

# Report

Report to:	<b>Climate Change and Sustainability Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>10<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Food Growing Strategy Update – Q2 2020-21</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Update the Committee of the status of the Food Growing Strategy actions and measures at Q2 of 2020-21.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- 1) That the 2020-21 Q2 position in respect of actions and measures within the Food Growing Strategy is noted

## 3. Background

3.1. The Food Growing Strategy was approved by the Executive Committee on 16 December 2020 and covers a five-year period from 2020 to 2025.

3.2. The vision of the strategy is to promote and identify options to develop sustainable food growing opportunities in areas of demand and also provide support and a learning network to those interested in growing their own food whilst contributing to the overall aim of becoming a Good Food Council.

3.3. The strategy sets out outcomes and actions organised around five key objectives:

- increase provision of high-quality food growing opportunities.
- promote other forms of food growing.
- ensure good administration and sustainable partnership working.
- develop and promote environmentally sustainable food growing opportunities.
- identify and, where possible, secure resources

3.4. The action plan sets out the specific actions to progress the 5 objectives of the strategy. Actions and measures were identified together with Council services involved in food growing related activities. The action plan for the first year of implementation

of the strategy was approved by the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee on 4 November 2020.

#### 4. Food Growing Strategy Update - Q2 2020-21

- 4.1. The Food Growing Strategy Update – Q2 2020-21 shows progress made during the first six months of implementation of the strategy i.e. the period covering 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020.
- 4.2. Progress in the implementation of the strategy was disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic as the Council was required to reduce and suspend a number of services following Government advice.
- 4.3. The overall summary at the end of quarter two is as follows:-

Total number of actions		<b>31</b>
Status - Blue	Action Complete	<b>7 (23%)</b>
Status – Green	The timescale or target has been met as per expectations	<b>14 (45%)</b>
Status – Amber	There has been minor slippage against timescale or minor shortfall against target	<b>0</b>
Status - Red	There has been major slippage against timescale or major shortfall against target	<b>1 (3%)</b>
Reportable at a later stage/ contextual	For some measures, the statistics are not yet available to allow us to report whether the target has been reached or not. These will be reported when available	<b>9 (29%)</b>

- 4.4. The action plan can be found in Appendix 1. Given the same reporting period and overlap with the Good Food Strategy it is proposed that in future, reporting of actions will be merged into the Good Food Strategy Reports.
- 4.5. The following actions have been included within the Good Food Strategy, that will allow updates on the 31 food growing actions to be provided as appropriate:
- Number of overall plot holders on council managed sites
  - Size of the land provided for council managed food growing sites
  - Number of participants in food growing in other council land including schools, care homes, housing areas and areas managed by community groups or third party organisations
  - Occupancy level at council managed sites
  - Implement the year 2 action plan of the Food Growing Strategy as per Scot.Gov guidance (e.g. developing food growing sites, providing advice and support to groups, facilitating Food growing group meetings, promoting sustainable food growing practices)

- 4.6. The service will continue to monitor and report progress on all 31 actions through the food growing group and this information will be used to populate the annual report required by the Scottish Government, which will be subject to a separate report to this Committee.

## **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. Monitoring the implementation of the action plan is the key task for staff within Amenity Services.
- 5.2. In addition, the implementation of the strategy is the task of Resources and Services involved in food growing related activities as identified during the development of the Food Growing Strategy and as indicated in the action plan.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. Although there are no financial implications at this stage, specific financial implications related to the implementation of the strategy will be foreseen and reported on a case-by-case basis.

## **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental implications**

- 7.1. By promoting food growing which is environmentally friendly and helps tackle climate change, the Food Growing Strategy is aligned with the sustainable development and climate change objectives of the Council. More specifically, it supports the outcomes of the current Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy, in particular Outcome 1.2 stating that the Council is environmentally responsible in the procurement, use and disposal of resources. It also aims at connecting with the community, partners and the private sector to reduce the impacts of the food system – from farm to fork- on the environment and its contribution to climate change.

## **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. There are no implications for risk in terms of the information contained within this report.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. The Equalities Impact Assessment has been conducted and approved.

**Michael McGlynn**

**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

21 January 2021

## **Links to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities;
- ◆ Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth;
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration.

**Previous References**

- ♦ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee 4 November 2020 - Food Growing Strategy 2020-2025
- ♦ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 12 December 2019 – Proposals for Food Growing Strategy 2020 to 2025
- ♦ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 22 January 2019 – Allotments and Management Rules
- ♦ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee 12 December 2017 – Consultation on Part 9, Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

**List of Background Papers**

None

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:

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<b>Key objective: Increase provision of high-quality food growing opportunities</b>			
<b>No</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Update</b>
1.1	Consult Food Growing Group on final draft strategy and year 1 action plan	Blue	Completed and approved by Climate Change and Sustainability Committee.
1.2	Identify and develop new food growing sites	Green	New site at Lammermoor programmed for construction and plans to develop sites in Strathaven and Burnhill being progressed.
1.3	Contribute to the open space audit and create a list of available land for potential food growing sites	Green	List of available land updated and is being regularly reviewed. GIS mapping information available on food growing activities on Council land via the website and we are continuing to contribute to the open space audit as required.
<b>Key objective: Promote other forms of food growing</b>			
2.1	Review Community Growing Toolkit every two years	Blue	Completed and available on the website.
2.2	Review and update database of current and available land for food growing.	Blue	Completed and regularly updated.
2.3	Establish links between interested parties and established groups to provide training / advice and share good practice.	Green	Initial discussions held with Clydesdale Community Initiative regarding creating a framework for referrals for online training and drop-in sessions. Drafted a biodiversity and sustainability factsheet to share good practice with all ploholders and those accessing the food growing storyboard. A global email was circulated to all schools regarding RHS training provision and education resources. 20 referrals made to the East Kilbride development trust who in turn benefitted from the seed exchange.

