

Appendix 3 - Consultation summary

Granite City Growing: Aberdeen Growing Food Together

This Consultation Report has been compiled from responses to an eight-week public consultation (October - December 2019) on the draft Granite City Growing: a food-growing strategy for the city.

The consultation achieved nineteen responses through the Consultation Hub. Four responses were from organisations and fifteen from individuals. This report summarises the responses and the amendments made to the strategy.

The Vision of Granite City Growing

Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with the vision?



Number responded – 19 (100%)

17 respondents (90%) mainly agreed with the vision, 1 respondent mainly disagreed and 1 felt there was room for improvement.

11 respondents made comments about the vision which included the following:

- Six respondents made positive and supportive comments.
- One respondent asked if every member of the community would have access to a growing area.
- One respondent wanted more green spaces and empowered people generally.
- One respondent felt that 'Granite City Growing' should be replaced by 'community food-growing' at point 4. This point was acknowledged and the vision amended.
- One respondent was concerned that local producers and small businesses would suffer.
- One respondent thought that the vision will never be completed.

The Strategic Outcomes and Objectives of Granite City Growing

Question 3: Do you agree or disagree with the strategic outcomes and objectives?

Outcomes and objectives





There is room for improvement

Number responded – 19 (100%)

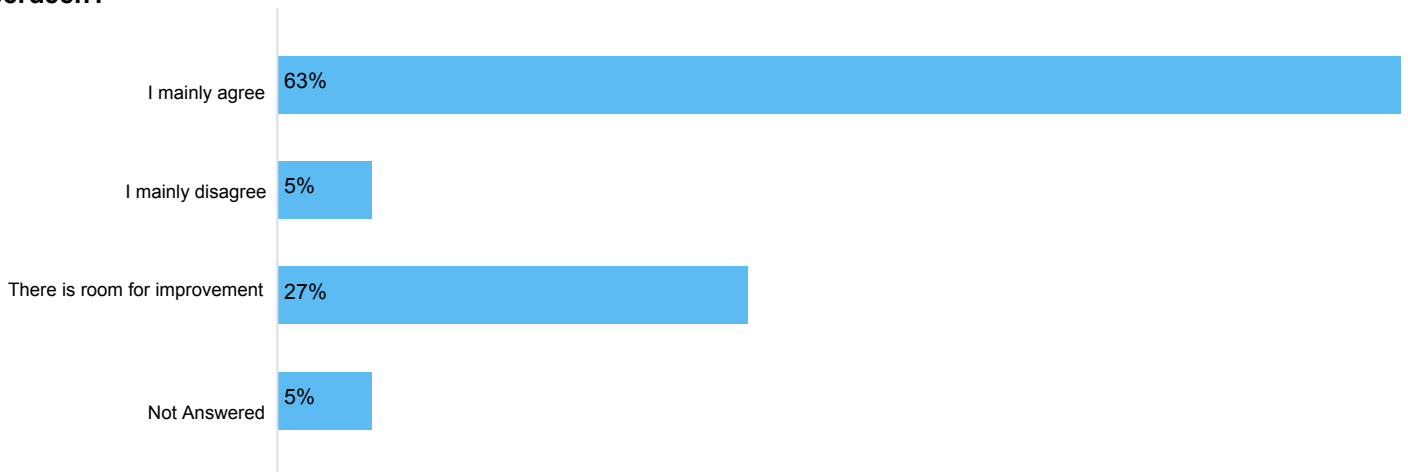
14 respondents (74%) mainly agreed with the outcomes and objectives, 1 respondent mainly disagreed and 4 felt there was room for improvement.

10 respondents made further comments about the outcomes and objectives which included the following:

- Four respondents made positive and supportive comments.
- One respondent wondered if it was ‘practical’ and another felt it was ‘too ambitious’.
- One respondent suggested that there should be fewer ‘key aims’ and another felt that wanting to be an exemplar for local food-growing was not a strategic outcome.
- One respondent wanted local business to take the lead to create local jobs and another felt that every growing space would need a paid member of staff to oversee it.

The current activity already taking place in Aberdeen

Question 4: Does this section capture all the activity currently taking place around community food-growing in Aberdeen?



Number responded – 19 (100%)

12 respondents (63%) mainly agreed with the baseline data, 1 respondent mainly disagreed and 5 felt there was room for improvement.

