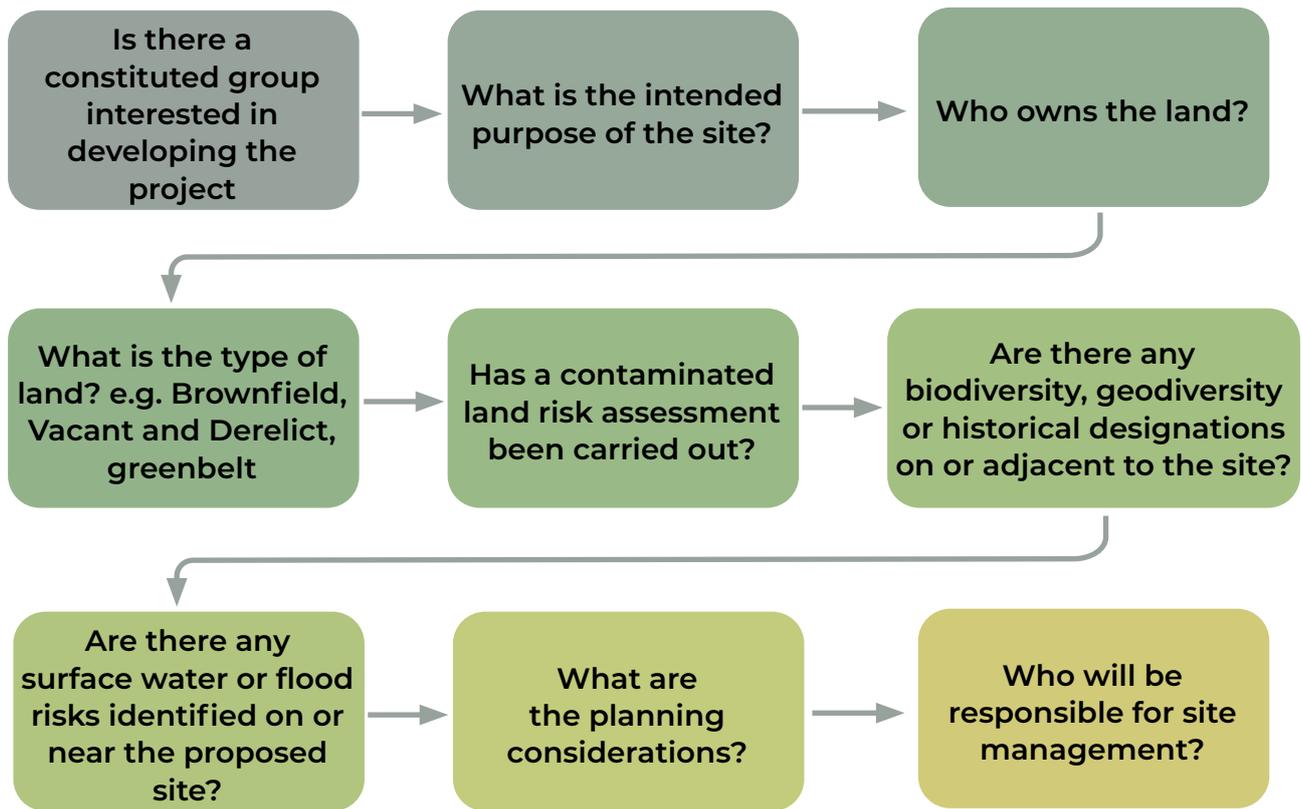


Figure 20: Key Issues



### Urban Space and Vacant and Derelict Land

East Dunbartonshire has just over 973 hectares of urban open space, of which 458 hectares are public parks and gardens. Some of this open space could be used for community growing or allotment sites if suitability is demonstrated with no or minimal impacts to the natural and built heritage designations and the green network, and their use doesn't result in the removal of open space provision that would lead to the settlement falling below the minimum open space requirement. There are a number of underused spaces in East Dunbartonshire including brownfield and vacant and derelict land. According to the 2024 Vacant and [Derelict Land Survey](#), there is about 65 hectares of vacant and derelict land sites across East Dunbartonshire. These sites could have the potential to be upgraded.

## Contaminated Land

At the inception stages of a proposed GYO initiative, it is important to liaise with the Council's Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) to establish if there is a possibility that the previous use of the site could indicate plausible levels of contamination on the site.

East Dunbartonshire's industrial history was concentrated along the main watercourses which were hubs as either a source of power or a transport route, as was the case for the Forth and Clyde Canal. During and following the Second World War, the main uses of land included mining for coal, limestone, metalliferous minerals and ironstone, textiles, bleaching, dyeing and calico printing, and light engineering. As a result of these activities, a number of sand and gravel pits have been left, although most have been infilled with material, including waste materials, for example.

Past mining and industrial activities may result in the presence of toxic minerals and heavy metals in the soil and water system, many of which can persist for many years after the activities have ended or the minerals are removed. This, in turn, increases the risk of those growing food being subjected to potentially higher levels of exposure to contaminants where they exist through skin contact with contaminated soil and inhalation of soil and dust. If produce is grown in contaminated soil, the contaminants can be absorbed and can ultimately make their way into the food system and harm people through ingestion. The surrounding water environment may also be affected as a result of leaching contaminants. The Grow Your Own Working Group's '[Guide for growing on land which may be contaminated](#)' is a useful resource for understanding the type of contaminants and their effects as well as options for dealing with contaminated land issues. The Scottish Government has also released information on food growing on potential contaminated land in the [allotments statutory guidance](#).

In order to determine the feasibility of a site for food growing activity, an environmental risk assessment should be undertaken. The EPO will be able to offer advice and provide additional support, where appropriate. It is likely that, as part of duties set out in Part IIA of the [Environmental Protection Act 1990](#), the Council may also hold sufficient information regarding ground condition and the contamination levels in the local area, and where such information is required to an Environmental Information Request (EIR) can be made to the Council to obtain such information.

The flowchart (**Figure 21**) demonstrates the processes relating to evaluating the presence of contaminated land that any individual or group should consider.



## **Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Historical Assets**

The presence of biodiversity or geodiversity designations, valuable habitats or historical assets should be identified when initial investigations of the site are undertaken. Proposals should seek advice from the Council or other organisations such as Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES). Whilst the presence of biodiversity, geodiversity and historical assets does not mean that food growing activities cannot take place, proposals will need to demonstrate that use of the site will not result in negative effects. Consideration should be given to the total area being used, the type of growing and the use of appropriate mitigation.

## **Flooding**

Growing produce in an area at flood risk, from all sources including river and surface water, can pose issues for users that will be using the site and adversely affect site infrastructure. The spread of contaminants, if present, can ruin the produce grown on site. Flood risk may also have an impact on existing or proposed drainage for the site and in the area, as well as possible risks of exacerbating or transferring flood or drainage risks to neighbouring areas. It is advisable to engage with SEPA and the Council to get a better understanding of flood risk at any proposed site being considered for food growing. It is likely that where some flooding is identified, an assessment on flood risk will be required and approved by SEPA and the Council.

Whilst flooding poses a risk to the use of a site, using a site for food growing is considered a lower risk and, in some cases, the right approach. Open and recreational grounds can be allowed to flood in times of extreme weather events to minimise flood risk to more vulnerable areas in the catchment.

## **Planning Considerations**

Having an understanding of the planning implications for a new GYO site is a vital consideration. It is imperative that early engagement is undertaken with the Council's Development Management Team who can advise on the relevant planning requirements, consent and advice in relation to the proposed site. Planning consent may be required for a number of reasons, including:

- Change of use,
- Proposals within a designated area, for example Garden and Designed Landscapes, Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Conservation Areas; and,
- Implementing structures on the site, such as sheds, polytunnels, greenhouses, outbuildings, fencing and parking.

There may also be other land use constraints for any potential food growing site. Notably, the [use or disposal of 'common good' land](#) or properties can be restricted by conditions imposed by those who gifted or sold the land or property. Similarly, land titles may impose burdens as to its use. Both of these factors will need to be considered and investigated further before permission is given to prospective users. In some cases, court action will be required in order to reach a decision regarding use or purchase land with common good titles or burdens.

It should be noted that the Scottish Government intends to review the planning requirements for allotments and whether permitted development rights should be extended in relation to them.

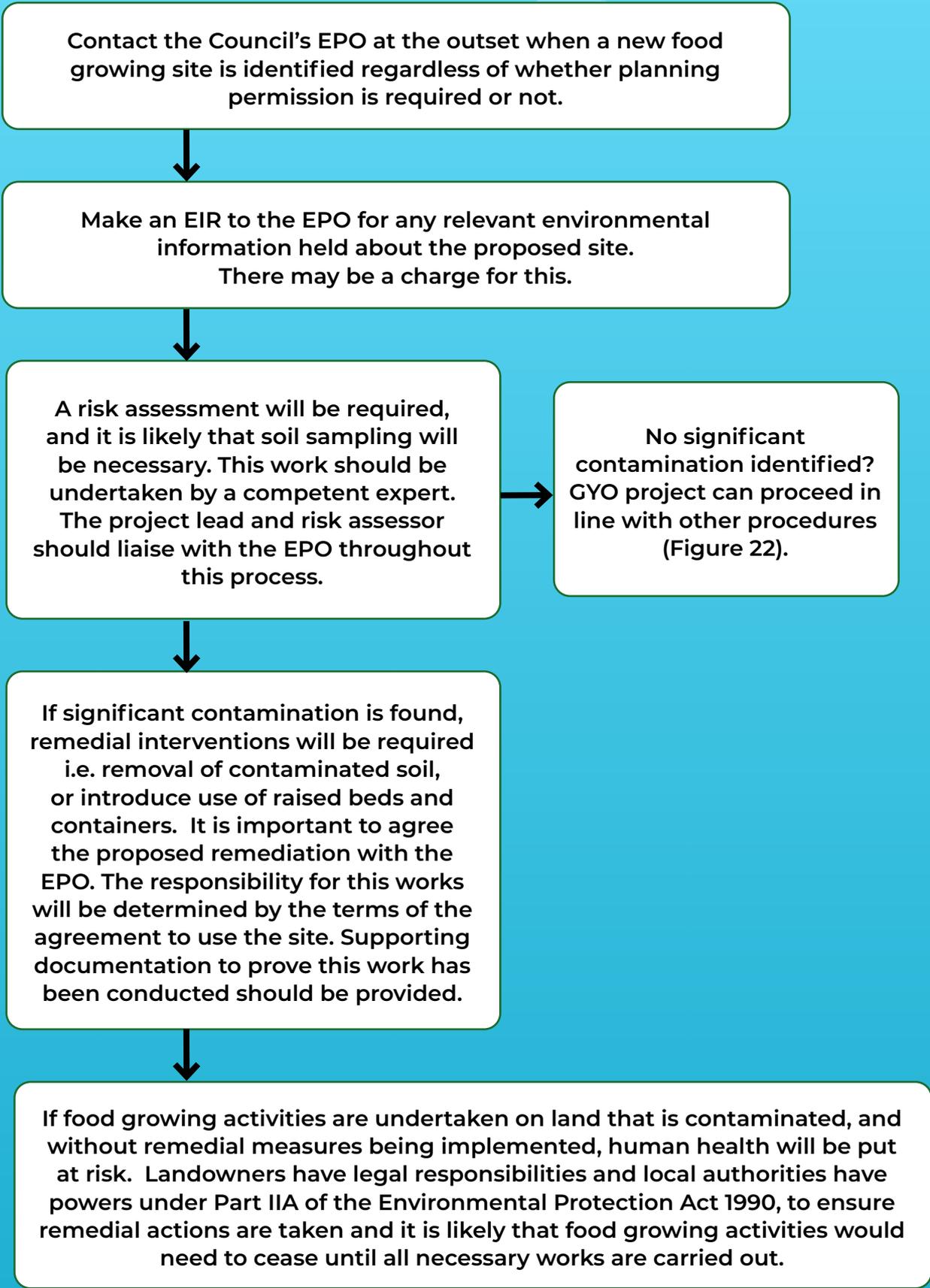


Figure 21: Contaminated land evaluation process

## 8.4 Setting Up or Finding a Community Group

Identifying a community group interested in taking on the food growing project is vital to ensuring buy-in to the project and demonstrating a long-term commitment to a sustainable and flourishing community initiative. Existing groups, such as Community Councils, might want to adapt to become a food growing group, or new groups can be established. Potential set-ups include, but are not limited to, In Bloom groups and community development trusts.

In order to maximise benefits and attract funding to support the development and management of a food growing project, groups should consider what their overall vision and aspirations are, taking into account how they will utilise a new project to support factors such as employability, sustainability, and health and wellbeing. Where possible, groups should also consider how they will be able to support marginalised groups, including those living within East Dunbartonshire's Place Areas as identified with the [Scottish index of multiple deprivation 2020](#).

