

# Aberdeen's Food Growing Strategy

Developing a Food Growing Strategy  
& Community Growing initiatives



# Background

- The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act of 2015 requires each local authority to prepare a food-growing strategy for its area to identify land that may be used as allotment sites, identify other areas of land that could be used for community growing, and describe how the authority intends to increase provision for community growing, in particular in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage.

Community Empowerment Act 2015

# Community Empowerment Act 2015

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Helps to empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services.

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The Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 17 June 2015. It received Royal Assent and became an Act on 24 July 2015. Each part of the Act will come into effect at different times, depending on how much preparation is needed.

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11 topics or 'Parts' covered by the Act.

# Part 9: Allotments

- The Act updates and simplifies legislation on allotments.
- It requires local authorities to maintain waiting lists and take reasonable steps to provide allotments if the waiting lists exceed certain trigger points. It also strengthens the protection for allotments and clarifies the rights of local authorities and plot holders.
- Provisions allow allotments to be 250 square metres in size or a different size that is to be agreed between the person requesting an allotment and the local authority.

Community Empowerment Act 2015

# Part 9: Allotments

- The Act also requires fair rents to be set and allows tenants to sell surplus produce grown on an allotment (other than with a view to making a profit).
- There is a requirement for local authorities to develop a food growing strategy for their area, including identifying land that may be used as allotment sites and identifying other areas of land that could be used by a community for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers.
- Part 9 came into force on 1 April 2018.

# The Process



## Steering Group

A Steering Group formed in 2016/17 to prepare for the strategy development.

## Greenspace Scotland

Greenspace facilitated stakeholder workshops to capture the needs of local organisations.

## Stakeholder Workshops/ Public Input

Workshops to capture what was needed from the strategy. Public engagement surveys and events also.

## Scottish Government Guidance

Draft Guidance Document just been published – open for public consultation.

## Food Growing Strategy

ACC aim to produce the strategy in early 2019.

# Aberdeen City Council's approach

## Who is involved?

Stakeholders involved in developing the strategy include:

- NHS Grampian;
- The Allotment Market Stall
- Community Food Initiative North East
- Local Development Plan team
- Powis Residents Association
- ACC Locality managers
- James Hutton Institute
- Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership
- Garthdee allotments
- Go Green at Robert Gordon University



# Stakeholder Workshops



**Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen**



# Scottish Government Guidance

## Executive Summary from Statutory Guidance (DRAFT)

- 1.1 The Scottish Government’s aspiration is for the country to become a Good Food Nation; a land of food and drink; not only in what we produce but also in what we buy, serve and eat.
- 1.2 Food is one of the most important components of life and it is a key part of what makes the people of Scotland proud of their country – food which is both tasty to eat and nutritious, fresh and environmentally sustainable.
- 1.3 We embrace community food-growing in all its forms, only one of which is growing on allotments. Grow-Your-Own food (“GYO”), be it on an allotment, community garden or any other form, can increase our access to affordable, healthy and environmentally sound food; the very essence of being a Good Food Nation.
- 1.4 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (“the Act”) aims to help empower communities across Scotland, and for those wanting to GYO, it will improve access to land for food growing purposes.
- 1.5 By embracing all forms of community food-growing, improving access to land for food-growing purposes and give more people the opportunity to grow their own food, we will help to improve food security.

