

Agenda Item 7

Dig In: Community Food Growing Strategy

Falkirk Council

Title: Dig In: Community Food Growing Strategy
Meeting: Executive
Date: 8 October 2019
Submitted By: Director of Development Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report presents a revised, 'Dig In': Community Food Growing Strategy, 2019 – 2024 following recent consultation (Appendix 1 to this report). It describes how the Council and partner organisations will work together to support community growing across the area.
- 1.2. The report also includes an Allotments Action Plan detailing the Council's responsibilities in terms of meeting the demand for allotments in the area.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. **It is recommended that the Executive agrees 'Dig In' - the Council's first Community Food Growing Strategy (2019 – 2024) and the Allotment Action Plan as appended to the report**

3. Background

- 3.1. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires all local authorities to prepare a Community Food Growing Strategy by April 2020.
- 3.2. On 15 January 2019, the Executive agreed to consult on a draft Community Food Growing Strategy and the responses received have helped inform Dig In, the Council's first community food growing strategy. This identifies land that could be used for allotments or for informal community growing, explains the permissions groups need and how they can go about obtaining these, how barriers can be overcome to get projects off the ground and the types of support available to both aspiring and experienced community growers.
- 3.3. The strategy will be supported by a series of action plans for the main initiatives necessary to promote community growing. These will detail how the Council and its partners can help groups set up and develop their projects, highlight resources required to make this happen and explain how progress against actions will be monitored and reviewed.
- 3.4. The action plans will be developed in phases following adoption of the strategy:
 - Phase 1 - Allotments: completed (Appendix 3);
 - Phase 2 - Orchards; Growing in Public Spaces; and School Gardens;

- Phase 3 - NHS Forth Valley; and Social Enterprise opportunities.
- 3.5. The Allotments Action Plan explains how the Council can help to set up and manage new allotment sites and includes:
- Who is responsible for delivery (lead and partners);
 - Resources required, e.g. for set up costs, managing sites and annual reporting;
 - Outputs and outcomes; and
 - Monitoring and Review.

4. Considerations

- 4.1. The sites identified in the strategy as potential allotments and community growing spaces have been chosen following an analysis of sites highlighted during informal and formal consultation with members of the public, partner organisations and Council officers.
- 4.2. A broad range of organisations have been consulted to confirm that the strategy's priorities are appropriate for local communities and to identify potential growing spaces and allotment sites that meet their needs. The Council will continue to work with these bodies in delivering the strategy.
- 4.3. The Strategy will help to deliver the Council of the Future vision by facilitating enabled and empowered communities to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives through community growing.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 During 2017 and 2018 Falkirk Council worked in partnership with Forth Environment Link, greenspace scotland, Central Scotland Green Network Trust and Falkirk Delivers to help develop community growing. Individuals, community groups and organisations were approached to find out their views and experiences of community growing in the Falkirk Council area. This informed the draft community food growing strategy.
- 5.3 The draft strategy and its associated maps were made available online through the Council's Consultation Hub, as well as information made available at:
- Bantaskine Park allotments;
 - Forth Environment Link's Active Travel Hub, High Street, Falkirk;
 - Libraries and Council offices; and
 - Falkirk Council's Advice & Support Hubs in Falkirk, Grangemouth and Denny
- 5.4 The draft strategy was available for public comment for a period of 12 weeks from 11th February 2019 until 13th May 2019. Community councils, groups and organisations involved in previous informal consultation were contacted. The consultation was advertised through Falkirk Council's consultation hub

and via Falkirk Council and partner organisation social media channels. During this period, 16 formal responses were received.

- 5.5 Appendix 2 to this report shows comments made during consultation, the proposed Council response to the comments and the suggested actions to address the comments including, where relevant, the proposed change to the draft strategy.
- 5.6 The consultation highlighted an additional 16 sites that respondents felt would make good community growing spaces or allotment sites, and concerns relating to 2 sites previously suggested. Subject to Executive approval the maps, available at <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/people-communities/community-growing.aspx>, will be amended to remove one site in Maddiston that respondents felt was unsuitable, and to include 11 of the additional sites suggested in Airth, California, Dunipace, Hallglen (2), Limerigg (2), Shieldhill (2) and Stenhousemuir (2). The sites are summarised in the table below:

Location	Site Reference	Address	Proposal	Recommendation
Airth	AIR-2	Shore Road	Addition	Add
Carronshore		Roughlands Drive	Addition	Do not add
California	BRS-12	Playing fields	Addition	Add
Dunipace	DEN-3	Herbertshire Castle Park	Addition	Add
Falkirk	FAL-23	Policy Bing	Addition	Do not add
Hallglen	FAL-24	Woodend Walk	Addition	Add
Hallglen	FAL-27	Etrick Dochart Community Hall	Addition	Add
Hallglen		South of Glenburn Road	Addition	Do not add
Laurieston		Unclear	Addition	Do not add
Limerigg	BRS-7	Slamannan Road	Addition	Add
Limerigg	BRS-8	Slamannan Road	Addition	Add
Maddiston		Valley Park	Addition	Do not add
Maddiston		Abercairney Crescent	Deletion	Delete
Maddiston	POL-14	California Road Playing Field	Deletion	Retain
Shieldhill	BRS-10	Cross Brae	Addition	Add

Shieldhill	BRS-11	Pirleyhill Drive	Addition	Add
Stenhousemuir	LAR-13	McLachlan Street	Addition	Add
Stenhousemuir	LAR-14	South View	Addition	Add

- 5.7 The Allotments Action Plan was created in consultation with the Council's Community Empowerment Working Group. It is a 5-year plan explaining how the Council, by working with allotment organisations, aims to deliver sufficient allotment space to meet local demand. It sets out short, medium and long term actions, identifies who will lead on delivery, the partners involved and the resources required.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 There is no additional funding from the Scottish Government for local authorities to meet the new duties for allotments and community growing set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. In delivering the priority actions of the strategy, there will be costs associated with site investigations for potential allotment sites, setting up allotment sites, administering allotments and providing annual reports to the Scottish Government.
- 6.2 The financial implications of setting up and managing more allotments and preparing reports are set out in the Allotments Action Plan. Site investigation costs will vary according to site size and historical use. It could cost up to £5,000 per site for a phase 1 survey and up to £50,000 for a phase 2 survey. Set up costs for a new site of similar size to e.g. Kinneil Walled Garden (approx. 10,000m²) could be in the region of £40,000. This would include costs for fencing, gates and a communal meeting space or shed. Such costs would require external funding and local fundraising by the respective site management groups. Funds are not currently held by the Council for such works and budget provision will require to be addressed to allow implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

Resources

- 6.3 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires that every Council must provide sufficient land for community growing and allotment sites to meet local demand. Staff time will be needed for monitoring demand, setting up and administering allotments sites, Scottish Government reporting and supporting community growing projects. This will require to be managed through existing staff resources.

Legal

- 6.4 Legal assistance will be needed to agree lease arrangements and rent agreements with community management groups for new allotment sites.

Risk

- 6.5 There are no known risks associated with this report's recommendations.

Equalities

- 6.6 The implementation of the strategy will have an impact on people so a full EPIA has been carried out which shows no adverse impacts for protected groups.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.7 In accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, a screening report has been prepared to assess the potential environmental effects of implementing the draft strategy. Following consultation with the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway, it has been confirmed that the strategy's implementation will not have any significant adverse environmental effects.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The final strategy has been developed to meet the requirements of both the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Scottish Government's draft guidance on Food Growing Strategies. For this reason, the strategy includes suggested sites that could be developed as new allotments and sites that could become community growing spaces, along with guidance to help people interested in community growing set up and run their projects. The strategy will lead to a network of active community growing groups looking after small parcels of previously underused land across the Falkirk Council area. In turn, this will bring a number of benefits to participants in terms of improved health and well-being, and access to locally grown, low cost, nutritious food.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Dig in: Falkirk Council's Community Food Growing Strategy (2019 – 2024)

Appendix 2 - We asked, you said, we'll do. Summary of consultation responses and proposed responses

Appendix 3 – Allotments Action Plan

“Dig In”

Community Food Growing Strategy (2019-2024)

Creating Space to Grow

**Falkirk Council
August 2019**

Executive Summary

Community growing is for everyone so Falkirk Council wants to make sure that anyone wishing to grow their own fruit or vegetables can access a range of opportunities to do just that.

This strategy explains how Falkirk Council, partner organisations, business and communities can work together to support community growing across the Council area. It identifies land that could be used for allotments or more informal community growing, explains the permissions groups must get and how they can go about obtaining these, how barriers can be overcome to get projects off the ground and the types of support available to both aspiring and experienced community growers.

The strategy will be supported by a series of Action Plans for the main types of community growing. These will detail how the Council and its partners can help groups set up and develop their projects, highlight resources required to make this happen and explain how progress against actions will be monitored and reviewed.

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Dig in Falkirk: creating space to grow

Community growing is for everyone, so anyone interested in growing their own fruit and vegetables should be able to do just that. Growing should be accessible, affordable and allow our communities to use their urban spaces creatively – providing places where they can meet and grow together, where they can produce healthy food locally, and where they can share ideas for making better places, places for people.

Our **vision** for community growing in the Falkirk Council area is that

people wishing to grow their own fruit and vegetables can access a range of community growing opportunities in their area.

1. Achieving our vision

Falkirk Council has spoken with communities, organisations and groups already involved in community food growing initiatives to help us develop this strategy.

This strategy explains how we intend to support current community growing provision, develop more sites for community use and support new approaches to growing. We are working closely with organisations including greenspace scotland, Forth Environment Link and Central Scotland Green Network Trust who are helping support this process.

This strategy shows you **how to get growing**. It **identifies key organisations that can help** you and your group and will guide you through the **processes involved**. The Strategy shows our aspirations for community growing and how we intend to meet our obligations under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

This strategy aims to help you get your community growing projects off the ground:

WHERE CAN I GROW?	<p>We will identify potential allotment sites and community growing spaces;</p> <p>With partners, we will create opportunities for people to grow. For example by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encouraging developers to include space for community gardens and food growing within new development;• Changing the way our parks and open spaces are managed to provide community growing spaces for interested groups; and• Offering community growing opportunities as part of open space and public realm improvements.
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<p>HOW DO I START GROWING?</p>	<p>We will explain clearly the permissions required for your group to begin using a space for growing, and how you can go about getting all the necessary consents.</p> <p>We will work with partners to deliver a programme of skills workshops and training to help you get your project(s) off the ground.</p>
<p>WHO CAN HELP?</p>	<p>We will provide advice and details of the different types of support available to you and your group from local organisations and other community growing groups.</p>

What you said:

In preparing this strategy we consulted members of the public interested in community growing. Survey responses and ongoing conversations with aspiring growers highlight a need for more support to help communities and individuals participate in food growing. There is also strong support for developing a network of community food growing groups across the Falkirk Council area, and a need for:

Better access to land for community groups and individuals seeking places to grow, for example allotments, community gardens or garden share schemes.

