
Food Growing Strategy Consultation Draft

Growing Together

Creating opportunities for people to grow their own fruit and vegetables across Perth and Kinross to promote healthy, sociable and sustainable lifestyles.



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Figure 1 Potager Garden (Kinross)

1. Introduction

This draft strategy responds to the Government’s vision to increase the health and wellbeing of Scotland’s communities by encouraging more people to grow and eat fruit and vegetables. Growing food together allows people to meet and work with others in their community; develop food growing knowledge and skills and lead healthier lifestyles. Community growing also plays a role in improving biodiversity, tackling Climate Change and food poverty by improving access to high quality local produce that is grown and distributed in a sustainable manner.

In Perth and Kinross, there are already several well-established allotment societies and community groups who have been leading the way in providing opportunities for more people to become involved in food growing. Developing this strategy provides an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved so far, identify problems and barriers and identify measures to improve the current situation.

The Council is well-placed to support this aim by helping to identify land for additional growing spaces and explore other types of support that would encourage more people of all ages and abilities to get involved. Alongside other policies and projects, this strategy will ensure that Perth and Kinross is on track to deliver the ‘Good Food Nation’ vision.

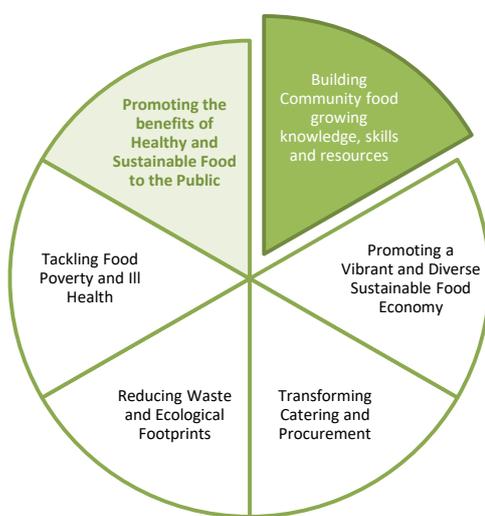
This consultative draft provides an opportunity for you to comment, get involved and help develop a strategy that addresses the key issues.



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2. Background

The Scottish Government's Good Food Nation policy tackles an incredibly complex topic and seeks to transform the food system as a whole. This strategy focuses on encouraging community growing which is a key part of this transformation. By engaging the public throughout the process, it will also contribute to promoting the benefits of healthy and sustainable food choices. The pie chart below highlights other important goals that Perth & Kinross Council and others can work towards in order to achieve the Good Food Nation vision.



[Click here to learn more about each category](#)

Figure 2: The [Sustainable Food Cities](#) approach shown above identifies six key areas that should be considered in relation to sustainable food production

The following initiatives within Perth and Kinross tie in with the Food Growing Strategy and play a part in delivering the Good Food Nation vision:

- Food Share Network initiative by Zero Waste Perth ← food waste, food poverty
- Community Cookit by NHS Tayside ← skills development, healthy food
- Climate Change Action Plan by PKC ← land use, procurement
- Westbank Nursery, Perth ← education, skills development, innovation
- Community, Third & Private Sector initiatives such as [Neighbourfood](#), [Broke not Broken](#) and [Giraffe](#) ← local produce, food poverty, distribution, training



Are you aware of or involved in any other relevant project?

3. Vision and Objectives

The main purpose of this strategy is to help ensure that more people will want to grow their own food and can do so.

Vision Statement:
 “People across Perth and Kinross will have more opportunities and will be better skilled at growing their own food, thereby leading healthier, more sociable and sustainable lives”



Do you agree with the proposed vision & objectives?

Six **key objectives** have been developed to help deliver the vision:

1. **Improve understanding:** develop a better understanding of the existing community growing provision in Perth and Kinross, including the demand for, and the barriers to, food growing.
2. **Develop a waiting list:** create and maintain an allotment waiting list to gauge the demand for growing space across Perth and Kinross.
3. **Identify land:** identify potentially suitable land for additional community growing spaces in order to improve the current provision, especially in communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.
4. **Deliver projects:** work with partners across Perth and Kinross to help overcome identified barriers, including delivering new growing spaces and establishing new growing groups.
5. **Develop knowledge and skills:** help deliver support activities such as training and encourage knowledge and skills sharing.
6. **Raise Awareness:** raise awareness of the socio-economic and environmental benefits of food growing and encourage more people to become involved.

Delivering the Strategy’s vision and objectives will result in a number of positive outcomes, including environmental, social and economic benefits.

