

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 25 February 2020

Draft Edinburgh Food Growing Strategy for Consultation

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to approve the draft Edinburgh Food Growing Strategy in Appendix I for consultation.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Edinburgh Draft Food Growing Strategy for Consultation

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Growing Locally is Edinburgh's first Food Growing Strategy. A public consultation on the draft strategy will run for a six week period in March and early April on the Council's consultation hub.
- 2.2 Changes made following feedback from the consultation will be delegated to officers in consultation with the Convener, Vice Convener and the Council's Sustainability champion. The final Strategy will also be published in June's committee business bulletin.
- 2.3 The consultation draft has been prepared following a number of engagement activities delivered in partnership with Edible Edinburgh and informed by Edinburgh's Sustainable Food Cities programme.
- 2.4 Implementation of the Food Growing Strategy will support and strengthen the work being done in Edinburgh on moving from Sustainable Food Cities Bronze to Silver award accreditation.

3. Background

- 3.1 Section 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places an obligation on local authorities to prepare a food growing strategy for its area.
- 3.2 The Act requires that the Food Growing Strategy:
 - 3.2.1 Maps the provision of food growing opportunities in the city. This includes identifying land that the local authority uses as allotment sites and areas of land that could be used by a community for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers;
 - 3.2.2 Develops and broadens the range of food growing opportunities and land available;
 - 3.2.3 Makes reasonable steps to increase allotments and food growing sites for communities which experience socio-economic disadvantage.
 - 3.2.4 Is published electronically.

- 3.2.5 Under section 120 of the Act, the food growing strategy must be reviewed every five years.
- 3.3 In meeting these duties, the Council will support local communities to grow more within their own neighbourhoods and to encourage growing in all its forms and varieties.
- 3.4 In addition, the development of Edinburgh's Food Growing Strategy will support broader ambitions to support the development of Edinburgh as a Sustainable Food City, including moving from Bronze to Silver award accreditation.
- 3.5 The strategy will also contribute to national activity which encourages local food production and distribution and the environmental, social and economic benefits this will bring and is being driven through the Scottish Government's 'Good Food Nation' work and forthcoming legislation.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Growing Locally is Edinburgh's first food growing strategy. It is part of the Council's broader approach to sustainability and our ambitious target of Edinburgh becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Our ambition is for Edinburgh to be a city with a vibrant, thriving and sustainable local food economy, supporting business and residents to respond to the climate emergency, as well as living healthier lives and supporting local businesses to thrive.
- 4.2 The strategy aims to increase local food growing activity and the supply of locally produced food. It will raise public awareness and engagement about the importance of sustainable food to our environment, economy and communities. The Council will work in partnership with Edible Edinburgh, the city's sustainable food partnership, other relevant stakeholders and our citizens to do this.
- 4.3 Edinburgh was one of the founding members of the Sustainable Food Network, which now has over 57 network members across the UK. We achieved SFC Bronze accreditation in June 2019. The development of the Food Growing Strategy will help the city achieve Sustainable Food Cities (SFC) Silver accreditation by raising public awareness about sustainable food, promoting active food citizenship and a good food movement, helping to build a more vibrant and diverse food economy and in line with our objectives, help to tackle the climate and nature emergency.
- 4.4 Growing Locally has been developed to focus on the following five strategic outcomes:
- 4.4.1 Reducing carbon emissions through the production and supply of local, sustainable food;
 - 4.4.2 Supporting local food growing businesses to grow and thrive;
 - 4.4.3 Increasing land availability in the city for food growing;

