

South Lanarkshire Council



Final Draft Food growing strategy 2020-2025

Contents

Foreword	2
Introduction	3
Overall aim	
The benefits of food growing and allotments	
National policy	
Food growing legislation	
The Council Plan	
South Lanarkshire Council provision	6
The local area	
Current food growing provision	
Developing food growing in South Lanarkshire	7
Community Support	
Charges	
Food poverty	
Disabled access	
Developing best practice	
Potential food growing land	
Sustainability	
Biodiversity and the environment	
Challenges	
Strategic Key objectives	11
Monitoring and review	13
Key indicators	
Links	14
Appendix 1 – Additional South Lanarkshire Council provision	15
Appendix 2 – Other food growing initiatives	19
Appendix 3 – Food growing group	20

Foreword

The food growing strategy covers much more than just growing healthy fruit and vegetables. Allotments and community growing sites are recognised as a valuable resource for individuals and communities and provide many additional benefits such as increasing physical exercise and social interaction; improving mental health and wellbeing; sustaining wildlife; contributing immensely to local biodiversity and climate change; building self-esteem and creating new opportunities for learning and development.

With the increasing interest in sustainability, environmental issues and the increased focus on eating locally sourced and organic food, food growing has undergone a national revival in recent years, with demand increasing dramatically throughout the United Kingdom. In addition, there is interest from local groups, schools and individuals who are looking for advice and assistance from the Council on a wide range of food growing matters.

We would like residents of South Lanarkshire to have the opportunity to grow their own healthy food, regardless of where they live or their personal circumstances. To this end, the Council has consulted with a range of people in the development of the food growing strategy which links into the Council's overarching good food strategy and our commitment to being a good food Council.

The strategy outlines how, over the next five years, the Council will work with individuals, community groups as well as internal and external partners to develop and help promote the provision of food growing facilities throughout South Lanarkshire and work towards meeting the legislative obligations outlined in part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the development of the strategy and I believe that together, we can all play our part in helping to make South Lanarkshire a cleaner, greener and more sustainable environment and contribute to the Scottish Government's ambition of making Scotland a 'good food nation'.

Councillor John Anderson
Chair of Community & Enterprise Resources Committee

Introduction

Overall Vision and aim

The main aim of this strategy is to identify current food growing provision and outline how we can increase opportunities for residents of South Lanarkshire to access and enjoy the pleasures and health benefits associated with growing your own food. In addition to the provision of food growing sites, we will facilitate and enable others to grow their own in accordance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The annual food growing strategy action plan will be reviewed regularly and key objectives include:

- Increasing provision of high quality food growing opportunities
- Promoting other forms of food growing
- Ensuring good administration and sustainable partnership working
- Providing environmentally sustainable food growing options
- Identifying and where possible, securing resources

Central to the success of this strategy, is the creation of a South Lanarkshire food growing group made up of interested community groups and individuals as well as the Council and other partner organisations listed in Appendix 4 who will help deliver the key objectives of the strategy. The overarching vision 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.

The benefits and demand for food growing and allotments

It is estimated that around 70% of the adult population in South Lanarkshire is overweight or obese and there are wide ranging benefits that can be derived from food growing. According to a wellbeing survey carried out by South Lanarkshire in May 2017, 2.9 portions of fruit and vegetables are consumed per person per day. By comparison, the Scottish average is 3.1 portions per day and the recommended average is 5 portions per day.

According to the Scottish Government's Household Survey carried out in 2017, only 34% of adults living in South Lanarkshire benefit from being outdoors at least once a week, compared to 52% of the adult population in Scotland.

Food growing in all its forms can provide many lasting benefits to communities and individuals that link into the Scottish Government's national performance framework:

- Improving your family's health, physical, mental wellbeing and reducing isolation (we are healthy and active)
- Saving money on fruit and vegetables and enjoy fresh and healthy food (we tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally)
- Environmental improvements and reducing food waste (we value, enjoy and protect our environment)
- Learning new skills and teaching your children and grandchildren (we are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society)
- Building a sense of pride and self-esteem (we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe)

Interest in growing your own food has dramatically increased in recent years with widespread demand throughout the UK. To clearly establish community demand, we initially reviewed the individual requirements of those on our waiting list and in 2019, further consultation on the preparation of the strategy was undertaken.

92% of respondents expressed the need for increased food growing provision and 91% agreed that the Council should continue to work in partnership to deliver community growing sites that could help foster an interest within local communities.

The Council understands that not everyone wants to be part of a large formal food growing site and aims to address requests individually in order to identify the most appropriate solution. This could range from planting a small orchard, installing raised beds or planters, offering small unserved sites as well as increasing formal provision for waiting list applicants.

National policy

The Scottish Government has identified strategic objectives and the purpose is to focus on creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increased wellbeing, sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The key themes are highlighted below with an outline of how this strategy will help to contribute to these high level goals:

Wealthier and fairer - the Scottish Government have stated that their wish is to enable businesses and people to increase their wealth and for more people to share in that wealth. Recognising, encouraging and supporting food growing activities driven by local businesses can contribute to the area's economy. [What can we do?](#) The Council will assist businesses who would like to create growing areas or would like to provide financial support for communities to do so.