Groups need assistance with:

- Finding land they can use for growing;
- Identifying issues such as contamination; and
- Negotiating lease agreements with land owners (both private and local authority).

Better access to support organisations that can help groups, schools and community growing projects develop their project ideas into reality, as well as ongoing support. Participants want to know who to speak to within Falkirk Council, assistance with finding funding, sponsorship from the business sector, support with group governance issues as well as more general technical growing advice.

A programme of regular learning events would give new growers confidence that they can grow their own fruit and vegetables. For example many people have asked for workshops focusing on how to grow your own food, how to grow food indoors, how to cook from scratch, seed production and soil testing.

A programme of events for networking and sharing to bring people together within and around specific community projects would be helpful to new groups. Respondents also expressed a strong desire for bringing community projects from across the Falkirk Council area together to share information and experiences.

Improved communications: Respondents also highlighted a need for a network that brings people together, keeps people updated and informed, and can signpost requests for help to the relevant support agency. An online forum and a one stop shop were also suggested.

2. Community Growing Opportunities

There are several ways that individuals, schools and communities can grow their own fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers. This strategy focuses on the most common ways of doing this and, once adopted, will be followed by an Action Plan for each of these community growing options:

2.1 Allotments are defined in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as land:

- (a) owned or leased by a local authority,
- (b) leased or intended for lease by a person from the authority, and
- (c) used or intended for use—
 - (i) wholly or mainly for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers, and
 - (ii) otherwise than with a view to making a profit.

A full-size plot is 250m².

Falkirk Allotment Society manages 36 allotment plots at Bantaskin Estate and a further 8 plots at Callander Park Walled Garden www.falkirkallotmentsociety.org/

There is space for 34 community growing plots at Muiravonside Country Park. These are run by Muiravonside Community Growing Association.

2.2 Orchards are areas where there are a minimum of 5 fruit trees.

Through Forth Environment Link's Forth Valley Orchard project a number of orchards have been developed over the last 10 years across the Falkirk Council area. These include orchards at Kinneil Estate, Zetland Park and within the grounds of many of our schools.

2.3 Community gardening and food growing in public spaces

This is about using space within parks and open spaces for growing fruit, vegetables, herbs and edible flowers. Within the Falkirk Council area, there are great examples of this at:

- Falkirk High Street pocket allotments
- Dollar Park Walled Garden
- Wallace St, Falkirk
- Kersiebank Community Project, Grangemouth

2.4 Schools

There is plenty opportunity to continue developing and maintaining orchards and food growing areas within school grounds as an integral part of delivering the Curriculum for Excellence, outdoor learning, learning for sustainability and School Improvement Plans. There are lots of examples of this in the Falkirk Council area, with active community growing projects in many of our Primary Schools and High Schools, including:

- Bantaskine Primary School
- Dunipace Primary School
- St Mary's Primary School, Bo'ness
- Braes High School
- Falkirk High School
- Larbert High School

2.5 NHS Forth Valley sites

There are opportunities to change the way NHS Forth Valley land is managed to increase the amount of land within its estate that is used for community and therapeutic food growing.

2.6 Social enterprise and Business

There are a number of ways that community growing projects can be developed through social enterprise. For example market gardening, community farming, creating a local seed bank, etc.

One local example is Sustainable Thinking Scotland Community Interest Company's project within Kinneil Walled Garden, Bo'ness.

There are also significant opportunities for engaging the area's business community and clear advantages to better connecting local growers, producers, suppliers and the food and hospitality sector.

3. Where can I grow?

Through consultation for this strategy, **you said** you would like **help finding suitable space for growing** fruit and vegetables (and flowers). You also told us where you would like to grow and what support you need to get started.

If your group wants to grow fruit and vegetables and you have a space in mind, there are lots of organisations in this area that can assist you in getting your project up and running (p.13-20).

We will help by:

Identifying potential community growing sites:

- The maps at Appendix 1 show:
 - Existing allotment sites and community growing spaces; and
 - Places which could be developed for community growing and allotments in the future.
- There are a number of school and community spaces needing more help to look after their orchards and gardens. The priority for our support will be to match people wanting to grow with these sites before creating new growing spaces.
- You may have other ideas for places where you would like to grow, and you may wish to consider leasing land from farmers or exploring a garden share model. We don't intend to be too prescriptive and have included the maps to highlight the sorts of places you might want to think about using.

Who else can help	Support available
Central Scotland Green Network Trust	The Grow Your Own Working Group maintains online resources and database of community growing sites with CSGNTs assistance, CSGNT can provide advice and support on funding and project development.
Private Landowners	May provide space for your growing and/or allotment project
The Conservation Volunteers	Underused polytunnels at Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre in Grangemouth offer potential space for community growing

4. How will we increase space for community growing and allotments?

The Council must establish and maintain a list of people requesting an allotment plot. We need to take reasonable steps to make sure that the number of people on the waiting list for an allotment is no more than half the number of Council allotments available. We are also expected to make sure that no-one is on the list for more than 5 years. We will do this by helping groups find spaces for community growing and by continuing to look at places where we can develop additional allotments.

There are 632 parks and open spaces across the Council area managed by Falkirk Council, as well as organisations like Falkirk Community Trust, the Forestry Commission and NHS Forth Valley. Some of this open space could be used for community growing or as allotment sites.

We have carried out a site audit to help us identify potential new allotment sites and areas for community growing. The maps and site schedules at Appendix 1 show where these sites are.

4.1 Developing new allotment sites

Each new allotment site in the Falkirk Council area will be run by a community management group. This group will be responsible for agreeing lease arrangements with the relevant landowner and managing the site according to an agreed set of rules. Details of people on the waiting list for an allotment plot must be shared with Falkirk Council to enable us to meet the requirements set out in the Community Empowerment Act for managing waiting lists and providing sufficient space for allotments.

Help is available through CVS Falkirk as well as other partner organisations including Falkirk Council, Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS), Social Farms & Gardens (formerly the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens) and Forth Environment Link in negotiating with landowners, and in setting up groups.

Falkirk Council and partners such as CSGNT can assist groups with securing funding to help design new allotment sites and develop infrastructure for them, such as fencing, paths and raised planting beds. Guidance on new allotment sites, design guides and plot holders guides are available on the Grow Your Own Working Group website (<http://www.growyourownsotland.info/support>).

4.2 Creating new spaces for community growing

Community growing groups will need to get landowner permission before they can begin cultivating the land. As with allotment development, there is help available for setting up groups and assisting in landowner negotiation.

4.3 Engaging and supporting community growing groups

Pages 13 - 20 detail the range of support available to new and established community growers.

Pages 10 – 12 explain the processes involved in obtaining the necessary planning consents and landowner permission.

5. How do I start growing?

This section of the strategy explains the permissions required for you and your group to begin using a space for growing.

5.1 Setting up your group

[CVS Falkirk](#) is a good starting point for working out the intricacies of setting up and running your community growing group. This organisation offers assistance and support services, advisors and training programmes to guide you through starting up and growing your group.

CVS Falkirk can also help you develop your funding applications through one-to-one sessions and can help you identify different sources of funding. Contact info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk for more details.

5.2 What about planning?

This section of the strategy aims to give your community growing group a few useful pointers with regard to planning consent. However, there is no substitute for speaking directly with the Council's Development Management Planning Officers for advice: dc@falkirk.gov.uk or 01324 504748.

It is always best to have early discussions with the Development Management planners who will explain what information they need from you to help you get your consent and get your project moving forward.

If you are looking to change the use of the land, for example by changing an area of public open space into an enclosed allotment site, you will need to submit a planning application seeking consent to do this.

You will also need planning permission for new structures, like sheds, and possibly raised planting beds. We would prefer that this be done for the site as a whole as part of the Allotment Management Group's planning application for "change of use", rather than being done on an individual basis each time a plot holder wishes to put up a tool shed.

If there are any designations on the land that might be impacted by your allotment site, the Council will advise you about what you can and can't do. Designations to look out for include:

- The Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and its buffer zone
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings
- Designed Landscapes and Historic Gardens
- Special Landscape Areas
- Battlefield Sites
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Landscape Areas, Special Areas for Conservation, Wildlife Sites and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

- Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Value

Designations can be seen on the relevant proposals map of the [Falkirk Local Development Plan](#)

Planning consent will be required for:

- Change of use of land, for example from open space to allotment;
- Any works within a Conservation Area; and
- Structures on site, including:
 - Outbuildings and sheds on each individual plot;
 - Communal buildings;
 - Fencing; and
 - Parking facilities.

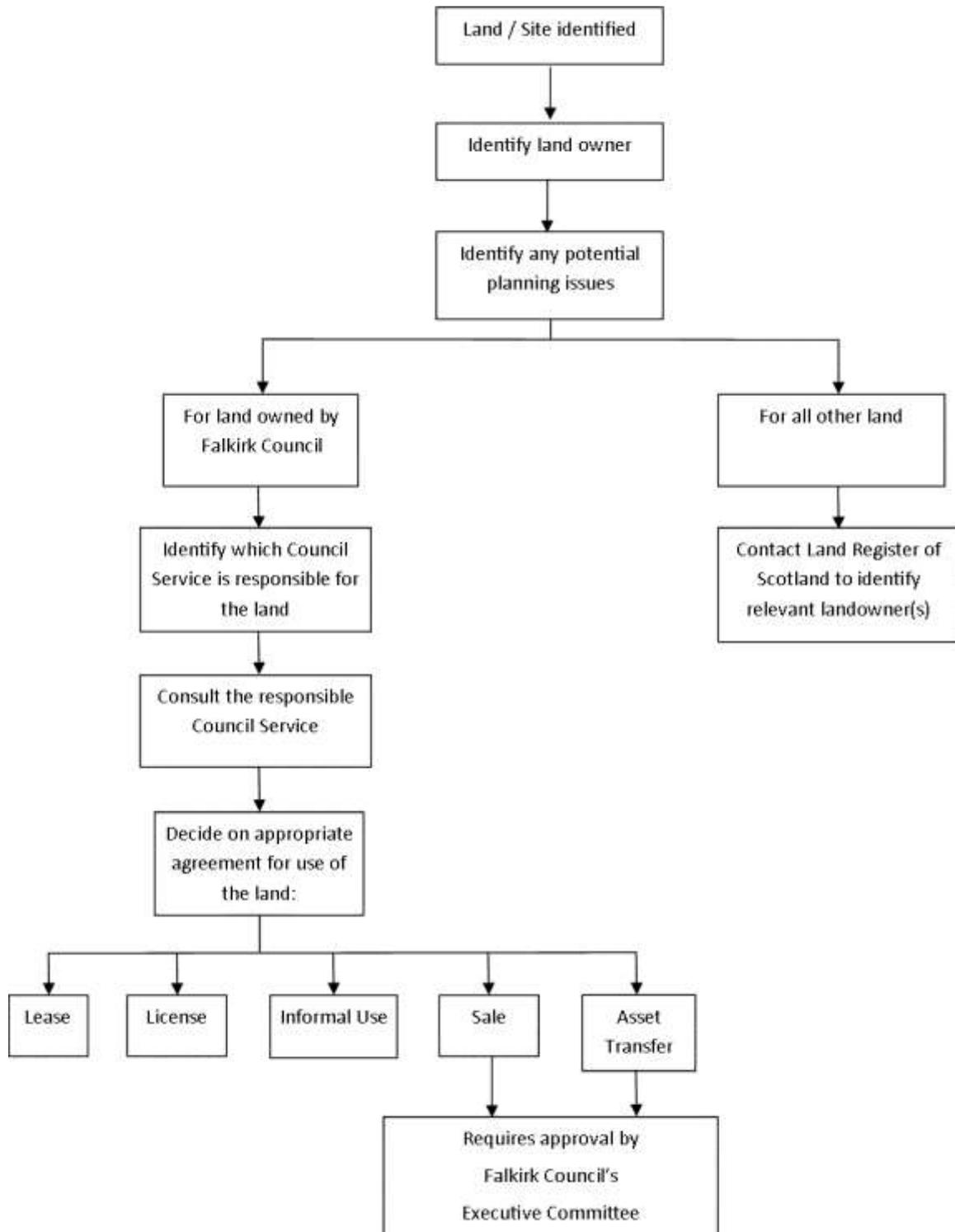
5.3 Advice about land issues, participation and leases:

- To begin growing you will need to liaise with the landowner:
 - Falkirk Council has details of land in its ownership.
 - If the site belongs to Falkirk Council, there is a process you need to follow to agree how you intend to use the growing space (p.12).
- When you have found your potential community growing space, you should liaise with the contaminated land specialists within Falkirk Council's Environment Health Unit:
 - Ask for any relevant environmental information held about the proposed site (an Environmental Information Request). Please note that there may be a charge for this.
 - A risk assessment will also be required and it is likely that soil sampling will be necessary. This work should be undertaken by a competent expert. Liaise with the contaminated land team throughout this process.
- Contact Falkirk Council's Community Planning team for assistance with Participation Requests under Part 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- Falkirk Council's Asset Management team will be involved in agreeing lease arrangements for Council-owned land and can offer assistance with Asset Transfer Requests under Part 7 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Who else can help	Support available
Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS)	Help finding land and agreeing lease arrangements with the landowner CLAS and Social Farms and Gardens have produced a landowner guide available from https://sc.communitylandadvice.org.uk

Who else can help	Support available
Falkirk Community Trust	Assistance with developing community growing at Helix Park, Callendar Park, Kinneil Estate and Muiravonside Country Park
Grow Your Own Working Group	The Grow Your Own Group website is a "one stop shop" for growing advice. There is an Advice & Resources and a Support page at http://www.growyourownsotland.info/support/
Land Register of Scotland	Information about who owns land in Scotland. Please note, there is a charge for obtaining landownership information

Dealing with Land Issues



1. Who can help me get growing?

This section of the strategy sets out the different types of support available to you and your group from local organisations and other community growing groups:

6.1 Skills training, workshops and advice

You said you would like to **improve your skills, confidence, knowledge and understanding** of fruit and vegetable growing.

We will help by working with partners to develop a programme of skills workshops and training to help you get your project off the ground:

Workshop/Training and Advice	Who can help?
<p>Assistance with funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding funding • Filling out funding bids 	<p>More information on funding sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Conservation Volunteers • CSGNT • CVS Falkirk • Social Farms & Gardens • Grow Your Own Working Group (http://www.growyourownsotland.info/support/) <p>Assistance and advice on completing funding applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSGNT • CVS Falkirk • Falkirk Environment Trust
<p>Support and training: Deliver a programme of "How to" workshops, for example composting, preserving, cooking, wildflowers and companion planting.</p> <p>Orchard development: Tree identification, planning, planting and maintaining an orchard</p> <p>Pollination</p>	<p>Falkirk Allotment Society Forth Environment Link Social Farms & Gardens Sustainable Thinking Scotland CIC The Conservation Volunteers</p> <p>Forth Environment Link</p> <p>Buglife</p>

6.2 You said growing should be **affordable and accessible to all**

We will help by:

Working with Neighbourhood Officers and Social Landlord Officers to support community growing groups using open space that is owned by Falkirk Council Housing or Social Landlords, such as Link Housing:

- Support groups in obtaining necessary landowner and planning consents;
- Support groups in submitting grant applications for their community growing project(s). For example, there are small grants available for projects that deliver improvements for Falkirk Council housing tenants ("Make a difference" grants); and
- Work with partners to deliver training workshops and networking opportunities to give groups the skills and confidence in growing fruit and vegetables.

Creating opportunities for groups to share resources to make growing affordable to more people. With our partners, we will:

- Explore the feasibility of creating a Seed Bank Social Enterprise to grow seeds and seedlings for use locally;
- Arrange a 'swap shop' event at the start of the season where groups can exchange seeds, plants and skills:
 - Organise a 'sharing' event hosted by different partner organisations bringing growers together to share plants and seeds;
 - Connect with organisations and businesses that can help community projects as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility commitments;
- Develop a Tool Library so groups have easy access to borrow tools, including more expensive items like good pruning tools;
- Share up-cycling and recycling opportunities, for example by connecting community growing groups with wood recycling projects; and
- Liaise with the Council's Unpaid Work team (Community Justice Service) who may be able to provide help with clearing your plot and preparing the ground for planting.

Sharing information about potential funding sources and working together to maximise opportunities for all community growing groups in the Falkirk Council area. We will:

- Explore opportunities for securing sponsorship and in-kind support from local garden centres and businesses;
- Develop partnerships to match groups needing money with organisations that can help them develop successful funding applications

Who else can help	Support available
Business sponsorship and Corporate Social Responsibility volunteer days	<p>Seek opportunities for groups to use "end of season" stock and donated materials</p> <p>Many businesses provide Corporate Social Responsibility volunteering opportunities for their staff. Business volunteers could help you create and plant your growing space.</p> <p>Assistance may be available in developing your groups Risk Register through the Institute of Internal Audits UK – Risk Auditors Corporate Social Responsibility volunteering commitments</p>
CSGNT	Providing project development, design and delivery support, funding advice, capacity building and group support.
CVS Falkirk	Funding sources and assistance with funding bids Capacity building for local groups and organisations
Falkirk Allotment Society	<p>Advice on growing for new and experienced growers</p> <p>Advice on running a successful allotment association</p> <p>Hosting a seed / plant swap event</p>
Falkirk Delivers	<p>Assistance contacting town centre businesses for support (e.g. to help projects seeking volunteers, donations and end of season stock)</p> <p>Promoting Dig in Falkirk Pocket Allotments</p> <p>Street Ambassadors – monitor and report issues with Pocket Allotments, support and assistance in dealing with littering in and around Pocket Allotments</p> <p>Town Centre Handyman – assistance with additional watering, litter uplift, sign installation and minor maintenance tasks</p>
Forth Environment Link	<p>Revive Falkirk – recycling and up-cycling circular economy project</p> <p>Workshops, training and advice for the Dig in Falkirk community growing project</p>
Link Housing	Support for community growing projects with Link Housing tenants, including funding
Social Farms and Gardens	Discounts for members on insurance, tools, seeds, sheds, etc.
Sustainable Thinking Scotland	<p>Workshops, advice and support for food growing projects</p> <p>Hosting a seed / plant swap event</p> <p>Develop ideas for a Seed Bank Social Enterprise – with suitable partners</p>
The Conservation Volunteers	<p>Circulate funding sources newsletter</p> <p>Men's and Hen's Shed projects – food growing and wood recycling at Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre, Grangemouth. This project can provide resources for building raised beds / planters and rustic furniture</p>

6.3 You said you wanted **help encouraging more people to get involved** with your community growing projects.

We will help by:

Working with CVS Falkirk and other partners to promote projects to existing groups and potential volunteers;

Developing a range of workshops and idea-sharing opportunities to inspire groups to develop their projects; these will be open to individuals and groups:

- Deliver fun, interactive awareness-raising activities to encourage more interest and involvement in community growing projects, for example apple press equipment available locally, smoothies bikes

Creating opportunities for community growing groups to meet, socialise and share ideas:

- Develop a community growers network to encourage growers to exchange ideas and develop new ways of growing together
- Organise social events to bring community growing groups together (e.g. "Bring and Share" food events)
- Encourage existing groups to work together

Encouraging participation from people from as wide a range of backgrounds and interests as possible; we will:

- Broaden the appeal and scope of the project by encouraging:
 - Intergenerational projects and links
 - Projects that make use of the produce grown, for example wine-making and brewing, juicing, cooking and baking
 - Projects that match people with potential sites or landowners keen to explore community poultry keeping and/or bee-keeping as well as fruit and vegetable production

Who else can help	Support available
Falkirk Delivers	Deliver a range of high profile events in Falkirk Town Centre – this provides a number of opportunities to promote your community growing project and encourage more people to get involved.
Forth Environment Link	Help with organising Community Meals and other social activities for the network of community growers across the Forth Valley Link like-minded groups together to help share ideas and resources Workshops, skills training and advice to new and experienced growers
Keep Scotland Beautiful	Publication of new Creative Inquiry films to help groups plan and get started on food growing
Social Farms & Gardens	Exchange scheme for community growing groups to visit other projects to share ideas and learn from each other Resources and staff with expertise to support community-led growing projects
The Conservation Volunteers	Workshops and training sessions for volunteers Men's and Hen's Shed projects

6.4 You said community growing projects within **schools need more support**, particularly where the grounds do not belong to the school or to Falkirk Council.

We will help by:

Developing positive relationships between schools, Falkirk Council Education department and land owners to encourage sustainable and creative use of school grounds. This will help schools deliver opportunities for community growing, outdoor learning and learning for sustainability for their pupils.

Encouraging schools to actively involve members of their local communities in their orchard and community growing projects will help address issues with looking after produce during weekends and holidays. We will offer additional support and training to schools that:

- Involve local volunteers in creating and looking after their community garden or orchard;
- Work in partnership with other community groups; and
- Explain how their garden will be cared for outwith school hours and term times, for example by developing a summer growing club.

Connecting schools together and promoting the types of support available for schools and within schools

- Arrange specific community growing session(s) for schools / clusters;
- Encourage schools to get a range of departments involved, for example home economics to help schools use the produce grown in their gardens; and
- Encourage schools to link their project with their School Improvement Plan, Eco Schools activities or John Muir Award scheme.