- 4.4.4 Reducing spatial inequalities through increasing the availability and opportunities for food growing for communities in the city which experience socio-economic disadvantage;
- 4.4.5 Increasing resident's awareness and choice around healthy and sustainable food.
- 4.5 It includes a ten-point action plan which sets out high-level strategic actions designed to support the strategy's three core aims of ensuring citizens, communities and businesses can: grow more locally; consume more locally; and, increase awareness and engagement.
- 4.6 The Food Growing Strategy will be supported by an implementation plan which will respond to feedback gathered through consultation on the strategy in spring. The implementation plan will be developed in collaboration with the Edible Edinburgh Partnership and will set out in more detail the actions the Council and Edible Edinburgh partners will take in pursuit of the strategy's aims and to support delivery of the strategy's ten-point plan. Specific actions will necessarily reflect available budget and the Council will continue to work with Edible Edinburgh and other partners to maximise leverage of external funding where this is possible.
- 4.7 Partnership action in this area can also deliver the wider benefits associated with food growing including improving health and wellbeing, reducing social exclusion, enhancing biodiversity, reducing food waste, improving training, skills and education around food.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 A citywide public consultation on the draft Food Growing Strategy will be launched, to run for a six-week period, from the beginning of March.
- 5.2 A finalised Food Growing Strategy will be published by the end of April 2020. Changes made following consultation feedback will be made by officers in consultation with the Convener, Vice Convener and Council Sustainability Champion. The Strategy will also be published in June's committee business bulletin.
- 5.3 We will also begin work with our neighbouring local authorities and the Regional Business Council to explore what a regional strategy could look like and consider what priorities it should have.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 Implementation of the strategy will be taken forward as part of the Council's overall work on sustainability.
- 6.2 The reach and extent of implementation activities will dependent upon available resource.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 In 2019 a number of engagement exercises were held to gather people's views on the purpose, objectives and content of this food growing strategy. Events included a Food Summit held in the summer, a number of workshops organised by Edible Edinburgh and community organisations, and various meetings with relevant stakeholders.
- 7.2 Edible Edinburgh held its first Business Breakfast in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) in November 2019. The event, which was opened by the Lord Provost, focused on how food and related businesses can contribute to making Edinburgh a sustainable food city, including through local food production and distribution. The event was well-received with around 55 local and national businesses attending, leading to a further event being planned for 3 March at the EICC.
- 7.3 An integrated impact assessment will be carried out on the strategy in parallel with the public consultation.
- 7.4 This report has been assessed in respect of the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties. In summary, the proposals in this report will help improve social justice, economic wellbeing and environmental good stewardship.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Cultivating Communities – A Growing Success. The 3rd Allotment Strategy for the City of Edinburgh 2017-2027](#)

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Growing Locally, Edinburgh's draft Food Growing Strategy

Growing locally

Edinburgh's food growing strategy

February 2020



Growing Locally – Edinburgh’s 10-point Food Strategy 2020-2025

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1. Foreword

Growing Locally – Edinburgh’s Food Growing Strategy

The overarching ambition of the Council is to ensure everyone benefits from Edinburgh’s success. As a council, on behalf of the city we have also formally declared a climate emergency and committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The council has already made significant steps to ensure we are making the changes required to transition to a carbon neutral economy and to do so in a way that is fair to all including those in this city who experience poverty.

This year you have seen the publication of our 10-year mobility strategy, our City Plan 2030, the Council sustainability improvement plan and most recently the establishment of the Edinburgh Climate Commission. These strategies will have a profound impact on the way that we all get around the city and respond to the need for more affordable and sustainable housing. What is also clear is that, at the same time as looking at our buildings and cars we as a city need to eat more healthily, and we need to think more about where our food comes from both in terms of carbon and the sustainability of our natural environment.

Growing Locally, Edinburgh’s food growing strategy represents a major development for the city, bringing together for the first time our proposed approach to encouraging more local production, more sustainable management of food growing and perhaps most importantly of all, an ongoing discussion as a city about what a diverse and vibrant food economy looks like.

Within this context, our strategic aims are to:

- 1. Grow more locally**
- 2. Consume more locally by residents and businesses.**
- 3. Increase awareness of and engagement with residents.**

This strategy is about choice. It’s about giving families greater information about healthy and sustainable food, it’s about supporting local businesses to continue to flourish and it’s about how the City of Edinburgh Council can help create the right conditions for these activities to thrive.

This will not be achieved by the City of Edinburgh Council alone but by us working together through strong existing partnerships and with the residents of Scotland’s capital.

Councillor George Gordon

City of Edinburgh Council Sustainability Champion

Edible Edinburgh Chair



2. Executive Summary

'*Growing Locally*' is Edinburgh's first food growing strategy and will be a key plank of the Council's broader approach to sustainability to ensure Edinburgh is carbon neutral 2030. The strategy aims to support business and residents to play a part responding to the climate emergency through their involvement in local food growing as well as by living healthier lives and supporting local businesses to thrive.

Growing Locally is a city-wide strategy developed in collaboration by the Edible Edinburgh partnership, Transition Edinburgh and Nourish Scotland. Through this document and the resulting work of the Council and partners our aim is to:

- 1. Grow more locally**
- 2. Consume more locally by residents and businesses.**
- 3. Increase awareness of and engagement with residents.**

In delivering these three strategic objectives we believe we can build on progress already made in this city, to harness the growth in public opinion on the relative importance of a sustainable, locally source food. A key part of this strategy is improving our evidence base in this area and establishing a baseline going forward. Working from that baseline we aim to achieve 5 strategic outcomes which we will use to monitor our progress. These are:

- 1. Reduce our carbon emissions as a city**
- 2. Support local food growing businesses to grow and thrive**
- 3. Increase land availability for food growing**
- 4. Reduce spatial inequalities across the city**
- 5. Increase resident's awareness and choice around healthy and sustainable food**

The strategy describes where we are now, where we would like to be and the ways in which we could get there. It has been written with input from key stakeholders and informed by work already done, past and current engagement activities, lessons learned and best practice examples from other cities as well as our own examples of good practice and innovation.

