

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Service:</u>	Strategic Place Planning
<u>Date:</u>	25 th April 2019
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Granite City Growing; Aberdeen's Food Growing Strategy
<u>Report Author:</u>	Sandy Gustar Sustainable Development Officer
<u>Contact Details:</u>	Sgustar@aberdeencity.gov.uk 01224 522247

UPDATE:

1. Aberdeen City Council has a statutory duty to prepare a food-growing strategy as stated in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (part 9, section 119). Granite City Growing, Aberdeen's food-growing strategy, will capture where we are now, present a vision of increased food-growing opportunities and activities across the city and define actions to move towards the vision over the next five years. The final strategy needs to be adopted by April 2020 and the Council remains ahead of target to achieve this statutory duty.
2. An update of the Community Food-growing Programme is scheduled to be considered by the City Growth and Resources Committee of 26th September 2019. The Community Food-growing Programme was established in 2017 from £145,000 set aside from non-housing capital money to support innovative projects and to inform the strategy. The programme has evolved to fund twenty projects focussed on increasing food-growing opportunities across Aberdeen and especially for those people facing socio-economic challenges.
3. To facilitate effective and efficient reporting and decision-making on these aligned matters, both Granite City Growing and the community food-growing fund will be the subject of a single report at the September committee. There will then be a period of consultation before it is brought back to committee in the Spring of 2020. The advantages of this are described below:
 - 3.1 The Community Food-growing Programme is an integral part of the learning, development and early delivery of Granite City Growing. Reporting once and together will be more effective and efficient. New projects have been added to the programme over the Winter and others are being launched this Spring.
 - 3.2 The progress of the Open Space Audit and Strategy and the consultation on the Main Issues Report of the Local Development Plan will strengthen and inform Granite City Growing over the coming months. The Open Space Audit is ongoing and it will assist in identifying potential new food-growing sites. A methodology to identify and prioritise new sites will be shaped over the Summer. The outcome from the consultation on the Main Issues Report will additionally define how food-growing is taken forward up until 2031 in the next Aberdeen Local Development Plan.

- 3.3 A masters' student from the University of Aberdeen will be undertaking a complementary research project for their dissertation between May and August 2019. This study will also inform Granite City Growing.
- 3.4 The refresh of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the changes occurring through the Council's transformation process can be better captured for the committee report in September thereby giving Granite City Growing greater internal integrity and longevity. New actions have been included in the refreshed Local Outcome Improvement Plan including increasing food-growing opportunities in work-places.
- 3.5 Granite City Growing will align itself to the aspirations of Aberdeen as a Sustainable Food City. Granite City Good Food is the name of Aberdeen's Sustainable Food City Partnership. It follows the UK Sustainable Food Cities approach which involves developing a cross-sector partnership of local public agencies, businesses, academics and NGOs committed to working together to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where they live. As Granite City Good Food develops its own action plan to achieve a silver award over the coming months opportunities to embed food-growing across the themes will be strengthened.