Benefits of community growing		
Environmental	Social	Economic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces waste and food miles by promoting local produce • Contributes to biodiversity, green infrastructure, and mitigating/adapting to climate change • Improves soil and air quality • Promotes sustainable food production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves access to healthy and affordable food • Through regular exercise and contact with others, it improves physical and mental well-being • Promotes community empowerment • Develops skills, knowledge and social networks; provides opportunities for outdoor education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to creating a healthy and resilient communities • Helps groups raise funds by selling produce and promotes the local economy

4. Types of Community Growing

Food Growing Areas and their Definition

Allotments	<p>Allotments are defined in Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as land:</p> <p>(a) <i>Owned or leased by a local authority, and</i> (b) <i>Leased or intended for lease by a person from the authority, and</i> (c) <i>Used or intended for use-</i></p> <p>(i) <i>Wholly or mainly for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers and</i> (ii) <i>Otherwise than with a view to making a profit.</i></p> <p>Allotment plot holders are required to enter a contract for the lease of a plot and have responsibility for using and maintaining their plot, including any structures such as tool storage, compost bins or shelters.</p> <p>Note: Perth & Kinross Council does not manage any allotments but leases land to Allotment Associations. Some Allotment Associations use private land, not owned by the Authority.</p>
Community Gardens & Fields	<p>Normally created by community groups wishing to grow their own food. They are often managed and used more communally than allotments. All community garden models are different and can have a number of different purposes that extend further than just growing fruit and vegetables - for example, education and training, upgrading underused/vacant and derelict land or community building and recreation.</p>
Community Orchards & Woodlands	<p>Orchards and woodlands are shared resources, managed and often owned by local residents. Besides food production, they can contribute to improving and creating habitats and build resilience against urbanisation and climate change impacts. Orchards are normally identified as areas where there is a minimum of 5 fruit trees.</p>
Urban Farms	<p>Urban farms can be located within or around the edge of settlements and are similar to community gardens and fields. Urban agriculture however assumes a level of commerce where the produce is normally sold.</p>
Institutional /Organisational growing spaces	<p>Growing spaces which belong to institutions or organisation. These are not normally open for the general public and serve a specific purpose beyond growing food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools → teaching and skills building• Care homes & hospital → rehabilitation and exercise• Social enterprises/businesses → income generation
Edible hedges, Herb and vegetable boxes	<p>Community groups and individuals can seek permission from landowners to pursue less formal growing activities such as growing in civic areas and underused spaces using planters /raised beds and creating edible hedges and boundaries.</p>
Home Growing	<p>Garden share schemes are arrangements between private householders and match those with surplus space with those who need growing space. Other forms of home growing such as individual gardening and growing in window may be less social but still have a number of health and environmental benefits.</p>

5. Food Growing in Perth and Kinross

The following sections set out what we know about the existing food growing provision in the Council area, what issues we face and where we would like to get to by implementing this strategy. For this, we drew on our experience and past work and fact-finding meetings with growing groups as well as the results of the stakeholder survey conducted during October 2019. The survey ran for 3 weeks and received 201 responses from a wide variety of stakeholders.

5.1 Where are we now?

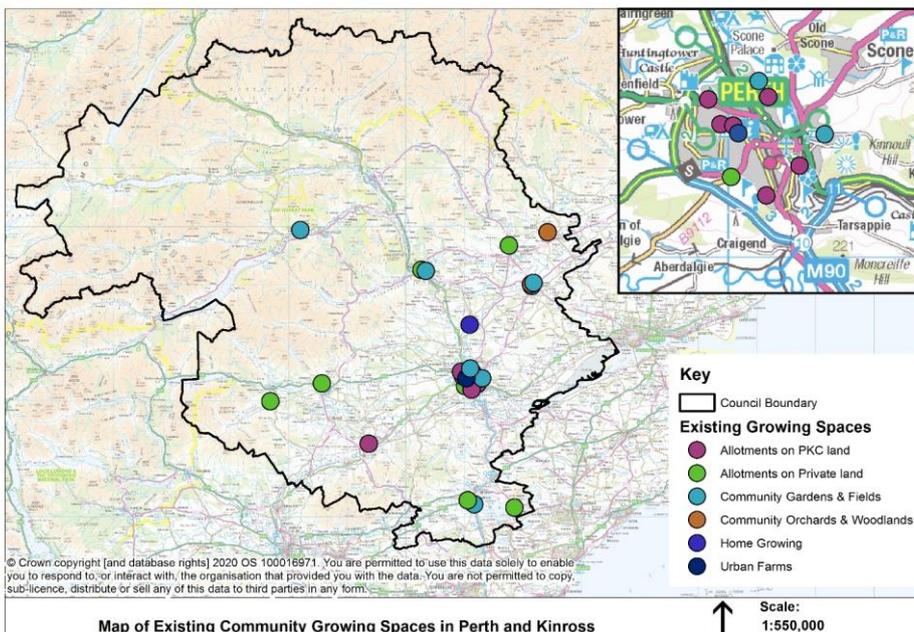
We have a record of **30 existing growing spaces** across Perth and Kinross, all managed by community groups through leases/agreements with landowners:

- 14 Allotments (7 on council land and 7 on private land)
- 7 Community Gardens and Fields
- 2 Community Orchards and Woodlands
- 1 Urban Farms
- 5 Institutional Growing Spaces
- 1 Garden Share Scheme



Do you know any other community growing space, not listed on our website?

Visit [our website](#) for a detailed map of existing growing areas and information on existing growing groups.



There are several **inspirational initiatives across Perth and Kinross** that provide space, advice, opportunities for skills development and other types of support to those who would like to grow their own food and vegetables. **Some of them are...**



[Perth Community Farm](#) is a one of a kind project with the aim of feeding the city with organic produce. They are proud to be an inclusive growing space and regularly host school groups to teach children about food growing.

[Neighbourfood](#) is a simple platform where even the smallest producers get the chance to sell their produce. A new pick-up point has recently opened in the Carse of Gowrie.



Moncrieffe Allotments have been providing people the opportunity to grow fruits and vegetables since 1896. Why not go along to their summer open day to see how they do it!

[Giraffe](#) helps trainees with mental health issues, learning disabilities and autism toward independence through working in a professional kitchen. They also have a growing space and often host events around zero waste and local produce.



[Broke not Broken](#) in Kinross includes a foodbank, a gardening project and offers cookery courses focusing on healthy and budget meals.



[Tombreck Farm](#) in Highland Perthshire aspires to form a community around regenerative agriculture and organic farming.

5.2 Demand – What we know so far?

76% of those who responded to the stakeholder survey already grow their own vegetables, fruit or herbs but **66%** would like to grow more than they do currently. Although the emphasis is on food growing, flowers are also grown to increase numbers of insect pollinators and, in some cases to sell cut flowers. **61** respondents suggested that they would like to join an allotment waiting list and **51** people thought that there is interest within their community to form a growing group. Responses to the survey were received from across the Council area with almost half of the comments coming from post codes where residents are most likely to experience socio-economic challenges (based on the [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation](#)).

In terms of access, a mapping exercise identified that **40%** of households in Perth and Kinross live within an ideal walking distance (15 mins / 1200m) from an existing community growing space. **34%** of residents who live in flats have poor access to community growing areas. The same applies to **25%** of residents who live in areas which are most likely to experience socio-economic challenges.

Based on the accessibility of existing facilities, the known demand for growing spaces and discussions with local groups, we identified some of the **settlements and neighbourhoods where there is a need for new community growing opportunities:**

- **Pitlochry** – There are no established community growing areas in Pitlochry; Pitlochry Community Council advised that 15+ residents had previously expressed an interest in having an allotment
- **Perth** – Largest population and percentage of residents living in flats; opportunities to join up with schools and build on existing growing initiatives
 - North Muirton – potential for a new growing space managed by PKC's REACH team
 - Letham – potential Food Share Network pilot in this area
 - Westbank (Jeanfield Road) – potential for expanding training and food growing activities within the existing site

Commented [HB1]: Check plans with Andy



Figure 3 Part of the site at Westbank (Perth) is occupied by vegetable beds, polytunnels and sheds

- **Scone** – There are no established community growing areas in Scone; 7 individuals registered with the Community Council, showing interest in a potential project; Perth Community Farm is also interested to expand in this area. Finding suitable available ground has been the limiting factor to date.
- **Alyth** – Alyth Climate Café suggested that there is local demand for an additional growing area to provide alternative to the existing allotment site which is oversubscribed
- **Coupar Angus** – Opportunity to consolidate current efforts on a larger site and potentially manage it as a community farm
- **Rural Perthshire** – Several residents showed interest in the strategy from rural areas where there are no existing growing opportunities. While it may not be feasible to form an allotment in some of these places, alternatives could be explored that allow for community growing.
- **Kinloch Rannoch** – potential Food Share Network pilot in this area

This list is not exhaustive, we are **keen to hear from other community groups who are interested in starting a new growing project**. Please respond to the consultation and tell us about your aspirations!



Is your community not on the list? Let us know if there is demand for additional growing spaces.