This strategy will form part of a wider approach to delivering a carbon neutral city by 2030.

3. The Policy Context

There is increasing consensus that an urgent global response is required in order to respond to the climate crisis facing the planet. Rising to this challenge will require wide reaching action to change our economy from one based on fossil fuels to a genuinely sustainable economy. This overarching challenge is augmented by the need to ensure Edinburgh and the rest of the UK's economy continues to grow and that we continue to tackle issues of inequality and poverty. These big policy issues are also within the context of the UK having recently left the European Union. These challenges create an urgent need to think about how we consume more sustainable food and by doing so, reduce our carbon footprint and have more sustainable approaches to managing the planet's resources as a whole.

The UK left the European Union on the 31st January. Formal negotiations are now underway with the European Union about agreeing a future trading relationship. These negotiations have significant bearing on business involved in food production, presenting both risks and opportunities.

Levels of awareness regarding what we eat and where our food comes from continues to increase. There is a greater awareness around food miles, the relative carbon emissions of growing different kinds of food and the wider non-carbon benefits of growing your own food. The Council has put wellbeing at the heart of its change strategy and encouraging local food production not only has the benefits of eating healthier more sustainable food but is also important in terms of people's overall wellbeing.

Edinburgh 2030 Carbon Neutral

In 2019 the City of Edinburgh Council declared a climate Emergency and agreed a target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. To achieve that goal CEC recently agreed a short-term improvement plan, to work in partnership with the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation to establish a long-term Climate Commission on behalf of the city and to agree a new long-term strategy for becoming carbon neutral by 2030 which is due to be published at the end of 2030. Sustainable food will be an important element of this work as it progresses.

Change strategy/budget

The Council has published a proposed 3-year balanced budget and Change Strategy to ensure the Council can deliver its priorities in terms of addressing poverty, sustainability and improving the city's wellbeing. The Council is facing a challenging financial environment but by having a long term balanced budget puts us in the best possible position to deliver on our priorities. *To be updated before publication*

Mobility Strategy 2030

In January this year, CEC published its 2030 mobility strategy – a 10-year plan to deliver a more sustainable transport network – reducing emissions and making it easier to get around the city using public transport. We have one of the most congested cities in the UK and if we are to continue make Edinburgh a great place to live and work then we need to continue to invest in our long-term transportation infrastructure.

City Plan 2030 and land development

The Consultation document for our City Plan 2030 was also published in January. Edinburgh has a rising population and significant demand for housing which is leading to major challenges in terms of supply and affordability. At the same time, we must ensure that as the city develops it does so sustainably – reducing carbon emissions from the building process and supporting sustainable public transport about the city. We want City Plan 2030 to identify specific sites for community gardens, new allotments and food growing, both as part of new development sites and within open space in the urban area. We must also ensure that the city's

spatial plan is clearly embedded in the principle of supporting communities to strengthen and develop. The consultation wants to hear from residents and it will be important to ensure that as the city develops there is space for agriculture and domestic food production.

Locality Outcome Improvement Plan

Achieving long term change in Scotland's capital will require partnership working. The Edinburgh's Community Planning Partnership brings together public bodies such as the Council, the NHS, Police Scotland and the Fire and Rescue Service with the third sector and other partners. It agreed its locality outcome improvement plan last year. The plan sought to put tackling poverty at the heart of its work. [drafting note additional text on 3 themes to go in]

Edible Edinburgh and Sustainable Food Cities

In 2014 the Council made a commitment to Edinburgh becoming a Sustainable Food City. 'Edible Edinburgh', our city-wide sustainable food partnership, is working to achieve this by improving the sustainability of our food systems and the health and well-being of our citizens and communities. Edible Edinburgh's vision is "that Edinburgh is a city where good food is available and accessible for all, making for healthy people, thriving communities and a sustainable environment." Edinburgh achieved Sustainable Food Cities Network bronze accreditation in June 2019 and we are proud to be working towards silver.

Thriving Green Spaces

Edinburgh is one of Europe's greenest cities with many award-winning parks that need to be nurtured and supported. With support from funding from the national lottery we are embarking on a conversation with the city about how we protect, evolve and make the most of this unique series of assets to deliver greater benefits for citizens.

Allotment Strategy

The Council approved its current allotment strategy in 2016 – building on a long track record of championing this key area of work. Through this strategy, we will continue to look to increase provision, reduce waiting times and make allotments as assessable as possible. The strategy has a ten-year lifespan and its implementation will be informed by the Council's food growing strategy and Thriving Green Spaces project.

