

# Report

Report to:	<b>Climate Change and Sustainability Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>31 August 2022</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Food Growing Annual Report 2021/2022</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise on the content of the report published on the Council' website in accordance with the Scottish Government's legislative requirements

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the content of the Food Growing Annual Report for 2021/2022, attached as an appendix to the report, be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. Following the introduction of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, further guidance was issued by the Scottish Government in June 2019 relating specifically to Part 9 covering food growing provision.
- 3.2. The Council is required to electronically publish an annual report incorporating mandatory information outlined by the Scottish Government in relation to food growing.

## 4. Food Growing Annual Report

- 4.1. The Annual Report details food growing activity and related financial information during the period April 2021 to March 2022.
- 4.2. Whilst progress was disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic as the Council was required to reduce and suspend a number of services following Government advice, work has continued where possible.
- 4.3. The Annual Report for 2021/2022 can be found in Appendix 1.

## 5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. Collating information for the Annual Report from all contributors is the key task of Amenity Services.

## 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Although there are no financial implications at this stage, specific financial implications related to the implementation of new sites will be 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 food growing report is prepared annually to meet legislative requirements and reflects the overarching aims of the Food Growing Strategy 2020-2025 which has been impact assessed.
- 9.2. The Council's Food Growing Group made up of other Council resources, third party organisations and allotment associations are consulted on the annual report and are required to provide information relating to their own food growing activity.

**David Booth**

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

10 August 2022

## **Links to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

### **Values**

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

### **Priorities**

- ◆ We will work to put people first and reduce inequality
- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places

### **Outcomes**

- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities
- ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible

## **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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## South Lanarkshire Council DRAFT Annual Food Growing Report April 2021 – March 2022

### 1. Formal food growing provision

In 2021/22 South Lanarkshire provided the following food growing sites:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Developed</b>	<b>Approx size</b>	<b>No of plots as at 31 March 2022</b>
Allers Allotments, East Kilbride	Pre 1996	<b>17,500m<sup>2</sup></b>	112
Richmond Allotments, Rutherglen	Pre 1996	<b>4,060m<sup>2</sup></b>	19
Fernbrae Meadows, Rutherglen	2019	<b>6,660m<sup>2</sup></b>	71
Murray Recreation raised bed site, East Kilbride	2019	<b>2,000m<sup>2</sup></b>	70
Lammermoor Allotments, East Kilbride	2021	<b>6,145m<sup>2</sup></b>	63
		<b>36,365</b>	335

In comparison to 2020/21, food growing opportunities for a further 80 people has been provided.

Additionally, a new site is under construction in Strathaven that will deliver food growing opportunities for up to 21 people. A further two sites to serve Hamilton and surrounding areas are being investigated early stage of discussions on a further site in Rutherglen.

### 2. Alternative/Community Food Growing Provision

To supplement formal allotment provision, the Council is also committed to working in partnership where possible to provide land for alternative food growing, such as Community orchards, gardens, raised bed areas, fruit, vegetable and herb areas and planters in parks and other spaces.

There are a number of designated community food growing areas currently on Council land that are managed by community groups, who have secured a lease, arranged and monitored by Housing and Technical Resources property team:

<b>Group/Location</b>	<b>Approx Size (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Avg Users</b>	<b>Lease Duration</b>	<b>Rent (PA)</b>
Grow 73 Community Growing Site –	5,000	420	15 year lease until 10/01/2036	£1

Overton Park, Rutherglen				
Larkhall Community Growers, Wilkie Crescent, Larkhall	2522	40	02/05/2011 - 11/05/2026	£1
Bothwell Community Growers, Bothwell Road, Blantyre	7588	120	19/02/2010 - 03/10/2024	£1
Forth Growers, Hailstone Green Recreation Area, Forth	2085	46	02/09/2013 - 01/09/2033	£1
East Kilbride Development Trust, Calderglen Country Park, East Kilbride	2910	80	Annual	£1
Castlebank Horticultural Centre, Castlebank Park, Lanark	2435	40	01/10/2013 - 01/10/2033	£1
TACT Community Hall, Hillview Drive, Blantyre	625	6	Annual	£12
Carluke Development Trust, Jock's Burn, Carluke	3003	100	14/01/2017- 20/01/2023	£1
SOC Comely Bank, 33 Comely Bank, Hamilton	3113	*Project under development	15 year lease until 01/12/2036	£1

To supplement this activity there is a range of informal activity taking place on council land across the Council area.