Figure 4 One of the small growing sites in Coupar Angus

5.2 Allotment Waiting List

The Community Empowerment (2015) Act requires Local Authorities to maintain and manage a waiting list for allotment sites they own. The purpose of the central waiting list is to allow for an overview of the overall demand for plots and for a fair and transparent process for distributing spaces. Where the waiting list exceeds 50% of the available plots, the Council is required to take reasonable steps to increase the food growing provision.

Perth & Kinross Council own 7 allotment sites which are leased to and managed by Associations. Allotment Associations currently maintain their own waiting lists.

Allotment land	Allotment Association	Number plots/half plots	£ per plot/half	Waiting list (January 2020)
Moncrieffe Island, Perth	Perth Working Men's Garden Association	60/12	£45/£22.50 (£22.50 OAPs)	30 (Perth/Scone residents only) 3 yrs + waiting
Nightingale Avenue, Perth	Muirton Park Community Allotments (community garden raised beds)	N/A ?	N/A?	N/A?
Old Tulloch Bowling Green, Tulloch Terrace, Perth	North Perth Allotment Association	14	?	Small?
Kingswell Terrace, Letham	Letham Climate Challenge	5/5 3 raised beds (schools) community fruit & polytunnel	£56/£35	small
Kinloch Terrace, Letham	Letham Climate Challenge	2/2 community orchard	£40/£25	none
Glengarry Road, Perth	South Perth Community Partnership	54 + 20 raised beds	£45/£25	0-5
Behind St Margaret's Hospital, Auchterarder	Auchterarder Allotment Association	3/12 & 6 quarter/starter plots	£65/£45	Yes

Commented [AC2]: This reflects the traditional approach taken in Fife which has influenced the Act. I wonder if we should suggest an alternative that works for us in terms of the CAAs we have. We don't want a bureaucratic duplicative system out if kilter with the CAAs

Commented [HB3R2]: Agree that we could look at an alternative that's less rigid but still allows us to have an idea about the overall demand. For discussion on the next FGS meeting.

Commented [HB4]: Jane to update table / organise meeting with allotment associations

Commented [JP5R4]: Ok

It is proposed that the Council and the 7 Allotment Associations listed above collaborate to establish a new waiting list system which works best for all parties involved and satisfies the requirements of the Act:

- Work with Allotment Associations and explore the possibility of a new waiting list system that meets the requirements of the Act
- Ensure that those currently waiting for an allotment are transferred to any new system
- Advertise the waiting list on the Council's website
- Highlight alternative opportunities to those waiting for allotment plots e.g. joining a community garden, getting involved with garden sharing



**Need more volunteers?
We can direct interest
people to your
gardening project.**

5.2 Barriers & Ideas

The barriers to more people growing and ideas on how to overcome them shown below have been identified through responses from the consultative survey.

Most survey respondents requested **advice on what and how to grow; and how to harvest, preserve and store food**. This reflects the fact that most comments came from individuals with access to private gardens. **55 respondents thought that finding a suitable growing space is a barrier**. Advice on larders, distribution and funding was requested from several growing groups and organisations.

Several respondents provided examples and suggestions on how food growing could be encouraged. Besides taking steps to make land available for community growing, advice and knowledge sharing was regularly mentioned. In some cases, resources such as access to volunteers and funding were the main barriers for groups to expand their existing activities.

This is what you've asked for! Example suggestions from the food growing strategy survey.

The full report on the survey findings are available at: <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/foodgrowingstrategy>

Commented [AC6]: Need to introduce this table. Is it a list of things we are proposing to do or what's needed? Some of it exists like the asset transfer process.

Help with finding and accessing space for community growing

- A list of potential sites for food growing and details on ownership, contamination etc.
- Encourage garden sharing
- Repurpose leftover and underused open spaces owned by the Council

Advice & Knowledge Sharing

- Better advice on the community right to buy process and establishing community growing projects (lease, agreements etc.)
- Advice on indoor growing; powering growing spaces and sourcing materials
- Highlight good practice examples that others can learn from

Resources

- More volunteers for established groups/ schools
- Funding for various purposes (e.g. seeds, compost)

Other

- Connect farmers and landowners who are interested in developing regenerative agriculture
- Link sustainability projects together (e.g. composting and reducing waste)

5.3 Overcoming Barriers

The Council would ideally, subject to resources being available, work with communities and other partners to overcome barriers to more people being involved with growing food. We will focus on providing advice, information and hands on support wherever possible to help groups at various stages of their journey.