Working with schools interested in exploring the possibility of using the Pupil Attainment Fund to develop and fund community growing projects within schools.

- This could provide additional support to those schools that have evidenced their commitment to, and would benefit most from delivering community growing and orchard projects.

Who else can help	Support available
Bantaskine Primary School, Falkirk	Share experience of delivering RHS Level 2 Award
Forth Environment Link	Workshops, training and advice for school food growing projects
Forth Valley Sensory Centre	Parent / Carer growing and cooking project
Sustainable Thinking Scotland	"Growness" educational programme for community growers in Bo'ness
Keep Scotland Beautiful	Professional learning programmes and projects for educators on Food and the Environment Eco-Schools activity Sustainable development of school grounds including growing food Publication of new Creative Inquiry films to help groups plan and get started on food growing

Who else can help	Support available
	Case study of supported partnering between secondary schools and local garden and chef
The Conservation Volunteers	Workshops and training sessions for schools Volunteers to help create garden areas
Unpaid Work Team – Community Justice Service	Help clearing your growing area and preparing the ground for planting.

6.5 You said we should promote the **health and well-being benefits of community growing**

We will help by:

Developing links with FDAMH – Falkirk’s Mental Health Association, NHS Forth Valley and other support organisations and groups to encourage community growing as one of a range of opportunities available to people suffering from poor mental or physical health

Creating more social events around food and growing. We will:

- Develop and promote a programme of community meals and pop-up restaurants to encourage more informal networking between groups and other projects

Who else can help	Support available
FDAMH	Support, activities, health & well-being drop-in sessions and Falkirk High Street Gardening group
Forth Valley Sensory Centre	Kitchen garden development offers volunteering opportunities in planning, planting, growing and cooking fruit and vegetables
Falkirk Veterans	Volunteer opportunities at Callander Park Walled Garden
NHS Forth Valley	Professional support services Identifying space in NHS-owned sites for community growing

6.6 You said we should **recognise and celebrate community growing** as a key component of good place-making

We will help by:

Exploring the idea of an award recognising exemplar community growing projects in the Falkirk Council area; we will do this by:

- Finding out what exists currently;
- Developing an award scheme with appropriate partners if there is nothing suitable already available.
- Exploring opportunities for developing a community growing category in the Council’s annual Gardening Competition.

Who else can help	Support available
Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Falkirk	Developing skills accredited course
Keep Scotland Beautiful	Pocket Garden Design Competition National recognition, networking opportunities and support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beautiful Scotland campaign ○ Its Your Neighbourhood

6.7 You said we should minimise waste, including reducing food waste

We will help by:

Making sure excess food produce is made available to the community. We will:

- Develop links with food banks so excess produce is not wasted
- Develop a mechanism for making excess produce available for people to take and use
- Tell people which Pocket Allotment produce they can harvest

Exploring opportunities for groups to generate a reliable income that helps them manage their community growing projects over the long term. We will:

- Investigate ways for groups to sell food, for example soup bags using produce grown in community growing plots
- Develop a partnership approach to fundraising as well as community growing

Developing better links with local organisations (including businesses, shops and supermarkets) to reduce business waste management costs by donating excess plants, compost or other resources to local community growing projects

Developing a network for sharing and re-using materials

- Develop partnerships between community growing groups and locally run up-cycling/recycling projects
- Develop an online network for builders to pass on surplus materials to groups, e.g. wood for building planters

Who else can help	Support available
Forth Environment Link	FEL Revive project includes up-cycling and recycling workshops and activities as well as food waste and cooking sessions
Sustainable Thinking Scotland	Links with Food Banks and action against food poverty
The Conservation Volunteers	Men's and Hen's Shed projects at Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre, Grangemouth
The Larder	Non-referral based project providing food to those in need

6.8 You said we should **encourage more biodiversity** to help with pollination for better growing:

We will help by:

Developing a "Buzz in Falkirk" project with partners to encourage pollination through wildflowers and / or a bee adoption project; we will:

- Arrange workshops to help people understand effective ways to encourage pollinators
- Develop partnerships between groups, conservation charities (e.g. Buglife, Froglife, Butterfly Conservation Trust), bee-keeping societies and businesses to find suitable sites for bee keeping
- Provide assistance and advice in developing pollinator projects as part of delivering Local Biodiversity Action Plan priorities

Who else can help	Support available
Buglife,	Volunteer opportunities and training activities to encourage pollinators
HeBees Community Beekeepers Scottish Beekeepers Association	Trained volunteers promoting beekeeping and helping all bees within the Forth Valley area Advice about beekeeping.
Scottish Natural Heritage	Funding and advice

7. How do I find out about community growing in my area?

We will make it as easy as possible for you to find out about community growing in your area.

Our Community Growing Marketing and Communication Plan will:

- Highlight our key messages for different audiences – these include members of the public, schools and businesses new to growing as well as existing community growers, allotment groups and organisations who can help new growers gain the confidence to run their own successful growing projects.
- Explain how we intend to communicate with these groups and individuals. We will use a variety of methods to reach as many people as possible, including
 - Information stands and displays;
 - Short videos to promote the benefits of community growing;
 - Bringing people together at events, community meals, workshops and training sessions to talk about community growing; and
 - Social media channels including our Falkirk Explored Facebook page.

We will continue to promote the different community growing and volunteering opportunities available to groups and individuals and share information about where people are already growing, the types of support available and information about the

many and varied community growing projects happening across the Falkirk Council area.

8. Monitoring and Review

We want this strategy to make a positive difference to our communities and the places where we live, work and visit:

- Progress against actions in this strategy will be reviewed regularly to make sure it remains up to date.
- We will carry out a full review and revision of the Community Food Growing Strategy within 5 years of its publication.

These are the **outcomes** we want to achieve with the help and support of our partners:

Success is....	We will know we have achieved this because:
People wishing to grow their own fruit and vegetables are able to do so.	More people are growing their own fruit and vegetables. There are community growing projects across the area.
People have the skills and confidence to grow their own fruit and vegetables successfully and sustainably.	Our programme of growing skills workshops is delivered to those in need of our help. Participant feedback will help us evaluate each workshop to make sure our programme of events remains relevant and useful to new and experienced growers.
Groups feel supported to grow their own fruit and vegetables.	We will have a well-connected network of community growers, producers and food-related businesses across the Falkirk Council area with regular opportunities to meet and share ideas, resources, skills and experience.

We will measure success by:

Working with partners to implement and record achievements against the actions detailed in this strategy. For example we will measure and record:

- No. of participants;
- No. of growing spaces, including allotment plots; and
- Area of land used for community growing and allotment plots.

Assessing the level of demand for community growing through:

- Monitoring waiting lists – number of people on list, and the length of time each person has been on the waiting list;
- Annual online survey; and
- Recording and monitoring community growing enquiries.

Carrying out an annual skills audit to assess our growers' ongoing training and support needs to establish demand, support requirements and identify new

opportunities. Participant feedback from each workshop will also inform the ongoing community growing activity programme.

9. Next Steps – Action Plans

9.1 Programme for developing our community growing action plans

A suite of community growing action plans will be developed after the overall strategy has been agreed and finalised. The action plans will detail how the Council and its partners can help groups set up and develop their projects, highlight resources required to make this happen and explain how progress against actions will be monitored and reviewed.

The Action Plans will be developed in phases following adoption of the Strategy:

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Allotments Action Plan	Orchards Action Plan	Action Plan for NHS Forth Valley sites
	Action Plan for pocket allotments and growing in public spaces	Action Plan for Social Enterprise and Business
	School Gardens Action Plan	

They will include actions for:

- Years 1 – 3 Consolidating what we have and establishing new opportunities
- Years 4 – 6 Continuing to develop growing opportunities
- Years 7 – 10 Sustainability and meeting longer term aspirations

We will monitor progress against targets in the action plans every year to highlight achievements, address areas where improvements are needed and make sure that the Council continues to fulfil its statutory duties in terms of community growing.

9.2 Allotments Action Plan

As a priority, we have prepared an Allotments Action Plan to explain how we will set up and manage new allotment sites. This is included in Appendix 2 of the strategy, and includes:

- Short, medium and long-term actions;
- Who is responsible for delivery (lead and partners);
- Resources required, for example for contaminated land assessments, set up costs, ongoing costs for managing sites and annual reporting;
- Outputs and outcomes; and
- Monitoring and Review.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Maps and site schedules showing identified opportunities for growing are available to view at <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/growing>

APPENDIX 2

Allotments Action Plan

ALLOTMENTS							
Aim	Actions			Delivery (lead and partners)	Resources	Outputs & Outcomes	Monitoring and review actions
	Short (2020-2023)	Medium (2023-2025)	Long (2025-2030)				
Develop a robust and fair site selection and assessment process for potential allotment sites	Follow the contaminated land risk assessment process for each potential allotment site. Agree phasing and priority sites for contaminated land risk assessments including phase 1 desk study reports & phase 2 intrusive site surveys Secure sufficient funding to carry out phase 1 & 2 surveys	Ongoing programme to identify, assess and select new allotment sites Secure sufficient funding to carry out phase 1 & 2 surveys Carry out contaminated land risk assessments	Ongoing programme to identify, assess and select new allotment sites Secure sufficient funding to carry out phase 1 & 2 surveys Carry out contaminated land risk assessments	Falkirk Council Contaminated Land Team to provide assistance and advice to Planning & Environment Team	Funding Cost for one phase 1 survey estimated at £750-£5,000 (depending on size of site, historical land use, etc.) Cost for one phase 2 survey estimated at £5,000-£50,000 (depending on size of site, historical land use, ground conditions, etc.)	Schedule of site surveys Clear understanding of risks and how to mitigate/remove any significant contamination risks Necessary remedial works identified and implemented Sufficient funding secured for remedial works Suitable sites and opportunities for growing identified	5-year review of sites and priorities for obtaining phase 1 & 2 contaminated land surveys
With partners, satisfy local demand by creating new allotments and community growing spaces suitable for everyone	Determine the level of community interest in developing and running allotments at Helix South Discuss potential for allotments with (landowners) Agree procedures for lease arrangements for allotments on Council-owned land Provide support for groups and opportunities for informal community growing	Develop and support local management group(s) to manage Helix allotment site Develop local management group(s) to manage allotment site(s) Provide opportunities for informal community growing	Provide different sized allotment plots available as full size allotments plots (250m ²) are too big for some growers. Provide different sized allotment plots to encourage more participation - full size plots (250m ²) are too big for some growers Provide opportunities for informal community growing	Falkirk Community Trust Falkirk Council Community Learning & Development Planning & Environment Falkirk Council Asset Management with support and advice from Legal Services Falkirk Council Community Learning & Development Planning & Environment Forth Environment Link	Land / sites suitable for community growing Association/Management group to run allotment Officer support for setting up and developing Helix allotment management group Falkirk Council/Asset Management Officer time for preparing allotment leases Funding to secure support from Forth Environment Link Land / sites suitable for community growing	New allotment site created and managed Annual survey to determine current levels of demand for allotments Annual skills survey of existing allotment plot-holders and site management group(s) to determine ongoing support needs New allotment site(s) created and managed Annual skills survey of existing allotment plot-holders and site management group(s) to determine ongoing support needs Network of community growing projects and groups across Falkirk Council area	Annual survey to determine skills level and support needs of groups involved in or interested in community growing