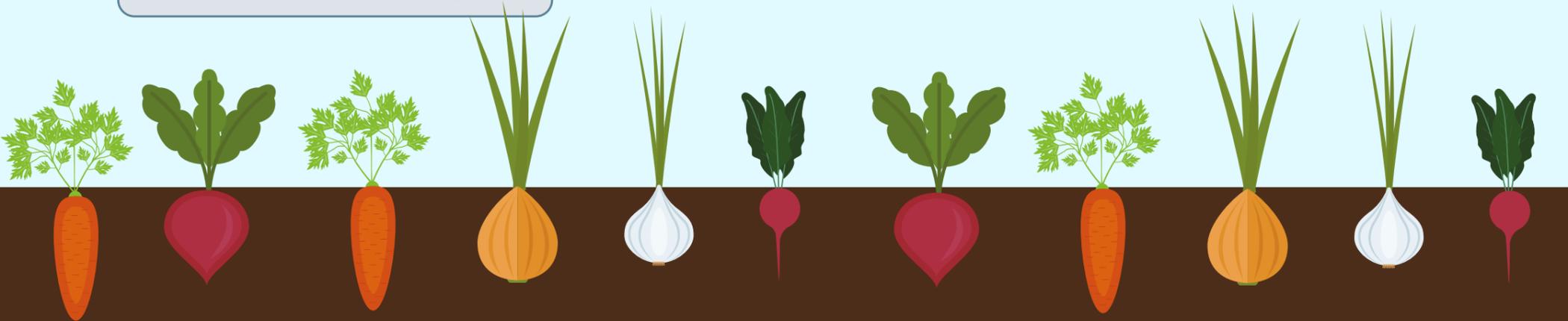
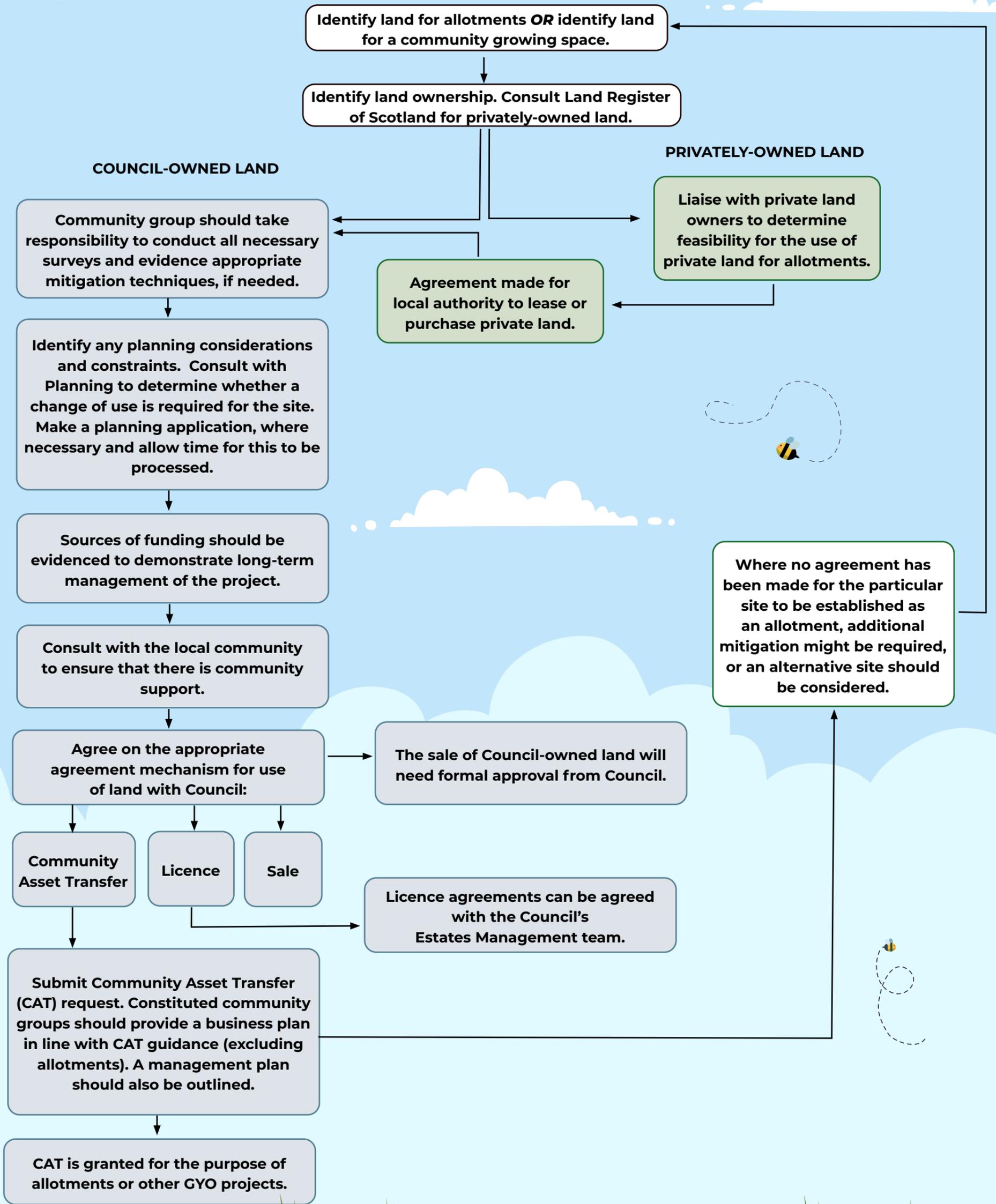
There are also current community growing projects in East Dunbartonshire, as described in **Chapter 5**, which might benefit from new volunteers.

## 8.5 Procedures

Based on the considerations described above, **Figure 22** sets out the process that should be followed by individuals and community groups wishing to start their own growing initiative. The Council has used a similar process to plan the delivery of its own allotment projects, set out in **Chapter 7**.



Figure 22: Procedure for identifying and delivering community-led food growing projects



## 8.6 Management of Sites

### 8.6.1 Allotments

Privately-owned allotment sites will be managed by a delegated person or body who owns or leases the land with agreement from the land owner.

For Council-leased or –owned allotment sites, the management can be delegated to a community body. This is explained in **Chapter 7**.

### 8.6.2 Other Community Growing

Unlike Council-owned allotments, it is expected that other community growing opportunities will be managed by the community group responsible for the site. An appropriate management plan will need to be produced in line with the procedures set out above to demonstrate commitment to the site in the long-term.

## 8.7 Sustainability

For all existing or new food growing sites, the wider potential environmental impacts arising from their design, construction, use and management should be carefully considered to mitigate any adverse effects, including:

- Limiting waste through construction practices and resource use both in the construction and operational phases of the site;
- Sourcing of sustainable resources, for example using pallets, repurposing containers for water catchment systems and old barrels for container growing;
- Preventing the misuse or overuse of chemicals on site;
- Implementing sustainable growing practices e.g. organic and no-till methods;
- Innovative approaches to water capture; and,
- Encouraging access to the site by sustainable means of travel, including active travel.

Proposals for new food growing sites should incorporate sustainability considerations, including whether the use and management of the site will allow for a successful community project in the long-term. Site investigations and surveys will give an indication as to the most suitable practices and interventions that might be needed to ensure that the sites are developed and managed as sustainably as possible in order to contribute to the wider benefits of food growing.



## 8.8 More than Profit

The meaning of 'allotment' set out in [the Act](#) restricts the sale of surplus produce for any purposes otherwise than with a view to making a profit. However, allotment associations and other community growers may wish to consider options to sell surplus produce to the local community on a not-for-profit basis whereby any income generated from the sale of produce is reinvested back into the community or food growing project and not for the purposes of trade or business. This will demonstrate a more than profit approach which will provide a number of other benefits to the growers, the site and the local community that is not solely focussed on the financial return.

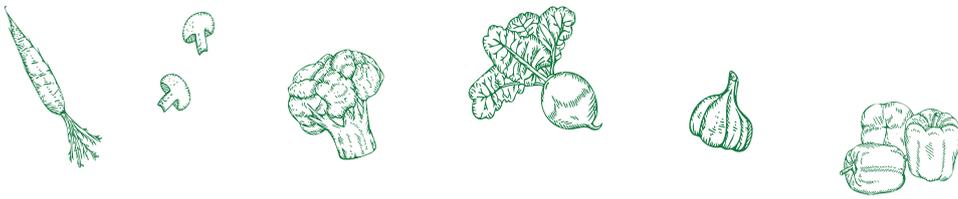
Exploring options, such as the establishment of a social enterprise or market garden, could help to achieve a group's aspirations for a more than profit food growing initiative. Groups wishing to explore social enterprise or market garden options for their food growing project should first consult with the Council's The Business Support Team about their proposals to get advice on the most suitable model to run their enterprise.

## 8.9 Community Engagement and Empowerment

The Council is committed to ensuring that as many people as possible are given the chance to engage in food growing activities, through public engagement activities and by having the knowledge of existing community growing initiatives across East Dunbartonshire.

The information shared in this Strategy should provide inspiration for communities to become empowered to realise their own aspirations for food growing at a local level. By engaging fully with the community, whether for supporting new food growing spaces or sharing expertise and training opportunities, a more robust network of community growers is likely to be created and will lead to projects being sustained in the long term. Community groups might also use their own methods of engaging with the wider community in relation to idea sharing and project development as a way of gaining support and potentially increasing participation rates.





## 9. Resources and Support

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We want as many people as possible to be given a fair opportunity to get involved in the setting up, management and use of community food growing projects. There are a number of existing resources and support mechanisms to give communities the opportunity for skills development and the knowledge to set up and manage a food growing initiative. The Council has expertise that they can share with those interested in getting a project off the ground. There are also a number of advisory and delivery bodies who may be able to assist groups interested in community food growing, including greenspace scotland, East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action (EDVA), Get Growing Scotland, Social Farms and Gardens, Keep Scotland Beautiful and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

### 9.1 Advisory Bodies and Support Mechanisms

The various advisory and delivery organisations available will give groups valuable information for starting or expanding a food growing project. In addition to this, a number of local and national campaigns support community growing; more information can be found on the [Council's food growing webpage](#) or directly with the organisation.

Future growing initiatives may also wish to consider participating in Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB's Climate & Nature Friendly Communities Network. This network allows members to get access to annual support, networking, resources and national recognition from KSB and the RHS, under the three pillars of community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement.

Future growing initiatives may also wish to consider greenspace scotland's '[Our Growing Community](#)' approach. greenspace scotland has previously worked with the Twechar community, using this model to identify and set-up new GYO projects. Where there is demand, this approach could be replicated for new opportunities with support from greenspace scotland.

[Get Growing Scotland](#) provides support for community groups involved in food growing in the form of an advisory role and a platform to connect with other community groups to share best practices. This group was founded in 2021 in response to calls from community organisations and partners. Get Growing Scotland provides a platform to inspire, connect and share food growing knowledge to those interested in GYO projects with an aim to build happier, healthier and more resilient communities for the future. The group offers specialist and technical advice covering a wide range of topics, including developing and growing a vision, sourcing and securing land, governance advice, and navigating local planning. This is a great resource for groups looking to start their GYO journey.

East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action ([EDVA](#)) can provide support to community and third sector groups, including advice around governance and funding. Useful information regarding community growing is also linked on [EDVA's website](#).

Social Farms and Gardens is a membership-based charity that supports community food growing groups through various advisory services, networking events and workshops. The [Community Land Advisory Service \(CLAS\)](#) offers one-to-one support for community groups, public bodies, private landowner and housing associations in Scotland to find land, obtaining planning permission and advice on land transfers from public bodies to community groups. This service has ongoing support from the Scottish Government. Social Farms and Gardens also provides a subscription service, known as Resource Roundup, to access regular information on existing grant funding and training opportunities around the UK.

[The Royal Horticulture Society \(RHS\)](#) provides a variety of resources for community growing and setting up a community growing project. Individuals and groups can also register to receive a monthly newsletter that provides the latest updates on community gardening around the UK.

[The Community Ownership Support Service \(COSS\)](#), which is funded by the Scottish Government, supports community groups, local authorities and other public bodies in the sustainable transfer of assets into community ownership, including community asset transfers.

[The East Dunbartonshire Climate Action Hub](#) was established in 2024 and supports local initiatives as well as empowering residents to take meaningful climate action right here in East Dunbartonshire. The hub is one of 24 Scottish Government-funded Climate Action Hubs across the nation.

## 9.2 Food Growing Webpage

The advisory groups and support mechanisms above already produce a range of guidance documents and supporting information. We will share links to as many of these resources as possible and to the groups themselves on the Council's [Greenspace webpage](#). The page will be updated regularly with guidance and support mechanisms, where appropriate.

## 9.3 Collaboration with existing community groups

Groups looking to start up or expand their food growing projects can collaborate with other community groups, organisations or religious centres. Churches, community councils and local clubs can be great resources for knowledge sharing and there are opportunities to tie in food growing with their existing community projects. Kirkintilloch Men's Shed, which provides a supportive environment and creative outlet for its members, have worked with community groups and local schools previously to help build raised garden beds for food growing projects. More details on the group can be found in Chapter 5. [The Hive Lennoxtown](#) is another organisation that could be great to tie into community food growing projects. The Hive Lennoxtown is a charity established to benefit the community to prevent and relieve poverty and food waste by providing access to low-cost, quality food that enables personal choice.



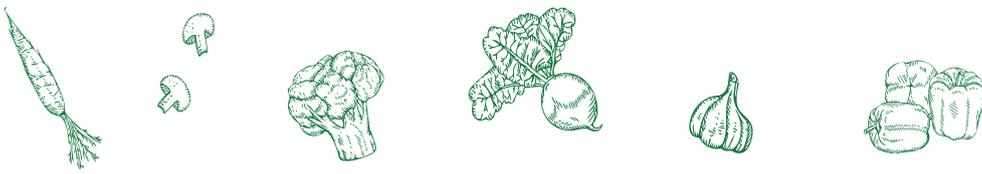
## 9.4 Funding

It is recognised that funding is one of the barriers to any community group starting and taking forward a project. Many of the advisory bodies, set out in **section 9.1**, provide information and advice on current funding opportunities for community growing groups. In addition to funding specifically intended for new food growing projects from various sources in Scotland and the UK, a significant number of projects have benefited from funding sources aimed at improving the urban and rural landscape in Scotland. Food growing elements can be integrated into the design for different projects. **Chapter 4** sets out the various types of food growing methods and **Appendix E** outlines greenspace scotland's *Community Growing Matrix* which lists the types of food growing suitable for different locations. Listed below are funding opportunities that could help start food growing initiatives. It is important to note that these funding opportunities are options available at the time of writing this Strategy. Therefore, the availability of future funds from these programmes is dependent on future budget and funding landscapes – meaning the funding options listed may not always be available after the approval of this Strategy.