For **anybody who wants to start up community growing space**, the first step is to work within their community and find like-minded people. Where only a few people are interested in food growing, a garden share scheme may be the best option. Where there is considerable demand a community garden or allotment may be required. The Council can help advise on how to set up an allotment association and find potential new growing spaces.

The Council is also committed to support **groups who are already established** and help them grow, diversify and overcome challenges. This could be focused on knowledge sharing and providing advice on common issues such as funding or acquiring land. Signposting groups to each other and forming a network where experience and knowledge can be shared is also considered important.



Useful Contacts

- allotments@pkc.gov.uk (Food Growing Strategy working group) – queries about this strategy and generic enquiries
- developmentplan@pkc.gov.uk (Development Planning team) – planning permission, land opportunities
- Community Planning - advice on getting established as a community group, advice on the community right to buy process and funding
- communitygreenspace@pkc.gov.uk (Community Greenspace team) – access to Council maintained open spaces

Section 6 sets out what actions we are planning to take forward in order to improve the support available to those interested in community food growing.

5.4 Potential New Growing Spaces

Local Authorities are required to identify potentially suitable land for allotments and community growing areas where there is proven demand. The initial stakeholder survey indicated demand for additional space in Perth and Kinross (see section 5.2), Waiting lists for some existing allotments are long and some growing groups operate on land that does not meet their requirements. There are different ways for delivering additional growing spaces:

➤ Within new developments

The Local Development Plan states that new developments should incorporate allotments where there is a proven demand in the local area. Providing other community growing spaces through the planning process is also encouraged. By identifying areas where there is a shortfall of growing spaces and a proven public demand, the Food Growing Strategy will provide the basis for fulfilling this requirement for future development proposals. This approach is being trialled at Bertha Park which will include a larger scale community growing space.

➤ On Council owned land

Repurposing appropriate publicly owned amenity green spaces, parks and vacant & derelict land is another solution to providing new growing areas, the latter being supported by those who responded to the stakeholder survey. Council ground has already successfully been repurposed for allotments in Letham, Tulloch and Craigie. Local consultation would be required prior to any sites being repurposed.

The Council are intending to undertake an **Open Space Audit** that will provide a holistic overview of the provision of public and private green spaces across the Council area and highlight sites which could be repurposed for food growing. The map of Council maintained open spaces is available at: <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/18659/Map-of-maintained-open-spaces>



Get in touch if you are interested in initiating a growing project on a Council maintained open space

➤ On private land

Landowners may agree for their land to be used formally, or informally, as a community growing area. The temporary use of sites for community growing is supported by the Council and can allow for flexibility and/or testing project ideas. In order to guarantee the long-term security of the project however, it is recommended that arrangements are formalised with the owner (e.g. through a lease). Groups should contact the Council at the outset in order to confirm that the site is not contaminated and establish whether planning permission would be required.

➤ Garden sharing

Garden sharing can be initiated by anyone, whether they own a garden that they cannot maintain, or are looking for a space to grow fruits and vegetables. Your community or the Council may be able to help start garden sharing networks.

Through the survey, we received some suggestions for specific sites that could accommodate new growing spaces. In order to ensure that these are suitable for food growing and there are no significant barriers to their delivery, **the Council will assess each site** based on criteria such as land use, ownership, size and physical aspects.



**Do you know of a site
that could be suitable
for community
growing?**



Figure 5 Photo from Crieff Allotments

7. Draft Action Plan

What are we planning to do?

The table below includes examples of actions that the Council and partners could take forward in order to deliver the strategy objectives.



What other actions would you like to see?

Be a delivery partner and let us know how you can help!

	Proposed Actions	Objectives	Potential Stakeholders
1.	Consult further with existing growing groups (site visits and workshop) to explore barriers and opportunities	Improve understanding	PKC, existing growing groups
2.	Establish and maintain an online allotment waiting list that is transparent and accessible giving everyone the same opportunity to request an allotment in Perth and Kinross	Develop a waiting list	PKC, Allotment Associations
3.	Carry out an open space audit and identify underused open spaces which could be suitable for food growing.	Identify land	PKC
4.	Carry out an assessment of the sites which were suggested for food growing through the consultation.	Identify land	PKC
5.	Work with partners to investigate land opportunities and explore ways of delivering new growing spaces within areas where there is demand /shortfall.	Identify land & Deliver projects	PKC
6.	Assist PKC REACH team to find a suitable growing site that allows them to extend their growing project with young people	Identify land & Deliver projects	PKC
7.	Extend the learning and growing space at Westbank Nursery in Perth	Identify land & Deliver projects & Develop knowledge and skills	PKC, Westbank Nursery & Perth Community Farm
8.	Incorporate any potential allotment site, identified by the Food Growing Strategy, into the next revision/update of the Local Development Plan and any development brief work	Deliver projects	PKC
9.	Help establish garden sharing schemes where required	Deliver projects	PKC, communities
10.	Work with residents and assist in capacity building to support the establishment of community allotments/growing groups.	Deliver projects	PKC, communities
11.	Establish facility(s) and opportunities for new groups to learn about food (and flower) growing, preserving & storage (e.g. mentoring programmes)	Develop knowledge and skills	PKC, experienced growers, colleges,

