

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	City Growth and Resources
DATE	6 th February 2020
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Granite City Growing: Aberdeen Growing Food Together
REPORT NUMBER	PLA/20/013
DIRECTOR	N/A
CHIEF OFFICER	Gale Beattie
REPORT AUTHOR	Sandy Gustar
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.2 determine the Council's strategies for city growth and place planning except in relation to major infrastructural planning and the Local Development Plan.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the final version of Aberdeen's community food-growing strategy '*Granite City Growing: Aberdeen Growing Food Together 2020*' along with its associated Environmental Report.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approve the Granite City Growing: Aberdeen Growing Food Together 2020 strategy as contained in Appendix A;
- 2.2 Approve the development of an implementation plan 2020 to 2026 based on the vision and key actions; and
- 2.3 Approve the Granite City Growing SEA Environmental Report, as contained in Appendix B.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The aims and objectives of Granite City Growing were presented to the Corporate Management Team in October 2018 and January 2020. A draft version of Granite City Growing and associated environmental report was approved for public consultation by the City Growth and Resources Committee in September 2019. Committee instructed officers to report back for approval of the final documents in February 2020 along with the findings of the eight-week public consultation. Additionally Granite City Growing was included as part of the Council's Strategy Framework in a report to the Strategic Commissioning Committee in November 2019.

- 3.2 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires that Aberdeen City Council prepare a food-growing strategy. It also requires that the Council report allotment waiting lists annually. The annual reports will be brought forward by Operations and Protective Services. The food-growing strategy will be reviewed every five years by Strategic Place Planning.
- 3.3 '*Granite City Growing*' was developed in the light of views and priorities expressed by local organisations and community groups gathered during stakeholder workshops. Individuals were consulted through a Citizen's Space survey in February 2018 and in the 43rd City Voice survey in March 2019. A Food-growing Steering Group has guided the process 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). The eight-week public consultation was conducted through the consultation hub, Citizen Space, from October until December 2019.
- 3.4 Governance and oversight of Granite City Growing's implementation will be provided by the Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen and the Sustainable City Outcome Improvement Group sitting within the Community Planning partnership. Regular reporting of progress will be done through this route.
- 3.5 Granite City Growing will help to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Aberdeen. It is of relevance to 10 SDGs; in particular SDG 2 'Zero Hunger', SDG 3 'Good health and wellbeing', SDG 11 'Sustainable Cities and communities', SDG 13 'Climate Action' and SDG 15 'Life on Land'.

The Public Consultation

- 3.6 The public consultation was publicised through a press release, ACC social media channels, through Granite City Growing stakeholders and to wider stakeholders, to Community Councils and a leaflet distributed to libraries and allotment representatives.
- 3.7 Nineteen responses were received to the public consultation and a summary of the responses is set out in Appendix C. A majority of respondents indicated they agreed with the vision, objectives and action areas of the strategy. Some respondents provided further comments and these have been incorporated into Granite City Growing as far as possible.
- 3.8 It has been noted through the Food-growing Steering Group that the Civic Forum and Community Councils did not respond to the consultation because they did not have enough time.
- 3.9 The (SEA) Environmental Report was issued to statutory consultees Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and

Historic Environment Scotland, as required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Appendix B includes the final Environmental Report which has been updated to reflect feedback.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires that all local authorities prepare a food-growing strategy for their area.

5.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been completed as required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Assessment findings were used to populate the Environmental Report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk of not progressing Granite City Growing	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	A risk of demand for allotments and other growing spaces exceeding supply thereby triggering the 'reasonable measures' response required by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The allotment waiting list has increased significantly (January 2020 update).	H	The demand for food-growing spaces will be monitored. Allotment waiting numbers will be reported annually. Supporting a range of food-growing spaces may reduce the pressure on allotments
Legal	ACC fails to act on the duty to prepare a food-growing strategy under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015	H	The Granite City Growing strategy is approved before 1 st April 2020.
Employee	Health and wellbeing outcomes of food-growing not realised.	M	Improvement Charter to increase workplace food growing opportunities is currently being progressed by the Operations and Protective Services cluster and reported to