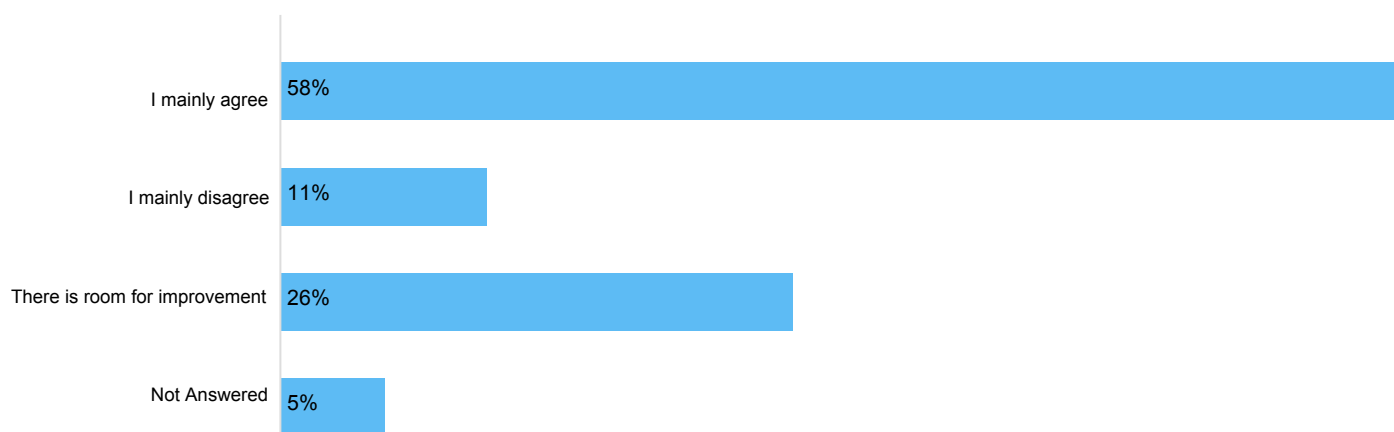
8 respondents made further comments about the baseline data which included the following:

- Two respondents commented on ‘sustainable food’ initiatives which are included on the baseline map but which don’t directly link to the community food-growing layer.
- One respondent felt that food grown in private gardens should be included in the baseline. The information and resources are not available to achieve this however.
- One respondent didn’t value the baseline section and only wanted new opportunities mapped.

- One respondent knew of sheltered housing complexes which were growing food and flowers but offered no further details.
- Three respondents suggested additions to the baseline: St Fitticks community garden; Brighter Bucksburn herb garden and orchard and the Aberdeen Multicultural Centre’s vegetable growing initiative. These three suggestions have been added to the baseline data.

The key delivery partners

Question 5: Do you agree or disagree that these are the key delivery partners?



Number responded – 19 (100%)

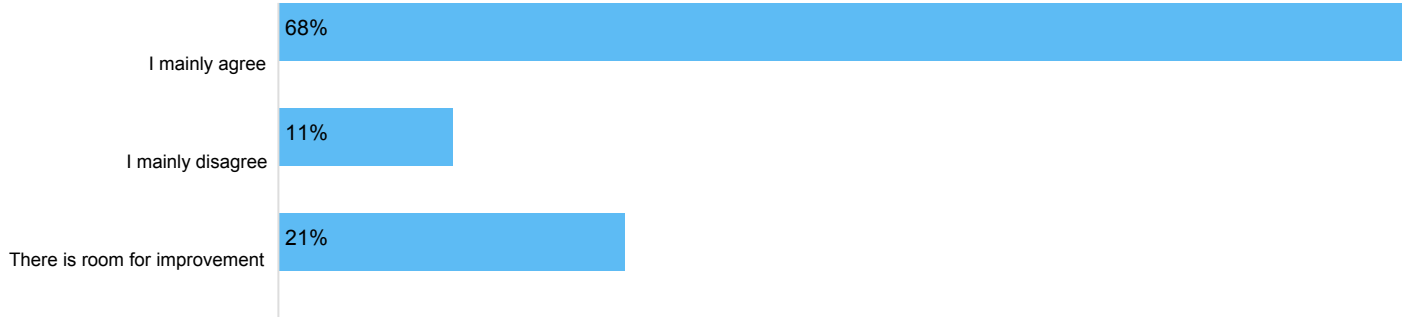
11 respondents (58%) mainly agreed that the key delivery partners were identified, 2 respondents mainly disagreed and 5 felt there was room for improvement.

13 respondents made further comments about the delivery partners which included the following:

- Four respondents suggested that the community councils and the Community Council Forum should be listed. These have been added to the list of key delivery partners.
- Three respondents felt that RGU, the University of Aberdeen and the SRUC should be included as key delivery partners. These have been added to the list of key delivery partners.
- One respondent questioned whether the Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership should be listed separately. It has been added to the list of key delivery partners.
- One respondent felt that private enterprise was key to delivery.
- One respondent felt that organisations close to communities needed to be involved.
- One respondent felt that ‘community volunteer groups’ should be involved.
- One respondent wanted to know what support and funding was available to delivery partners.
- One respondent felt that individuals should be the focus rather than organisations.

The key actions

Question 6: Are the identified key actions the right ones to take Granite City Growing forward?