Smarter - the Scottish Government wish to see the expansion of opportunities for Scots to succeed from nurture through to lifelong learning to ensure higher and more widely shared achievements. With self-sufficiency at the centre of food growing activity, this will stimulate lifelong learning in our communities and provide individuals with new gateways to learning and self-development so that they can learn new skills and extend their capabilities. [What can we do?](#) The Council will work with partner organisations to create a network of supported advice and learning with the aim of allowing individuals and groups to become more self-sufficient.

Healthier - the Scottish Government wish to help people to sustain and improve their health, especially within disadvantaged communities, ensuring better, local, and faster access to health care. In times of increasing stress, rising loneliness and everyday pressure, the provision of food growing has the ability to have a positive influence on physical health through activity and exercise. It can also improve mental health by providing social outlets, additional stimuli and opportunities to improve self-esteem and confidence. [What can we do?](#) It is vital that maximum personal benefit is derived from every food growing activity we are able to provide and we will focus on creating opportunities to improve general health and wellbeing.

Safer and stronger - The Scottish Government have indicated their wish to help local communities to flourish and become stronger, safer places to live in and for them to offer improved opportunities and a better quality of life. South Lanarkshire is a desirable area to live and work in. It has much to offer and our existing allotment activities play a small part in helping to enhance the quality of life in our communities.

Many people are becoming increasingly isolated or lonely and for some of our residents this can lead to feeling disconnected within the local community. [What can we do?](#) We know that growing your own food can make a huge difference to people who are perhaps lonely or isolated and we will actively work with individuals and communities to deliver a solution that best suits their needs. Collectively, we can contribute to reducing feelings of vulnerability, improving health and strengthening our local communities.

Greener - The Scottish Government has a desire to improve Scotland's natural and built environment, the sustainable use and enjoyment of it and facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy. South Lanarkshire Council has many well used natural assets however, we do have large and small pockets of land that are vacant or derelict and could be put to good use if deemed suitable. [What can we do?](#) The Council aim to identify available land through the open space audit and ensure that food growing activities are considered as part of the planning and local development plan process. Food growing could aid the transformation of under-utilised land and improve local communities whilst enhancing biodiversity, creating new wildlife environments and reducing the carbon footprint.

By concentrating our provision in a way that continues to support and enhance the local environment, we will be able to offer opportunities for everyone to enjoy their local community and also leave a legacy which will benefit future generations.

The food growing strategy will also contribute towards achieving some of the Scottish Government's national outcomes, in particular:

- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment, protect and enhance it for future generations
- We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others
- We live longer, healthier lives
- We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production

Food growing legislation

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 part 9 outlines the statutory obligations in relation to allotment and food growing provision. The Council's main duties include:

- Maintaining a waiting list for allotments
- Taking reasonable steps to increase provision when certain trigger points are reached:
 - Applicants should not wait more than 5 years for an allotment
 - The number on the waiting list should not exceed 50% of the total number of plots available (either leased or owned by the Council)
- To provide plots based on the size specified up to a maximum of 250m²
- Developing and electronically publishing a food growing strategy and action plan by April 2020 detailing how the authority will work towards meeting demand
- Having allotment site rules and regulations
- Producing an annual allotments report outlined by the Scottish Government
- To create a list of available land suitable for all types of food growing
- To review the food growing strategy every 5 years

Council Plan and Good Food Strategy

Food growing activities positively contribute to the aims of the Good Food Strategy and all four priorities within the Council Plan 'Connect':

- Promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and tackle disadvantage
- Improve health, care and wellbeing
- Ensure communities are safe, strong and sustainable
- Get it right for children and young people

The benefits of food growing are recognised because of the positive impact they can have on physical and mental health, improving opportunities to socially interact, creating community pride and inclusion and in producing low cost healthy food in a sustainable way whilst protecting and enhancing local biodiversity.

South Lanarkshire Council provision

The local area

South Lanarkshire is located in the central belt of Scotland and covers a mix of urban and rural land reaching from Rutherglen in Glasgow to Leadhills. In 2018, it was estimated that South Lanarkshire had a population of 319,000 people and is projected to increase to 325,000 by 2026. It is the fifth largest local authority in Scotland and covers 1,772 square kilometres, almost 80% of which is in agricultural use.

Current food growing provision

South Lanarkshire Council currently provides a range of support and services to local people and groups.

In respect of formal allotments and raised beds, South Lanarkshire Council manages four sites with around 252 plotholders:

Allers Allotments, East Kilbride – 105 users (opened pre 1996)
Richmond Allotments, Rutherglen – 19 users (opened pre 1996)
Murray Recreation Raised Beds, East Kilbride - 61 users (opened in 2019)
Fernbrae Meadows (former Blairbeth Golf Course), Cathkin – 67 users (opened in 2019)

A further site in East Kilbride has been identified for development in 2020 which will accommodate around 80 users depending on who accepts a plot and the size of plots requested.

Allotments and raised beds are offered on a first come first serve basis, without preferential treatment. Following the final allocation of plots at Murray Recreation and Fernbrae Meadows, 360 people remained on the Council's waiting list although this figure changes regularly. Of the 360, 75 had been on the list for more than 5 years and have been offered a plot but have chosen to wait for a specific or new site. The remaining 285, who had not yet been offered a plot have been on the waiting list for up to two years. Once the new site in East Kilbride is developed, this will contribute to reducing the number of people who have been waiting for 5 years or more.

Whilst the Council works towards developing sites in each area where there is demand, it is accepted that applicants are entitled to be offered a plot beyond the 3 mile target outlined by Scottish Government, if they choose to travel further. As the number of sites available increases, the Council will work with individuals to reduce the need for additional travel and will also consider the creation of smaller, locally focused sites where there are a lower number of applicants on the waiting list.