Aim	Actions			Delivery (lead and partners)	Resources	Outputs & Outcomes	Monitoring and review actions
	Short (2020-2023)	Medium (2023-2025)	Long (2025-2030)				
With partners, satisfy local demand by creating new allotments and community growing spaces suitable for everyone	<p>Establish set up costs for priority allotment sites.</p> <p>Secure funding to set up priority allotment sites</p> <p>Seek planning consent</p>	<p>Implement infrastructure requirements (fences, paths, water, etc)</p> <p>Develop local management group(s)</p>	<p>Manage site – different sized plots to attract growers from all ages, abilities, growing experiences and backgrounds.</p>	<p>Falkirk Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management (site management) Community Development & Learning (group development) Planning & Environment (infrastructure delivery) <p>Allotment Management Group(s)</p>	<p>Land / sites suitable for community growing</p> <p>Funding for site set-up works, which will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weld-mesh fencing (£75 per lin. metre) Access gates Single: £1,000 Double: £1,500 Rabbit mesh fencing (£5.10 per lin. metre) Plough site or build raised planting beds and import soil Communal meeting area or shed (approx. £5,000) <p>Falkirk Council Officer support for setting up local allotment management group(s), obtaining planning consent and implementing required infrastructure</p>	<p>New allotment site(s) created and managed</p>	<p>5-year review of sites to be allocated as allotments</p> <p>Rolling programme of infrastructure implementation and management</p>
The waiting list for people seeking allotments in the Falkirk Council areas is well managed and kept up-to-date with robust procedures for adding and removing people from the list.	<p>Work with Falkirk Allotment Society to share Waiting List information</p> <p>Create system for recording details of people wishing an allotment and for managing the waiting list</p> <p>Agree procedures for contacting people on the waiting list to carry out an annual survey</p>	<p>Continued information sharing with allotment groups to ensure waiting list management requirements are met</p> <p>Carry out annual surveys with allotment holders and people on the waiting list(s)</p>	<p>Continued information sharing with allotment groups to ensure Waiting List management requirements met</p> <p>Carry out annual surveys with allotment holders and people on the waiting list(s)</p>	<p>Falkirk Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management with support and advice from Legal Services <p>Falkirk Allotment Society</p> <p>Falkirk Community Trust</p> <p>Muiravonside Community Growers</p>	<p>Falkirk Council Officer time to ensure Council meets its statutory requirements (e.g. by carrying out surveys and managing waiting lists)</p>	<p>Up-to-date list of people wishing their own allotment plot in the Falkirk Council area</p> <p>Clear procedures in place for managing a waiting list of people wishing an allotment plot in the Falkirk Council area</p>	<p>Annual survey of people on the waiting list for an allotment to establish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If they still want an allotment What size of allotment they wish If there is an alternative form of community growing they are interested in

Aim	Actions			Delivery (lead and partners)	Resources	Outputs & Outcomes	Monitoring and review actions
	Short (2020-2023)	Medium (2023-2025)	Long (2025-2030)				
There are robust, fair and transparent regulations for all the allotment sites in the Falkirk Council area.	<p>Agree rules and regulations for managing allotment sites</p> <p>Implement rules and regulations</p>	<p>Implement rules and regulations</p> <p>Review rules and regulations and amend as necessary</p>	<p>Implement rules and regulations</p> <p>Review rules and regulations and amend as necessary</p>	<p>Falkirk Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management with support and advice from Legal Services <p>Allotment Management Groups</p>	<p>Falkirk Council Officer</p> <p>time</p>	<p>Simple and effective set of site rules and regulations in place and adhered to by group(s)</p>	<p>5-year review of allotment rules and regulations to be amended as necessary</p>
Our understanding of demand, satisfaction and resource requirements remains realistic and up to date	<p>Prepare an annual report for Scottish Government, reporting on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> location and size of each allotment site number of allotments on each site period of lease and rent payable number of persons on the waiting list steps taken by the Council to comply with the duty to take all reasonable steps to provide allotments to those on the list the reasons for failure to comply with the duty income received 			<p>Community Empowerment Working Group</p>	<p>Falkirk Council Officer</p> <p>time to liaise with relevant parts of the Council and Allotment Management Group(s) as appropriate.</p> <p>Falkirk Council Officer</p> <p>time to prepare an annual report for Scottish Government</p>	<p>Annual report submitted according to requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015</p>	<p>Annual report submitted according to requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015</p>
There is a network of allotment holders and community growers ready, willing and able to support new growers and plot holders	<p>Skills audit of existing and new community growers</p> <p>Identify support and training needs of community growers</p>	<p>Provide a programme of support and training relevant to the needs of local growers</p> <p>Follow-up skills audit</p>	<p>Follow-up skills audit</p>	<p>Falkirk Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Learning & Development Planning & Environment <p>Forth Environment Link</p> <p>Sustainable Thinking Scotland Community Interest Company</p> <p>Social Farms & Gardens</p>	<p>Funding for training and support for community growing groups and allotment plot holders</p> <p>Falkirk Council Officer</p> <p>time to carry out skills audit and training needs analysis</p>	<p>Programme of skills and training workshops</p> <p>Annual community growers networking event where people can meet to share their experience, skills, ideas and knowledge with other growers</p> <p>Programme of networking events and community meals</p>	<p>Workshop and event evaluation</p> <p>Follow up skills audit and training needs analysis</p>

APPENDIX 3

Allotments: Part 9, Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

This section of the Act updates legislation on the provision and management of allotments. It requires local authorities to take reasonable steps to provide allotments if waiting lists exceed certain trigger points and strengthens the protection for allotments.

The Act defines an allotment as land owned or leased by the Council; that is leased or intended for lease by a person from the Council area; and is used mainly for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers.

A full-sized plot is 250m² though smaller plots can be requested.

CURRENT PROVISION

At present Falkirk Allotment Society manages 44 allotment plots in the Falkirk Council area (36 plots at Bantaskin Park and 8 at Callendar Park). Muiravonside Growing Area Committee manages an additional 34 community growing plots (5m by 13m) and 6 wheelchair accessible raised beds at Muiravonside Country Park.

There are also a number of community-led initiatives across the district encouraging local fruit and vegetable growing, including school orchard projects and community gardens.

There are approximately 40 people on the waiting list for an allotment plot in the Council area.

COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Any person living in the Council area may make a request to the Council to lease an allotment. A request can be made even if the Council has no allotment sites.
- The Council must establish and maintain a list of persons who make requests to it. The Council must take reasonable steps to ensure that the number on the list is no more than half the number of Council allotments and that no-one is on the list for over 5 years.
- The Council is to make regulations about allotment sites within 2 years of the provisions coming into force – consultation and advertisement are required.
- The Council must prepare a food growing strategy for the area to be published within 2 years of the provisions coming into force and thereafter to be reviewed 5 yearly. This strategy should:
 - identify land that may be used as allotments
 - identify other areas the community could use for cultivation
 - detail how the Council intends to increase the provision of allotments and community growing space
- An allotment report is to be produced annually setting out:
 - location and size of each allotment site
 - number of allotments on each site
 - period of lease and rent payable

- number of persons on the waiting list
- steps taken by the Council to comply with the duty to take all reasonable steps to provide allotments to those on the list
- the reasons for failure to comply with the duty
- income received

APPENDIX 4

Strategic Context – meeting national and local aspirations through community growing

Community growing projects will help us fulfil our obligations under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and help deliver a range of strategic priorities across the Council area:

Good Food Nation Bill

The Scottish Government launched its 12-week consultation for the Good Food Nation Bill in 2019. This will inform the content of the bill which aims to promote Scotland as a good food nation where people from every walk of life take pride, pleasure and benefit from the food that they buy, serve and eat day by day.

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

Section 119 of the Community Empowerment Act places a duty on every local authority to prepare a food growing strategy for its area. This must:

- 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, in particular in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage.

National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3)

This sets out, spatially, the long-term vision for development and investment across Scotland over the next 20 to 30 years. NPF3 recognises the increasing importance of land for food production within towns and cities with a desire to support more localised food distribution networks. The Central Scotland Green Network is a national development in NPF3 with community growing identified as one of the priority themes for action.

Scottish Planning Policy

The Scottish Government has stated that Scottish Planning Policy should be used to routinely incorporate new growing space into new development plans.

Local Development Plan

We are preparing a new Local Development Plan (LDP) for the Council area. This will replace the current Local Development Plan which was adopted in July 2015. The new plan, LDP2, will guide the future development of the Falkirk Council area in the period 2020-2040. Seven opportunities for community growing have been identified within the Proposed Plan, some of which may be suitable for development as allotments.

Falkirk Economic Strategy (2015-2025)

Falkirk Economic Strategy sets out the areas aspirations to be a smarter, greener and more inclusive place. Investing in the spaces where our communities live creates pleasant and welcoming places for a more sustainable future for everyone, and community food growing will help us achieve our ambitions to encourage opportunities for:

- Sustainable business and energy efficiency processes;

- More sustainable forms of transport;
- A circular economy; and
- Improve the quality of our environment.

Locality Planning and Community Planning

Locality planning brings communities together with public and third sector organisations to improve resident's lives and the areas where they live. Locality planning encourages public and community partnership in decisions affecting them to provide more efficient and effective service planning.

The Community Planning Partnership's Strategic Outcomes of Local Delivery Plan (SOLD) 2016-2020 sets out key priorities for the area, which include:

- Improving mental health and wellbeing
- Maximising job creation and employability
- Addressing the impact of poverty on children

The community food growing strategy will help meet outcome 4 of the SOLD plan: "Our population will be healthier" by helping to:

- Increase food skills and opportunities to access affordable, healthier food choices and activities in local communities;
- Increase positive mental wellbeing; and
- Reduce health inequalities.

Falkirk Greenspace: a strategy for our green network

Falkirk Council's green network strategy highlights community growing as a priority for action, with a set of proposals to achieve the key objectives of:

- Meeting increasing demand for community growing space; and
- Reviewing provision for allotments and for developing other community growing opportunities.

The community food growing strategy sets out how Falkirk Council and partners will work together to meet these objectives.

Falkirk Open Space Strategy

Parks and open spaces are vital to our health and well-being, the quality of the environment, and as valuable habitat for wildlife.