Biodiversity Plan

Published in May 2019, the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out a partnership approach to protecting and increasing biodiversity across the city. Through this plan, the Council will contribute to the management of Edinburgh's habitats and species, which in turn contributes to removing carbon from the atmosphere. The plan has a strong emphasis on the importance of private gardens, allotments and community growing areas as places for wildlife.

Eco Schools

Eco schools is a global programme based on the UN's sustainable development goals which aims to empower children to drive change and improve their environmental awareness through a seven-step framework in order to achieve the international Eco-schools Green Flag award.

Key Facts

There is no path to meeting the city's carbon neutral target that does not require action to change food consumption, production, transport, and waste practices in Edinburgh.

As with any food growing strategy, allotments play an important role in this city but Edinburgh is also home to an estimated 45 community growing projects. Such projects are often involved in much more than just growing food. Many of these projects work with their local communities to promote healthy eating, alleviate poverty and inequalities, improve community cohesion, reduce isolation and encourage nature and outdoor activities, and are often located in areas of deprivation in the city.

Overall, the food economy in Edinburgh accounts for almost 10% of all jobs in the city. Decisions, choices, and practices adopted by businesses in this sector – how they manufacture food, source food and ingredients, and how they manage transport and logistics for their products – will, over the next few years, have a significant impact on the city's ability to be a sustainable food economy.

The following evidence makes that clear and has informed the development of this strategy

Food related contributions to climate change

- An estimated 19% of all UK greenhouse gas emissions are driven by food production and consumption related activities
- Of these, agriculture accounts for the largest single contribution, but more than half of food related emissions are driven by non-agriculture related activities – consumption, manufacturing, and transport.
- As such, even as an urban centre with little agriculture, marine, or aquaculture activity, food systems in Edinburgh are still likely to make a significant contribution to the city's Co2 emissions.

Food economy in Edinburgh

- Only around 200 people in Edinburgh were employed in activities related to agriculture, fishing or aquaculture in 2018, less than 0.1% of total city employment
- Despite this the city is home to a large and vibrant food economy, with over 32,000 people employed across almost 200 city businesses.
- Food manufacturing accounts for more than 2,000 of these jobs and is one of the city's few concentrations of manufacturing employment – with particular activity in manufacturing bakery products and beverages
- Over 29,000 people are employed in food retail and hospitality jobs

Food growing in Edinburgh

- Edinburgh has a vibrant local and community food growing culture. As of April 2019 there were 44 allotment sites in Edinburgh with 1,833 plots, of which 1,567 are managed by the City of Edinburgh Council.
- Over the last two years the number of plots has increased by 109 from 1,815 to 1,833.
- In April 2019 the waiting list for an allotment stood at 1,389. The waiting list has increased in 2020 following introduction of an online application process.
- 37 sites have been identified as having the potential to be developed as allotments and are currently being assessed to determine any development or title restrictions. Newcraighall and the Leith Links extension aim to be operational by 2020.

Food vulnerability

- An estimated 80,000 people in Edinburgh live in poverty, including almost 1 in 4 of all children in the city.
- Poverty affects people in all parts of the city and evidence shows a growing number of families struggling to get by and facing impossible choices as to how to feed their children.

- Recent analysis on food vulnerability estimates that an estimated 24,000 working age adults in Edinburgh worried that they would run out of food at times during 2018. Almost 10,000 said they had gone without food because of a lack of money.

Healthy and sustainable food choices

- 19% of men and 24% of women consumed the recommended amount of five or more portions per day in Scotland during 2018
- People living in the most deprived areas of Scotland are less likely to meet five-a-day recommendations for daily fruit and vegetable consumption compared with those in the least deprived areas.
- In 2017 and 2018, 15% of children aged 2-15 years met the recommended daily intake of five or more portions. (Scotland).

5. Objectives and outcomes

Our ambition is for Edinburgh to be a city with a vibrant, thriving and sustainable local food economy, where residents, community groups and local businesses are able to access healthy, sustainable food locally, and to grow more food across a diverse range of sites within the city. By working with city partners, including local businesses, public sector partners, community groups and individual citizens, we aim to:

- 1. Grow more locally**
- 2. Consume more locally by residents and businesses.**
- 3. Increase awareness of and engagement with residents.**

In delivering these three strategic objectives we believe we can build on progress made by partners to date, harness the innovation across the city and seize the moment that is seen as a shift in public opinion on the relative importance of sustainable, locally sourced food. A key part of this strategy is improving our evidence base in this area and establishing a baseline going forward. Working from that baseline we aim to achieve 5 strategic outcomes which we will monitor our progress against. . These are:

- 1. Reduce our carbon emissions as a city**
- 2. Support local food growing businesses to growth and thrive**
- 3. Increase land availability for food growing**
- 4. Reduce spatial inequalities across the city**
- 5. Increase resident's awareness and choice around healthy and sustainable food**

To achieve these outcomes, we will work with citizens, community groups and other partners to take forward a 10-point action plan over the next five years. How those 10 actions will support our three objectives of growing more locally, consuming more locally, and increasing awareness and engagement is set out in the strategy below.