			schools, community cafes
12.	Assist the Community Food Co-ordinator to support community groups to grow and distribute quality surplus food to their communities. Support pilot projects in Letham & Kinloch Rannoch.	Deliver projects & Develop knowledge and skills	PKC and pilot participants
13.	Improve PKC website to act as an information hub for existing and prospective community growers. Signpost users to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Groups looking for volunteers ▪ Training opportunities and resources on growing & using produce ▪ Planning advice ▪ Funding advice ▪ Best practice examples 	Develop knowledge and skills & Raise awareness	PKC, existing growing groups
14.	Investigate resources to provide advice to new growing groups and promote available Council support.	Deliver projects & Raise awareness	PKC
15.	Support the implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan by promoting practices and site design that supports biodiversity and deliver other benefits to the environment (e.g. improves soil quality)	Deliver projects & Raise awareness	PKC, Tayside Biodiversity Partnership, growing groups
16.	Explore opportunities for promotional work to encourage more people to grow, through media, schools and community councils	Raise awareness	PKC, schools, community councils
17.	Ensure that Allotment Regulations are in line with the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.	-	PKC, Allotment Associations
18.	Annual review of allotment provision & potential sites and size of waiting list in line with duties of the Act	Monitoring	PKC

Commented [AC10]: Do the Regs apply to Council run allotments in which case we don't have any so probably don't need to update.

Commented [HB11R10]: It applies to all Council owned sites as far as I understand. Scottish Government contact said: *When making the regulations your authority should take into consideration any existing allotment site rules, regulations or constitutions, including those onsite rules drafted by individual allotment associations, so hopefully that would reflect current provisions set out in your authority's leases with allotment holders/the allotment associations.*

Commented [JP7]: Not sure what this means, is this not a SG issue?

Commented [HB8R7]: This is one of the minimum requirements (see Diane's note on sharepoint): "Allotment regulations must be made by each local authority for the allotment sites in its area and must be made by 1 April 2020. The Act specifies what factors should be included in the regulations. This duty also acts as a trigger point for point 2 under Section 112 whereby each local authority has eight years to meet this requirement 2. Requires fair rents to be set and allows tenants to sell surplus produce grown on an allotment (other than with a view to making a profit);

•Could base on documents used with current allotment associations – allotment rules and constitution"

Commented [JP9R7]: This is something the Allotment Associations lay out for their members. It could be conditions of the leases but we will have to review all leases (complicated) . We could more easily ensure PKC conditions are set out within any new groups formed – relates to 4 above!

8. What happens next?

The sections above explained what the Food Growing Strategy is, what it is trying to achieve; and the draft action plan set out what we are planning to do in order to encourage food growing in Perth and Kinross. Now, it is your turn to give us feedback and let us know your views on the approach we have taken!

The engagement on the draft will run from *(date to be agreed)* April until *(date to be agreed)*. The finalised document will be adopted by the Council.

7.1 How to comment on the draft strategy?

Fill in the questionnaire on (*link to be provided*) to answer the following:

1. Are you aware of or involved in any other relevant project that the strategy should link to?
(See page 4)
2. Do you agree with the proposed vision & objectives? (See page 5)
3. We have identified some settlements / neighbourhoods with a shortfall in community growing spaces. Are there other areas with demand for new growing opportunities which are missing from the list? (See page 9-10)
4. Do you know of sites which may be suitable for food growing? (See page 15)
5. Did we choose the right priority actions? If not, can you suggest additional key actions?
(See page 16)
6. Can you be a delivery partner, or can you suggest key partners?

Come along to our workshop!