Falkirk Open Space Strategy looks at how we can change the management of our parks and open spaces to provide a high quality green network that benefits people, business and wildlife. Community growing projects will encourage more community involvement in developing creative and effective solutions to how we manage and improve our parks and open spaces in the future.

Falkirk Council Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy (2012 – 2017)

The Sustainable Development & Climate Change Strategy describes how Falkirk Council and partners will meet key sustainability principles, including "living within environmental limits". For example, a lot more of the food we eat could be produced locally by encouraging allotment provision and community growing space throughout the Council area.

Falkirk Council – *Council of the Future*

Through achieving our ambitions for community growing we aim to engage effectively with our communities. This is a key aspiration of our Council of the Future programme to become a more innovative, responsive, trusted and ambitious organisation.

APPENDIX 5

Background: How have we developed this strategy?

We have spoken with community groups, interested individuals, organisations and institutions to set local priorities for community food growing activity across the Council area. There were several opportunities for people to get involved:

Dig in Falkirk Pilot Pocket Allotment Project

We have worked with Forth Environment Link, Falkirk Delivers, greenspace scotland and Central Scotland Green Network Trust to engage individuals, groups and businesses to find out what would inspire them to get involved in growing projects.

To get started on this journey, the Dig in Falkirk pilot project in Falkirk High Street has helped raise awareness of community growing. This project aims to inspire and encourage people to become actively involved in growing projects in their own areas – using and looking after spaces to improve the quality of their environment and to give them somewhere to meet up with others and grow their own produce.

Community food growing survey

Working in partnership with Forth Environment Link, an on-line survey helped us explore local attitudes to community growing. This gave people a chance to tell us what is stopping them from growing and what support would help them get started, as well as helping us find out about existing community growing projects across the Falkirk Council area. We attended the Falkirk Allotment Society AGM in 2016 to tell members about the Food Growing Strategy and asked existing and potential new allotment holders to fill out our survey at the Falkirk Allotment Association open day in August 2017.

Between September 2017 and April 2018 we also spoke to people attending events in the area to give more people a chance to share their thoughts about community growing. We met people at the Helix Horsepower event, an Eco Family Fun Day, Falkirk Producers Markets, a meet and greet ‘Soup Night’ and at five of our ‘Dig in Falkirk’ community growing workshops.

“Falkirk Grows Food” community networking and consultation event

This event brought together 63 people from communities across the Council area to share ideas about food growing and find out about the opportunities, barriers and support required to help them grow their own fruit and vegetables. People new to the idea of community growing could also connect with a wide range of existing projects. These discussions have helped us to:

- Find out about and celebrate community growing projects and individual food-related activity taking place around the Falkirk Council area;
- Encourage conversations and stimulate interest in food growing;
- Put the foundations in place to build a ‘food growing’ movement to boost activity and increase networking and knowledge-sharing among groups; and

- Develop this food growing strategy in response to local needs and aspirations for community food growing.

Stakeholder consultation event

Following the community event we brought together a range of organisations and other stakeholders who are in a position to help communities get growing. We wanted to build on the support requirements and aspirations highlighted by our current and aspiring community growers, to explore and agree how the organisations operating across our area can, collectively, help growing projects achieve their goals.

At the event we:

- Agreed priority actions that will help meet local needs for community growing projects;
- Heard what each organisation is doing or planning to do to support local food growing; and
- Discovered what resources are available from each organisation to help develop community growing across the Falkirk Council area.

APPENDIX 6

Groups involved in shaping the strategy

The following organisations have helped shape the Council's first Food Growing Strategy:

- Bantaskine Primary School
- Central Scotland Green Network Trust
- Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC)
- Falkirk Allotment Society
- Falkirk Community Trust
- Falkirk Council
- Falkirk Delivers
- Falkirk Trinity Church
- Falkirk Veterans
- Forth Environment Link
- Friends of the Earth Falkirk
- greenspace scotland
- Muiravonside Community Growing Association
- Scottish Government Food & Drink division
- Social Farms & Gardens
- Sustainable Thinking Scotland Community Interest Company
- The Rotary Club of Falkirk
- The Wood Craft Folk
- Under the Trees nature group

Appendix 2: Consultation Responses

We asked:

Q1. Have we picked the right sites? If no, where should we be encouraging community growing?

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
<p>These spaces are okay but I think there could be more spaces in Laurieston- Old allotments were built over for housing - the large area of grass opposite the old allotment sites and the new flats could be used for growing food, this is also in middle of housing estate so be good for people to access</p>	<p>Noted. This site will not be shown on the proposed community growing site maps at this stage as we are unclear of its exact location.</p> <p>Should we receive further information identifying the specific site, Falkirk Council will inspect and assess it as a possible community growing site. We will then contact the affected landowner for views about its potential as a community growing and/or allotment site.</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>
<p>The two sites identified in Maddiston will affect existing infrastructure - the children's play area and sports pitch. Both of those sites being prone to being water logged and are already used. The site proposed behind the pharmacy at Rainhill Ave is a park that is used by kids (when you can get to the park as it's really muddy with no path), but is also on a slope.</p> <p>There are other areas that are not used within Maddiston that would work as better sites if there is a demand for further growing in the area beyond Muiravonside Growing Area.</p> <p>I think sites identified by communities are good and also sites that have unused garages that can have raised beds on them.</p> <p>Schools sites are good, but most schools are fenced in so watering</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Falkirk Council has reviewed the suggested sites in light of comments received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abercairney Crescent open space site will no longer be shown as a potential community growing space. However, if there is demand for community growing at this site in the future, Falkirk Council and partners will support its development. • California Road playing field site has been identified as a potential community growing or allotment site in the Local Development Plan. It will therefore continue to be shown as a potential community growing space within this strategy. <p>With the school sites, individual schools would need to be approached for their views on opening up their</p>	<p>Following review of the potential Maddiston sites, Abercairney Crescent open space will no longer be shown as a potential community growing space.</p> <p>Unused garage sites can be considered as community growing sites subject to agreement from Falkirk Council Housing Department.</p> <p>School sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Children's Services to open up discussions about wider community involvement to assist with maintenance through holiday periods, etc.

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
<p>and access over peak growing times (i.e. Spring and Summers hols) would have to be look at.</p>	<p>food growing and orchard spaces to wider community growing use and agreement reached with the school with regards to access during school holidays. However, we will contact Children's Services to begin these discussions at a corporate level. This could ease issues within school growing sites around maintaining the spaces during the summer holidays.</p>	
<p>Sites are in good locations but where is the evidence to show they will be used. All for encouraging community engagement but can't help feel this is a poor use of council resources at a time when they are so stretched.</p>	<p>Noted. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a duty on every local authority to prepare a Community Food Growing Strategy. This must show the types of sites that could be used by communities to grow their own fruit and vegetables should they wish to do so.</p> <p>Falkirk Council's approach has been to suggest possible sites, but any community growing project that is set up in the future will be community-led, with support from Falkirk Council and partner organisations and agencies. If there is no demand for community growing in a particular area, there will be no projects set up.</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>
<p>Specific to the Airth village, I would like to see a greater availability of sites.</p>	<p>Noted. If there is demand for project(s) in Airth, Falkirk Council and partners will support development of more community growing spaces.</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>
<p>LAR-6: I have lived next to this park for my whole life (25 years) and have watched its slow demise. It would be excellent to see it put to good use and for the community to come together for</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Boundary hedges and tree planting will be considered for inclusion should a group come forward wishing to run a community growing project at this site.</p>

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
something worthwhile! It would be good if the trees and hedges that used to be in the park could be replanted here, too (to help wildlife).		
Another suggestion for a site would be the park behind McLachlan street in Stenhousemuir as this is a SIMD area and it would benefit the community.	<p>Falkirk Council has re-assessed the suggested site to the rear of McLachlan Street site for its potential as a community growing space.</p> <p>If there is demand for a community growing project here, Falkirk Council and partners is supportive, in principle, of development of this space for community growing, subject to the landowner agreement.</p>	We will add site to rear of McLachlan Street, Stenhousemuir, to the list of potential community growing spaces (Ref LAR-14).

We asked:

Q2. Tell us about other public spaces within the Falkirk Council area where you or your group would like to grow fruit and vegetables.

a) Where are these sites and why do you think they would be good for community growing? - Tell us about public spaces where you or your group would like to develop a community growing project.

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
<p>I'm not sure there is desire for further growing in the community as when Maddiston Community Council tried to set up a growing area in the village it was met with resistance at every proposed site which is why it was set up at Muiravonside.</p> <p>I think the site at the top of Valley Park (Murray Crescent end) would be good as it is flat and quite sheltered.</p>	<p>Noted. The idea of the strategy is to show the types of sites that could be used. Any community growing project that is set up in the future will be community-led, with support from Falkirk Council and partner organisations and agencies. If there is no demand for community growing in a particular area, there will be no projects set up.</p> <p>This site has been assessed and considered as a potential community growing space, but was discounted at this time</p>	No action required at this time.

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
	<p>due to there being strong community feeling against loss of open space for community growing at this location. If there is demand for a project here, Falkirk Council is happy to reconsider this view and, subject to landowner consent and neighbours views, this could be a potential community growing space.</p>	
<p>There is not enough allocation in Limerigg - there is one site of former housing in the middle of the village which could provide a good allotment site, and should be considered for development as such.</p>	<p>Noted. Falkirk Council has inspected and assessed this suggested site.</p> <p>If there are individuals or a group within Limerigg keen to progress this, and the landowner consents to this, the Strategy details support available from Falkirk Council and partner organisations to help get a community growing project up and running.</p>	<p>Add site to list of potential community growing spaces in Limerigg (Ref BRS-8).</p>
<p>What about the green space/flower and Rose garden across from 46 Shore Rd in Airth? There's a good amount of unused space that might be ideal for community gardening.</p>	<p>Noted. Falkirk Council has inspected and assessed this suggested site.</p> <p>If there are individuals or a group within Airth keen to progress this, and the landowner consents to this, the Strategy details support available from Falkirk Council and partner organisations to help get a community growing project up and running.</p>	<p>Add site to list of potential community growing spaces within Airth (Ref AIR-2).</p>
<p>Empty space Park on Woodend Walk Hallglen. This would be ideal space to encourage children to participate as there is no danger from cars which may be concern on other 2 proposed sites. Fal 23, Fal 24.</p>	<p>Noted. Falkirk Council has inspected and assessed this suggested site as a potential community growing space.</p> <p>If there are individuals or a group within Hallglen keen to progress this, and the landowner consents to this, support is available from</p>	<p>Add site to list of potential community growing spaces within Hallglen (Ref FAL-24).</p>

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
	Falkirk Council and partner organisations to help get your community growing project up and running.	
Herbertshire Castle Park isn't included – a masterplan was recently completed which proposed community growing as an option within it	Noted. Suggested community growing space within Herbertshire Castle Park will be included in Final Community Food Growing Strategy.	Add this site to list of potential community growing spaces (Ref DEN-3).
Another suggestion for a site would be the park behind McLachlan street in Stenhousemuir as this is a SIMD area ("the valley") and it would benefit the community with fresh food and empower people with skills.	<p>Noted. Falkirk Council has inspected and assessed this site and contacted the affected landowner for views about potential as a community growing space.</p> <p>Site will be included as a potential community growing space available for use as such should an interested group or individual come forward to progress.</p>	Add site to list of potential community growing spaces (Ref LAR-14).
More places in Grangemouth – each school should have an allotment area for pupils and parents	<p>There are currently community growing spaces / orchards within Beancross, Moray, Oxbang and Sacred Heart Primary School ground's in Grangemouth.</p> <p>Opening these spaces up for wider community / parents use could ease issues around maintaining the spaces during the summer holidays.</p>	Contact Children's Services to encourage a corporate push for more schools to develop their own community growing space for pupils, staff and parents.
There are a few ends of streets around where I stay that would be perfect for an allotment for someone. They are in the heart of the communities and are otherwise wasted land. They are sometimes gated or have hedges around them so are perfect for growing.	Noted. If there are individuals or a group is keen to use these types of space, and the landowner consents to this, the Strategy details the support available from Falkirk Council and partner organisations to help get a community growing project up and running.	No action required at this time.