<b>Group/Location</b>	<b>Approx size</b>	<b>Avg users</b>
Hunthill orchard and Community Raised beds	565m2	12
Friends of Cadzow Glen Orchard and community growing, Cadzow Glen	400m2	4
Cadzow Community Corps, Chatelherault Country Park	500m2	7
Treetops Nursery planters	20m2	69
Friends of Strathaven Park community raised beds	50m2	70

Whitehill Veterans Community Growing	640m2	20
Calderglen Community Orchard	N/A	6
Mini Orchard – Cambuslang Park	N/A	N/A
Mini Orchard – Castlebank Park	N/A	N/A
Springhall Community Gardens		28
Colours of Drumilaw	N/A	No figures submitted

Friends of Fernbrae Meadows lease a plot at Fernbrae Meadows, Rutherglen, and have 14 adults and 4 children regularly involved in growing on the site.

The total number of people currently involved in alternative food growing initiatives is estimated to be 5,222. Detailed information on all food growing activities is available on the Council's food growing story board - [Food growing \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

The Council's community payback unpaid work team have opened a food growing area at their Auchentibber base with the intention of offering food growing tuition to their clients. This project is currently under development.

Universal Connections at the Key in East Kilbride have set up a community growing project and is offering opportunities to those over the age of 16 to have the chance to grow food.

### 3. Community Benefits

The Council has created a food growing group to provide a forum for participants to share information and services with external and internal partners as well as create opportunities for learning and development. During 2021/22, the following has been delivered by the Council or in partnership:

- Planted two small orchards in Cambuslang Park and Castlebank Park, which comprise 12 mixed variety dwarf fruit trees at each site, for use by local children and community groups.
- Added six fruit trees to a local park in Blantyre
- Provided 4 wheelbarrows to Grow 73 to aid in their community growing site
- Awarded £20,000 to food growing initiatives to aid in their development
- Provided wildflower seeds to all Council managed allotment sites and some community growing sites, for attracting pollinators
- Supplied seeds, window boxes and herbs to 55 groups and primary schools who are participating in a Council run food growing and entrepreneurship scheme
- Planted 800 trees in 13 Covid memorial orchards in 11 district parks and two country parks in South Lanarkshire.
- Issued information on the Climate Challenge Fund to allotment holders and food growing group
- Established a link between Education and NHS resources to Greening Camglen's school mentoring and training initiative for schools in Cambuslang and Rutherglen
- Issued information from Greenspace Scotland to community growing groups, schools and the food growing group members for wider distribution to their contacts
- Referred 612 people to CCI Gardener's Den network

- Established a link between GreeningCamglen with EK Development Trust to try to co-ordinate a more comprehensive seed exchange. Provided information to schools and care homes about RHS branching out fund
- Issued information on the Council's new climate change and food growing grants to the Food Growing Group

East Kilbride Development Trust has:

- Issued 2,500 seed packs to schools and community organisations around South Lanarkshire

Grow 73 / Healthy'n'Happy has:

- Distributed 500 grow at home packs to schools and community groups in Rutherglen
- Worked with a local development group, Healthy'n'Happy to assess school and community needs in relation to food growing opportunities and education in South Lanarkshire

Larkhall Community Growers has:

- Donated surplus vegetables to local organisations dealing with the covid response, to chefs who were cooking meals for the shielding group and the local Larkhall & District Volunteer Group.