Whilst there are various alternative food growing initiatives throughout South Lanarkshire listed in Appendix 2, new sites generate more interest and it is highly probable that there is a level of latent demand in areas with little or no formal provision, which could add significantly to the waiting list.

The waiting list is reviewed annually to ensure those nearing the top of the list are still interested in leasing an allotment or raised bed. From the latest review of applications, it is clear that not everyone wants the maximum 250m² plot due to the level of commitment required to maintain a plot of this size (equivalent to 22 car parking spaces). There is also an increasing demand for raised beds as well as smaller plots hence the development of a dedicated raised bed site in East Kilbride.

In addition to food growing sites managed by the Council, there are a number of other food growing initiatives listed in Appendix 3. To view the map of food growing activity within South Lanarkshire, please use the following link:

<https://southlanarkshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=634c11e9f9df4f51b86f96c4b31d8a>

Developing food growing in South Lanarkshire

Community Support

One size does not fit all and the Council will work with interested parties including the Council's Community Engagement Team to identify specific options to meet the needs of an individual, group or the local community to supplement formal Council provision. For example, to suit the needs of very young children we are working with a local nursery who wanted to get involved in their local park by adding some fruit trees and planters so that they can teach the children about the benefits of growing food. Depending on specific needs, the Council can also direct individuals and groups to Council resources and local organisations who can assist with providing advice, services or training.

A community growing toolkit has been created for groups interested in developing their own food growing sites and this is available on the Council's website. It explains what groups need to have in place, who they need to consult with and what to consider.

We will support plottolders at council managed sites to establish allotment associations to empower groups to positively contribute to the development and management of sites. At new sites, we will also consider the inclusion of a dedicated community plot where a local group have expressed an interest in food growing to expand opportunities for local people to get involved without having individual plots.

For constituted groups who wish to set up and manage their own food growing facility, the Council will also support those who wish to apply for a low rent lease or a community asset transfer. Groups will be required to demonstrate that they have a suitable infrastructure and business plan in place to create a sustainable project. Whilst the Council has no financial input in terms of preparatory grounds works or development of sites, support and advice can be provided.

Charges

The Council is obliged to ensure that food growing is available at a fair rent. A charging review was undertaken given that applicants can now request anything from a raised bed at 5m² to an allotment up to 250m². Following public consultation, a new charging framework was introduced in January 2019 for any new sites based on a charge per m² and what services are being provided such as mains water, portaloo for example. Income generated is set to cover recurring running costs and any routine repairs. For existing allotment sites, charges vary and will be considered as part of the Council's annual review of charges in 2021/22 with a view to standardising charges across all sites thus ensuring a fair and consistent approach.

Food poverty

The Council recognises that there can be economic barriers to growing food in terms of buying the necessary equipment and materials as well as running costs associated with a large allotment. The Council will work with allotment associations to identify systems and funding streams that could help mitigate these barriers such as tool libraries, seed or plant exchanges. We will also increase the availability and variety of raised beds or unserviced plots which can offer a more cost effective way of food growing for those who wish to keep running costs to a minimum and creates a range of affordable options for users.

Disabled access

The creation of raised bed sites will create opportunities for those currently unable to manage an allotment, enjoy the pleasures of growing their own food. The Council will also ensure that disabled access is fully considered when designing any new sites, increasing opportunities for those who may be socially isolated to become involved in community activities.

Developing best practice

The Council will draw on what has worked well at existing sites and use this as a model to roll out as appropriate at any new sites. Part of the food growing group's remit will be to create a network for learning and support to share best practice between the Council, community groups, individual plot holders and allotment associations. Not only will we consider traditional methods, new innovations and contemporary practice will be explored to ensure that individual sites can perform in the most sustainable and self-sufficient manner.

Potential food growing land

In accordance with Scottish Government guidance, the Council continues to review opportunities to develop all types of food growing ranging from a small orchard, planters, community growing to formal allotment and raised bed sites. In terms of proposals to develop formal Council sites, the following would be taken into consideration:

- demand within the area
- whether the site is large enough to meet demand and/or significantly reduce the waiting list
- access arrangements
- provision of approved level of parking
- ground conditions / contamination
- access to local facilities such as toilets if proposed site is unserviced
- development costs
- consultation with local representatives/community
- planning and any other statutory consent

Following further Scottish Government guidance, Amenity Services in conjunction with a range of other services including Estates, Planning (open space audit) are regularly reviewing available land throughout South Lanarkshire. However, the Council will consider requests for any other available area provided the land had not been identified for development or sale.

Proposals to develop any of the sites listed would only be taken forward if the Council identified sufficient demand in the area for a formal site or if a third party submitted a request for community growing for example. Prior to any site being progressed either by the Council or a third party, a desk based risk assessment would be undertaken by Environmental Services to assess potential impact from contamination using any information currently available. This would confirm whether the site is appropriate for proposed use and would form part of any pre-planning application discussions that may be needed to develop/change the site. However, it is the responsibility of the group or organisation making a request to undertake any necessary testing to confirm the land is suitable for intended use.

Where a food growing site has been established, any future change of use requires ministerial approval and as such creating allotments or a raised bed site protects greenspace from future building development.