East Dunbartonshire Council, along with EDVA and HSCP, have previously awarded community growing and cooking vouchers to various community groups to promote healthy eating. It is important to note that this funding is dependent on grants and awards can change from year to year subject to future funding landscapes.

[The Central Scotland Green Networks \(CSGN\) Growing Food Together fund](#) is currently in its fifth year and aims to foster community engagement in growing and learning about food, as well as promoting healthy eating and outdoor exercise. Green Action Trust manages the £100,000 from the Scottish Government as part of its work to drive forward the delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network. Applications are submitted annually, and it is important to note that this fund is highly competitive, and awards are dependent on the funding landscape for the initiative.

There are also several funding options for community growing site development, specifically catered toward vacant and derelict land. [The Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund](#) supports locally developed place-based regeneration projects that involve local communities, helping to tackle inequalities and deliver inclusive growth in deprived areas. This fund is run on an annual basis and is subject to budget review. [The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund](#) is a tax credit scheme, that encourages landfill site operators to contribute tax credits to benefit community and environmental projects. Capital projects under Public Amenity themes includes investments for community gardens (not allotments), public parks and community facilities. Local authority and community organisations are eligible to apply to 'approved bodies'. Key 'approved bodies' in East Dunbartonshire includes EB Scotland, LT Funding, FCC Scottish Community Action Fund and Suez Communities Fund. [The Kelvin Valley and Falkirk Community Led Local Development Fund](#) is open to eligible rural communities located across East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk and North Lanarkshire Councils that are located in the Kelvin Valley – including Baldernock, Kirkintilloch (north of the canal only), Lennoxton, Milton of Campsie, Torrance, Twechar and Waterside. Community organisations and public bodies are eligible to apply for grants up to £15,000 for community-based projects which respond to local needs and priorities. The themes vary on an annual basis, where food growing can be tied into projects. See **Chapter 8** for more information on key issues before considering developing food growing projects on vacant and derelict land.



## 10. Implementation and Monitoring

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The implementation of the Food Growing Strategy is linked to various factors including the allocation of Council resources, funding opportunities, partnership working between the Council and other organisations, and the participation of our communities.

Although the Delivery Programme (**Chapter 11**) sets out the intentions for supporting the Strategy's mission with timescales indicated for meeting the aims in the short, medium and long-term, overall project delivery can be affected by variables including capacity to lead on delivery, allocation of capital and revenue funding to deliver Council-led initiatives, unforeseen site constraints and the success of partnership working. These potential constraints have been noted in the Delivery Programme.

### 10.1 Annual Allotments Report

The Act sets legislative duties on local authorities to prepare and publish an annual [allotments report](#) ensuring that the progress made in East Dunbartonshire to meet legislative duties to increase allotment provision is outlined. The report will provide an account of the location and size of allotments, the proportion of land leased for an allotment, the period and rent payable for each allotment lease, as well as other issues outlined in Section 121 of the Act.

In line with the timescales set by the Act, the annual allotments report will be produced at the end of each reporting year after the publication of the Food Growing Strategy and made available on the Council's food growing webpage (**See Action 7**).

### 10.2 Assessing Allotment Demand

Demand for allotments in East Dunbartonshire is recorded via the allotment waiting list. In line with the General Data Protection Regulations ([GDPR](#)) the allotment waiting list will be reviewed every 2 years to adhere with the Scottish Council on Archives Records Retention Schedule (SCARRS). This will result in all people entered on the waiting list being contacted to confirm their preferences for an allotment to determine what the current demand is. The monitoring of this will be included as part of the allotment review where timescales align.

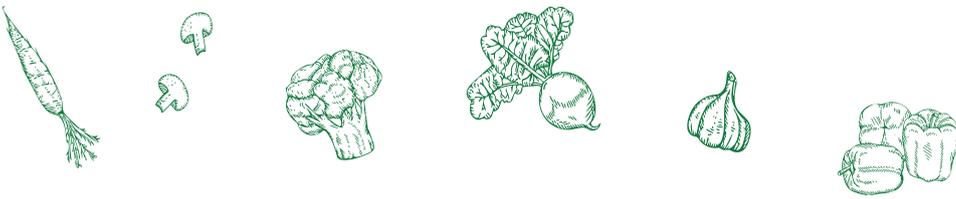
### 10.3 Monitoring and Strategy Review

The benefits of food growing highlight synergies with other commitments within the Council as well as other partner organisations. Where possible, the monitoring framework for the FGS, which will be developed as part of Action 28, will draw upon existing monitoring mechanisms. The monitoring framework will ensure accountability for delivering the actions set out in the Strategy.

In addition to the annual allotment report, as required by the Act, a mid-term monitoring report will be presented to the relevant Council Committee. This will also be an opportunity to review priorities in light of changes to local demand for food growing, funding and partnership capacity for delivery.

### 10.4 Strategy Update

In addition to any necessary updates as part of annual monitoring and Strategy review, the Strategy will be reviewed and updated within 5 years after the publication date of the Strategy, and every 5 years thereafter. Undertaking a comprehensive review of the Strategy after 5 years of implementation will be an opportunity to review how successfully the overall mission of the Strategy was achieved over a longer period.



## 11. Delivery Programme

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The Strategy Mission, Aims and Objectives (**Chapter 1**) will be realised through delivery of the actions in this programme. The programme has been developed on a collaborative basis and relies on partnership working for successful delivery. The success of delivery is also dependent on the availability of funding and resources, including staff capacity.

The **Delivery Programme** is set out in **Table 2** below. It sets out the opportunities to deliver and support food growing initiatives locally, and focuses on:

- Council-owned Allotments
- Community Growing Opportunities and Engagement
- Schools and Education
- Sustainability

and also contains a number of supporting actions.



**Table 2: Delivery Programme**

Ref	Action	Short 2026 - 2027	Medium 2028 - 2030	Long 2031+	Delivery Partners	Alignment with Strategy Aims
<b>Council-owned Allotments</b>						
1	Identify additional sites to meet waiting list demand through feasibility studies and engagement with local communities. Undertake the appropriate planning processes in relation to all allotment site proposals.	Ongoing			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Engagement</li> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> </ol>
2	Finalise site design and deliver Craigfoot Field allotments.	<b>X</b>			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> </ol>
3	Identify and deliver an allotment site in Milngavie. The site will be identified through feasibility studies and public consultation. This will include: Investigating Oakburn Park as an option for a potential allotment site through feasibility studies and consultation with the local community.	Identification <b>X</b>	Delivery <b>X</b>		<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene, Land Planning & Development)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Engagement</li> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> </ol>
4	Identify a potential allotment site in Bearsden. The site will be identified through feasibility studies and public consultation.	Identification <b>X</b>		Delivery <b>X</b>	<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene, Land Planning & Development)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Engagement</li> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> </ol>
5	Review Allotment Regulations on a regular basis to ensure up to date best practices are reflected.	Ongoing, every three years			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene) <b>Support:</b> EDC (Land Planning Policy)	
6	Support the establishment of community-led Allotment Associations and devolved management of sites, where appropriate.	Ongoing			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Engagement</li> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> </ol>
7	Produce annual report of allotment provision to demonstrate compliance with duties contained in Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, including review of potential sites, where appropriate.	Annually			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> </ol>
8	Continue to support all EDC allotment plot holders and on-going maintenance of allotment sites.	Ongoing			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Engagement</li> </ol>
9	For all new Council-owned allotment sites relevant site surveys will be carried out in to determine suitability of site and to identify constraints prior to design. This applies to potential sites identified in the Strategy and other sites identified over the life of the Strategy*	Ongoing			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene) <b>Support:</b> EDC(Flood Risk, Land Planning Policy, Environmental Health, Development Management)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> <li>5. Sustainability</li> </ol>
10	Investigate the feasibility of training opportunities for allotment tenants and potential tenants about the use of allotments*. Seek opportunities to work with partners to deliver this action.	Ongoing			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene) <b>Support:</b> Food Growing Strategy Delivery Partners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Understanding and Skills Development</li> </ol>

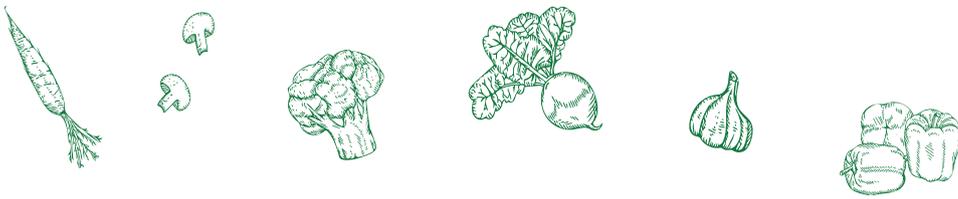
*The success of delivery for actions marked \* is dependent on funding and capacity to progress them over the proposed timescales in line with the period set for the Food Growing Strategy.*

Ref	Action	Short 2026 - 2027	Medium 2028 - 2030	Long 2031+	Delivery Partners	Alignment with Strategy Aims
<b>Community Growing Opportunities and Engagement</b>						
11	Support food growing projects where appropriate with assisting with identifying potential funding (including through Council grants* where funding is available), guidance on governance and best practices for social enterprises, charities and/or non-profit community growing groups.		Ongoing		<b>Lead:</b> EDVA <b>Support:</b> EDC (Streetscene, Business Support Team)	<b>1.</b> Community Engagement <b>3.</b> Understanding and Skills Development
12	Explore opportunities and continue to support food growing capacity building, training and skills development through the Climate and Nature Friendly Communities Network programme for communities.		Ongoing		<b>Lead:</b> Keep Scotland Beautiful	<b>1.</b> Community Engagement <b>3.</b> Understanding and Skills Development <b>5.</b> Sustainability
13	Support food growing opportunities for community volunteer groups and individuals at the Hillhead Community Garden, including schools and other community groups. Build capacity by building volunteer base and linking in with other growing groups and partners.*		Ongoing		<b>Lead:</b> Hillhead Housing Association <b>Support:</b> EDC(Streetscene)	<b>1.</b> Community Engagement <b>2.</b> Increased Food Growing Opportunities <b>3.</b> Understanding and Skills Development
14	Investigate the feasibility of remediating and upgrading underused vacant and derelict land for greening and/or community growing opportunities in accordance with the Local Development Plan and NPF4 Policy.*		Ongoing		<b>Lead:</b> EDC (Land Planning Policy) <b>Support:</b> EDC (Estates Management, Environmental Health), Green Action Trust	<b>2.</b> Increased Food Growing Opportunities <b>5.</b> Sustainability
15	Establish baseline information of active growing groups and individuals and signpost to growing projects via the Council website.	<b>X</b>			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene) <b>Support:</b> HSCP, EDVA	<b>1.</b> Community Engagement <b>2.</b> Increased Food Growing Opportunities
16	Where there is evidence that future local demand for food growing cannot be satisfied through existing or planned provision set out in this Strategy, the emerging Local Development Plan 3 will facilitate the required local provision by: Promoting food growing and identification of sites where appropriate in LDP3; and Taking into account the requirements of Locality Plans, including food growing as a Key Requirement for new development sites where relevant.		<b>X</b>		<b>Lead:</b> EDC (Land Planning Policy) <b>Support:</b> EDC (Development Management)	<b>2.</b> Increased Food Growing Opportunities
17	In line with the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework (SCCF), Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan, explore options for skills development, social inclusion, employability and volunteering in relation to food growing.		In line with the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework (SCCF), Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan		<b>Lead:</b> EDC (Sustainability Policy, Land Planning Policy, Business Development) <b>Support:</b> EDC (Streetscene, Community Planning, Climate Action Hub)	<b>1.</b> Community Engagement <b>3.</b> Understanding and Skills Development <b>4.</b> Health and Wellbeing <b>5.</b> Sustainability

Ref	Action	Short 2026 - 2027	Medium 2028 - 2030	Long 2031+	Delivery Partners	Alignment with Strategy Aims
18	Work with local communities and individuals in Auchinairn as one of East Dunbartonshire's Place Areas to understand the local demand for food growing opportunities and to identify appropriate sites, where demand is evidenced.	Ongoing			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene, Community Planning)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Engagement</li> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> <li>3. Understanding and Skills Development</li> <li>4. Health and Wellbeing</li> </ol>
19	Work with the local community at Lennoxton to identify food growing opportunities, including: <b>Part 1:</b> Delivering the Lennoxton Growing Space Proposal at Station Park to provide food growing opportunities for local organisations and members; <b>Part 2:</b> Understanding local demand for food growing opportunities and identifying further food growing opportunities in Lennoxton, where demand is evidenced.	Part 1: <b>X</b> 2026 - 2028			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Regeneration (Part 1), Streetscene, Community Planning)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Engagement</li> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> <li>3. Understanding and Skills Development</li> <li>4. Health and Wellbeing</li> <li>5. Sustainability</li> </ol>
		Part 2: Ongoing				
20	Share and support the horticulture and food growing activities managed by the Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre, including linking group with funding opportunities, where resources permit. *	Ongoing			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene), Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> <li>3. Understanding and Skills Development</li> <li>4. Health and Wellbeing</li> </ol>
21	Provide advice and support in local communities to identify potential sites for community food growing opportunities.	Ongoing			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> <li>3. Understanding and Skills Development</li> </ol>
22	Ongoing awareness raising and engagement of the Food Growing Strategy where resources permit in partnership with stakeholders.	Ongoing			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Engagement</li> <li>3. Understanding and Skills Development</li> </ol>