# Creating the Strategy

Draft Objectives of the Aberdeen Food Growing Strategy

June 2018

1	<b>Take steps to make food growing opportunities available to all residents of Aberdeen to improve their health and wellbeing</b>	1.1 (Political, & Strategic)	Communities and politicians will understand the link between healthy people, good, local food and a high-quality environment in and around the city. Granite City Growing will be a recognised part of Aberdeen's policy and strategic priorities.
		1.2 (Governance)	Develop and maintain governance and leadership for Granite City Growing, to co-ordinate activity and inform policy across a range of stakeholders. Consider the appointment of a food-growing champion and a food-growing facilitator.  Co-ordinate action planning with the Sustainable Food City Partnership.
		1.3 (Support & skills)	People in the city will know where to go to receive support and help to start their food growing journey.
		1.4 (Mapping and Information)	We will have a clear understanding of the spaces which are available for food growing. Growing spaces will be mapped and included within the open-space audit (Summer 2018). Potential food-growing sites will also be mapped and included within the Aberdeen Local Development Plan as appropriate.
		1.5 (Schools)	Provide a school growing space for all Aberdeen schools wishing to have one to support learning outcomes. Provide growing spaces in new schools. Provide support to schools to sustain their food-growing activities and embed it into the curriculum.
		1.6 (Using public estate)	Involve key stakeholders to get more food-growing into prime locations.  Make the best use of existing resources by providing spaces for growing through a partnership approach with schools, parks, residential institutions, prisons and the NHS estate.
		1.7 (Research)	Support research on local food-growing measures.
		1.8 (Secure funding)	Investigate the role of Corporate Social Responsibility and private benefactors to access land and funding. Investigate and signpost financial resources for growing initiatives from developer obligations, community benefits in large procurements and about sources of funding.

# Creating the Strategy

2	Help to alleviate food poverty and raise awareness about the benefits of food growing to mental and physical well-being through public engagement and encouraging the uptake of food-growing opportunities.	2.1	<b>Encourage not-for-profit social enterprise through the availability and encouraging uptake of food-growing opportunities.</b>
		2.2	Make food-growing visible in and around Aberdeen; within public parks, amenity land, on walls and roofs. Potentially develop a 'food-trail' or consider a food-based event to raise awareness.
		3.3	Share skills and culture through a programme facilitating the sharing of cookery skills and food growing knowledge. Encourage the participation of people from different generations, other nationalities and different cultural backgrounds.
		3.4	Set up a 'social prescribing programme' where food-growing is offered on prescription by GPs
3	Encourage biodiversity and climate resilience, and reduce carbon mileage through providing opportunities for local production of food and through appropriate site design.	3.1	Embed local food-growing into the work of the Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen to involve local businesses and supermarkets and to encourage and support local restaurants to use seasonal and locally grown produce on their menus.
		3.2	Embed the requirement to increase biodiversity and climate resilience within growing spaces through the choice of plants, heritage varieties, site design and management. Especially consider spaces and food-plants for bees. Encourage gardening in general by including flowers and crop trees too.
		3.3	Encourage locally-grown fruit and vegetables be specified, supplied and served by the public sector in Aberdeen whenever possible.
		3.4	Include on-site composting where appropriate.

Note: The text in bold relates directly to the wording contained in the (draft) statutory guidance.

# Creating the Strategy

4	Make all of Aberdeen's allotment sites and food-growing spaces well managed community empowered sites with quality facilities, as far as is practicable	4.1	<b>Make the supply of allotment sites and food growing spaces transparent to all and compliant with the provisions of the Act</b>
		4.2	Make local authority allotment sites financially sustainable.
		4.3	Extend the use of microplots on allotment sites as appropriate to grow gardening skills and to engage with the allotment waiting list.
		4.4	Create a culture where communities feel supported and encouraged to grow food on land. Signpost the asset transfer process as appropriate.
5	Take steps to <u>allow the</u> local economy to benefit from local food-growing.	5.1	Encourage local fruit and vegetables be specified, supplied and served by the public sector in Aberdeen.
		5.2	Explore the links to tourism by developing a Food trail around Aberdeen or having an annual food-based event.
		5.3	<b>Encourage not-for-profit social enterprise through the availability and encouraging uptake of food-growing opportunities.</b>
		5.4	Support and encourage locally-based food-growing businesses.
		5.5	Embed food-growing into the work of the Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen to involve local businesses and supermarkets and to encourage and support local restaurants to use seasonal and locally grown produce on their menus.

Note: The text in bold relates directly to the wording contained in the (draft) statutory guidance.

# Strategic Environmental Assessment



## Aberdeen Food-Growing Strategy

### **The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Screening Determination under Section 8 (1)**

Section 8 (1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires Local Authorities to determine if a plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

Aberdeen City Council has determined in consultation with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland, that the Aberdeen Food-Growing Strategy is likely to have significant effects and that a strategic environmental assessment is required.

An environmental report will be prepared alongside the Aberdeen Food-Growing Strategy. The environmental report will identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Aberdeen Food-Growing Strategy and its reasonable alternatives as by the 2005 Act.