In terms of the availability of private or other publicly owned land, please use the link to check the land register for Scotland <https://www.ros.gov.uk/services/search-property-information>

Sustainability

The Council has a sustainable development and climate change strategy that focuses on allowing people to live and work sustainably throughout South Lanarkshire, whilst respecting and enjoying the benefits of a high quality environment.

The expansion of food growing opportunities and the development of a food growing strategy can be instrumental in aiding the Council achieve its sustainability vision.

Allotments and food growing areas can have an impact on the alleviation of poverty by providing a range of accessible food growing opportunities allowing people to grow good quality, highly nutritious food that they and their families can eat themselves or give away to others. This means food miles can be significantly reduced, food is fresher and there may be a reduction in grocery bills. With creative approaches by community enterprises and charities, extra food may be made available to residents in need of support.

Additionally, allotments and other food growing areas can often foster community networks that are able to take forward other food initiatives in collaboration with partners and create a sense of ownership.

Some people may not have the funds to buy everything they need to set up a formal allotment so community growing, raised beds and unserviced plots may offer affordable options allowing everyone to participate in food growing activities in the most economically sustainable way for them. Not only do allotments and food growing sites provide a cost effective source of food, but they can contribute to the circular economy in terms of recycling food waste into nutrient rich compost and recycling of many other items which can be used by tenants on plots for building raised beds, planters or compost bins.

South Lanarkshire Council will also encourage all tenants of food growing sites to make use of sustainable growing methods and water harvesting which provides a better source of nutrients for the plants, whilst reducing the amount of water going to waste.

Biodiversity and the environment

The Council has a statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity, as set out by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004). Our role is to support biodiversity from direct actions through to educating others and raising awareness.

In addition to the statutory requirement placed upon the Council to make vacant land available for food growing projects, the Council has recently extended its allotment and food growing provision, with a new raised bed site, a new allotment site and a further allotment site due for development in 2020.

Whilst our existing food growing sites already contribute positively to biodiversity, when developing new sites the Council will consider the provision of green corridors for wildlife and havens of insects, including pollinators such as bees and butterflies, we will encourage ploholders to plant insect friendly plants and where possible create opportunities for the provision of habitats such as logs and vegetation, for insects and other animals.

The site at Lammermoor is being designed to incorporate a sustainable drainage system (SuDS). This will include swales which collect water and channel it into an attenuation pond. This will enable the improvement of the landscape to include native wildflowers which will attract pollinators to the site and pond plants, thus contributing to an improvement in air quality. At the same time, the pond may attract pond dwellers such as frogs and newts.

Food growing can also help contribute to the transformation of under-utilised and derelict land and improve sustainability for local communities, whilst enhancing biodiversity, creating new environments for wildlife, reducing the carbon footprint and improving soil quality through the addition of organic materials.

All council allotment plot holders will be encouraged to practice water harvesting, organic growing techniques and to increase the production of compost by raising awareness of the value of recycling green waste in terms of improving soil sustainability and reducing carbon emissions.

The 2017 Scottish Government Household Survey confirmed that around 69% of food waste in South Lanarkshire is being composted or recycled by the Council or by individuals at home and this may increase due to the additional provision of food growing sites. The Council will encourage users to remove non compostable waste from site and dispose of this responsibly. The Council will also support allotment groups who wish to seek external funding to increase sustainability and reduce the impact on the environment such as for composting toilets and solar panels.

Until food growing sites are developed in all areas of demand, it is anticipated that some plot holders will choose to travel further and in line with the legislation on waiting times, the Council will offer plots on a first come, first serve basis.

However, it is the Council's intention to work towards the reduction of food miles as new sites become available and we will also work with individuals and other resources to offer single or small group opportunities within local communities to minimise the need to travel to formal allotment sites. This would include opportunities to incorporate a small number of raised beds, edible hedgerows, fruit trees or a herb garden within communal or public areas.

Soil sustainability

The production of compost using organic methods contributes to soil improvement as the micro-organisms that thrive within the compost, break down food waste using aerobic digestion. This allows the nutrients in plants to break down quickly and be stored in the compost. Most organic matter can be composted in some way, by either hot composting (heating the compost to kill bacteria and break down waste more quickly) or cool (ordinary) composting.

The soil produced can be beneficial in soil maintenance. It enhances soil quality by increasing the amount of organic matter and it is less likely to cause the run off of chemicals into water courses. Organic composting can reduce plant disease and the amount of waste that goes to landfill significantly.

Challenges

Meeting our legislative obligations will present challenges for the Council and key areas to be addressed are as follows:

Meeting demand - due to the existing demand for food growing, South Lanarkshire Council requires to identify where additional capacity can be provided. Based on the current waiting lists the strongest interest is noted in the urban settlements of East Kilbride, Rutherglen and Cambuslang. Our overall aim is to initially deal with the demands of the current waiting list and expand provision to each of the main geographical areas of South Lanarkshire thereafter. There is limited funding available to develop new sites and therefore the Council will commit to exploring opportunities for external funding to work towards meeting our legislative obligations and will also work in partnership with constituted groups who are prepared to take funding bids forward. The council will also explore the use of unserviced plots for a limited number of individuals where there is currently little or no demand for a full allotment site and consider community growing options in specific areas where demand for food growing has been identified.

Investment and funding - expectations can be high but are not always deliverable as quickly as those involved would like. There requires to be a balance between aspirations, reality, funding options and time. The severity and nature of the current economic climate has the potential to limit future progress particularly as investment funding is tight and ongoing revenue budgets cannot be guaranteed.