Ref	Action	Short 2026 - 2027	Medium 2028 - 2030	Long 2031+	Delivery Partners	Alignment with Strategy Aims
<b>Schools and Education</b>						
23	Promote refreshed Eco-Schools Scotland framework and resources to further support food growing development in schools.		Monthly/Ongoing		<b>Lead:</b> Keep Scotland Beautiful <b>Support:</b> EDC (Education)	<b>2.</b> Increased Food Growing Opportunities  <b>3.</b> Understanding and Skills Development
24	Promote the Pocket Garden programme to encourage participation in schools with the inclusion of food growing elements in garden designs.		Winter/Spring Annually		<b>Lead:</b> Keep Scotland Beautiful <b>Support:</b> EDC(Streetscene)	<b>2.</b> Increased Food Growing Opportunities  <b>3.</b> Understanding and Skills Development
25	Assess opportunities for onsite food growing provision for schools in East Dunbartonshire, appropriate to age and ability, where demand is evidenced.		Ongoing		<b>Lead:</b> EDC (Estates Management, Education, Land Planning & Development)	<b>2.</b> Increased Food Growing Opportunities
26	Promote Keep Scotland Beautiful One Planet Picnic to increase local participation in East Dunbartonshire.		Ongoing		<b>Lead:</b> Keep Scotland Beautiful <b>Support:</b> EDC (Education, Streetscene)	<b>1.</b> Community Engagement  <b>2.</b> Increased Food Growing Opportunities  <b>4.</b> Health and Wellbeing  <b>5.</b> Sustainability
<b>Sustainability</b>						
27	In alignment with the Climate Action Plan (CAP), integrate sustainable practices in food growing designs and site management to: - reduce carbon emissions in the development, maintenance and upkeep of allotment sites; - increase biodiversity on the sites and include features that create a healthy space for pollinators; - increase climate adaptation and resilience measures, including flood risk management, to ensure food growing is able to adapt to a changing climate; and - include nature-based solutions in any new allotment sites or upgrades to current sites.		Ongoing		<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene) <b>Support:</b> EDC (Sustainability Policy, Flood Risk)	<b>5.</b> Sustainability

Ref	Action	Short 2026 - 2027	Medium 2028 - 2030	Long 2031+	Delivery Partners	Alignment with Strategy Aims
<b>Supporting Actions</b>						
28	Develop a monitoring framework for the Food Growing Strategy.	X			<b>Lead:</b> EDC (Land Planning & Development)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Engagement</li> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> <li>3. Understanding and Skills Development</li> <li>4. Health and Wellbeing</li> <li>5. Sustainability</li> </ol>
29	Update the dedicated webpage for food growing on the Council website to ensure the most recent information is available. The webpage is to include, but will not be limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allotment waiting list registration</li> <li>- best practice guidance for setting up, designing and managing allotment sites</li> <li>- promotion of local and national campaigns relating to food growing</li> <li>- useful information linking the benefits of food growing to addressing sustainability challenges</li> </ul>	Ongoing			<b>Lead:</b> EDC(Streetscene) <b>Support:</b> EDC (Land Planning Policy)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Engagement</li> <li>2. Increased Food Growing Opportunities</li> <li>3. Understanding and Skills Development</li> <li>5. Sustainability</li> </ol>



## Appendix A – Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

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**Section 111: Duty to maintain list** – an allotment waiting list must be established and maintained to list the names and additional information of persons requesting an allotment plot.

**Section 112: Duty to provide allotments** – reasonable steps must be taken to reduce the number of persons on the allotment waiting list so that 1) the number of persons ‘is no more than one half of the total number of allotments owned and leased by the authority’ and 2) those persons ‘do not remain in the list for a continuous period of more than 5 years’. Furthermore, the reasonable steps must include how the local authority intends to make allotments available in locations that ‘are reasonably close to the residence’ of those requesting an allotment.

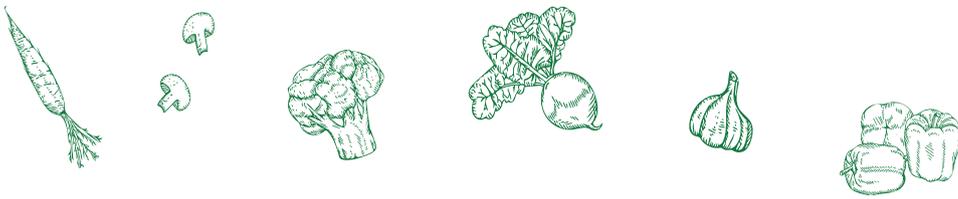
**Section 115: Allotment site regulations** – allotment regulations must be made by each local authority for the allotment sites in its area and must be made by 1 April 2020. The Act specifies what factors should be included in the regulations. This duty also acts as a trigger point for point 2 under [Section 112](#) whereby each local authority has eight years to meet this requirement.

**Section 119: Duty to prepare food-growing strategy** – this duty sets legal requirements on local authorities to produce a food growing strategy that identifies potentially suitable land for both allotments and other community growing opportunities and how demand for such land will be met. There is a specific requirement to note how the local authority intends to increase food growing provision in communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantages.

**Section 120: Duty to review food-growing strategy** – after five years of the Strategy being adopted, and every subsequent five years, the Strategy must be reviewed and updated where necessary.

**Section 121: Annual allotments report** – a review of allotment provision should be undertaken and published annually, taking into account issues relating to allotment location, size, number of plots and the proportion of Council-owned land leases, for example.





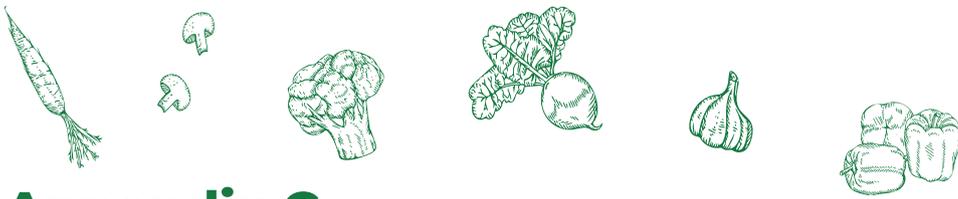
## Appendix B – International Legislative Drivers

### UN Sustainable Development Goals

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) sets [Sustainable Development \(SD\) Goals](#) with targets to meeting the sustainable development agenda to guide decisions until 2030 globally, taking into account local priorities. There are a number of SD goals that align with the food growing agenda including zero hunger, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate change action and life on land, depicted in **Figure 23**. Access to food growing opportunities can be promoted as a tool for meeting these goals.



Figure 23: Sustainable Development Goals linked to East Dunbartonshire’s Food Growing Strategy



## Appendix C – Strategy Development and Partnerships

The Strategy has been in development since the beginning of 2017; initially with a series of early public engagement events in May 2017, followed by a public consultation on the draft Strategy in spring 2019. The approval of a final Food Growing Strategy was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and strategy development was restarted in 2025. Key elements and outcomes from the development of draft Strategy, including consultation and site assessments, informed this updated Strategy, while current waiting list demand figures and policy context were used to reflect today’s reality. The development of the Strategy was supported by a partnership with greenspace Scotland. A stakeholder group of Council representatives and external organisations also met regularly at key stages of the Strategy’s development to help shape a Strategy that responds to the needs and interests of Council services, partners and local communities. **Figure 24** shows the various stages in the Strategy development process.

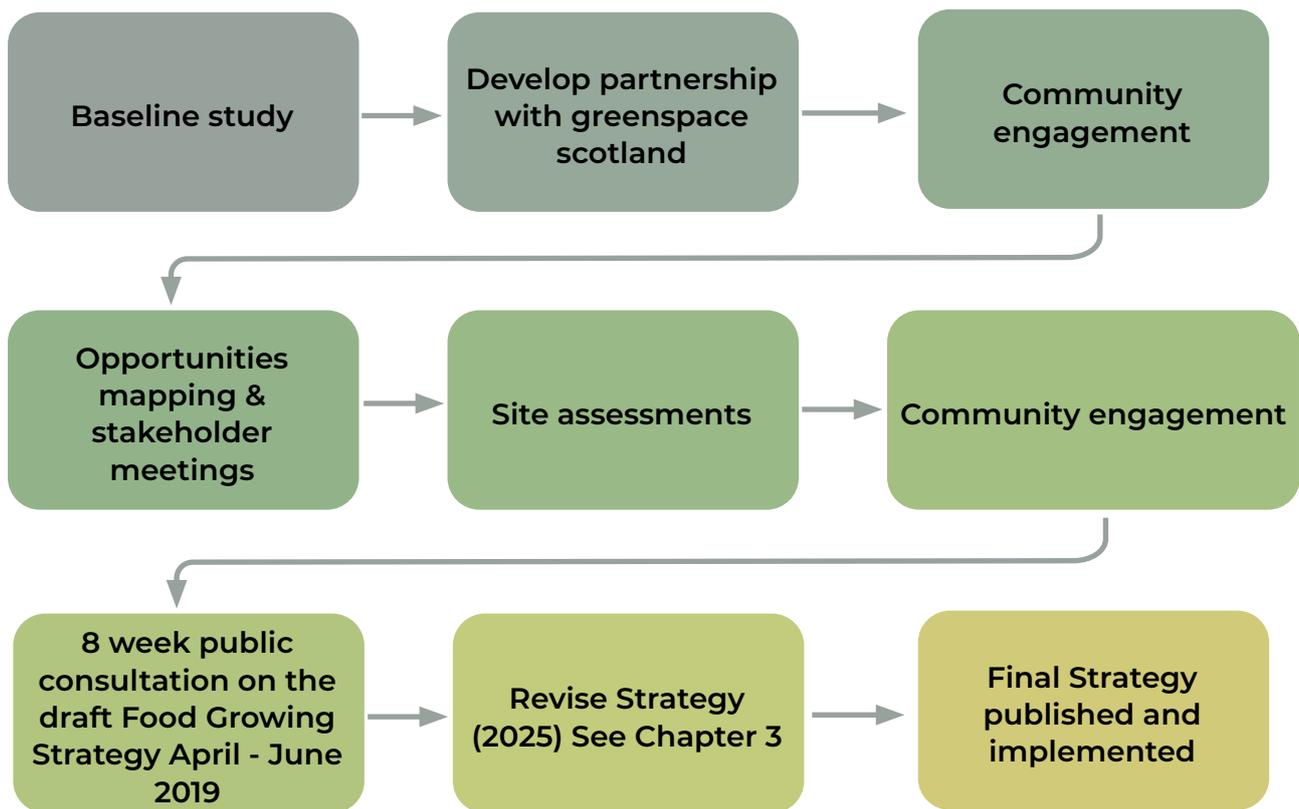


Figure 24: Milestones in support of the Strategy’s development

## **Partnerships**

Given the complex and wide range of benefits which can result from the promotion and delivery of food growing, the Council has placed emphasis on working with a range of key partners from the Strategy inception stage. Partnership working will continue to be important throughout the implementation of the Delivery Programme (Chapter 11).

### **greenspace scotland**

East Dunbartonshire Council was selected as one of six pilot local authority areas to benefit from support from greenspace scotland in the initial stages of Strategy development. In East Dunbartonshire, greenspace scotland staff supported the development of a framework to support wider Food Growing Strategy development. This support included:

- Identifying the links between the FGS and other strategies and policy commitments;
- Identifying, and planning engagement with key local stakeholders; and
- Facilitating meetings, events and workshops with stakeholders and communities.

# Developing a Food Growing Strategy

## Baseline Study

To understand the types of growing that already exist in East Dunbartonshire and to assess the current need and demand for food growing, initial baseline data was gathered and analysed. In addition, the allotment waiting list was reviewed, with each waiting list member being asked to confirm their interest and to specify their preferred plot size. This has helped to define the allotment-related requirements relevant to the Strategy.

## Community Engagement and Opportunities Mapping

The early stages of Strategy development were driven by a series of community engagement events in 2017 to gauge local demand, highlight any barriers and provide members of the public with an opportunity to identify sites across the Council-wide area with potential suitability for food growing. All potential food growing sites were digitally mapped alongside other environmental constraint data for analysis.

A second set of public engagement events were run in early 2018, in partnership with greenspace scotland, to engage with members of the community to gather opinions on the public perception of the potential food growing sites identified in early engagement activities. The events gave an opportunity to describe the initial site assessment process. The events were supported by a variety of parties with expertise in allotments and other food growing approaches, including the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and, for the Kirkintilloch event, East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action (EDVA).

The purpose of the events focussed on the following questions:

1. What is the site known as locally?
2. Who is the landowner, if not East Dunbartonshire Council?
3. Is the site suitable for food growing? If yes, what type of growing and why?
4. Is the site unsuitable for food growing? If yes, why?
5. Do you have interest in being involved in this community growing site? If yes, what type of food growing do you prefer?