## Schools

The following schools reported food growing activity in 2021/22:

Blacklaw Primary	Blackwood Primary
Bothwell Primary	Burgh Primary
Bankhead Primary	Burnside PS
Carnwath Primary	Coalburn Primary
Craigbank Primary	Douglas Primary
Glengowan Primary	Hunter Primary
Kirkland Primary	Lanark Primary
Law Primary	Libberton Primary
Park View Primary	Robert Owen Primary
Spittal Primary	St John's Hamilton Primary
St Kenneth's Primary	Underbank Primary
Wiston Primary	Biggar High
Duncanrig High	Mount Cameron Primary
Long Calderwood Primary	Cathkin High School
St Joseph's Nursery	Leadhills Primary
Greenburn School	Glenburgh Nursery
Springlaw ELC	Westburn Nursery
St Columbkilles	St Mark's Primary, Rutherglen

- Over 2,210 pupils were directly involved in food growing activities. Examples include provision of raised beds, potato bags, growing in plastic bottles, seed and compost provisions from Morrisons Supermarket, EK Development Trust and Healthy'n'Happy/Grow 73, and SAC scheme run by the Council. Some schools report being sponsored by their Community Councils. A range of fruit trees, lettuce, potatoes, strawberries, garlic and herbs were grown in schools throughout South Lanarkshire.

- Coalburn Primary also received a grant to install water harvesting facilities in the school.
- Healthy'n'Happy has also provided a number of schools with fruit bushes.
- Kirktonholme primary school have won a free trial of a hydroponic growing tower for a term and will be participating in this next year.
- Care homes and Universal Connections Services in South Lanarkshire and hospitals have been subject to lockdown restrictions which has prevented activity from taking place in many of them. Dewar House in Hamilton has grown tomatoes, potatoes and herbs and used them in cooking on site for residents. The growing area has mostly been managed by staff this year, due to challenges associated with the lockdown.

### **New Charging Framework**

As agreed by Committee in January 2019 all historic sites have been measured and new m2 charges will be applied to existing sites as of April 2022. This will bring all charges into line with the m2 rate and all plot holders have been advised in writing.

Please use the link for more information on South Lanarkshire Council food growing charges: [https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200166/getting\\_outdoors/68/allotments](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200166/getting_outdoors/68/allotments)

### **Waiting List**

Following the implementation of the Council's Food Growing Strategy and to comply with Scottish Government legislation, the Council has been working towards reducing waiting times to five years and to have less than 50% of people waiting compared to the overall number of plots available. It should be noted that COVID restrictions and supplier disruption had inevitably led to delays in progressing and delivering sites.

As at 31 March 2022, 519 applicants are on the waiting list and of that, 16 have been waiting on a plot for over five years but have chosen to wait for a plot on a specific or new site. It is hoped that once the Strathaven site becomes available, most applicants waiting over 5 years will have been accommodated.

Overall, 37 applicants on the waiting list have been offered a plot but have chosen to wait for a specific or new site. Those who have yet to be offered a plot have been on the waiting list for up to three years.

Breakdown of waiting times as follows (as at 31 March 2022):

<b>Waiting time</b>	<b>No. Applicants</b>
Over 5 years	16
4 years +	5
3 years +	5
2 years +	84
1 year +	180
Under 12 months	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>519</b>

Whilst waiting times have been reduced significantly and the number of sites available increased from 2 to 5 (with a 6<sup>th</sup> pending completion), an unprecedented level of applications over the last 2 years (mainly during lockdown restrictions) has meant the 50% target has not been achieved. In normal circumstances, it can take 12-18 months to identify land and funding, seek planning consent, tender and deliver a new site notwithstanding delays following lockdown and the ongoing disruption to the supply of construction materials.

### **Steps Taken**



COVID lockdowns and restrictions have had an impact on how much the Council was able to deliver, however, there are some significant impacts that have been achieved.