			the Sustainable City Group.
Customer	A risk of demand for allotments and other growing spaces exceeding supply. Health and wellbeing benefits not realised. Widening inequalities in opportunities to 'grow your own'.	M	The demand for food-growing spaces will be monitored. Allotment waiting numbers will be reported annually. The strategy will be reviewed every 5 years in line with the legislation.
Environment	Biodiversity gains not realised. Best practice water, biodiversity and soil management advice for food-growing not communicated.	M	Biodiversity, water and soil implications are communicated in Granite City Growing and information created or signposted to encourage best practice.
Technology	n/a		
Reputational	Failure to meet legal duty. Failure to fully support Aberdeen's ambition to be a Sustainable Food City.	H	Granite City Growing is approved before 1 st April 2020.

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Theme	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 1 – 10% increase in employment across priority and volume growth sectors by 2026. Granite City Growing will in time increase the food-growing skills of residents. 'Food and Drink' has been identified as a growth sector so it could help to deliver the LOIP Improvement Project Aim 'to increase the number of people employed in growth sectors by 5% by 2021.
Prosperous People	The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 11 – Healthy life expectancy is five years longer by 2026. Food-growing could be a useful part of the aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of people in local communities promoting wellbeing and good health choices by 2021 • Increase uptake of a range of activities that enable people with long term conditions to manage their health and well-being by 2021 • Increase the number of community run green spaces that are organised and self-managed, particularly in priority localities where satisfaction and use is low.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunities for people who are retired to continue and increase their contribution to communities by 10% by 2021 <p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 12 – Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026. The therapeutic benefits of food-growing could contribute to: Increase number of people undertaking recovery from drug and alcohol issues who are being supported to maintain drug / alcohol free lives in their community by 2021</p>
Prosperous Place	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 13 – No one in Aberdeen will go without food due to poverty by 2026. Granite City Growing will support community efforts in making our green space productive and resilient and oversee the delivery of the Improvement Aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase community food growing in schools, communities and workplaces by 2021 <p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 14 - Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by 42.5% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. Food-growing activities will support the delivery of the Improvement Project Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce Aberdeen’s carbon emissions by 30% by 2021.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	Granite City Growing has been drafted to the customer design principles of prevention and early intervention, co-design, locality-based and collaboration.
Organisational Design	Granite City Growing has been drafted to the following organisational design principles: enabling and intelligence led.
Governance	Granite City Growing has been drafted with the inclusive governance principle in mind.
Workforce	Granite City Growing has been drafted with the workforce principle of being open and co-operative.
Process Design	Granite City Growing has been drafted to the following process design principles: understand what people need and make things open.
Technology	Granite City Growing has embraced the technological principle of being engaged
Partnerships and Alliances	Granite City Growing has been drafted to the partnership principle of complementarity of purpose and value added.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	An EHRIA was not required as confirmed by the nominated Equalities officer 19/6/2018.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	A Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required.
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Applicable. Granite City Growing seeks to reduce inequalities in the existing supply of food-growing opportunities.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Full SEA required and Environmental Report is included in Appendix B. This report seeks consultation with public and statutory consultees on the Environment Report for Granite City Growing completed as part of the SEA process.
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)	A Habitats Regulations Appraisal proforma has been concluded in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- [Granite City Growing](#) – Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening and Scoping reports
- [PLA/18/062](#) from the Capital Programme Committee 12/9/2018
- Corporate Management Team Committee Paper 11/10/2018
- Service Update 'Granite City Growing; Aberdeen's Food Growing Strategy' 25 April 2019
- [PLA/19/314](#) from City Growth and Resources Committee 26/09/19
- [GOV/19/413](#) from the Strategic Commissioning Committee 21/11/19
- [Scottish Government Guidance](#)

10. APPENDICES

- Appendix A – Granite City Growing - final text version
- Appendix B – Strategic Environmental Assessment – Final Environmental Report is available through the Council website: <https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-09/SEA%20Environmental%20Report%20Granite%20City%20Growing%20Appendix%20B.pdf>
- Appendix C – Consultation summary

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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