

# Granite City Growing:

Aberdeen Growing Food Together 2020



## Document Control

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## 1. Executive Summary

'Granite City Growing: Aberdeen Growing Food Together 2020' is Aberdeen's first food growing strategy and has been co-produced with a range of community groups and key stakeholders. A baseline of 2019 has been used to capture all the background data, with the strategy running from 2020 to 2026. In partnership with key stakeholders a clear vision for the future of food growing in the city has been set which seeks to ensure that:-

- everyone who wants to, has access to food-growing opportunities
- people are aware of the benefits of and opportunities for local food growing
- communities and politicians understand the link between healthy people, good, local food and a high-quality environment in and around the city.
- Community food-growing will continue to be recognised as part of Aberdeen's policy and strategic priorities.

The scope of the strategy covers all forms of community growing – where growing activities are collective and voluntary, or expressly for community benefit, and the governance sits within the Community Planning Partnership. A statement of 'reasonable measures', in line with the legislation, is included in the Additional Information and Guidance describing what Aberdeen City Council will do to respond to the demand for food-growing opportunities and a Strategic Environmental Assessment has been completed which helped to shape the strategy.

The delivery of Granite City Growing will require a partnership approach and a collaborative city-wide effort to achieve the many outcomes which community food-growing has the potential to positively effect. This will be detailed in a supporting implementation plan which will be co-produced with the same partners but adding additional expertise as required.

## 2. Strategic Context

In 2014 the Scottish Government published the *Good Food Nation Bill*, its vision was that by 2025 Scotland would be a "*Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day*" To help deliver this in 2015 the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act was adopted and Section s119 of that act requires all local authorities to prepare a food-growing strategy for their area. At a City level, Aberdeen's Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) sets further objectives which this strategy works to deliver.

As a cross-cutting theme community food-growing can help to deliver many of the LOIP stretch outcomes including 1,11,12,13 and 14. At a very specific level LOIP stretch outcome 13 states: *no one in Aberdeen will go without food due to poverty by 2026*. The LOIP incorporates the aims of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and is the local Child Poverty Action Plan for Aberdeen. One of the Improvement Aims to deliver the outcomes is to '*increase community food growing in schools, communities and workplaces by 2021*'.

### 3. Approach

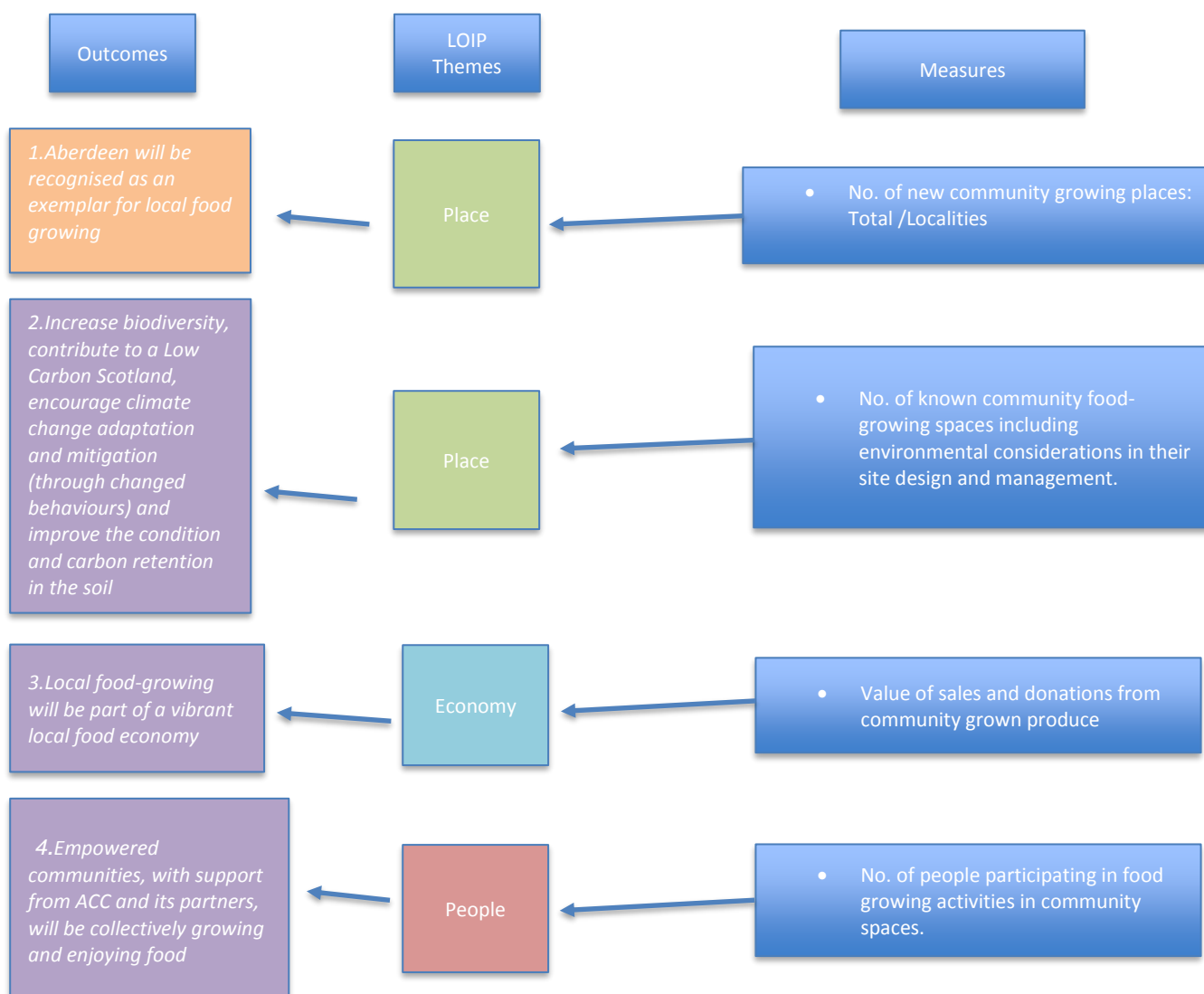
In order to identify the current provision of food growing spaces in Aberdeen a baseline was first undertaken. This identified both the distribution and quantity of food-growing opportunities across the city. In national terms across Scotland the existing allotment provision stands at approximately 2 plots per 1000 people. In Aberdeen, in 2019, we had 2.25 allotment plots per 1000 people. If private allotment plots are included this rose to 2.85 plots per 1000 people. With 55% of households in Aberdeen living in flats many may have limited or no access to a private growing space. In terms of allotments, in January 2019 the allotment waiting list stood at 166 people (43 of whom were tending to a micro plot); this means that the allotment waiting list at that time was 32% of the number of plots available. This baseline then allowed work to begin with key stakeholders on creating a food growing strategy. The vision for Granite City Growing came from a series of workshops with key stakeholders facilitated in early 2018 by Greenspace Scotland. A public food-growing survey was conducted and Aberdeen's City Voice also included food-growing questions in March 2019. Oversight from the Food-growing Steering Group and the incorporation of statutory guidance formulated the strategic outcomes and objectives.