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
<p>Focusing on the Hallglen area, I think that there are a number of spaces that would be suitable for community growing. In addition to the sites already identified I think that the open space surrounding the Ettrick Dochart Community Hall could work well for community gardening despite it not being a level site. I think that having a community centre beside a community garden could be of great benefit to both the garden and the centre because activities such as food preparation/cookery workshops could take place within the centre using produce from the garden being just one example.</p>	<p>Noted. Falkirk Council has inspected and assessed the suggested site and will contact the affected landowner for views about its potential as a community growing space.</p> <p>If there is a group wishing to take this project forward or use any of the other sites suggested for community growing, the Strategy details support available from Falkirk Council and partner organisations to help get your community growing project up and running.</p>	<p>Add site to list of potential community growing spaces (Ref FAL-27).</p>
<p>The open spaces to the East and North of phase 6 are in my opinion other potential locations for community gardening.</p> <p>In addition, there are many smaller parcels of land throughout Hallglen that are neglected or serving no purpose that could be utilized by individuals or groups of neighbours as pocket allotments by anyone wishing to do so</p>	<p>If there is a group wishing to use any of these sites suggested for community growing, the Strategy details support available from Falkirk Council and partner organisations to help get a community growing project up and running.</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>
<p>As a resident of Hallglen I am only referring to the two sites identified for this community. I think that both of these sites could work well as community growing spaces but I have answered no to the question because I have some doubts about whether they are the best sites in the area, or whether they should be the only sites used for this purpose in the area. Hallglen has an abundance of open space which in my opinion is underused by the community. I would love to see a good mix of open space,</p>	<p>Noted. The idea of the strategy is to show the types of sites that could be used. Any community growing project that is set up in the future will be community-led, with support from Falkirk Council and partner organisations and agencies.</p> <p>If an individual or group wishes to use a site that has not been identified in this strategy for community growing, then provided they have obtained landowner</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
community gardens, orchard areas, and some allotment allocation (including pocket allotments) within Hallglen.	consent and any other permission's required, Falkirk Council and partner organisations can provide support to help a group achieve their community growing aspirations.	
<p>There are two sites within/surrounding Hallglen that I think could be used as allotments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The land to the North of Woodend Walk between Orkney Place and the Glenbrae 	<p>Falkirk Council has inspected and assessed this site for their potential as community growing spaces.</p> <p>If there are individuals or a group within Hallglen keen to progress this, and the landowner consents to this, support is available from Falkirk Council and partner organisations to help get your community growing project up and running.</p>	Add site to list of potential community growing spaces (Ref FAL-24).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A field to the South of Glenburn Road opposite Mudale Court between the burn and the railway line. 	<p>This site is in private ownership. However, if there are individuals or a group within Hallglen keen to progress this, and the landowner consents to this, support is available from Falkirk Council and partner organisations to help get your community growing project up and running.</p>	No action required at this time.

We asked:

Q2. Tell us about other public spaces within the Falkirk Council area where you or your group would like to grow fruit and vegetables.

b) Where are these sites and why do you think they would be good for community growing? - Tell us about specific sites where you would like to see new allotments developed.

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
Anywhere where there is a clear desire to have them from a community should be looked at. Also schools – if access issues are resolved, communities can grow	Noted. The idea of the strategy is to show the types of sites that could be used. Any community growing project that is set up in the	We will continue to work with Planning Officers to seek ways of encouraging community growing space within new development.

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
<p>with schools. But equally, if there is not a desire then I think pushing them on a community that doesn't have the interest will not work.</p> <p>I'd like to see provision for growing space included as part of planning applications for house building. I think this would be more useful to communities than the tiny parks for very young children that developers put in to housing sites.</p>	<p>future will be community-led, with support from Falkirk Council and partner organisations and agencies. If there is no demand for community growing in a particular area, there will be no projects set up.</p>	<p>For example, this issue can be looked at as part of the emerging Supplementary Guidance on Green Infrastructure.</p>
<p>Limerigg Village. There is ample space and unused land which could be converted to allotment space - the land is held on account by Falkirk Council and has to my knowledge not been considered.</p>	<p>The Community Food Growing Strategy suggests sites that communities may wish to consider using for growing their own fruit or vegetables.</p> <p>If there is demand within a community to use a space that has not been highlighted within this strategy, and the landowner has given consent for using the site for community growing, Falkirk Council and partners remain open to supporting groups as they develop their projects. The Strategy details the type of support available, and who can provide this.</p>	<p>Add two additional sites on Slamannan Road, Limerigg to the list of potential community growing spaces (Refs BRS-7 and BRS-8).</p>
<p>Not sure, but again, any allotments within 5 miles of Airth would be lovely.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>
<p>Park on right hand side top Glen Brae, Falkirk heading in direction of Sheildhill . Named as 'sports course' on map Falkirk South. I have lived in Hallglen for approx 40 years and have noticed lack of activity within this area over recent years. Large area which could have dual purpose role - allotments and present use.</p>	<p>Noted. This is the Policy Bing area. There is potential for orchard planting if a group is interested in taking this forward and looking after the orchard in the longer term.</p> <p>Any community growing in this area will need to be done in raised beds. If there are individuals or a group keen to</p>	<p>Add site to list of potential community growing spaces (Ref FAL-23).</p>

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
	<p>progress this, support is available from Falkirk Council and partner organisations to help get your community growing project up and running.</p> <p>The potential for community growing at this location will also be recorded in the emerging Masterplan for the site.</p>	
<p>Maybe the fields around Larbert, Carronshore and Skinflats.</p> <p>There is a farm at the top of Roughlands Drive that would be a good place as it is accessible.</p>	<p>Noted. The draft Community Food Growing Strategy has focussed on sites that are owned by Falkirk Council. However, if a community group wishes to use this space, the Strategy details the consents and support available to get a community growing project up and running.</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>
<p>I live in James Street in Stenhousemuir and, in and around Mclachlan Street, there are many street ends of ground not being used for anything.</p>	<p>Noted. Falkirk Council has inspected and assessed these suggested sites for potential as a community growing space.</p>	<p>Add sites to list of potential community growing spaces (Ref LAR-13).</p>
<p>3 additional sites were suggested for potential community growing spaces at a Shieldhill & California Community Council meeting during the consultation process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Brae, Shieldhill • Site between Pirleyhill Drive and Gardrum Gardens, Shieldhill • California Playing Fields 	<p>Falkirk Council has inspected and assessed these suggested sites for potential as a community growing space.</p>	<p>Add sites to list of potential community growing spaces (Refs BRS-10, BRS-11 and BRS-12).</p>

We asked:

Q3. Have we picked the right priority actions and approach to encourage and support more community growing? If no, please tell us how we should change our approach

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
<p>There could be better use of resources, i.e. childcare, waste management - no charge for uplifts, increased green bin collection.</p>	<p>Noted. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a duty on every local authority to prepare a Community Food Growing Strategy. This must show the types of sites that could be used by communities to grow their own fruit and vegetables should they wish to do so.</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>
<p>Think it is a fantastic project, however unsure regarding amount of consultation carried out within local communities regarding their needs. Personally believe essential to encourage ownership over these areas.</p>	<p>Noted. The idea of the strategy is to show the types of sites that could be used. Any community growing project that is set up in the future will be community-led, with support from Falkirk Council and partner organisations and agencies. If there is no demand for community growing in a particular area, there will be no projects set up.</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>
<p>The sites are good but it is important to ensure existing trees bushes and hedgerows are preserved and even plant more to replace the ones the council have brutally chopped down over the years!!!</p>	<p>Noted. However, this is not within the remit of the Community Food Growing Strategy.</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>
<p>I think a positive is that there will still be plenty of space left for children to play in nearby parks.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>

We asked:

Q4. Have we correctly explained the support your group or organisation can offer to others to help them get growing? - If you have ticked no, please tell us what we have got wrong

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
<p>Not wrong, per se, but we would be keen to see more reference to the potential role that CSGNT can play in supporting the development of community growing sites. For example, within the strategy itself: :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Page 8 – Who else can help/Support Available table - The GYOWG maintain the online resources and database with CSGNTs assistance, CSGNT can provide advice and support on funding, project development etc. · Page 9 - GYOWG has guidance on new allotment sites on their website (design guides and plot holders guides); CSGNT can also assist with funding, design assistance etc. · Section 4.1 – Developing new allotment sites - CSGNT can help will all aspects of this · Section 6.1 – Skills training, workshops and advice table - CSGNT can help with funding and developing projects · Section 6.2 - Who else can help/Support Available table - CSGNT should be added to this providing project development, design and delivery support, funding advice, capacity building and group support. <p>Additionally, we'd be keen to work with the council on how we can support both the development of, and delivery of the proposed action plans.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>Suggested text amendments made to better reflect support available from Central Scotland Green Network Trust.</p> <p>Set up meeting to discuss additional Central Scotland Green Network Trust support that is available, e.g. in setting up allotments, development and delivery of action plans.</p>
<p>Not sure what use this will have</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>No action required at this time.</p>

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
I don't have a group - why can't individuals be involved	Individuals are welcome to get involved. This purpose of this question was to ensure that the strategy accurately reflects existing support available to community growers (groups or individuals) from other groups or organisations.	No action required at this time.
There is a lot of text and people with literacy issues might struggle. It reads fine, though, but it is a good idea to produce documents that are colourful and have pictures or diagrams.	Noted.	Final version will include more photos, etc to try and address this.