The events enabled awareness-raising of the duties placed on local authorities to produce a local Food Growing Strategy and next steps in the journey to producing a draft Strategy. Through discussions, public knowledge, opinion and preferences were noted including merits and challenges associated with sites and general discussions about current growing activities, with an opportunity being provided to highlight other local areas with the potential to be suitable for food growing.

To support the selection of potential food growing sites, a 'fit-for-purpose' assessment matrix was created, in partnership with greenspace scotland, as an initial way of gauging the food growing potential of the sites suggested during the consultation, and making indicative suggestions as to the most appropriate type of food growing approach for each site. The assessment allowed factors such as site aspect, size and surveillance to be identified alongside environmental considerations such as potential flood risks, biodiversity designations, links to sustainable transport networks, potential contaminated land and existing infrastructure and utilities on site. The findings of the assessments were shared and discussed at the second set of public engagement events, as described above; this led to recommendations being made for each potential site in terms of suitability for food growing, with indicative recommendations being made, where appropriate, for specific types of food growing. For the latter stage, larger sites were prioritised as potential allotment sites.

Previous public engagement activities enabled the development of a draft Food Growing Strategy which was consulted on between April and June 2019. Members of the public were invited to share their views on the draft Strategy. The comments received lead to the development of the Report of Consultation and helped determine a new approach to the final Food Growing Strategy.

## **A New Approach to the Food Growing Strategy**

The subsequent approval of a final Food Growing Strategy was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and strategy development was restarted in 2025. See **Chapter 3** to view the timeline of the Food Growing Strategy development. The finalised Strategy was informed by the previous extensive consultation and engagement activities, site assessments, current policy context and current waiting list demand.

From the consultation on the draft strategy in 2019, there was limited evidence of demand for community-led food growing opportunities and a significant lack of support for the majority of potential growing sites suggested as part of the draft Strategy. In response to this, it has been recommended that all potential and additional sites requiring further assessment, outlined in the draft Food Growing Strategy be removed for the final Strategy, with the exception of the formal, Council-managed allotment site at Craigfoot Field in Milton of Campsie. It was also determined that a new high-level approach to the final Strategy be taken to allow adequate flexibility and to recognise the bespoke nature of food growing needs in different communities and sites. Future growing sites will be identified on a case-by-case basis where demand shows, with accompanying site assessments and public consultation where relevant. The Strategy also highlights existing growing initiatives that people can get involved in (See Chapter 5). If interest on the part of an individual, group or organisation in developing a site for community food growing emerges in the future then this can be considered via the procedure that will be outlined in Chapter 8 of Strategy.

## **Stakeholders**

A group of key Council services formed an early stakeholder group, which was brought together at a session co-led by the Council and greenspace scotland. The group was then expanded to include external organisations such as Royal Highland Education Trust, Keep Scotland Beautiful, East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action (EDVA), Green Action Trust and Social Farms and Gardens.

The first stakeholder meeting allowed cross-Council priorities to be identified, helping to inform the development of the Strategy's mission, aims, objectives and actions. This event also involved identification of additional potential food growing spaces. Interdepartmental working was also key to understanding and agreeing the mechanisms that exist to support a process of agreeing and kick-starting a food growing project. These services included Land Planning & Development, Streetscene Technical Support, Community Planning Partners, Legal Services and Estates Management.

A further workshop was held with the extended group of stakeholders to steer the development of the mission, aims, objectives and actions. This focussed on identifying opportunities and determining current and planned areas of work that could support the delivery of the Strategy.

As a way of developing support and delivery mechanisms, a sub-group of various Council services was set up, including Sustainability Policy Team, Legal Services, Estates Management, Streetscene Technical Support Team, Planning and the Community Planning Partnership. The delivery mechanisms for taking community growing projects forward include a set of procedures to guide effective and efficient delivery in relation to key issues identified (**Chapter 8**).

## **Strategic Environmental Assessment**

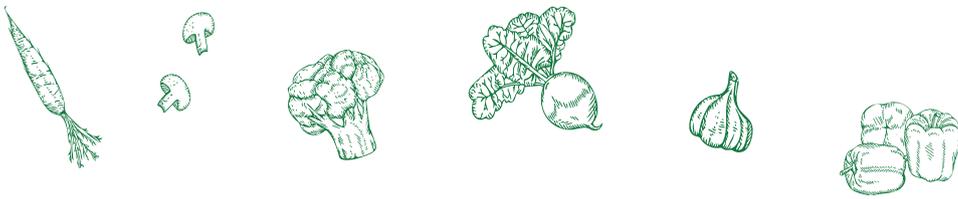
A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was developed in parallel to the draft Strategy. The SEA process has also included site assessments, informed by the first-tier assessments, and proposed mitigation to enhance the positive or reduce/prevent the negative effects on the local environment that have been identified. This second-tier site assessment process has informed the list of potential food growing sites set out in the Strategy.

Due to the changed approach to the final Strategy as determined from consultation responses for the draft Strategy in 2019, lapse of time and change in baseline policy context, it was determined that the Food Growing Strategy would be screened again to determine how likely the updated Strategy is to have significant environmental effects. Through the screening process, it was determined that the new approach to the Food Growing Strategy was not likely to have significant environmental effects due to the lack of identified sites. Therefore, the finalised Strategy was not subject to a full SEA Environmental Report.

## **Resourcing, Funding and Delivery**

It is anticipated that a number of different actions will support the Council in the delivery of the Strategy through a collaborative approach and partnership working with partners and local communities. Despite the current economic position facing local councils and other public sector organisations regarding the availability of resources to the delivery of services, the Council are committed to delivering the statutory duties of the Food Growing Strategy. Though there are challenges expected as a result of inadequate funding opportunities vital to the successful delivery of the Strategy's Delivery Programme by the Council and other partners, these challenges should not downgrade our ambitions for increasing access to food growing opportunities in East Dunbartonshire.

Given that the food growing agenda cuts across a number of priority areas and work committed to by the Council and its partners, there is likely to be a number of funding sources available to support their delivery. In particular, community groups working in partnership with the Council, Housing Associations and private land owners are likely to have access to a wider range of funding streams as well as funding opportunities linked to skills development, apprentices and social enterprises, that can support food growing projects. The range of benefits that participation in food growing can provide is a strong evidence-based foundation for funding applications to a number of external sources.



## Appendix D – Impacts and Benefits of Food Growing

As explained in Chapter 2, the benefits of food growing are underlined in international, UK and Scottish Government policy, where sustainable food production is recognised for its contribution to social, economic and sustainability agendas. There are five key ways in which community growing is argued to present significant, cross-cutting opportunities:

### Food Growing for... Health



- Food growing provides a space for people to engage in low-impact exercise and physical activity with access to the outdoors. This approach to exercise can be more sustainable in the long-term. This benefit can extend to contributing to improvements to people's mental health such as reduced stress levels, social inclusion and [friendships](#).
- Engaging in food growing activities improves access to and knowledge of locally grown food and increases people's ability to increase their consumption of and attitudes towards healthy food and healthy behaviours. Studies have shown that participating in food growing influenced health, such as healthy eating, physical activity, reduced smoking habits, health status and [overall quality of life](#). The ways in which people grow produce can also provide added benefits for the users. In particular, organic food growing has the potential to present secondary impacts to population health due to an increased likelihood of nutrient value in crops and reduced levels of toxic metals. For example, research found that 'concentrations of antioxidants such as polyphenolics were between [18-69% higher in organically-grown crops compared to conventionally-grown foods](#).'
- [Food growing can provide multiple mental health benefits](#) including reducing stress social interaction. For example, utilising growing spaces as a form of horticultural therapy to help ease negative health impacts from stress, depression, dementia and other physiological conditions.
- Social prescribing and lifestyle medicine, such as access to nature and gardening activities, is more commonly being used to help improve individual health and wellbeing. RSPB is one organisation that offers 'Nature Prescriptions', which aim to create bespoke connections to nature for patients in a way that is meaningful and at a time that suits them; such as listening to a birdsong or watching a sunset. RSPB found that 74% of patients said they benefited from their nature prescription and 91% of prescribing health and associated professionals said they would continue to offer [RSPB Nature Prescriptions](#).

## Food Growing for... The Environment



- The global food chain plays a role in contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and can result in adverse effects on the agricultural industry, increase the risk of deforestation and waste production. Conversely, food growing has the potential to contribute towards carbon sequestration helping to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change at a local level. The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation reports that the world's agri-food systems account for 31% of global [greenhouse gas emissions](#). In Scotland, agriculture is the second largest source of net emissions and accounts for 7.7 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e representing [near 20% of total Scottish emissions](#). Growing locally can prevent additional carbon emissions that comes from the transportation and shipping of the food we eat. The RHS provides a guide on '12 Ways to Grow a Low-Carbon Garden', including information what plants have a lower carbon footprint and [store more carbon](#). The RHS recommends that vegetable gardens store more carbon when permanently planted with fruit trees, berries, and perennial vegetables, with annual plants to fill any gaps.
- Competition for land, climate change and extreme weather events are having an impact on the quality and diversity of food grown around the world, putting the availability of food for all at risk. The UK produces some of the highest amount of food waste in Europe and throws away around 9.5 million tonnes every year – despite [7.5 million people in the UK being in food poverty](#). Community growing practices at a local level can encourage low carbon behaviours such as avoiding food waste. However, growers should manage what and how much is grown to avoid surplus or poor-quality crops ending up as waste. This can be a key contributor to creating a more resilient and equal food system that can address rising food demands and help achieve food security.
- Food growing at a local level can benefit ecosystems in terms of enhancing local biodiversity through the growing of varied produce, creation of small-scale carbon sinks, pollination and supporting the use of organic composting/reducing the need for pesticides and fertilisers at a [larger scale](#).
- Food growing sites can also help strengthen green networks, especially in urban areas, where there is poor provision of open space or fragmented greenspace across the urban landscape in the form of stepping stones in the overall habitat network. This can support local habitats and biodiversity in order to contribute to meeting the objectives of the [Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045](#). In line with the [Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017 – 2027](#), food growing practices and careful consideration of the types and variety of planting can support pollinator species and demonstrate local-level contributions to this national commitment. Where permission is given, bee hives can also be kept as part of the community growing space to support pollination.
- Food growing presents opportunities to explore organic growing practices that can help to improve soil quality, crop quality and [reduce soil erosion](#). This can help yield higher mineral and better-quality produce. No-till methods of food growing is one practice that can support this and support more [sustainable growing](#).

- Increasing greenspaces, particularly in urban and built-up areas where the presence of green spaces is often limited, can improve localised air quality and contribute to [carbon sequestration](#). This can reduce air pollution and particulates. This can be supported by upgrading areas of vacant and derelict land and underused spaces. Using these spaces for food growing has the potential to improve these urban environmental factors – such as local air quality – and revitalise vacant or derelict spaces to bring them back in to use.
- [Food and drink waste in Scotland](#) was calculated in 2021 to be over one million tonnes. 59% of this total waste comes from households, 27% from manufacturing of food and drink and 14% from other sectors. Food growing presents opportunities to reduce food waste and food packing by growing food that people want and need. Appropriate use of the food grown, such as storage and cooking classes to use excess produce, can help to reduce waste. Where waste cannot be reduced, composting on site can help to manage the waste. This will respond to national agenda for a reduction in food waste in Scotland’s circular economy and [waste route map to 2030](#).
- Food growing sites can present similar benefits to other green spaces for surface water management and the delivery of multiple ecosystem services, including infiltration to reduce the effects of pluvial and fluvial flooding, and bio retention to improve water quality.
- Due to a reliance on long-term management to ensure that growing spaces do not fall into decline there is scope to explore more integrated, sustainable approaches to food growing. For example, [permaculture growing](#) can be explored to support this approach by incorporating considered decisions relating to energy, shelter and materials used on site.

## Food Growing for... Enterprise and the Economy



- Food growing sites can present employment opportunities or payments for volunteers, usually by employing local people.
- Growing activities and the other social benefits including inclusion, increased confidence amongst peers and skills development can have both direct and indirect benefits to prepare and excel people to employment and therefore [benefit the local economy](#).
- Growers can sell surplus produce or sale of by-products such as jams, on a not-for-profit basis, and can generate income for the group to reinvest into the food growing project.
- Selling excess produce and generating local business from produce grown on GYO sites (excluding produce grown on an allotment site which is grown not-for-profit) will have a positive impact on the local community through job creation.
- With recent economic pressures, access to food growing provision such as a community garden has the potential to give people better access to locally grown produce.

## Food Growing for... Social Benefits



- GYO activities can encourage a sense of community, contributing to improved place making. This is especially crucial where more vulnerable people are involved – e.g. those in socio-economically deprived areas, disabled people or immigrants - and this sense of place can help to reduce isolation and loneliness.
- There are opportunities for food growing projects to offer training and skills development to communities and individuals that can help to encourage confidence, social skills and development of transferable skills.
- The Scottish Government recognises the challenges of food security and has set out a vision for Scotland to be *[“a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day.”](#)* [The Good Food Nation \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#) requires Scottish ministers, local authorities and health boards to produce Good Food Nation Plans to help deliver outcomes to achieve the status of a Good Food Nation. Good Food Nation highlights that local, sustainable and healthy food is a priority for Scotland, for local economic growth, climate change resilience and to ensure that people have access to plentiful and diverse produce.
- Growing your own food can increase community resilience and [can influence a sense of belonging to a community](#).