- Developed a small site in Strathaven, with the potential of accommodating up to 21 people, which is now due for completion in May 2022
- Began development and outline plans for potential further sites at Chatelherault and Blantyre as well as identifying a potential unserved site in Larkhall
- Identified a further potential raised bed site in Cunningar Loop in Rutherglen, in conjunction with Clyde Gateway / Forestry Commission
- Created a Facebook forum for members of the Food Growing Group to enhance links with partners across Council run and Council leased sites for the sharing of resources, information and education purposes
- Provided 30 tonnes of free compost to various community growing initiatives in South Lanarkshire and to allotments sites
- Ringfenced £200,000 for future development of sites
- Planted COVID memorial orchards in the following locations across South Lanarkshire:
  - Overtoun Park
  - Cambuslang Park
  - Stonefield Park
  - Bothwell Rd Park
  - James Hamilton Heritage Loch
  - Town Centre Park
  - Alexander Hamilton Memorial Park
  - Strathaven Park
  - Castlebank Park (Delves Park)
  - Lanark Loch
  - Biggar Public Park (Biggar Burnbraes)
  - Chatelherault
  - Calderglen
- Planted two mini orchards in Castlebank Park and Cambuslang Park
- Installed two composting toilets in Fernbrae Meadows and Lammermoor allotments to reduce the need for using chemical toilets
- Provided a range of start-up tools to new allotments sites
- Referred 192 people to Healthy'n'Happy's Let's Talk About Growing sessions
- Referred 156 people to Healthy'n'Happy's gardening club
- Referred 179 applicants who requested information on community growing ventures to groups in South Lanarkshire
- Referred South Lanarkshire allotments and food growing community groups to information about grants from the Cruach Trust and Tesco community grants.
- Referred South Lanarkshire allotments, Schools and Community Groups to RHS Edible Garden online course.
- Referred 26 food growing group members to Growing Together online resource
- Issued information on the Get Growing Scotland Initiative to 26 members of the food growing group.
- Provided a chipper/shredder to Allers allotments to allow them to compost more of their green waste on site, for use by plot holders. They currently have made around six cubic metres of compost and are now expanding the scheme with the provision of a further chipper
- Providing a chipper/shredder to an allotment site to kickstart the production of compost and wood chips on site and reduce the need to have these delivered from external sources.

- Advised interested groups about establishing community growing spaces and suitability of the land they are enquiring about. Relevant proposals passed to Estates or other appropriate council resource to progress. Groups advised include SOC Comely Bank, Nourish Lanarkshire, Auldhouse and Chapelton, Sessions Park Biggar, Climate Action Strathaven, Coalburn Watch and Group, Burnhill Action Group. This has resulted in the opening of two new community growing sites in Burnhill High Backs and Comely Bank, Hamilton.

### **Accessibility**

There have been no specific requests for special adaptations to be made this year. However, two plot holders were allocated vacant plots in areas of the allotment sites that suited their particular needs. One user needed a quiet plot and the other needed a plot situated in a flat location.

As part of our commitment to providing accessible sites, the new site currently under development in Strathaven and future planned sites will include accessible raised beds for those who may have a physical limitation, as well as a range of plot sizes to ensure that those who cannot manage a larger traditional allotment, can be accommodated.

Two new composting toilets have been installed at Fernbrae Meadows and Lammermoor both of which have wheelchair access.

An access ramp for wheelchair users is being incorporated into the new site at Strathaven.

### **Income/Expenditure**

<b>Financial breakdown 21/22</b>	<b>Revenue Budget</b>	<b>One off funding</b>	<b>Total</b>
Income	£7,797	-	£7,797
Expenditure	£56,341	£31,000	£87,341

Revenue expenditure includes direct staffing costs, routine repairs, maintenance and materials, a replacement polytunnel skin for Murray Recreation site and 3 chippers to improve on site composting and reduce the environmental impact relating to green waste uplifts. One off expenditure relates to the balance of development costs for Lammermoor allotment site.

If you need information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

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