2.4	Review waiting list to establish if alternative food growing options can be offered to individuals	Blue	Completed September 2020. Referrals will continue to be made to local groups as new applications are received for plots.
2.5	Provide advice and support to groups who wish to create community food growing sites.	Green	Worked in partnership with a nursery school in Uddingston to develop a small growing area within Crofthead Park. Initial discussions to create a growing area in Millheugh Brae Park held and area identified.
2.6	Support the Community Engagement Team within communities and neighbourhood planning areas facing inequality of outcomes where demand for food growing has been identified.	Green	Responded to requests for advice from groups interested in food growing and we are actively investigating a demolished building site at Burnhill.
2.7	Identify potential opportunities for small food growing pilots within housing areas, care homes, schools, green flag parks for example including areas experiencing socio economic disadvantage	Green	Completed the delivery of a pilot community raised bed site within Strathaven Park. Identified two potential green flag sites for development which will be progressed in 2021/22
<b>Key objective: Ensure good administration and sustainable partnership working</b>			
3.1	Internal review of rules and regulations to identify additional requirements for raised bed sites		To be reported later.
3.2	Review remit, frequency and membership of food growing group once strategy implemented		To be reported later.
3.3	Internal review of allotment rules and regulations following implementation of new sites		To be reported later.
3.4	Schedule a minimum of 2 meetings per year of the Food Growing Group	Red	Due to the pandemic, the planned site visit was cancelled and will be rearranged when

			restrictions allow or via Teams. Ongoing contact is being maintained with members of the group with regards to the strategy and action plan updates.
3.5	Undertake review of allotment waiting list every 2 years to ensure list is accurate	Blue	Completed.
3.6	Review Strategy every five years in partnership with Food Growing Group and community groups / associations		To be reported later.
3.7	Introduce system for managing allotments administration and audit trail more effectively	Blue	Completed and Colony system being used by the Council to record and monitor applications.
3.8	Review functionality of allotments management system to identify opportunities for increased efficiency		To be reported later.
3.9	Annually review the food growing action plan		To be reported later.
3.10	Review public information including website content / social media		To be reported later. Food growing storyboard being created to cover all aspects of food growing.
3.11	Work with individual ploholders to establish constituted allotment / food growing associations at Council managed sites	Green	Associations in place at Allers, Fernbrae Meadows and Murray Recreation raised bed site. Discussions ongoing with Richmond.
3.12	To review baseline targets for Year 2 Action Plan		To be reported later.
<b>Key objective: Develop and promote environmentally sustainable food growing options</b>			
4.1	Identify opportunities for improving biodiversity at existing sites	Green	A wildlife pond was incorporated at Fernbrae meadows. A new biodiversity and sustainability factsheet is being developed to increase environmental awareness and encourage

			plottolders to use sustainable methods where possible.
4.2	Review and where possible increase composting provision at all appropriate food growing sites.	Green	Food waste bins were provided to the Murray Owen Centre who supplied the raised bed site with additional compost generated from food waste at the cafe. Compost bins provided to Murray Recreation site and Fernbrae Meadows site.
4.3	Review and where possible increase water harvesting opportunities at all appropriate food growing sites	Green	Additional water butts provided at Fernbrae Meadows and have purchased water butts for the new site at Lammermoor. A water harvesting system to be designed for Murray Recreation and developed in 2021/22.
4.4	Review designs for new sites to ensure options for improved biodiversity and sustainability have been considered	Green	Lammermoor design incorporates a swale and attenuation pond which will provide a habitat for pond dwellers and plant life.
4.5	Review options for provision of composting toilets at serviced sites and explore funding opportunities		To be reported later
4.6	Investigate opportunities for setting up a plant / seed exchange amongst members of the Food Growing Group in line with the principles of the Good Food Strategy	Blue	Completed. 20 referrals have been made to the East Kilbride Development Trust at Calderglen who have subsequently benefitted from the free seed exchange.
<b>Key objective: Identify and where possible, secure resources</b>			
5.1	Work with Planning and Economic Development to secure internal / external funding and opportunities for working with local businesses	Green	Discussions ongoing to identify suitable derelict sites and investigate potential funding. Working with local businesses has been limited due to lockdown restrictions.



5.2	Work with community groups to secure external funding where demand has been identified	Green	Discussions ongoing regarding potential shortfall to develop Burnhill and whether external funding is required.
5.3	Seek capital and revenue funding to work towards meeting legislative obligations	Green	Secured £150k in revenue funding to contribute to the development of Lammermoor allotments and a further £80,000 is available within capital for 2021/22 to progress further site (s)