## Food Growing for... Education



- [The Scottish Curriculum for Excellence](#) has eight curriculum areas, one of which is ‘health and wellbeing’. Giving young people the opportunities to learn about health and wellbeing and develop the skills needed to improve their lives in the long-term, have links to the wider food growing agenda.
- Food growing offers options to gain new skills, which can aid in overall learning ability. In particular, there is likely to be knowledge learnt and experienced that can be translated into other areas of learning and support future job prospects.
- A focus on food growing within schools can improve an understanding of where food comes from and health eating. This can lead to long term benefits and learning of our natural environment.
- Food growing spaces provide an environment to learn about other related topics including biodiversity, climate change, geography, cooking, recycling and food origin.

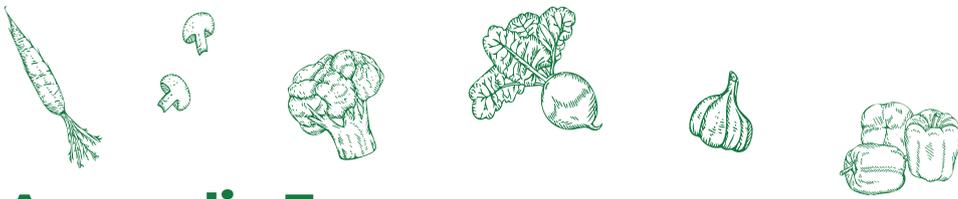


## Appendix E – Community Growing Matrix

**Table 3. Models of Food Growing Suitable for Different Locations.**

This matrix is adapted from [greenspace scotland's Our Growing Community resource pack, 2013.](#)

This table lists the different models of food growing that may be suitable for different growing location types.	Abundance & foraging	Allotments	Beekeeping	Community gardens	Community market gardens	Community orchards	Community small holdings	Community supported agriculture (CSA)	Container growing	Do-it-yourself (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 high streets																			
Town centres and high streets																			
University and college grounds																			
Work places																			



## Appendix F – Origins of Food Growing in East Dunbartonshire

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### September 1914 – Westerton

Many people extended their gardens by renting adjacent allotments in the Garscube Estate. The Community Hall was used as a space to sell plants and vegetables grown by the community in their garden and allotment, as the ‘Westerton Flower Show’ which ran for 15 years.

### 1915 – Requests for land for allotments

The Kirkintilloch Herald reports that there are requests for land to be acquired in each Ward for the purpose of allotments, with demand for allotments rising due to the fact that “modern buildings make no allowance for the practice of horticulture, once so common in Kirkintilloch, when each man had his little cabbage patch to cultivate as he chose, and in which he was able to satisfy in a sensible and innocent form the recreative demands that his daily toil made upon him”.

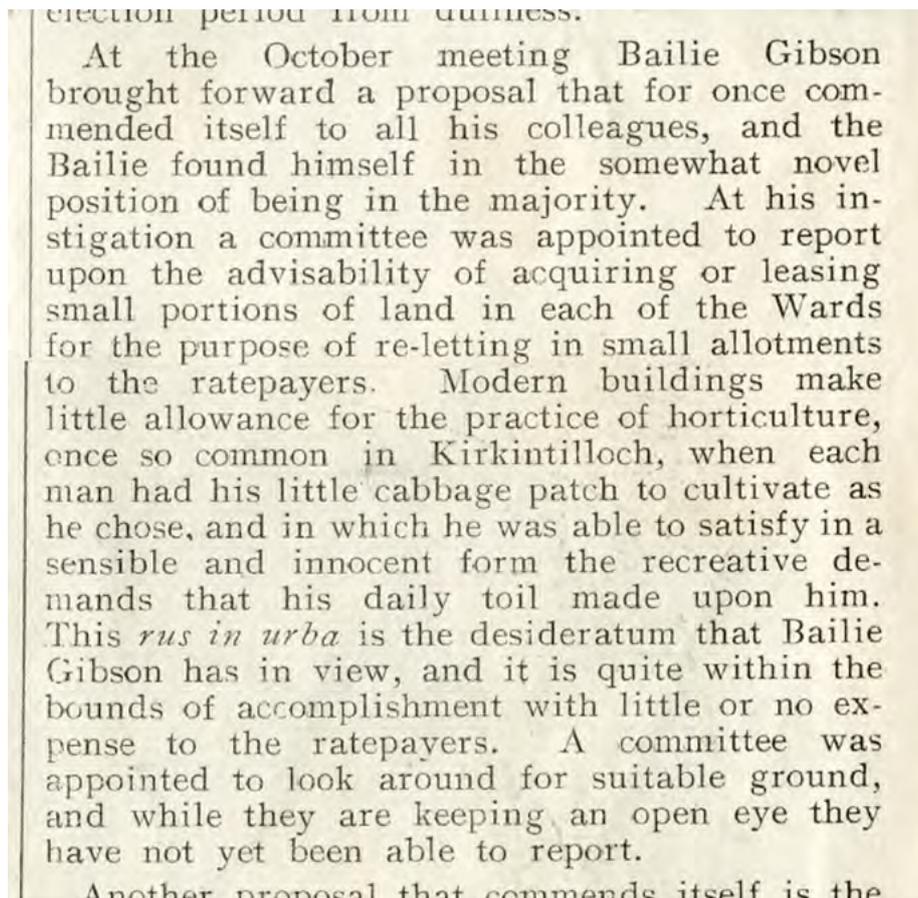


Figure 25: Newsclipping of the Kirkintilloch Herald 1915

## January 1917 – Appeal for land at Middlecroft

An appeal was made by the local Council to produce food at Middlecroft in line with the Kirkintilloch Cultivation of Lands Order 1917 and further appeals made in local newspapers for people to produce more food.

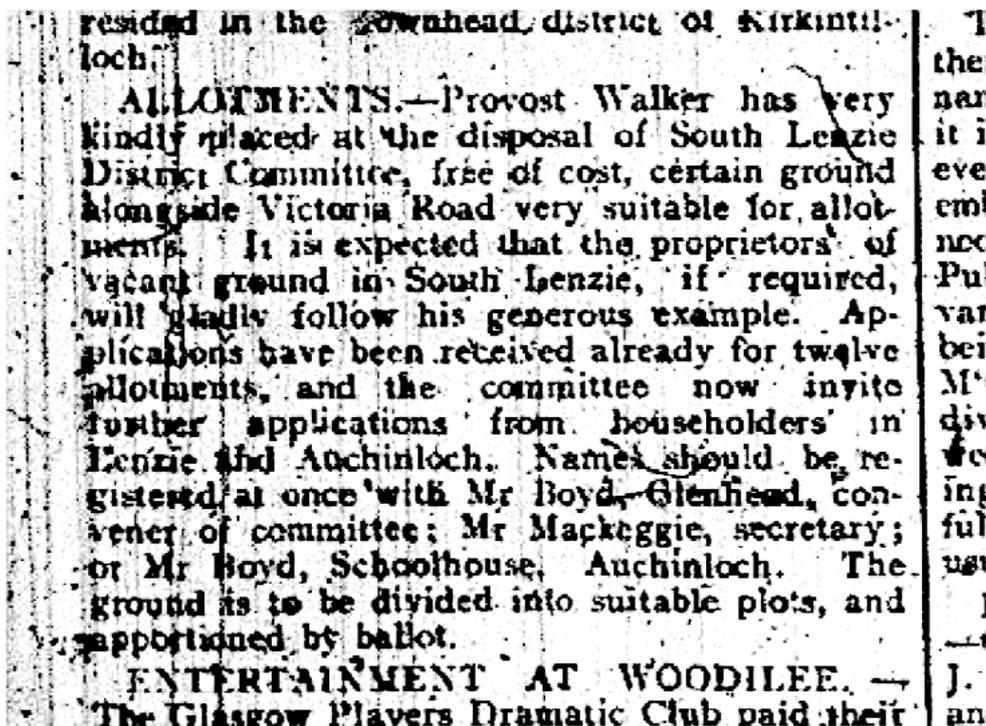


Figure 26: An appeal for land at Middlecroft 1917

## February 1917 – Victoria Road Allotment

Provost Walker announced land for allotments in Lenzie with a newspaper article inviting applications from people in Lenzie and Auchinloch.

## January 1918 – We must grow more!

In 1918, the Kirkintilloch Herald put out a notice encouraging everyone with a garden to grow more than the previous year and that *“the hours spent digging every Saturday afternoon are worth far more to the country than cheering on the football crowds”*.

## February 1918 – DIG! DIG! DIG!

A public notice was placed in the local newspaper to encourage small-holders, gardeners and allotment holders, alike, to grow more food to help deal with shortages to agriculture during the war – *“Everyone should endeavour to produce as much foodstuff as possible”*.

## 1918 – More growing in Westerton

Growers in Westerton took over the local tennis club to house hens as well as converting gardens in Deepdene Road to grow vegetables.

## April 1940 – Digging for Victory

24. 4.40 Digging for victory proceeding on allotments provided by Town Council.

Figure 27: Digging for victory 1940

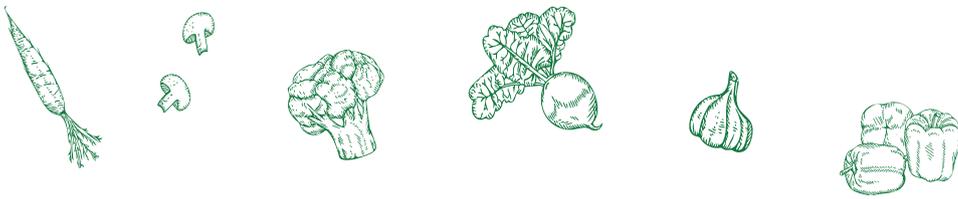
## March 1941 – Lenzie Academy

Lenzie Academy sports ground was transformed for the cultivation of vegetables under the 'Grow More Food' movement.

## April 1941 – Allotments at Fauldhead

29 new allotments were created at Fauldhead.





## Appendix G – Allotment Regulations

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### East Dunbartonshire Council

#### Allotment Regulations

East Dunbartonshire Council (“the Council”) has a statutory duty to provide allotments in terms of Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (“the Act”). These Regulations are made in support of this statutory function and to support those leasing Allotment Plots (“Tenants”) understand their responsibilities. Where there is a contradiction between these rules and the Act, the terms of the Act including any regulations shall apply

#### Definitions and interpretation

In these Regulations, any reference to:

**“Allotment Association”** shall mean any association representing the Tenants of an Allotment Site.

**“Allotment Plot”** shall mean any single area of land designated as an allotment plot by the Council within an Allotment Site and which is used or intended for use (i) wholly or mainly for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs, or flowers, and (ii) otherwise than with a view to making profit.

**“Allotment Site”** shall mean any area of land owned or leased by the Council and consisting wholly or partly of allotments and including other land that may be used by Tenants in connection with the use of their Allotment Plots.

**“Applicant”** shall mean an Eligible Person that has made an application for a Lease of an Allotment Plot in accordance with Regulation 3.

**“Commencement Date”** shall mean the date on which a Lease between the Council and the Tenant comes into effect;

**“Eligible Person”** shall mean an individual aged 18 years or over who resides within the East Dunbartonshire Council area.

**“Eviction Notice”** shall mean the notice served by the Council on the Tenant when terminating the Lease.

**“Lease”** shall mean an agreement entered into between the Council and a Tenant made under the terms of the Regulations to lease an Allotment Plot and any reference to the word Lease shall be taken to include any missive of let.

**“Management Committee”** means a management committee of an Allotment Association established in accordance with that Allotment Association’s constitution and rules.

**“Regulations”** shall mean these allotment regulations made in terms of s115 of the 2015 Act.

**“Rent”** shall mean the annual payment due under the Lease and set in accordance with Regulation 6.

**“Tenant”** shall mean an Eligible Person, to whom an Allotment Plot has been leased under the terms of the Regulations.

**“Termination Date”** shall mean the date upon which the Lease between the Council and the Tenant is terminated, and the Tenant is required to remove all their possessions from the Allotment Plot and the Allotment Site.

**“Waiting List”** shall mean the list established and maintained by the Council of persons who, by way of written or electronic notification, have made a request to lease an Allotment Plot.

Unless the context otherwise requires, words in the singular shall include the plural and words in the plural shall include the singular.

Headings are for convenience only, and therefore do not form part of the Regulations and shall not be used in their interpretation.

Any references to a specific statute include any statutory extension, amendment, modification or re-enactment of such statute and any subordinate legislation made thereunder and any general reference to “statute” or “statutes” includes any subordinate legislation made thereunder.

These Regulations shall repeal and replace any allotment rules and Regulations in force prior to the Commencement Date made by the Council or its predecessors.