Strategic outcomes and objectives have been themed around place, economy and people:

- We will take steps to make food growing opportunities available to all residents of Aberdeen to improve their health, reduce health inequalities and to alleviate food poverty.
- Embed the requirement to increase biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation within growing spaces through the choice of plants, heritage varieties, site design and management.
- Encourage all forms of community-led enterprise and social enterprise through making available and encouraging the uptake of food-growing opportunities.
- We will endeavour to make all of Aberdeen's food-growing spaces well managed community-empowered places, served by public transport and active travel, with quality facilities accessible by all, as far as is practicable.

To deliver these outcomes the next stage of this process is the creation of an implementation plan. This plan will be co-designed with key stakeholders and will be focused on overcoming any challenges to achieving the objectives set out above.

## 4. The Outcomes



## 5. Risk

The following risks to Aberdeen City Council have been identified, it should be noted however that the implementation of Granite City Growing will require a partnership approach and a collaborative city-wide effort. Key stakeholders will have their own risks specific to their scope and involvement:

- A risk of demand for allotments exceeding supply triggering the statutory duty to take reasonable measures to ensure demand is met.
- ACC fails to act on the duty to prepare a food-growing strategy under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- Health and wellbeing outcomes of food-growing not realised.
- Widening inequalities in opportunities to 'grow your own'.
- Biodiversity gains not realised.
- Best practice water, biodiversity and soil management advice for food-growing not communicated.
- Failure to fully support Aberdeen's ambition to be a Sustainable Food City.

## 6. Appendices

### Appendix 1 – Related Strategies, Plans, Programmes and Initiatives

Strategies, Plans, Initiatives and programmes	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Sustainable Development Goals	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Good Food Nation Bill</i>			✓	
Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015				✓
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Locality Plans	✓		✓	✓
Local Development Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Open Space Strategy	✓	✓		✓
Granite City Good Food strategy and plan	✓		✓	✓
Allotment management policies		✓		✓

### Appendix 2 – Organisations that have Contributed to the Development of the Strategy

- Statutory consultees Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Environment Scotland
- Food-growing Steering Group consisting of representatives from Aberdeen City Council's Place, Operations and Customer clusters, the Hutton Institute, Community Councils, the Allotment Market Stall, Powis Residents Association, the Civic Forum and from the Community Food Initiative North East (CFINE).
- Greenspace Scotland
- Additional Workshop attendees: Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership, Garthdee Allotments, Social Farms and Gardens.

### Appendix 3 – Contact Information

Environmental Policy Team  
 Aberdeen City Council  
[ecocity@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:ecocity@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/food-growing-strategy>

### Appendix 4 – Additional Information and Guidance: Appendix 4 to the Aberdeen food-growing strategy.