The cost of creating a new allotment site can vary according to the size of the site through to the proposed service specification.

However, South Lanarkshire aspire to continue to increase food growing provision by utilising available capital monies, planning gain or external funding available to community groups.

Examples of external funds which could also be explored are Eat Well Age Well; Education Scotland's Food for Thought Fund; Community Food and Health Scotland Capacity Building Fund; Scottish Children's Lottery Chance to Flourish; Community Growing Fund Scotland; Scottish Government Fair Food Transformation Fund; STV Appeal; Central Scotland Green Network Trust Community Project and Development Funds.

Acquiring funding is no doubt the fiercest challenge for the Council, the proposed food growing group and individual communities but with partnership working, it is a challenge that can be addressed to achieve successful outcomes.

Strategic Key Objectives

The following sets out the key strategic objective of the strategy and provides examples of the work that has been undertaken to date, to deliver on these.

Increase the provision of high quality food growing opportunities

What we will do

1. Continue to build on existing food growing provision through the development of new allotment and raised bed sites in areas of demand

Examples of what is already happening in South Lanarkshire

- ❖ Created a 70 raised bed site at Murray Recreation Area in East Kilbride in 2019
- ❖ Created a mixed allotment and raised bed site at Fernbrae Meadows in Cathkin for around 67 users in 2019
- ❖ Secured planning consent for a further site in East Kilbride which is programmed for development in 2020

Promote and support other forms of food growing

What we will do

2. Work in partnership with groups who wish to develop community growing sites throughout South Lanarkshire.
3. Investigate options to promote and develop alternative food growing opportunities throughout South Lanarkshire.

Examples of what is already happening in South Lanarkshire

- ❖ Created and published a community growing toolkit to assist groups wishing to develop their own sites
- ❖ Piloting the provision of raised beds within Strathaven park which will be managed by the local Friends of group
- ❖ Worked in partnership with Lanark Development Trust to develop a herb garden in Castlebank Park
- ❖ Working in partnership with a nursery school in Uddingston to introduce fruit trees and food growing within their local park.

Ensuring good administration and sustainable partnership working

What we will do

4. Work with other resources, partner organisations and community groups to ensure that we can collectively reflect community needs, identify opportunities and share information.

Examples of what is already happening in South Lanarkshire

- ❖ To act as a facilitator for the development of food growing opportunities, the food growing group has been created to:
 - Represent communities and individuals with an interest in food growing
 - Where there is an identified need, identify specific pilot areas such as in Green Flag parks, tower blocks, care homes, schools, town centres
 - Monitor and report on all food growing activity on Council land
 - Actively promote the ideals and the ethos behind the food growing strategy to the wider community
 - Create a support and information network for individuals and communities
 - Assist with consultation events and reviews
- ❖ Developed a year 1 action plan in support of the food growing strategy
- ❖ Met with some of the local groups already involved in food growing initiatives to identify how we can work together and create a learning and development network such as promoting the seed exchange at Calderglen
- ❖ Supported the development of food growing associations at new sites

Provide environmentally sustainable food growing options

What we will do

5. Design new sites that are sympathetic to the local environment and minimise any negative impact.
6. Work with local food growing associations to continually develop and refine sustainable methods at existing sites such as water harvesting, composting, composting toilets.

Examples of what is already happening in South Lanarkshire

- ❖ Lammermoor in particular has been designed to incorporate a sustainable drainage system (SuDS). This will include swales which collect water and channel it into an attenuation pond. This will enable the improvement of the landscape to include native wildflowers which will attract pollinators to the site and pond plants, thus contributing to an improvement in air quality. At the same time, the pond may attract pond dwellers such as frogs and newts.
- ❖ Incorporated water harvesting at Murray Recreation raised bed site
- ❖ Supplemented mains water with water butts at Fernbrae Meadows
- ❖ Secured an arrangement via the waste recycling organisation to supply compost to allotment associations
- ❖ Continually exploring funding opportunities to develop sustainability in partnership with local food growing associations such as solar panels, composting toilets

Identifying and where possible, securing resources

What we will do

7. Continue to maximise the use of revenue, capital and external funding as appropriate.

Examples of what is already happening in South Lanarkshire

- ❖ Secured external funding and developed a new site at Fernbrae Meadows, Cathkin
- ❖ Identified revenue funds and delivered new site at Murray Recreation in East Kilbride
- ❖ Secured revenue funds to develop a new site in East Kilbride in 2020
- ❖ Ringfenced monies for the future development of a proposed site in Strathaven
- ❖ Working with partner organisations such as SNH, Health and Happy to identify external funding opportunities

Monitoring and review

The Council's Amenity Services team will be responsible for collating information on all food growing activity on council owned land and updating the Scottish Government on an annual basis. The food growing strategy will be reviewed in 2025 and every five years thereafter and the action plan will be reviewed annually by the food growing group.