## **6. Allotment Associations**

- 6.1. Tenants within an Allotment Site may decide to establish an Allotment Association to manage their responsibilities in relation to an Allotment Site. Where an Allotment Association is established Tenants can choose whether or not to join the Allotment Association.
- 6.2. Individual Allotment Associations may put in place rules and regulations for its Allotment Site (“Allotment Site Rules”).
- 6.3. Tenants, whether or not they are members of the Allotment Association, must have regard to any Allotment Site Rules that relate to the relevant Allotment Site.
- 6.4. If there is a conflict between the Allotment Site Rules and these Regulations, these Regulations shall take precedence.
- 6.5. Tenants should report any on-site injury /dangerous occurrence to the Allotment Association who will report it to the Council at [Parksandopenspaces@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Parksandopenspaces@eastdunbarton.gov.uk). Where there is no Allotment Association on an Allotment Site Tenants must report any on-site injury /dangerous occurrence to the Allotment Association who will report it to the Council at [Parksandopenspaces@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Parksandopenspaces@eastdunbarton.gov.uk).
- 6.6. Where an Allotment Association has been established on an Allotment Site it may:-
  - delegate responsibility for managing health and safety/fire safety on-site to the Management Committee of that Allotment Association, including the responsibility to review risk assessments as often as necessary where circumstances, environment, or conditions change;
  - delegate to the Management Committee responsibility for the carrying out of an inspection of the Allotment Site twice a year to ensure hazards are identified and, where appropriate, corrective action is taken to eliminate/reduce the risks posed by the hazards identified;
  - erect a sign containing emergency contact numbers within the Allotment Site;
  - ensure a First Aid Kit is provided on-site for the treatment of minor injuries, such as cuts, sprains, etc;

- in consultation with the Council determine which items are deemed necessary for food growing and require Tenants to remove non-essential items from the Allotment Site within 30 days at the Tenant's cost;
- request the Council to enter into an agreement with the Allotment Association in relation to any existing buildings within the Allotment Site;
- with the Council's consent erect communal storage facilities where appropriate on an Allotment Site at the Allotment Association's cost for use by all Tenants and arrange for the allocation of space within the storage facilities as well as their maintenance, hire and replacement;
- arrange for any water barrels within the Allotment Site to be painted to reflect heat and reduce the temperature within the barrel to reduce health and safety concerns;
- with the Council's consent erect communal polytunnels where appropriate on an Allotment Site at the Allotment Association's cost for use by all Tenants and arrange for the allocation of space within the polytunnel as well as their maintenance, hire and replacement;
- arrange for a skip to be provided at the Allotment Site as required;
- accept complaints from Tenants and agree with the Council how these should be dealt with;
- with the consent of the Council issue the email or verbal warning set out in Regulation 27 to the Tenant. Where this is done the Allotment Association must note the warning in the minutes of the next Allotment Association meeting and ensure a copy of the minutes are provided to the Council.

## **7. Effect of Regulations**

7.1. The Tenant must comply with the terms of these Regulations at all times. Failure to comply shall be a breach of the Regulations and may result in the Tenant being subject to termination of the Lease of the Allotment Plot in accordance with the provisions of Section 126 of the Act.

## **8. Applications for Allotment Plots**

8.1. Applications to lease an Allotment Plot on an Allotment Site can be made:-

- (i) online via the Council's website [Allotment Waiting List Request](#) . If applicants do not have access to a computer, they can use the local Hub facilities.
- (ii) by requesting a paper application form from 64 Kilsyth Road, Kirkintilloch, G66 1QF
- (iii) Further information can be sought by emailing [Parksandopenspaces@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Parksandopenspaces@eastdunbarton.gov.uk).

8.2. Applications must include the Applicant's:

- name;
- full address including postcode and flat number;
- email address (if any);
- the name, address and email address (if any) of any additional persons if the application is made jointly;
- if the area of the Allotment Plot sought is less than 250 square metres, the Applicant must specify the area in the application;
- where the person making the request has particular needs including needs arising from disabilities, the request may include information about the person's needs on the grounds of disability relating to access to an Allotment Site or an Allotment Plot and any reasonable adjustments that may be required to an Allotment Site or an Allotment Plot. The Council will

consider requests for reasonable adjustments to be made in accordance with Chapter 4 of Part 9 of the Act – Allotments: Guidance for Local Authorities;

- any other relevant circumstances the Applicant wishes to make the Council aware of

8.3. All Eligible Persons who apply for an Allotment Plot shall be placed on the Waiting List.

## **9. Allocation of Allotment Plots**

9.1. The Council will maintain a Waiting List and offers of available Allotment Plots will be made to Applicants on the Waiting List having regard to the provisions of the 2015 Act and what has been requested.

9.2. The Council will use the following matrix when considering Applications:-

- Distance to Allotment Site X Time spent on Waiting List (Weighted)= Ranking
- An example of how the matrix will operate is set out in [Appendix H].
- The matrix provides a ranking for each Applicant which will be used to allocate available Allotment Plots. In the event of multiple Applicants having the same ranking the Applicant closest in distance to the Allotment Plot will be given priority.
- A greater weighting will be allocated to Applicants who are located within 3 miles of the Allotment Site.
- Applicants who have been on the Waiting List longest will be allocated a higher weighting than those who have recently joined the Waiting List. The highest weighting will be given to Applicants who have been on the list for 3 or more years.

9.3. An Applicant will have the right to reject an offer of an Allotment Plot on 2 occasions without it affecting their ranking on the Waiting List. If they reject an offer a third time they will be removed from the Waiting List and will have to submit a fresh application.

9.4. An Applicant who accepts a smaller Allotment Plot than requested will be removed from the Waiting List.

9.5. Where an Applicant or joint Applicant who has had a Lease previously terminated by the Council makes an application for an Allotment Plot the Council will, when considering the application, take into account the circumstances of the previous Termination and any Regulations that may apply at that time.

9.6. Where an Allotment Plot of less than 250 square metres has been requested and the Applicant is offered a Lease of an Allotment Plot that is not the area specified and that offer is accepted by the Applicant, the request will be treated as agreed for the purpose of the 2015 Act and the Applicant will be removed from the Waiting List.

9.7. If the Council offers to grant a Lease of an Allotment Plot to an Applicant the request will be treated as having been agreed to for the purpose of the 2015 Act and the Applicant will be removed from the Waiting List.

9.8. If an Applicant's address has changed, they are required to notify the Council within a 4-week period. Their details will be updated, and the matrix referred to in paragraph 4.2 above will be used to determine their position on the Waiting List.

9.9. Allotment Plots will only be allocated on the basis of 1 Allotment Plot per household, regardless of the size of the household.

## **10. Leases**

- 10.1. All Tenants will be required to enter into a Lease which will be provided by the Council prior to the commencement of their tenancy.
- 10.2. The Lease will be prepared and managed by the Council.
- 10.3. Existing Tenants who make a request to change Allotment Plot or increase the size of their Allotment Plot, either within the same Allotment Site or at another, should do so in writing to the Council. However, any changes will be at the discretion of the Council and will be dependent on the availability of Allotment Plots. The existing Tenant can keep their plot until a new one is available.
- 10.4. If a Tenant wishes to terminate their Lease, they must give the Council at least 30 days' prior written notice.
- 10.5. Tenants are not permitted to assign or otherwise transfer the Lease in whole or in part to any other party. In the event of the Council becoming aware that a Tenant has transferred their Lease in whole or in part the Council shall be entitled to terminate the Lease with immediate effect.
- 10.6. Tenants must remain resident within the Council area for the duration of their Lease. Where a Tenant ceases to be resident within the Council area the Council will have the right to terminate the Lease and the Tenant will be required to vacate their Allotment Plot within 30 days. Failure of a Tenant to notify the Council they are no longer a resident within the Council area will entitle the Council to terminate the Lease.

## **11. Rent**

- 11.1. The Rent will be reviewed and set annually by the Council. The annual Rent is established via the budget process. Rental prices can be accessed at: [www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/greenspace](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/greenspace)
- 11.2. The Rent will be payable in advance within 28 days of receipt of an invoice.
- 11.3. The Lease will be on a year-to-year basis from 1st April to 31st March. The Council will have the right to terminate the Lease with effect from 31st March in any year by giving written notice to that effect no later than 14th February in that year.
- 11.4. If the Rent remains unpaid for a period of four (4) months in any year, the Council will be entitled to consider the Tenant to be in default and terminate the Lease with immediate effect, and re-let the Allotment Plot.
- 11.5. In the event of the Tenant failing to remove all equipment and other items from the Allotment Plot, return any keys to the Landlord and leave the Allotment Plot in a state of good repair and in a clean and tidy condition at expiry or termination of the Lease the Council will be entitled to recover the costs of such removal and repair from the Tenant.
- 11.6. The Tenant shall remove any waste or refuse on the Allotment Plot during the period of the Lease and upon its expiry or termination, failing which the Council may seek to recover the costs of removal from the Tenant.

## **12. Cultivation**

- 12.1. Allotment Plots should be under at least 75% cultivation at any one time and should be well stocked with plants during the growing season. Unplanted areas should be reasonably free of weeds and not causing a nuisance to neighbouring Tenants. The soil should show evidence of being actively managed year-round. Tenants are required to maintain their Allotment Plot to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council. Where a Tenant is not demonstrating that they are actively managing their Allotment Plot the Council shall be entitled to treat this as a default and terminate the Lease unless the Tenant can provide a demonstrable reason for not managing the Allotment Plot such as an illness or hospital stay.
- 12.2. Compost and manure can be brought in by the Tenant; however, only screened soil should be used. For new allotments, the Council will initially provide a good quality free draining neutral pH loam.
- 12.3. In line with the Council's commitment to reduce the use of chemicals in the maintenance of Council greenspaces, the use of pesticides on Allotment Plots are discouraged and may only be used with the Council's prior written consent. Where approval to use chemicals is given the Tenant must adhere to the recommendations as per the substance's datasheet. Herbicides may only be applied by the Council and may not be applied by Tenants. Herbicides will only be applied to paths and non-food growing areas and will only be applied to Allotment Sites which are not designated as organic.
- 12.4. Tenants are encouraged to use peat free compost and alternative materials to plastic.
- 12.5. Materials brought onto the Allotment Site must be kept within the confines of the Tenant's own Allotment Plot and be for use in allotment gardening only.

## **13. Maintenance**

- 13.1. The Tenant shall maintain and keep in good condition the Allotment Plot, including any structures thereon, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council. In considering whether or not the Allotment Plot is in good condition the Council shall have regard to any weeds, detritus or dilapidated buildings or structures on the Allotment Plot and the level of cultivation.
- 13.2. When considering whether an Allotment Plot is in good condition, the Council shall have regard to any impact that a lack of maintenance of the Allotment Plot could have on neighbouring Allotment Plots.
- 13.3. Any communal areas within the Allotment Site will be maintained jointly by all the Tenants including pathways between Allotment Plots. Tenants will be responsible for maintaining their own Allotment Plot and area around each Allotment Plot.
- 13.4. The Tenant must not bring onto the Allotment Site or allow other persons to bring onto the Allotment Site, any refuse, commercial or household waste. Only materials used for the purposes of food growing should be brought on the Allotment Site.
- 13.5. Where the Council considers that an Allotment Plot is being neglected, the Tenant will be duly advised and will be expected to improve the quality of maintenance. In the event that an Allotment Plot remains in a neglected state throughout a complete growing season (March to September), the Council will be entitled to consider this to be a default and shall have the right to terminate the Lease. Outwith the growing season the Tenant shall be entitled to use the Allotment Plot for ground preparation works and sowing.

- 13.6. Issues relating to general site maintenance on Allotment Sites must be reported to the Council.
- 13.7. Tenants should ensure that their Allotment Plot and associated accesses are free from hazard: hazards may include sharp edges, exposed nails, improperly stored tools, hazards hidden within undergrowth such as discarded tools and improperly stored dangerous materials.
- 13.8. The Tenant shall not cause or permit any nuisance or annoyance to the tenant of any other Allotment Plot (or neighbouring property outside the Allotment Site) or obstruct or encroach on any path or roadway set out by the Council.

#### **14. Buildings, Storage Facilities and Other Structures**

- 14.1. The Council will provide a suitable storage container for the storage of small tools and other small items for each Allotment Plot.
- 14.2. No greenhouse, polytunnel, shed or storage hut shall be erected on an Allotment Plot or in an Allotment Site by a Tenant without the prior written consent from the Council who will advise of a suitable location. Caravans are not permitted on any allotment site.
- 14.3. Prior to the erection of a greenhouse, shed or other building / structure, the Tenant shall provide construction details to the Council for approval. Details shall include: type of structure; size of structure; height of structure; building materials; location on allotment plot (in order that it shall not result in any adverse effect on neighbouring allotments) and any other information considered necessary. As a matter of courtesy, Tenants should discuss their plans with neighbouring tenants in advance.
- 14.4. Tenants are solely responsible for the safety and maintenance of any structure as well as boundary fences on their Allotment Plot.
- 14.5. Structures must only be used for storage related to the growing of plants and food, must be of suitable durability to ensure that they last a minimum of 5 years and must be manufactured units. Any Tenant erecting a structure that is not a manufactured unit will be required to remove the structure at their own expense.
- 14.6. The Tenant shall be responsible for the removal of any building or structure on or before termination of the Lease (howsoever this arises)
- 14.7. When any structure is to be demolished the tenant shall ensure that all waste materials are removed from the Allotment Plot and Allotment Site and disposed of lawfully.
- 14.8. Tenants are not permitted to erect fences, other structures or plant hedges/trees around their individual Allotment Plot to create a boundary.

- 14.9. Storage container may be provided by the Council for each Allotment Plot for the purpose of equipment to be kept securely. These must be kept tidy and in good order by Tenants. Where storage facilities have not been provided by the Council the provisions of Regulation 1.6 shall apply

**Greenhouses & Cold Frames:** Tenants are only permitted to erect one low built structure, for example a cold frame or small plastic greenhouse, for the purpose of cultivation. Such structures should be made of plastic material with a metal frame, weigh no more than 9560g and must not exceed the following dimensions: 750mm (depth) x 2000mm (height) x 1450mm (width).

**Garden Sheds:** Garden sheds are permitted with prior approval from the Council and must comply with the following dimensions and considerations: 1890mm (long) x 1940mm (height) x 1338mm (wide) or smaller with 14mm flooring. Sheds must also have roofing made of black sand felt, double braced door, the main structure made of wood, up to four fixed windows and it must be suitable for padlocking. The area left within the Allotment Plot to be cultivated must be more than twice as large as the base area of the shed and can be shared by up to four adjoining Allotment Plots.

