

**From:** Smith, Jonathan Aitken [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 May 2019 19:59  
**To:** LDP  
**Subject:** LDP MIR - CPCC & FGSG: Response to Consultation, May 2019  
**Attachments:** LDP Consultation - CPCC Response (Draft V1.0) (May, 2019).doc; MIRresponseFromFGSG-Final (13th May, 2019).docx

Good evening,

As part of the Local Development Plan - Main Issues Report consultation, please find attached responses presented on behalf of:

- Castlehill & Pittodrie Community Council
- and
- The Food-Growing Steering Group

Please note that the second response is presented on behalf of the 'Food Growing Steering Group' as a whole, rather than on behalf or in the name of its individually constituent representative members, as included in the response's introduction.

As always, if there is any further information required or future updates to the LDP over the course of its continued to development and delivery that is helpful for members to consider and consult on with our communities, you are very welcome to get in contact and let us know.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Smith

*Jonathan Aitken McLeod Smith*

*Castlehill and Pittodrie Community Council,*

*Aberdeen Community Council Forum, Chairperson*

*Aberdeen Civic Forum, Chairperson*

[www.cp-cc.org.uk](http://www.cp-cc.org.uk)

[www.ccforumaberdeen.com](http://www.ccforumaberdeen.com)

[www.civicforumaberdeen.com](http://www.civicforumaberdeen.com)

This response to the Local Development Plan comes from the Food-Growing Steering Group, which sits within the structure of the Local Authority and Community Planning Partnership.

The FGSG leads on development of Granite City Growing Strategy; a food-growing strategy for Aberdeen, and provides over-sight of the community food-growing fund and associated programmes.

The FGSG consists of representatives from the James Hutton Institute, Powis Residents' Group, The Civic Forum, the Community Food Initiative North East, the Community Councils Forum', the Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen (SFCPA) and Aberdeen City Council officers.

The views brought forward in this response are presented on behalf of the FGSG, rather than on behalf of the individual constituent members listed, all or some of whom may be presenting their own representations, both as individuals and organisations as part of the LDP MIR Consultation.

### **Recommendations and Views:**

The Food-growing Steering Group believes that food-growing is currently and will become an increasingly important emerging activity for the communities of Aberdeen city and the North-East region over the lifetime of the next LDP.

It is our recommendation that this growing enthusiasm and willingness to participate by the city's communities be supported by the LDP, as expressed by the forthcoming food-growing strategy.

Granite City Growing; Aberdeen's food-growing strategy will express the vision that:

#### ***By 2024 we will be an Aberdeen:***

- **where everyone who wants to, has access to food-growing opportunities**
- **where people are aware of the benefits of, and opportunities for, local food growing**
- **and where food growing activities deliver:**
  - **improved health and wellbeing**
  - **stronger communities**
  - **benefits to the local economy**
  - **improvements to Aberdeen's urban and rural environment and**
  - **improved access to quality fresh food**

This vision aligns with Aberdeen's Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the SFCPA action plan which aims to tackle food poverty, develop community food skills and knowledge and deliver sustainable food provision.

The LOIP builds on the requirements of the Community Planning (Scotland) Act 2015 and sets the ambition to increase the provision of allotments and community food growing spaces from the baseline of 468 in 2016 by 1% in 2017/18, 10% by 2020/21 and 25% by 2026/27.

The Food-growing Steering Group agrees with the statutory guidance issued by the Scottish Government<sup>1</sup> regarding the role of local development plans to the delivery of food-growing strategies. The Food-growing Steering Group also supports existing principles in the LDP and provides the addition of the following recommendations:

- a. The Local Development Plan is key to safeguarding existing and potential allotment and food-growing sites. The plan should seek to enhance existing green infrastructure sites and promote the creation of such new sites. For example, newbuild development plans should have sufficient nearby green space for a range of recreational uses, including food-growing.
- b. Expand the existing 'allotments' LDP policy and protections to include wider approaches to food-growing. The new local development plan should use the terminology 'community food-growing spaces including allotments' to align with the Open Space Audit. Allotments are one subset of wider community food-growing spaces which could also include school gardens, orchards and community gardens for example.
- c. Existing community food-growing spaces should be recognised and safeguarded and new potential sites should also be recognised and safeguarded. Allotments are already protected and should continue to be but different food-growing sites can be more fluid and less formal. This is of particular importance to communities and residents who live in more urban settings who would like to have access to opportunities for food-growing. The presence, availability of and access to these kinds of sites will contribute to the recognised aims of promoting city-living and increased provision of affordable housing. The promotion of new green-space and growing sites and protection of existing sites should be explicitly spoken to and supported by the LDP.
- d. The new local development plan should include a percentage of open space requirements based on the size of the development greater than that contained in the previous LDP. Such an approach should also set out the requirement for edible food-producing species to be provided, including hedgerows and fruit trees, and the expectation that there is an increase in biodiversity. This will ensure that there is adequate space available to existing as well as new residents, reduce feelings of crowdedness and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/part-9-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015-allotments-guidance-local-authorities-section-119-duty-prepare-food-growing-strategy/pages/4/>

contribute to improved mental health, wellbeing, nutrition and social inclusion of which these spaces play an important contributing role.

- e. The Local Development Plan should also encourage the temporary use of unused or underused land as greenspace including for food-growing, particularly at allocated sites scheduled for future development. It is important that while the community have both the ability and encouragement to make use of these sites in this way, there is an openness and transparency about when and if this is of a temporary nature. Clarity regarding the temporary usage of a site of this kind and the likelihood of this use preventing or changing future development of the site is needed to manage expectations.
- f. Developer Contributions and Community Benefits towards the provision of allotments and community growing spaces resulting from new housing developments should also be facilitated by the LDP and its associated documents, among and alongside other priority needs identified by communities in co-design with City Council and Community Planning Partners.
- g. Links to the local economy should be referenced. Aberdeen is a 'Sustainable Food City' and has an ambition to make its local food system more sustainable. Over the medium term an increase in community food-growing opportunities has the ability and ambition to support in particular social enterprises and local businesses at the local level, as well as contribute to the city-wide and regional 'Food & Drink' Economic Priority Sector.
- h. Links to the Aberdeen's Community Planning Partnership LOIP, Community Empowerment Act and Engagement, Participation & Empowerment Strategy should also be made where possible; linking the LDP spatial strategy with community facilitated use and / or Asset Transfer. This could highlight green-space usage in particular where food-growing can be both a vehicle for wider community engagement and a component of place-making site plans.
- i. Links to 'community benefits' from the procurement and commissioning process should be referenced alongside developer obligations, as part of the broader framework of co-design with communities.
- j. We recommend that there be consideration given to how landscape design can accommodate a more dispersed and fairly-distributed approach to food-growing – such as through a supplementary or guidance note. Such guidance could also outline best practice expectations to increase biodiversity on sites, harvesting rainwater and providing composting opportunities.
- k. The Food-growing Steering Group recognises that existing policy on greenspace and allotments has not yet delivered as fully as it has the potential to achieve on policy, strategy and community aspirations on green spaces and food-growing in the city. The Countesswells site, among others, could be an example case-study of advance greening and facilitated community ownership in new developments. This could inform detailed

guidance to both support future policy and encourage a standard of expected provision around new and / or scheduled developments; in particular developments of significant size and scale, as well as those of smaller scale but located in more densely populated areas of the city where the need for provision is greatest.

13<sup>th</sup> May 2019