We are organising a workshop for groups and organisation who are involved or would like to be involved in community food growing. The workshop will be an opportunity to meet like minded people and share ideas, while feeding into the Food Growing Strategy. To register your interest, email us on allotments@pkc.gov.uk

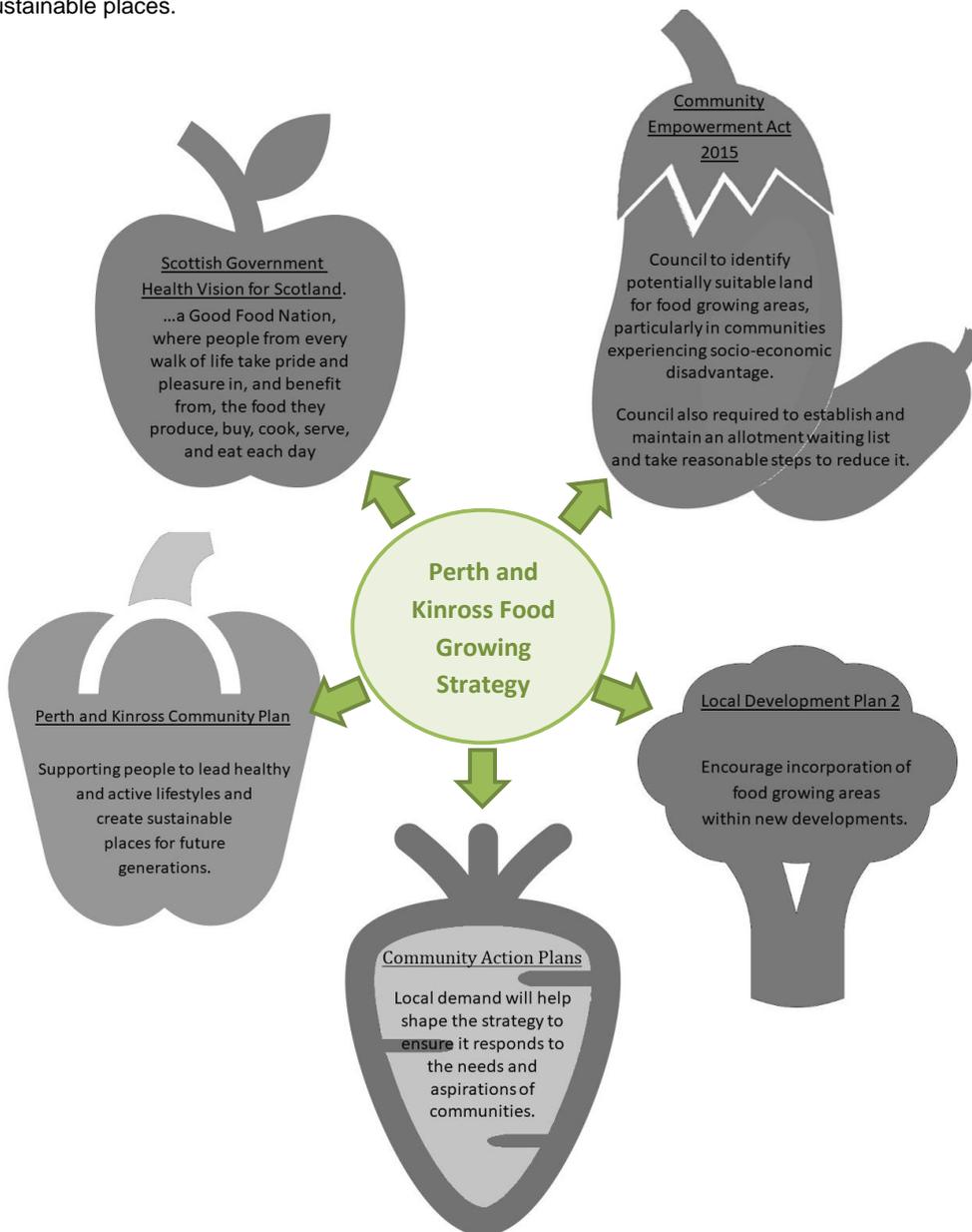
Monitoring & Review

Once adopted, the strategy will be reviewed and updated every five years. Annual monitoring of the demand for allotments will be undertaken as part of managing the allotment waiting list and updates will be provided on progress in implementing the action plan.



Appendix 1: Policy context

The Food Growing Strategy is not a standalone document, it is strongly related to other local and national level strategies, plans and legislation which seek to create healthier, greener and more sustainable places.



Appendix 2: Site Assessments

The methodology for site assessments was developed by Greenspace Scotland and East Dunbartonshire Council and was adapted by Perth & Kinross Council where considered necessary. The two-tiered approach includes a pre-site assessment which helps identify any major constraint which would make sites unsuitable for food growing. The sites which pass this stage will be subject to a detailed assessment that allows for ranking potential sites based on their suitability for food growing.