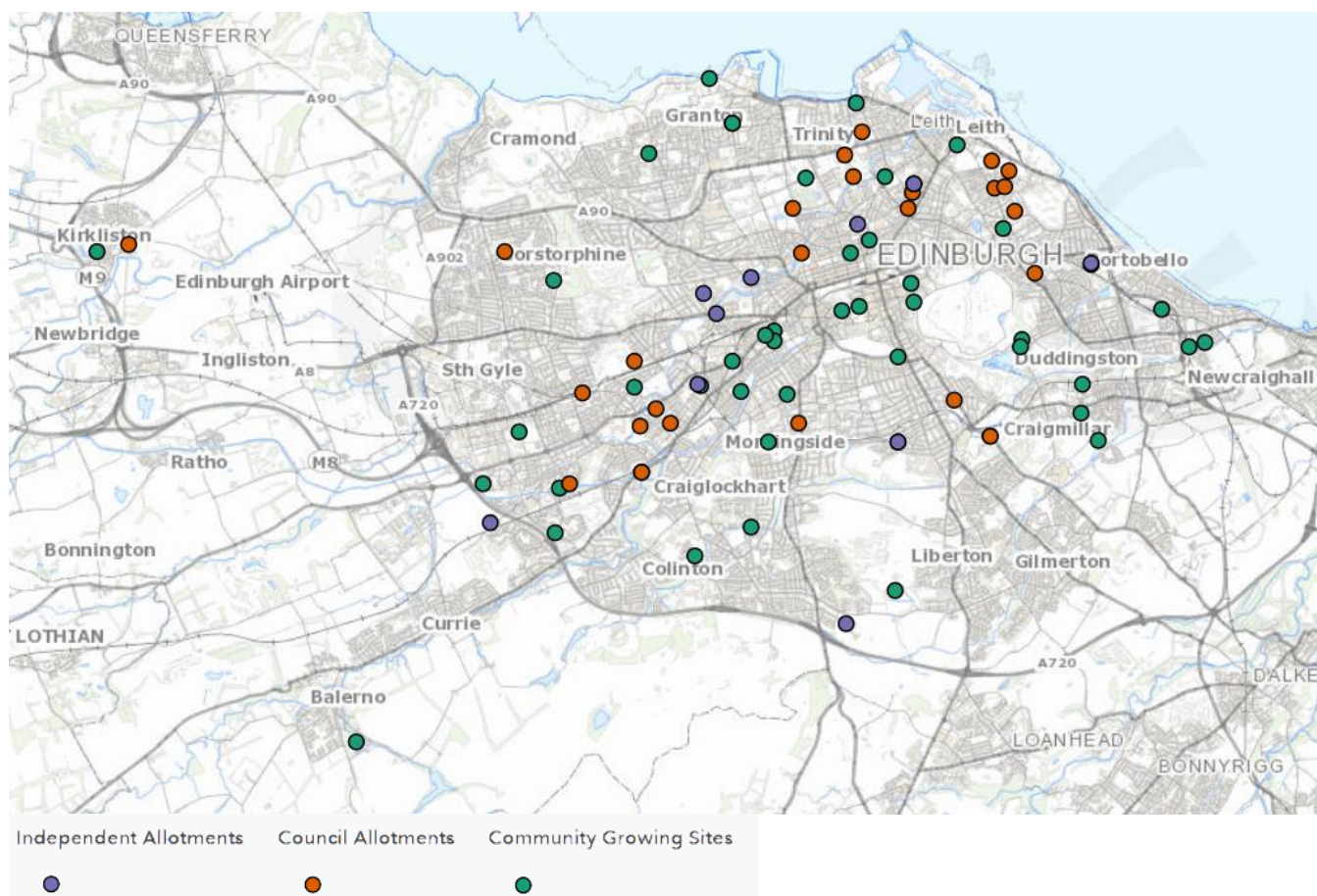
These strategic actions will be supported by an implementation plan setting out how current and future activities will be driven forward to make Edinburgh a city with a thriving local food system. This will ensure citizens, communities and local businesses can contribute to and benefit from local food growing in a way that delivers social, economic, health and environmental benefits, particularly for those communities facing the greatest disadvantage.

5 a) Strategic Objective 1 - Grow more locally

Edinburgh is one of the greenest cities in the UK, with citizens enjoying access to world-class parks and greenspaces. Many of these spaces are already used for growing food and the number of food-growing plots is increasing – rising by 109 over the last two years to 1,833, with a further 37 sites currently being assessed for potential use as additional food growing spaces.