We asked:

Q5. What other support is available for groups interested in community growing? Who offers this support and how do communities find out about it?

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
All the available support sounds fantastic, but it is new information to me, and probably many others. Facebook is a good platform for communication, especially if all the small community organisations can help to share about what is available.	Noted. Falkirk Council will explore options with the different groups and organisations for better communicating the support available	Speak to stakeholders regarding options for better sharing support available with our communities. This will be done through a joint community growing Marketing Plan with Partners
Have attended couple of workshops delivered by FEL Dig in Falkirk led by Sarah and Mandy. Fantastic, their knowledge and enthusiasm is very infectious maybe could be used to support new groups.	Noted. Falkirk Council continues to work with FEL and other partners to secure support for community growing groups	Falkirk Council will continue to work with a range of partners to deliver the right support for new, aspiring and experienced community growers.
I don't think there is enough support or marketing around this area. I only recently found out about it by accident and was thrilled to see this initiative being implemented. I think more awareness is needed through social media etc	Noted. Explore options for better communicating local community growing initiatives and implement marketing and communication plan with partners	Update, circulate and implement Marketing Plan

You said	Proposed Council Response	We'll do
No idea	Noted.	No action required.
The RHS website is a good source of information for people interested in community growing.	Noted. Amend text to include reference to RHS website at appropriate places within strategy	Check out RHS website and add references and hyperlinks to strategy as appropriate
<p>The Grow Your Own Working group has a website which they are trying to turn into a "one stop shop" for growing advice. There is an Advice and Resources and a Support page: http://www.growyourownsotland.info/support/ This is relevant throughout the document, but particularly sections 4, 5, 6.1.</p> <p>Page 8 - CLAS and Social Farms and Gardens have produced a landowner guide: https://sc.communitylandadvice.org.uk/sites/communitylandadvice.org.uk/files/SF%26G%20CLAS%20Landowners%20Guide%2009.18.pdf Also relevant to the table on Page 11 (advice about land issues etc)</p> <p>Page 18 - NHS Forth Valley is mentioned. Are there any links to the NHS Lothians greenspace and health research by greenspace scotland?</p> <p>Page 20 - Scottish Beekeepers Association could be added to the table</p>	<p>Noted. Text amended to better reflect this.</p>	<p>Check out website and amend text as appropriate</p> <p>Check out document and add text amendments and appropriate hyperlinks</p> <p>Check out Greenspace Scotland research and identify ideas and projects that could be driven forward to benefit Falkirk Council communities</p>

ACTION PLANS

ALLOTMENTS							
Aim	Actions			Delivery (lead and partners)	Resources	Outputs & Outcomes	Monitoring and review actions
	Short (2020-2023)	Medium (2023-2025)	Long (2025-2030)				
Develop a robust and fair site selection and assessment process for potential allotment sites	<p>Follow the contaminated land risk assessment process for each potential allotment site.</p> <p>Agree phasing and priority sites for contaminated land risk assessments including phase 1 desk study reports & phase 2 intrusive site surveys</p> <p>Secure sufficient funding to carry out phase 1 & 2 surveys</p>	<p>Ongoing programme to identify, assess and select new allotment sites</p> <p>Secure sufficient funding to carry out phase 1 & 2 surveys</p> <p>Carry out contaminated land risk assessments</p>	<p>Ongoing programme to identify, assess and select new allotment sites</p> <p>Secure sufficient funding to carry out phase 1 & 2 surveys</p> <p>Carry out contaminated land risk assessments</p>	<p>Falkirk Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contaminated Land Team. Planning & Environment Team 	<p>Funding:</p> <p>Cost for one phase 1 survey estimated at £750-£5,000 (depending on size of site, historical land use, etc.)</p> <p>Cost for one phase 2 survey estimated at £5,000-£50,000 (depending on size of site, historical land use, ground conditions, etc.)</p> <p>(Subject to external funding)</p>	<p>Schedule of site surveys</p> <p>Clear understanding of risks and how to mitigate/remove any significant contamination risks</p> <p>Necessary remedial works identified and implemented</p> <p>Sufficient funding secured for remedial works</p> <p>Suitable sites and opportunities for growing identified</p>	5-year review of sites and process of selection.
With partners, satisfy local demand by creating new allotments and community growing spaces suitable for everyone	<p>Determine the level of community interest in developing and running allotments at Helix South</p> <p>Discuss potential for allotments with landowner(s)</p>	<p>Develop and support local management group(s) to manage Helix allotment site</p>	<p>Provide different sized allotment plots available as full size allotments plots (250m²) are too big for some growers;</p>	<p>Falkirk Community Trust</p> <p>Falkirk Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Learning & Development Planning & Environment 	<p>Land / sites suitable for community growing</p> <p>Association/Management group to run allotment</p> <p>Officer support for setting up and developing Helix allotment management group</p>	<p>New allotment site created and managed</p>	<p>Annual survey to determine current levels of demand for allotments</p> <p>Annual skills survey of existing allotment plot-holders and site management group(s) to determine ongoing support needs</p>
	<p>Agree procedures for lease arrangements for allotments on Council-owned land</p>	<p>Develop local management group(s) to manage allotment site(s)</p>	<p>Provide different sized allotment plots to encourage more participation - full size plots (250m²) are too big for some growers</p>	<p>Falkirk Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management with support and advice from Legal Services 	<p>Falkirk Council Asset Management Officer time for preparing allotment leases</p>	<p>New allotment site(s) created and managed</p>	<p>Annual skills survey of existing allotment plot-holders and site management group(s) to determine ongoing support needs</p>
	<p>Provide support for groups and opportunities for informal community growing</p>	<p>Provide opportunities for informal community growing</p>	<p>Provide opportunities for informal community growing</p>	<p>Falkirk Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Learning & Development Planning & Environment 	<p>Funding to secure support from Forth Environment Link</p> <p>Land / sites suitable for community growing</p>	<p>Network of community growing projects and groups across Falkirk Council area</p>	<p>Annual survey to determine skills level and support needs of groups involved in or interested in community growing</p>
					<p>Forth Environment Link</p>		

Aim	Actions			Delivery (lead and partners)	Resources	Outputs & Outcomes	Monitoring and review actions
	Short (2020-2023)	Medium (2023-2025)	Long (2025-2030)				
With partners, satisfy local demand by creating new allotments and community growing spaces suitable for everyone	<p>Establish set up costs for priority allotment sites.</p> <p>Secure funding to set up priority allotment sites</p> <p>Seek planning consent</p>	<p>Implement infrastructure requirements (fences, paths, water, etc)</p> <p>Develop local management group(s)</p>	<p>Manage site – different sized plots to attract growers from all ages, abilities, growing experiences and backgrounds</p>	<p>Falkirk Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management (site management) • Community Development & Learning (group development) • Planning & Environment (infrastructure delivery) <p>Allotment Management Group(s)</p>	<p>Land / sites suitable for community growing</p> <p>Funding for site set-up works, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weld-mesh fencing (£75 per lin. metre) • Access gate(s) (Single: £1,000; Double: £1,500) • Rabbit mesh fencing (£5.10 per lin. metre) • Plough site or build raised planting beds and import soil • Communal meeting area or shed (approx. £5,000) <p>Falkirk Council Officer support for setting up local allotment management group(s), obtaining planning consent and implementing required infrastructure</p>	<p>New allotment site(s) created and managed</p>	<p>5-year review of sites to be allocated as allotments</p> <p>Rolling programme of infrastructure implementation and management</p>
The waiting list for people seeking allotments in the Falkirk Council area is well managed and kept up-to-date with robust procedures for adding and removing people from the list.	<p>Work with Falkirk Allotment Society to share Waiting List information</p> <p>Create system for recording details of people wishing an allotment and for managing the waiting list</p> <p>Agree procedures for contacting people on the waiting list to carry out an annual survey</p>	<p>Continued information sharing with allotment groups to ensure waiting list management requirements are met</p> <p>Carry out annual surveys with allotment holders and people on the waiting list(s)</p>	<p>Continued information sharing with allotment groups to ensure Waiting List management requirements met</p> <p>Carry out annual surveys with allotment holders and people on the waiting list(s)</p>	<p>Falkirk Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management • Legal Services <p>Falkirk Allotment Society</p> <p>Falkirk Community Trust</p> <p>Muiravonside Community Growers</p>	<p>Falkirk Council Officer time to ensure Council meets its statutory requirements (e.g. by carrying out surveys and managing waiting lists)</p>	<p>Up-to-date list of people wishing their own allotment plot in the Falkirk Council area</p> <p>Clear procedures in place for managing a waiting list of people wishing an allotment plot in the Falkirk Council area</p>	<p>Annual survey of people on the waiting list for an allotment to establish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If they still want an allotment • What size of allotment they wish • If there is an alternative form of community growing they are interested in

Aim	Actions			Delivery (lead and partners)	Resources	Outputs & Outcomes	Monitoring and review actions
	Short (2020-2023)	Medium (2023-2025)	Long (2025-2030)				
There are robust, fair and transparent regulations for all the allotment sites in the Falkirk Council area.	Agree rules and regulations for managing allotment sites Implement rules and regulations	Implement rules and regulations Review rules and regulations and amend as necessary	Implement rules and regulations Review rules and regulations and amend as necessary	Falkirk Council • Asset Management with support and advice from Legal Services Allotment Management Groups	Falkirk Council Officer time	Simple and effective set of site rules and regulations in place and adhered to by group(s)	5-year review of allotment rules and regulations to be amended as necessary
Our understanding of demand, satisfaction and resource requirements remains realistic and up to date	Prepare an annual report for Scottish Government, reporting on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> location and size of each allotment site number of allotments on each site period of lease and rent payable number of persons on the waiting list steps taken by the Council to comply with the duty to take all reasonable steps to provide allotments to those on the list the reasons for failure to comply with the duty income received 			Community Empowerment Working Group	Falkirk Council Officer time to liaise with relevant parts of the Council and Allotment Management Group(s) as appropriate. Falkirk Council Officer time to prepare an annual report for Scottish Government	Annual report submitted according to requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015	Annual report submitted according to requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
There is a network of allotment holders and community growers ready, willing and able to support new growers and plot holders	Skills audit of existing and new community growers Identify support and training needs of community growers	Provide a programme of support and training relevant to the needs of local growers Follow-up skills audit	Follow-up skills audit	Falkirk Council • Community Learning & Development • Planning & Environment Forth Environment Link Sustainable Thinking Scotland Community Interest Company Social Farms & Gardens	Funding for training and support for community growing groups and allotment plot holders Falkirk Council Officer time to carry out skills audit and training needs analysis	Programme of skills and training workshops Annual community growers networking event where people can meet to share their experience, skills, ideas and knowledge with other growers Programme of networking events and community meals	Workshop and event evaluation Follow up skills audit and training needs analysis