Fit for Purpose Assessment Criteria

Site ID:

Location:

Date of assessment:

Pre-site assessment matrix

	YES	NO
Is this site scheduled for development or any other non-growing use? (consult PKC greenspace, planning, housing, estates)	Site is only suitable for temporary growing (or short term growing) approaches	Site should be assessed for all forms of growing
Would the owner support the use of their land for food growing (in principle)?	Site should be assessed for all forms of growing	Site is not suitable for food growing
Is the site partly or fully wooded?	Site should be assessed as a potential food forest or for the use as a community orchard	Site should be assessed for all forms of growing
Does the site have any biodiversity designations (LNCS/SSSI etc.) Also consider other relevant designations (e.g. archaeology)	Designation for elements of the site's ecology – this site is likely to be unsuitable for growing	Designation as part of a green link or green corridor – this site should be assessed for growing approaches which enhance green connections & biodiversity
Is the site larger than 0.25ha?	Site should be assessed as a potential allotment site on the basis that it will accommodate multifunction and full-sized plots where appropriate.	Site should be assessed for other food growing models
Is the site large enough to support a range of uses?	Site should be assessed as a potential community garden or community orchard site (or allotment – see above)	Site should be assessed for small scale growing activities (planters, vertical growing etc.)
Does the site include areas of potentially contaminated land?	The site may only be suitable for growing in containers and raised beds, subject to outcome of contaminated land survey	The site can be assessed for all growing approaches
Is there evidence that the site has good quality growing soils?	Evidence of good quality growing soils and/or agriculture land will be preferred for food growing practices	Site should be assessed for food growing on a case by case basis establishing quality of soil and alternatives if required
Is the site partly or fully designated as a site of geological interest (RIGS, LNCS for geodiversity)?	Designation for elements of the site's geology – this site is likely to be unsuitable for food growing	Site should be considered for all forms of growing

Does the site contain carbon-rich/sensitive soils such as peat?	Although carbon-rich soils can be beneficial for food growing, sites with sensitive soils should be avoided for food growing where community use can disturb soil assets	Site should be considered for all forms of growing
Is the site encompassed by or near to a flood risk area or area with committed flood studies?	Consideration should be given to other open space uses and to growing approaches that would cope with periodic inundation of flooding	The site can be assessed for all growing approaches
Is there an existing community interest in the use of this site for food growing?	This should add a 'premium' to the assessment scoring	
Is the site close to areas of demand for growing (allotment waiting list etc.)	This should add a 'premium' to the assessment scoring	

Detailed site assessment matrix

	Score 5 – Excellent Score 4 – Very Good Score 3 – Good Score 2 – Fair Score 1 – Poor	Minimum Required Score
a) <u>Configuration</u> The open space should be of a shape (including aspect) that encourages use by all members of the community. Long, thin or irregularly shaped spaces may be less able to accommodate a variety of uses including allotments. Exceptions might include where the space would play a key role in, e.g. water management that would necessitate a certain configuration.		
b) <u>Surveillance</u> Wherever possible, the main areas of the space should be visible from surrounding buildings or public spaces, encouraging responsible use - secluded corners should be avoided.		
c) <u>Accessibility</u> The space should be easily accessible from the wider area, should utilise DDA compliant paths and access points and should, where appropriate, incorporate any longer distance routes including elements of/links to core paths or cycle network routes. Access for maintenance purposes should be easy and direct. Lighting should be provided where appropriate;		
d) <u>Aspect</u> Much of the space should, where possible, be designed to benefit from direct sunlight during much of the day;		
e) <u>Place</u> Quieter areas, away from the parts of the space where food growing is likely to take place, may be provided. Seating and bins may be provided in suitable locations, including to allow surveillance of areas likely to be used by vulnerable people. The location of the space complements surrounding uses and contributes to the amenity. This includes impacts to open spaces and cultural heritage assets.		
f) <u>Biodiversity</u>		

Spaces should enhance sites with little existing biodiversity and habitat value without compromising habitat links and connections to the wider green network		
<p>g) <u>Water Quality and Flooding</u></p> <p>Spaces that are within the vicinity of water bodies will have minimal impacts on water quality and are unlikely to be impacted by or affect flood risk areas and ground water. The use of the site for food growing will act as an important flood attenuation measure, contribute to climate change adaptation, help meet the requirement for natural floodwater management – see note c) – and contribute to functional floodplains where possible</p>		
<p>h) <u>Active and Sustainable Transport Links</u></p> <p>The site encourages the use of active travel and sustainable transport for access and is close to village and town centres.</p>		
<p>i) <u>Infrastructure</u></p> <p>The site utilises existing buildings and infrastructure including utilities, drains, paths and road networks, and avoids the demolition of structures and the creation of waste, where appropriate (see note d).</p>		