**Barbed/Razor Wire:** Tenants are not permitted to have or use barbed/razor wire or any equivalent material.

**Cages:** Cages are not permitted on any Allotment Site. Existing cages which were erected prior to the commencement of these Regulations will be permitted to remain provided the Tenant maintains them to a high standard and ensures they remain in a safe condition. The Tenant will be responsible for their removal once they require extensive repair.

**Scarecrows:** The siting and dressing of scarecrows on an Allotment Site must not cause a nuisance or disturbance to Tenants or neighbouring residents.

## **15. Domestic Animals**

- 15.1. Dogs may be brought on to the Allotment Site but must be kept on a lead and under control at all times and must not be allowed to become a nuisance to other Tenants. Any dog waste must be bagged and disposed of appropriately by the dog owner.
- 15.2. Tenants shall not kennel dogs overnight on the Allotment Plot.

## **16. Livestock**

- 16.1. The keeping of livestock, including bees and honeybees, is not permitted.

## **17. Fires**

- 17.1. Fires including BBQs are not permitted in the Allotment Site or on any Allotment Plot. Plant material and weeds should be composted on the Allotment Site. Any other materials should be binned or removed by the Tenant taking account of the Council's

waste procedures.

## **18. Trees**

- 18.1. Ornamental and native trees are not permitted to be grown on any Allotment Plot. Only fruit trees shall be cultivated or allowed to grow on any Allotment Plot. If planted, the fruit trees must not shade, result in leaf fall or cause a fall in fertility in adjacent Allotment Plots.
- 18.2. Fruit trees must be of semi-vigorous root stock. The following are examples of stocks which will be permitted:
- (i) Apple tree root stocks: M116 medium up to 3m in height
  - (ii) Semi-Dwarf root stocks: M26 up to 3m in height. Staking required
  - (iii) Dwarf root stocks. M9 up to 2.5m in height. Staking required
  - (iv) Pear tree root stocks: only semi-vigorous root stock allowed
  - (v) Plum and Damson root stocks: semi-vigorous root stock up to 3.5m in height
  - (vi) Cherry tree root stocks: only Dwarf root stocks allowed up to 3m in height

Tenants should consult the Council in advance of planting any other stocks

- 18.3. A maximum of 3 trees is permitted per Allotment Plot.
- 18.4. The Council shall have the right to require Tenants to remove trees which do not meet the requirements set out in these Regulations. Such removal will be carried out by the Tenant at their own expense.

## **18.5. Water**

- 18.6. Water is available from stand pipes, where they are located within an Allotment Site and water butts. Water from stand pipes is non-drinkable and all drinking water sources available on the Allotment Site, if any, will be suitably labelled. Tenants must use water responsibly for the cultivation of produce. Tenants should practice water conservation measures such as mulching where possible.
- 18.7. If Tenants wish to use water barrels, they must ensure these are cleaned regularly (i.e. 6-monthly) to avoid legionella bacteria colonising the water barrels.
- 18.8. In the event of damaged or burst water pipes, the Tenant should report this immediately to the Council.
- 18.9. Tenants must comply with any water restrictions imposed by the Council.

## **19. Use of Communal Poly Tunnel**

- 19.1. Where a communal poly tunnel is available at the Allotment Site, it can be used by all Tenants in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1.6. This facility must be kept tidy and in good order with weeds and pest species kept under control. The poly tunnel must be shared equally among Tenants.
- 19.2. All poly tunnels require to be fully cleaned six monthly; this responsibility is to be shared among the Tenants.
- 19.3. Tenants should have an equal share of the space in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1.6 unless the Tenant expresses no interest to use their allocation of the poly tunnel.
- 19.4. Any damage to the poly tunnel caused by a Tenant must be rectified by the Tenant at their own expense. The Council will not be liable for repairs if there is vandalism of any poly tunnels and reserves the right to remove any structures originally installed by it if

there are repeated occurrences of damage or vandalism.

## **20. Use of Raised Beds**

- 20.1. Tenants should
- not dismantle the raised beds
  - not grow in areas out with the raised beds
  - keep the raised beds in a good state of repair
  - not swap their raised beds

## **21. Toilet Facilities**

- 21.1. Where toilet facilities are provided on the Allotment Site, it is the responsibility of all Tenants to keep toilet facilities clean and in good condition. The cleaning of toilet facilities will be undertaken on a rota system by the Tenants. The Council will not be expected to install accessible toilet facilities where none currently exist on the Allotment Site.

## **22. Access and Security**

- 22.1. Access and security provision will vary between Allotment Sites. Any keys/access codes to the Allotment Site remain the property of the Council and are issued to the Tenant strictly for the purposes of access to the Allotment Site and are non-transferable to any other person. Each Tenant shall be responsible for ensuring the Allotment Site is secure when leaving.
- 22.2. A Tenant must not share keys/access codes with non-tenants. The Council reserves the right to terminate the Lease of any tenant who shares keys/access codes with a non-tenant with immediate effect.
- 22.3. Tenants will only have access to the Allotment Site between the hours of sunrise and sunset as specified by the Met Office. Any Tenant taking access to the Allotment Site out with these times will be held to have breached these Regulations and the Council will be entitled to terminate their Lease with immediate effect.
- 22.4. Each Tenant is responsible for returning the keys to the Allotment Site to the Council at the end of their Lease.
- 22.5. Tenant is responsible for the security of any greenhouse, shed, property etc, on their Allotment Plot.
- 22.6. The Council or their agents shall have the right to refuse admittance to any person other than the Tenant or a member of the Tenant's family to the Allotment Site and Allotment Plot unless accompanied by the Tenant or a member of their family.

## **23. Parking**

- 23.1. Parking at Allotment Sites may be limited; therefore Tenants are encouraged as far as reasonably possible to use sustainable travel modes to access the Allotment Sites. Blue badge holders are permitted to park in designated areas. Parking should be restricted to offloading where possible. Tenants must ensure that any on street parking does not cause nuisance to neighbouring residents or cause any access issues.

## **24. Recycling and Composting**

- 24.1. As a minimum, each Allotment Plot will be allocated a composting bin. A skip may be provided once annually for the use of all Tenants in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1.6. However, it is the responsibility of the Tenant to ensure that all other

waste is taken off the Allotment Site to be disposed of.

## **25. Sale and Use of Surplus Produce**

25.1. Tenants may sell produce grown by them on the Allotment Plot. Any proceeds or income generated from the sale of such produce may only be used for social enterprise or community advancement and not for the purposes of making a profit, trade or business.

## **25.2. Personal Conduct**

- 25.3. The Tenant will not block or obstruct in any way access to the Allotment Site, other Allotment Plots or any access paths within the Allotment Site.
- 25.4. The Tenant is permitted to accompany visitors to the Allotment Site provided any visitors remain under the supervision of the Tenant at all times. Visitors should only be there for the purposes of viewing the Allotment Plot or for training and skills development purposes relating to growing plants and food. The Tenant will be responsible for the behaviour of visitors and will be responsible for any losses, damages or costs incurred by the Council arising from the actions of the visitors. Visitors must leave prior to or at the same time as the Tenant.
- 25.5. 22.3 The Tenant will behave in a proper manner and will not behave in such a way as to cause disturbance to other Tenants; local residents and the Council.
- 25.6. Where any Tenant acts inappropriately towards any other user of the Allotment Site the Council reserves the right to terminate the Tenant's Lease with immediate effect.
- 25.7. Music must be kept to an acceptable level and must not become a nuisance to other Tenants or neighbouring households.
- 25.8. Under no circumstances will alcohol or drugs be permitted on the Allotment Site. This includes the growing or storage of plants that could be classed as illegal/hallucinogenic.
- 25.9. Tenants must acquaint themselves with, and adhere strictly to, the guidelines regarding storage, usage and disposal of hazardous materials such as glass, pesticides, fertilisers, asbestos cement, oil, and fuel. These must be securely stored in the proper containers and kept well away from possible reach by children.
- 25.10. Tenants should acquaint themselves with the safe use, and storage, of tools, particularly power tools.
- 25.11. Tenants should be vigilant for rats, rabbits and other vermin, and report if evidence of vermin is observed.
- 25.12. Tenants should report vandalism or other evidence of intruders to the Council.
- 25.13. Tenants shall not erect any flags, signage, flag poles or advertising banners within their Allotment Plot or any communal area without prior written permission from the Council.
- 25.14. The Tenant must not trespass or cause damage to other Tenants' plots or crops or take other Tenants' crops without that Tenant's prior permission.

## **26. Liability for Loss of or Damage to Property**

- 26.1. 23.1 The Tenant shall be responsible for the safekeeping of any objects or materials (including tools, storage not provided by the Council, machinery, equipment, goods, plants, fertilisers and compost) which the Tenant keeps or brings on to the Allotment Site. The Council shall not be liable for the loss of, or damage to any such objects or materials, howsoever caused.
- 26.2. 23.2 The Council shall accept no liability in respect of any damage to the Allotment Plot and /or theft of any item or structure placed on the Allotment Plot.
- 26.3. Tenants shall indemnify the Council against all claims and liabilities which may be made against the Council arising directly or indirectly from any breach or non-performance by the Tenant of his obligations under these Regulations or the Lease or from any act, omission or negligence of the Tenant or any person acting expressly or implied with the authority of the Tenant in relation to the Plot or so arising from the presence of any of the Tenant's property and from the expenses of proceedings arising therefrom.

## **27. Landlord Inspections**

- 27.1. The Council shall be entitled to inspect the condition and state of repair of any Allotment Plot at any time without notice to ensure that the Allotment Plots and Allotment Sites are being managed in accordance with these Regulations.
- 27.2. An Allotment Association may also inspect the Allotment Site in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1.6.

## **28. Variation of the Regulations**

- 28.1. The Council shall have the right to vary these Regulations at any time provided such variation complies with the requirements of the Act.

## **29. Complaints Procedure**

- 29.1. All complaints relating to the operation of Allotment Plots or Allotment Sites should be referred to the Council in accordance with its customer complaints procedure or to the Allotment Association in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1.6.

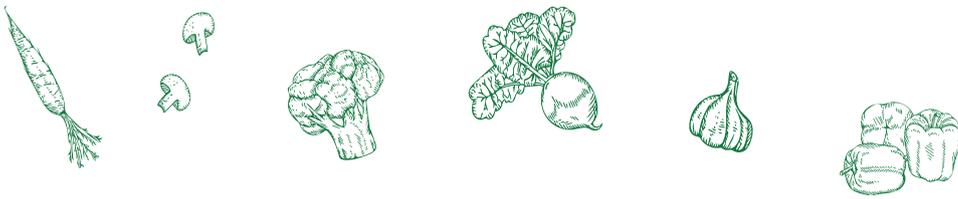
## **30. Disciplinary Procedure**

- 30.1. Unless specified otherwise in these Regulations the following procedure will apply in relation to any breach of these Regulations.
- (i) the Council or the Allotment Association in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1.6 will issue a warning to the Tenant via email where there has been a disciplinary breach;
  - (ii) if the matter has not been resolved, a representative of the Council or the Allotment Association in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1.6 will issue a verbal warning to the Tenant. A written record will be kept documenting the reason for the verbal warning being issued;
- 30.2. If after 30 days no satisfactory outcome has been achieved an enforcement letter will be issued specifying a period for the Tenant to either:
- (i) rectify the breach to the satisfaction of the Council; or
  - (ii) provide an explanation of any relevant circumstances that justify the breach to the satisfaction of the Council.

- 30.3. If, at the end of the relevant period, the Tenant has not either:
- (i) rectified the breach to the satisfaction of the Council; or
  - (ii) provided a suitable explanation of relevant circumstances to the satisfaction of the Council

a final enforcement letter may be issued.

- 30.4. If, after a further 30 days, there is still no satisfactory resolution, the Council has the right to issue a final written warning giving the Tenant notice that the Council is proposing to terminate the Lease. The final warning letter will contain the reasons for the proposed termination and allow the Tenant to make representations in respect of that proposal.
- 30.5. If after a further 30 days there has been no satisfactory solution achieved (taking into account any representations made by the Tenant), the Council has the right to issue a letter of termination with immediate effect.
- 30.6. When an enforcement letter has been issued, it will remain effective for one year from the date of issue.
- 30.7. If it is considered appropriate, in regard to the gravity of the misconduct, any one or more of the steps set out in this Regulation 27 can be omitted at the discretion of the Council.



## Appendix H – Allotment Waiting List Matrix Example

Table 4. Example of new waiting list plot allocation matrix, approved in January 2025.

Distance from allotment (Miles)		Weighting (Distance)	Time Spent on Waiting List (Months)		Weighting (Time)
0	0.5	4	0	6	1
0.5	1	3.5	6	12	1
1	1.5	3	12	18	1
1.5	2	2.5	18	24	1
2	2.5	2	24	30	1
2.5	3	1.5	30	36	1
3.0	3.5	1	36	42	1.2
3.5	5	0.5	42	48	1.4
5+		0.1	48	54	1.7
		54	60	2	
		60+		3	

### Example:

If Jane Doe lives 1.4 miles from an allotment and has been on the waiting list for 19 months, then her final score will be:

**Final Score = 3** (weighted distance) x **19** (months spent on waiting list) x **1** (weighted time) = **57**

**The ranking order for her to be assigned an Allotment Plot will depend on the final scores of other Applicants on the Waiting List.**