Figure 1 below shows a sample of Edinburgh’s many food growing sites, from allotments to community food growing projects. Over the life of this strategy we will work to improve the information we have about local food growing and will use consultation on the draft food growing strategy to invite citizens to tell us about food growing projects not captured within our current data.

Figure 1 – City of Edinburgh allotment sites and community food growing projects



Demand for allotments continues to grow. While improvements to waiting list management have seen waiting lists fall in 2019, further system improvements, including a simplified application process and the facility to apply on-line, mean waiting lists are beginning to climb again in 2020. The Council works with partners to understand demand and improve quality through implementation of ‘*Cultivating Communities*’, Edinburgh’s allotment strategy. The strategy was developed in partnership with Edinburgh’s Allotment Strategy Steering Group, which includes representatives of the Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Garden Associations (FEDAGA) and Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) and allotment holders. ‘*Cultivating Communities*’ sets out how we will improve citizen’s experience by ensuring allotments are well-managed, and how we will look to expand capacity by monitoring demand, identifying potential sites, and creating new allotments where possible.

In addition to expanding allotment provision, we need to identify other spaces which could provide opportunities for food growing, such as vacant land, school grounds, or greenspace within new developments. To do this, we need to work with communities to consider possibilities for land use across the city, including through our 'Choices for City Plan 2030' consultation which sets out options for how we could develop our city sustainably over the next ten years. Choices for City Plan 2030 highlights that the Council wants City Plan 2030 to identify specific sites for community gardens, new allotments and food growing, both as part of new development sites and within open space in the urban area. How we do this for the City Plan itself is the next step and will be taken forward following conclusion of the Choices 2030 consultation.

Action in this area will be complemented by our flagship 'Thriving Greenspaces 2050' project, which will set out how we will evolve the city's open and greenspaces to deliver greater benefits for citizens - including by supporting sustainable food and local good growing, sports and recreation, helping nature thrive and improving the city's resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

The Council's Eco-schools programme has the scope to extend the opportunities for food growing in school grounds and at home, depending on what the individual school Eco-Committee decides to prioritise as its priority topics under the Eco-School programme. Eco-schools can choose to focus on a number of different topics, linked to the UN sustainable development goals, with sustainable food being one of those areas. The Council is undertaking training with Edinburgh schools in the near future on developing their Eco-school topic areas. This will provide opportunities for schools to consider the potential for food growing in school grounds, learn from schools where food growing is already well-developed, and consider ways to involve parents and families in growing at home or in their local community.

Strategic Actions

1. We will deliver 'Cultivating Communities 2017-2027', our ambitious allotment strategy designed to improve the number and quality of food growing sites in Edinburgh.
2. We will improve the information available about food growing sites, setting out a new baseline which will help us to measure progress.
3. We will develop a new 30 year strategy 'Thriving Green Spaces 2050', which will create a new vision for the city setting out how our green spaces need to change to deliver greater benefits for citizens.
4. We will improve support to schools and local community food growing projects, and encourage more citizens to get involved in food growing.

Grow more locally

Case study – Edible Estates



Edible Estates provides a framework for the creation of community growing projects in Council estates. It is a collaborative project of several organisations who work with local areas partners and communities across the city. The aim is not only to support residents to grow fruit and vegetables but also to have a positive impact upon the communities in which they live, increasing environmental sustainability and supporting the development of local community resilience.

Neighbourhood gardens is the core idea of Edible Estates. They seek to establish a neighbourhood garden in every estate they work in. The role of these gardens is to be an asset for the local community, providing a 'place' and an activity to bring neighbours together and promote community cohesion and resilience. Once the group of growers are well established on the site they are supported to set up a Growers Association and then build their capacity to take on the management of their Garden for themselves. After two years the Growers Association should be independent of Edible Estates.

5b) Strategic Objective 2 – Consume more locally

Edinburgh has a strong tradition of local food production by both businesses and residents. We have over 1,800 allotment plots and around 200 businesses involved with food production. As we seek to build on this success and as we look to rise to the challenge of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, we need to increase local food production and consumption of locally-grown food yet further. There exists a range of support through the Council and partners across the city to help both businesses and residents to grow food and to encourage purchasing from local growers. Specifically, we need to ensure business support is targeted towards relevant businesses, that we work with them and key partnership bodies to explore how we can encourage residents and businesses to buy locally produced products. In doing this work we need to also better understand the barriers facing local growers.

Edinburgh already benefits from a thriving network of local food markets and there is scope to build on this foundation to improve opportunities for local food growers to sell produce, and for citizens and businesses to buy more locally-grown food. We will explore ways to strengthen the local activity already taking place, including by working with partners to explore the feasibility of establishing a local food hub for Edinburgh. This could function as an indoor market and/or distribution hub, to support farmers and other growers to sell their produce to local businesses and to improve opportunities for citizens to buy more locally-grown food.