**Dated:** 11 May 2018

**Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen**



# Aberdeen City Council's approach

## Food Growing Strategy Steering Group agreed:

- Aberdeen should aim to lead the way, not just 'tick the box';
- Strategy alone will not tackle barriers to food growing;
- Funding needed to promote community growing & improve access to growing spaces, particularly in regeneration areas;
- Committee Report drafted and called in front of ACC FP&R Committee;
- £145k awarded to support community growing initiatives, as part of Aberdeen's commitment to Sustainable Food Cities.

# Community Growing Initiatives



# Community Growing Initiatives



## School Growing Project



Unpaid Work Team Helped Create the Spaces



Woodside Primary School

# Community Growing Initiatives



## School Growing Project



Hillside Primary School



Oldmachar Community Pre-School

# Community Growing Initiatives



## Edible Walls



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# Community Growing Initiatives



## Edible Walls



# Community Growing Initiatives

## Tullos Wildlife Garden & Community Growing Space



**Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen**

# Community Growing Initiatives



## Veg Bag Project



# Community Growing Initiatives



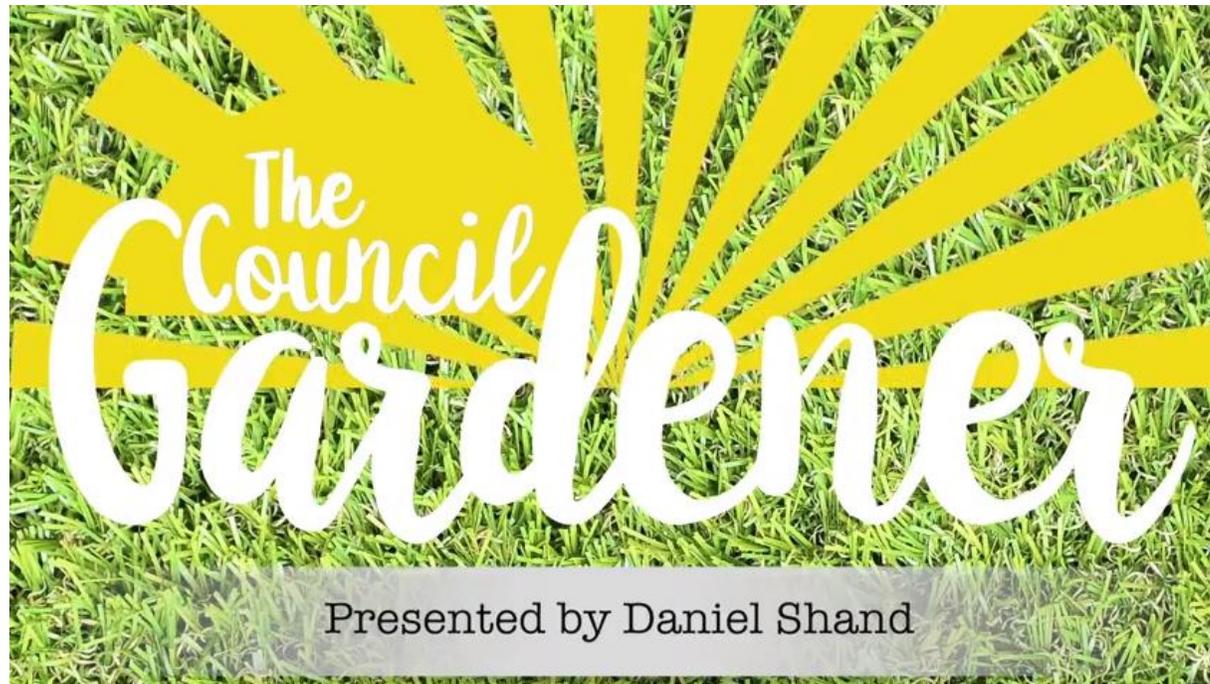
## Urban Hives



# Community Growing Initiatives



Other Promotion & Engagement:



<https://www.youtube.com/user/AberdeenCC> *'The Council Gardener'*

# Learn more about Aberdeen's approach



If you have any further questions or to learn more about Aberdeen's approach:

Amy Gray / Sandy Highton  
Sustainable Development Team  
Aberdeen City Council

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[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/food-growing-strategy](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/food-growing-strategy)

# Thank You

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