Number responded – 19 (100%)

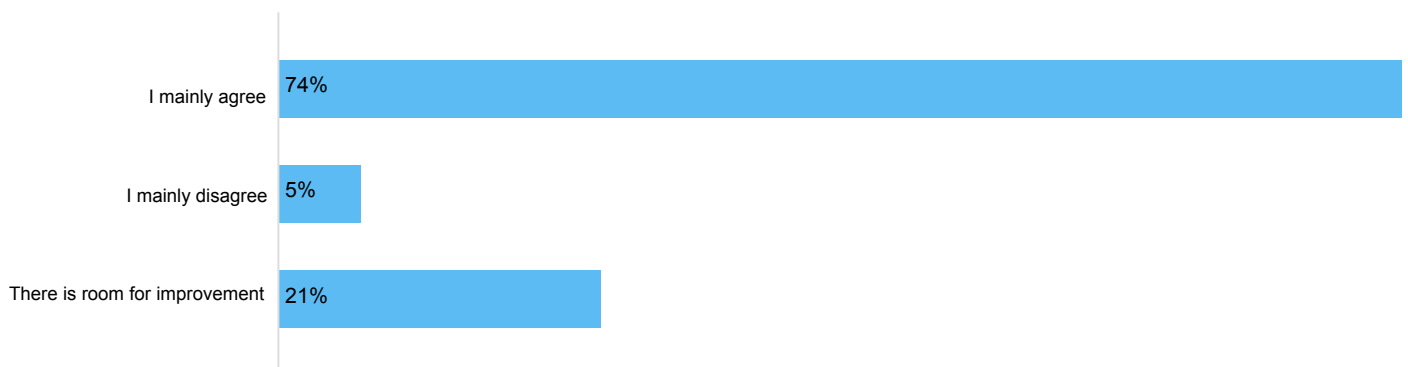
13 respondents (68%) mainly agreed that the key actions were the right ones to take Granite City Growing forward, 2 respondents mainly disagreed and 4 felt there was room for improvement.

11 respondents made further comments about the key actions which included the following:

- Two respondents made positive and supportive comments.
- One respondent felt that seed and plant suppliers offering discounts should be listed.
- One respondent felt that sharing information with third sector organisations was key.
- One respondent criticised the initiative for being a paper exercise and needing to focus on businesses and jobs.
- One respondent felt there was a lack of people with gardening knowledge and skills and that training and funding was needed especially targeted at the youth workforce development.
- One respondent wanted to know how the actions would be funded.
- One respondent suggested that tool libraries were developed with Men's Shed.
- One respondent felt the internal Aberdeen City Council asset transfer process could be improved.
- One respondent suggested that fewer actions were necessary.
- One respondent wanted actions to relate to commercial food-growers.

Aberdeen City Council's approach

Question 7: Do you agree or disagree with Aberdeen City Council's approach?



Number responded – 19 (100%)

14 respondents (74%) mainly agreed with Aberdeen City Council's approach, 1 respondent mainly disagreed and 4 felt there was room for improvement.

7 respondents made further comments about Aberdeen City Council's approach which included the following:

- One respondent felt that information should be shared more readily.

- Two respondents were unable to open the ‘opportunity sites’ link through the consultation.
- One respondent felt that allotment holders wouldn’t want their allotment site publicised because of fear of vandalism.
- One respondent was critical of the ‘top-down’ approach as not addressing the problems groups are having.
- One respondent wanted more allotments.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

Question 8: Do you have any comments about the Environmental Report for Granite City Growing?

Number responded – 10 through the Consultation Hub and 3 statutory consultees by correspondence

The comments made about the Environmental Report included the following:

- Five respondents made positive and supportive comments.
- Three respondents noted that it was a long document to review.
- One respondent wanted more to be done to encourage private householders to make better use of their garden space.
- One respondent wanted more inclusion of individual contributions.
- One respondent questioned that the strategy adequately captured the conclusions from the environmental report.
- One respondent did not feel that problems could arise from placing food-growing sites on green space.
- A statutory consultee noted a stronger steer is needed to ensure Granite City Growing contributes to strategic green networks. It is anticipated that the Open Space Strategy will address this.
- A statutory consultee suggested strengthening the wording of Tables 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and 7.1.
- A statutory consultee noted that the strategic outcomes and objectives of the strategy could be strengthened by including the inclusion of the points raised for tables 6.3, 6.5 and 7.1. The strengthened position relating to pollinators, rainwater harvesting and protected sites will be taken forward within the implementation phase.
- A statutory consultee requested a change to the title of a referenced document; this has been amended.

Further Comments

Question 9: Further comments?

Number responded – 8 through the Consultation Hub

The further comments made included the following:

- Three respondents made positive and supportive comments.
- One respondent felt that obtaining land would be a challenge and preventing vandalism and thefts would be needed.
- One respondent felt that wider stakeholders were not represented.
- One respondent wanted more support available to build capacity.
- One respondent wanted a focus on commercial producers.
- One respondent wanted Aberdeen City Council to encourage people to grow food in their own back gardens.