Key indicators

Increasing provision of high quality food growing opportunities	Indicators
Outcome 1: Continue to build on existing food growing provision through the development new allotment and raised bed sites in areas of demand	-Increase in food growing provision -Reduction in waiting times
Promote and support other forms of food growing	Indicators
Outcome 2: Work in partnership with groups to develop community growing opportunities throughout South Lanarkshire	-Level of support provided to groups to develop community growing where demand has been identified
Outcome 3: Investigate options to promote and develop alternative food growing opportunities throughout South Lanarkshire	-Increased partnership working with other council partners to develop food growing in local parks, housing areas, social work buildings, schools, neighbourhood planning areas
Ensuring good administration and sustainable partnership working	Indicators
Outcome 4: Work with other resources, partner organisations and community groups to ensure that we can collectively reflect community needs, identify opportunities and share information	-Involvement from food growing group members in developing and reviewing the strategy every 5 years -Input from food growing group members to contribute to action plan updates and reviewing the action plan annually -Increased opportunities for learning, sharing information and best practice -Food growing group to meet twice per annum -Increase food growing associations in place at council sites
Develop and promote environmentally sustainable food growing options	Indicators
Outcome 5: Design new sites that are sympathetic to the local environment and minimise any negative impact	-Incorporate increased use of sustainable methods into new designs
Outcome 6: Work with local food growing associations to continually develop and refine sustainable methods at existing sites such as water harvesting, composting, composting toilets	-Increased water harvesting -Increased composting -Increasing recycling
Identifying and where possible, securing resources	Indicator
Outcome 7: Continue to maximise the use of revenue, capital and planning gain funds as well as external funding	-Increased investment

Links

Community growing toolkit -

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/12186/community_growing_toolkit

Allotment Rules and Regulations –

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/12921/allotment_rules_and_regulations_2019

South Lanarkshire Council's Good Food Strategy –

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200172/plans_and_policies/1793/food_strategy

South Lanarkshire Council's Biodiversity Strategy -

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1191/biodiversity_strategy_2018_-_2022

South Lanarkshire Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy –

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/12055/sustainable_development_and_climate_change_strategy_2017-2022

Map of food growing activity on South Lanarkshire Council's land -

<https://southlanarkshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=634c11e9f9df4f51b86f96c4b31d8a>

Food growing charges -

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200166/getting_outdoors/68/allotments_and_food_growing

To supplement public sites managed by the Council or community groups, there are a number of additional food growing activities being undertaken across South Lanarkshire including:

Location	Facilities	Growing Activity
Education - Schools		
Auldhouse Primary	Raised beds	Growing sage, rosemary, mint and chives
Bent Primary, Lanark		Growing potatoes in bags next term.
Blacklaw Primary, East Kilbride	Raised beds Barrels Greenhouse	Growing potatoes (barrels) – greenhouse awaiting construction
Bothwell Primary	Raised bed at Organic Growers of Bothwell site	Grow potatoes, radishes, spring onions, chives and lettuce
Braehead Primary	Eco greenhouse (made from plastic bottles), raised beds	Growing onions, potatoes, strawberries, peas and leeks
Calderside Academy, Blantyre	Fruit orchard and greenhouse	Grow apples, plums, raspberries, gooseberries, tomatoes, herbs and vegetables.
Carmichael Primary	Raised beds	Growing potatoes and strawberries
Carnwath Primary	Orchard, vegetable patch	Growing apples, pears and plums and various vegetables
Carstairs Junction Primary	2 raised beds	Growing potatoes and herbs
Carstairs Primary	3 planters	Growing onions, carrots and leeks used for making soup
Coulter Primary	Raised beds	Growing potatoes, onions, cabbages, leeks, carrots. Supported by pensioner from the village. Produce is used in canteen and for pensioner's lunch.
Dalserf Primary	Fruit trees, 4 planters	Growing apples and potatoes
Douglas Primary	Raised beds	Growing various vegetables
Duncanrig Secondary, East Kilbride	Greenhouse, raised beds	Herbs, vegetables including runner beans
Glengowan Primary, Larkhall	Polytunnel	On school grounds but this is used by Regenfx / Youth Services for growing vegetables
Halfmerke Community Nursery, East Kilbride	Raised beds	Growing soft fruits including strawberries as well as potatoes, leeks, carrots, lettuce, beetroot and radish
Halfway Primary (Parkview)	Raised beds and orchard with community involvement	Growing herbs, potatoes, rhubarb, peas and beans

Hallside Primary, Cambuslang	Vegetable patch	Have been growing vegetables including carrots, potatoes, peas in previous years and due to start again next season
High Blantyre Primary	Raised beds, hanging baskets, growing bags, pots	Growing cabbages and onions in raised beds, strawberries in hanging baskets, courgettes, peas and onions in pots, tomatoes and potatoes in bags. School awarded level 5 RHS School Gardening Award in 2018.
High Mill Primary, Carluke	Orchard	Growing apples
Hunter Primary, East Kilbride	Raised beds, herb garden, planters	Potatoes, peas, broad beans, runner beans, tomatoes, onions, garlic, herbs. Produce used to make soup or children took surplus home.
Kirkfieldbank Primary	Eco greenhouse (made from plastic bottles), 3 raised beds, tubs, fruit trees	Growing potatoes, beans, onions, carrots, strawberries, raspberries, various fruit trees including apple, pear and plum.
Kirktonholme Primary, East Kilbride	Grow bags	Grew potatoes used for making soup.
Lamington Primary, Biggar	Raised planters	Growing potatoes, onions, cabbages, leeks, carrots. Hoping to start same model used at Coulter Primary.
Lanark Grammar	Raised beds	Growing plants only, no food
Lanark Primary	Vegetable patch	Growing potatoes, Brussel sprouts, cauliflower and carrots
Law Primary School	Orchard	Have an orchard with apple trees which the Eco Committee set up. Every year they get a small crop and try to do something with them such as apple crumble
Libberton Primary	Raised beds	Growing potatoes, leeks, brussels sprouts and corn.
Loch Primary, Springhall, Rutherglen	Currently have five raised beds	Used for growing food / crops in the spring time (currently have winter plants in them). The types of foods they have grown in the past include: a variety of lettuce, potatoes, corn, pumpkins, garlic, carrots, onions, cabbage and mixed berries. Also have apple trees planted.