Strategic Actions:

5. Work with the Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small businesses and others to explore how we can encourage residents and business to buy more local produce.
6. Work with Business Link and the wider industry to better understand barriers and challenges to business expansion, and explore how we can provide further support for local growers and producers
7. Work with partners and stakeholders to explore the feasibility of establishing an indoor market and local food distribution hub in Edinburgh.

Consume more locally

Case study – Inchview care home



Inch View Care Home opened in 2011 as a purpose-built care home specialising in looking after residents with dementia. Inch View became the first care home in Scotland to win the Soil Association's prestigious Silver Food for Life Served Here Catering Mark. The council-run home achieved the Silver Catering Mark through its commitment to sourcing most of its food locally and from organic suppliers.

The home is not only supporting local suppliers but is also growing its own food. It

has a wheelchair-accessible polytunnel, which was built in the grounds of the home by volunteers, local

pupils from Liberton High School, and Food for Life Scotland team members. The garden is looked after by a volunteer gardener and has helped improve the health and wellbeing of its residents, some of whom play an active part in the garden's development and care.

5c) Strategic Objective 3 - Increase awareness and engagement

The engagement, enthusiasm and activism of our citizens and communities in local food growing is the foundation of the successful food growing in Edinburgh. A key objective of this strategy is therefore to increase awareness and support, where necessary, for community groups to participate and benefit from local food growing opportunities. This includes the promotion of healthy eating, sustainable food production and local food growing. Engaging young people is key to ensuring our vibrant food growing community continues to thrive into the future. Several schools in the city are already involved in growing food in their grounds as part of the Council's outside education programme, and a key objective of our wider sustainability programme is to build on this and increase awareness and engagement of young people in schools settings and beyond.

In addition, as the city embarks on its wider Climate ambitions the Council will continue to discuss with all citizens and promote the benefits of a diverse and vibrant food economy. This engagement activity will continue to influence and inform Council activity but it will also inform the deliberations and work of the Edinburgh Climate Commission and the development of the 2030 Sustainable City Strategy which will be published in December 2020.

In the meantime, the Council will continue to build on Edinburgh's success as a Bronze award Sustainable Food City, and work towards Silver status. In doing this, we will work with Edible Edinburgh and other partners to take a joined up, holistic approach to food and deliver impact on tackling climate change, building public awareness and citizenship, and helping to foster the good food movement.

In raising awareness of the benefits of local food growing and the opportunities that exist to get involved, it will be important to celebrate successes, help connect local groups, and signpost to information, advice, toolkits and other resources. We will work with partners to better-coordinate social media and other communication, engagement and promotion activity to improve the accessibility of information on local growing. This includes information about opportunities for growing, advice on socially and environmentally responsible growing, promotion of volunteering opportunities, and information about food growing groups and organisations.

Strategic Actions:

8. Ensure food to become a key part of the city climate conversation and 2030 sustainability strategy, including by asking Edinburgh's Independent Climate Commission to take forward food as part of its 10-year
9. Work with Edible Edinburgh and other partners to ensure Edinburgh achieves the Sustainable Food Cities Silver Award
10. Work with partners to develop a joint approach to communications to improve the information and advice available to citizens, community growers and businesses about how to get involved in local food growing and what support is available locally

Increase awareness and engagement - Case study – Leith Community Croft



Leith Community Crops in Pots began life in a barren concrete yard in Leith, in an underused and unloved spot. Evie Murray, the founder, wanted to give her children a healthy outdoor experience so starting in her backyard, they began to grow their own fruit, vegetables and herbs. Evie shared more about the many environmental, social and educational benefits of growing food in urban areas, inspiring other mothers to join in. She recruited a board and rolled out her work across Leith.

From this start, the project has grown and grown. Edible Schoolyards were created around Leith, and the City of

Edinburgh Council appointed Crops in Pots to manage, with and for the local community, two acres of common good land. This prominent but previously neglected area at the northern tip of Leith Links is now a thriving community growing space known as 'Leith Community Croft'. On this pioneering [urban croft](#), the project encourages 'green' food production, a sharing ethos, nature play and the provision of wildlife habitat. The Croft has integrated with other projects, including a Croft Carbon College which was launched in 2018. The college is a local centre for raising environmental awareness and provides courses and community events to support citizens in making more sustainable choices.