Long Calderwood Primary, East Kilbride	Raised beds, greenhouse	Raised beds are used for flowers. Parent Council has purchased a greenhouse for the courtyard – food will be grown there
Maxwellton Primary, East Kilbride	Raised beds	No produce yet
Milton Primary, Lesmahagow	Raised beds	Grown potatoes, herbs, strawberries, onions and due to restart in Spring 2019
Muiredge Primary	Planters	Growing potatoes and various other vegetables
Murray Primary, East Kilbride	Raised beds	No produce yet
New Lanark Primary	Vegetable patch, fruit trees	Apple trees and growing potatoes and rhubarb
Rigside and Rural Communities Nursery	2 raised beds	Growing potatoes
Rigside Primary	Eco greenhouse (made from plastic bottles), raised beds	Growing brussels sprouts, potatoes, radishes, carrots and peas
Robert Owen Memorial Primary, Lanark	Eco greenhouse (made from plastic bottles), raised beds	Growing potatoes and other vegetables
Rutherglen High	Greenhouse, raised beds	Herbs including thyme, fennel, mint and sage, potatoes, leeks
Sanderson High, East Kilbride	Greenhouse, Planters	Growing tomatoes, onions, potatoes and green beans as well as cress in classrooms
St Anthony's Primary, Rutherglen	Planters and containers	Broad beans, potatoes
St Elizabeth's Primary, Hamilton	Planters	Strawberries
St John's Primary, Blackwood	Garden club	Growing potatoes, peas, green beans, onions and lettuce
St Leonard's Primary, East Kilbride	Raised beds	Peas, beans, carrots, strawberries, pumpkins, chives, lemon balm, mint and sage. Some produce used for lunches.
Strathaven Academy	Plans to install a greenhouse in progress	Fruit trees in grounds for two years.
Tinto Primary, Lanark	Small greenhouse / raised planters	Herbs and strawberries - possibly potatoes. Afterschool club and classes have planters. Previously, food cooked in school kitchen, pupils have also taken product home. Also, the school has made soup with the produce.
Townhill Primary, Hamilton	Raised beds, an indoor plastic greenhouse	Growing potatoes and flowers from seed

Trinity High School, Rutherglen	School garden	Growing potatoes and other root vegetables. Worked with local beekeepers to produce honey and are linked to Cambuslang Community Fire Station.
Underbank Primary, Crossford	5 planters/beds and mini orchard	Apple and plum trees and beds to be developed
West Mains Primary, East Kilbride	Raised beds	Strawberries
Wester Overton Primary, Strathaven	Raised beds installed in grounds next to car park	Growing vegetables
Woodhead Primary, Hamilton	Garden club	Plan to start growing fruit/veg this year. They also have raised beds where they grow potatoes.

Social Work - Care Homes and Day Centres	
Canderavon House, Stonehouse	All of the care homes and day centres provide food growing opportunities for their residents and clients. Provision varies from centre to centre and includes components such as greenhouses, raised beds, planters, sheds and tool storage. One of the Lifestyles centres also has an allotment and a sensory garden and some centres also run gardening groups. Produce is used by residents or shared with cookery groups.
Carluke Lifestyles	
David Walker Gardens, Rutherglen	
Dewar House, Hamilton	
East Kilbride Lifestyles	
Fairhill Lifestyles, Hamilton	
Harry Smith Lifestyles, Lanark	
Kirkton House, Blantyre	
McClymont House, Lanark	
McKillop Gardens, East Kilbride	
McWhirter House, Larkhall	
Meldrum Gardens, East Kilbride	
Stonehouse Lifestyles	
The Coalyard, Larkhall	

In addition to food growing sites provided by the Council, there are a number of other initiatives that residents can become involved with.

Existing community growing projects:

- Flourishing Forth
- Organic Growers of Bothwell
- Larkhall Community Growers
- TACT Healthy Park
- Cambuslang Allotments
- Whitehill Project
- Chatelherault Country Park Project
- Strathaven in Bloom
- Leadhills park
- Castlebank Park Horticultural Centre
- Rutherglen Baptist Church Garden Project
- East Kilbride Development Trust, Calderglen Country Park
- Grow 73, Overtoun Park, Rutherglen
- Lesmahagow community allotments
- Friends of the Calder, Hunthill Road, Blantyre
- Forth Eco Site

Community support initiatives:

- Uddingston Pride
- Brighter Bothwell
- Carnwath in Bloom
- Lanark in Bloom
- Strathaven in Bloom
- Quarter in Bloom
- Burnside in Bloom
- Law Community Trust
- Carluke Development Trust
- Pettinain Residents Community Woodland
- Carstairs Residents
- Robertson Residents
- West Mains Residents
- Friends of Cambuslang Park
- Friends of Strathaven Park
- Friends of Langlands Moss
- Friends of the Calder
- Stonehouse Development Trust
- Burnside Scout Group

Community Food Coops have also been established over the last few years in Carluke, Calderwood, Greenhills, Fairhill, Hillhouse, Fernhill, Larkhall, Westburn and Westwhitlawburn.

South Lanarkshire Council established a food growing group to communicate the draft food growing strategy to the wider community, act as consultees on any future reviews and assist with delivering the action plan. Contributors have included the following, but are not limited to:

South Lanarkshire Council and partners:

Amenity Services (Com Ent) – **Lead**
Greenspace Team (Com Ent)
Environmental Health (Com Ent)
Planning and Economic Development (Com Ent)
Social Work Resources
Grounds Services (Com Ent)
Education Resources
Housing and Technical Resources
Estates Team (Housing)
Corporate Resources Equality Rep
Fire Scotland
NHS Scotland

Community groups and organisations:

Allers Allotment Association
Bothwell Organic Growers
Grow 73
Larkhall Community Growers
VASLAN
Central Scotland Green Network Trust
Healthy and Happy
Clydesdale Community Initiative
Lanark Community Development Trust
Friends of Strathaven Park

Key objectives and actions are outlined below and will regularly be monitored and reviewed annually by the Food Growing Group.

Contributor Key:

AS	Amenity Services, Community and Enterprise Resources
CET	Community Engagement Team, Finance and Corporate Resources
CG	Community Groups
ED	Education Resources
EH	Environmental Health, Community and Enterprise Resources
ES	Estates, Housing & Technical Resources
FG	Food Growing Group
FT	Finance Team, Finance and Corporate Resources
GIS	GIS Team, Housing & Technical Resources
GR	Greenspace, Community and Enterprise Resources
GS	Grounds Services, Community and Enterprise Resources
HT	Housing and Technical Resources
IT	IT Services, Finance and Corporate Resources
OS	Open space audit working group
PED	Planning and Economic Development, Community and Enterprise Resources
PL	Plotholders
PR	Public Relations, Finance and Corporate Resources
PS	Procurement Services, Finance and Corporate Resources
SW	Social Work Resources

Key objective: Increase provision of high quality food growing opportunities			
No	Action	Lead Responsibility / Contributors	Target Timescale
1.1	Consult Food Growing Group on final draft strategy and year 1 action plan	Lead – AS HT, ED, SW, PED, EH, GR, CG	April 2020
1.2	Identify and develop new food growing sites	Lead – AS PED	Ongoing
1.3	Contribute to the open space audit and create a list of available land for potential food growing sites	Lead – PED OS, AS	April 2020
Key objective: Promote other forms of food growing			
2.1	Review Community Growing Toolkit every two years	Lead – AS PR, CG	June 2020
2.2	Review and update database of current and available land for food growing.	Lead – AS GIS	Ongoing
2.3	Establish links between interested parties and established groups to provide training / advice and share good practice.	Lead – AS FG, CG	Ongoing
2.4	Review waiting list to establish if alternative food growing options can be offered to individuals	Lead – AS	December 2020
2.5	Provide advice and support to groups who wish to create community food growing sites.	Lead – ES AS, PED	Ongoing
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.	Lead – CET AS, CG	Ongoing
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	Lead – AS HT, SW, ED, GS	Ongoing

Key objective: Ensure good administration and sustainable partnership working			
3.1	Internal review of rules and regulations to identify additional requirements for raised bed sites	Lead – AS	December 2020
3.2	Review remit, frequency and membership of food growing group once strategy implemented	Lead – AS FG	January 2021
3.3	Internal review of allotment rules and regulations following implementation of new sites	Lead – AS	December 2020
3.4	Schedule a minimum of 2 meetings per year of the Food Growing Group	Lead – AS FG	Annually
3.5	Undertake review of allotment waiting list every 2 years to ensure list is accurate	Lead – AS	June 2020
3.6	Review Strategy every five years in partnership with Food Growing Group and community groups / associations	Lead – AS FG, CG, PL	April 2025
3.7	Introduce system for managing allotments administration and audit trail more effectively	Lead – AS IT, PS	August 2019
3.8	Review functionality of allotments management system to identify opportunities for increased efficiency	Lead – AS	February 2021
3.9	Annually review the food growing action plan	Lead – AS FG	March 2021
3.10	Review public information including website content / social media	Lead – AS	February 2021
3.11	Work with individual ploholders to establish constituted allotment / food growing associations at Council managed sites	Lead – AS	Ongoing
3.12	To review baseline targets for Year 2 Action Plan	Lead – AS	March 2021
Key objective: Develop and promote environmentally sustainable food growing options			
4.1	Identify opportunities for improving biodiversity at existing sites	Lead – AS GR	Ongoing
4.2	Review and where possible increase composting provision at all appropriate food growing sites.	Lead – AS	Ongoing
4.3	Review and where possible increase water harvesting opportunities at all appropriate food growing sites	Lead – AS	Ongoing
4.4	Review designs for new sites to ensure options for improved biodiversity and sustainability have been considered	Lead – AS GR	As required
4.5	Review options for provision of composting toilets at serviced sites and explore funding opportunities	Lead – AS CG	March 2021
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	Lead - AS	June 2020
Key objective: Identify and where possible, secure resources			
5.1	Work with Planning and Economic Development to secure internal / external funding and opportunities for working with local businesses	Lead – AS PED	Ongoing
5.2	Work with community groups to secure external funding where demand has been identified	Lead – AS CG	Ongoing
5.3	Seek capital and revenue funding to work towards meeting legislative obligations	Lead – AS FT	Ongoing