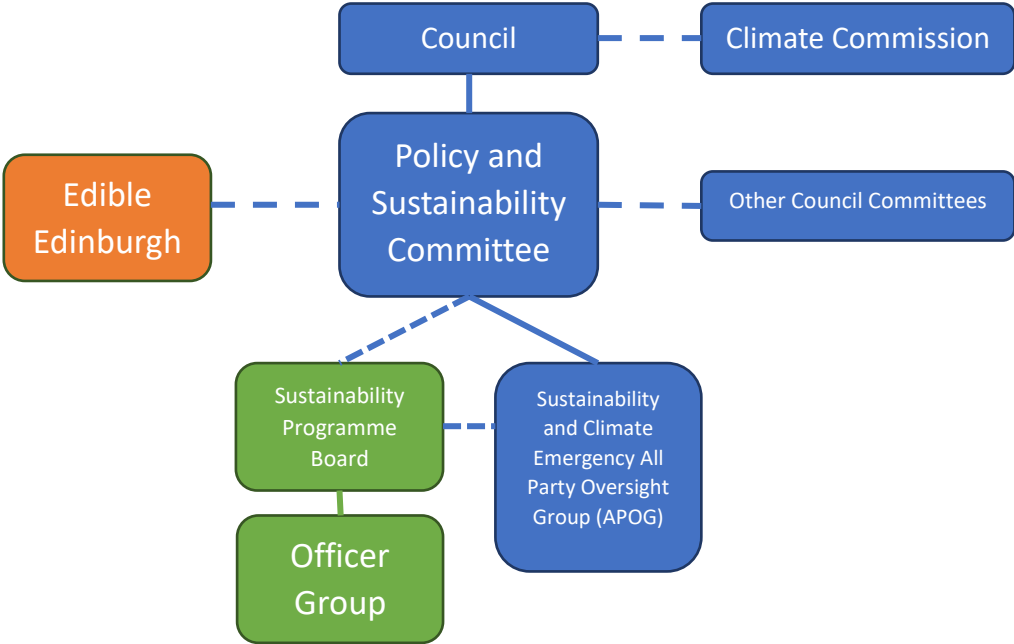
6. Phase 2: The move to a regional strategy

In 2019 we committed as a council to work with our regional partners across Edinburgh and South East Scotland to expand our food growing strategy across a regional footprint. This intent will follow the good progress made in developing a food growing strategy for Edinburgh and the very significant approach in signing the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. The £1.2bn transformational deal looks to maximise inclusive growth across the region by improving housing, infrastructure, skills and innovation. Agriculture and food production are a hugely important sector in the region with very significant opportunities for development. Starting in 2020 and beyond, we would look to work with the other partner authorities and the Regional Business Council to explore what a regional strategy would look like and to consider what priorities it would have.

7. Monitoring and implementation

We will monitor progress towards Edinburgh's first Food Growing Strategy against our new baseline and report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee at key milestones. However, there are other forum that also offer leadership and oversight of the food growing strategy in Edinburgh including Edible Edinburgh and progress will be reported to the Edible Edinburgh Partnership to maintain strategic coordination of activity across the city. **Figure 3** below sets the governance arrangements for oversight of the wider sustainability agenda, and Edible Edinburgh's contribution to that. As we develop our 2030 Sustainability Strategy, we will look for further opportunities to support the outcomes of this Food Growing Strategy by working with partners to reduce our carbon emissions, support local good growing businesses, increase land available for food growing, reduce inequalities and increase awareness and choice around healthy and sustainable food.

Figure 3: Governance and reporting arrangements



Annex A – 10-point action plan

Outcomes	GROWING LOCALLY				
	Reduce our carbon emissions as a city	Support local food growing businesses to growth and thrive	Increase land availability for food growing	Reduce spatial inequalities across the city	Increase awareness and choice around healthy and sustainable food
ACTIONS					
Grow more locally	1.	We will deliver ‘Cultivating Communities 2017-2027’, our ambitious allotment strategy designed to improve the number and quality of food growing sites in Edinburgh.			
	2.	We will improve the information available about food growing sites, setting out a new baseline which we help us to measure progress.			
	3.	We will develop a new 30 year strategy ‘Thriving Green Spaces 2050’, which will create a new vision for the city setting out how our green spaces need to change to deliver greater benefits for citizens.			
	4.	We will improve support to schools and local community food growing projects, and encourage more citizens to get involved in food growing			
Consume more locally	5.	Work with the Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small businesses and others to explore how we can encourage residents and business to buy more locally produced food			
	6.	Work with Business Link and the wider industry to better understand barriers and challenges to business expansion, and explore how we can provide further support for local growers and producers			
	7.	Work with partners and stakeholders to explore the feasibility of establishing an indoor market and local food distribution hub in Edinburgh			
Increase awareness and engagement	8.	Ensure food to becomes a key part of the city climate conversation and 2030 sustainability strategy, including by asking Edinburgh’s Independent Climate Commission to take forward food as part of its 10-year work			
	9.	Work with Edible Edinburgh and other partners to ensure Edinburgh achieves the Sustainable Food Cities Silver Award			
	10.	Work with partners to develop a joint approach to communications to improve the information and advice available to citizens, community growers and businesses about how to get involved in local food growing and what support is available locally			