



## FOOD GROWING STRATEGY 2020 – 2025

## **NLC Food Growing Strategy**

Support for community growing and the development of allotment sites is not a new activity for NLC. However, current national policy dictates a specific focus on the development of a Food Growing Strategy. In North Lanarkshire the Food Growing Strategy will ultimately fall within the remit of the NLC Environment Strategy; the overarching strategy containing other plans and policies contributing to the development and protection of the environment.

### **1. Purpose and Scope**

This Food Growing Strategy aims to increase access to affordable, healthy, sustainable food by increasing opportunities for people in North Lanarkshire to 'grow-your-own' (GYO). The Strategy is based on an assessment of current demand for facilities to grow food across our area, and sets out how these needs can be met.

It aims to identify opportunities to increase food growing provision in North Lanarkshire in response to our legislative duties under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (CEA) – encompassing food growing in its widest sense and the many benefits it offers.

The Strategy identifies the process by which land with potential suitability for both allotments and other community growing models can be utilised and, demonstrates the range of food growing opportunities that are available for communities and individuals.

It also identifies the support mechanisms that will contribute to an engaged, empowered and knowledgeable network of local food growers over the next five years. The Strategy will take a balanced and considered approach to encouraging and supporting new and existing growing spaces in order to help achieve food growing aspirations and meet local needs.

Though, traditionally, the cultivation of food has been in the form of allotments, there has been a more recent shift towards other types of growing models within a number of different settings.

The Strategy covers community growing activities, growing in 'communal spaces', public allotments, community gardens, school gardens, community orchards and garden share schemes.

The strategy also covers food growing by individuals in their homes and gardens - the 2017 Greenspace Use and Attitude Survey showed that the majority of people (87%) who grow their own do it in their own garden and in North Lanarkshire the survey carried out as part of this project shows the figure is 78%.

The strategy considers land which is publicly owned land. This includes land owned by the local authority but also other public bodies such as the NHS, Scottish Natural Heritage and Universities and Colleges.

The CEA Part 9 and hence Food Growing Strategies only cover Allotment sites on land that is on local authority owned or leased land. Allotments on private land are not considered part of the local authorities "grow your own" provision.

The strategy will include very small spaces such as street corners, municipal flower beds, containers and raised beds in hard landscaped areas.

## Review date

This strategy will be reviewed in Autumn 2025.

## 2. The legislative background

**The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act**, Part 9, Section 119 requires each local authority to prepare a food-growing strategy for its area to identify land that may be used as allotment sites, identify other areas of land that could be used for community growing, and describe how the authority intends to increase provision, particularly in areas which experience socio-economic disadvantage. Part 9 also places a duty on local authorities to review the Food Growing Strategy at least every five years.

Other relevant parts of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, Part 9:

- Section 111: Duty to maintain list – an allotment waiting list must be established and maintained to list the names and additional information of persons requesting an allotment plot.
- Section 112: Duty to provide allotments – reasonable steps must be taken to reduce the number of persons on the allotment waiting list so that (1) the number of persons ‘is no more than one half of the total number of allotments owned and leased by the authority and (2) those persons ‘do not remain on the list for a continuous period of more than five years’. Furthermore, the reasonable steps must include how the local authority intends to make allotments available in locations that ‘are reasonably close to the residence’ of those requesting an allotment.
- Section 115: Allotment site regulations – 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.
- Section 121: Annual allotments report – a review of allotment provision should be undertaken and published annually, taking into account issues relating to allotment location, size, number of plots and the proportion of Council-owned land leases, for example.

Scottish Government and partners have developed **guidance to support local authorities**<sup>1</sup> The guidance reiterates how the shared purpose of the Scottish Government and its partners is to encourage Scotland to become a Good Food Nation, with opportunities for

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/part-9-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015-allotments-guidance-local-authorities-section-119-duty-prepare-food-growing-strategy/pages/12/>.

everyone to grow their own food through increased access to land for grow-your-own activities.

The guidance sets out how Scottish Government expect local authorities to deliver on the vision for grow-your-own in Scotland and states that the guidance is intended to help local authorities facilitate and enable those wanting to grow their own to actively manage and participate in these initiatives.

## **The strategic context, national and local Policy background and rationale for developing a Food Growing Strategy**

### **3. National context**

Through the development of local food growing strategies and action to support community growing, Local Authorities will also contribute to some of the **Scottish Governments National outcomes** such as

- We are healthy and active
- We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment
- We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe

And a range of **National Indicators** such as

- Mental wellbeing, healthy weight and physical activity
- Visits to the outdoors, biodiversity and climate action
- Perceptions of local area, loneliness, access to greenspace and social capital

Since the development of the guidance above the Planning Act (Scotland) 2019 has been enacted and it is now a statutory duty for Local Authorities to prepare and publish an **Open Space Strategy**<sup>2</sup> to set out a strategic framework of the planning authority's policies and proposals as to the development, maintenance and use of green infrastructure in their district, including open spaces and green networks.

An open space strategy must contain an audit of existing open space provision and an assessment of current and future requirements,

The Act specifies that “green infrastructure” means features of the natural and built environments that provide a range of ecosystem and social benefits and “green networks” means connected areas of green infrastructure and open space.

In addition, **The Vacant and Derelict Land Taskforce**<sup>3</sup> is working to transform the existing approach to bringing vacant and derelict land back into productive use, one of which could be food growing. It is acknowledged that where land becomes derelict it can have a negative impact on local neighbourhoods, affecting the appearance and image of places.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2019/13/part/1/crossheading/development-planning/enacted#:~:text=\(1\)A%20planning%20authority%20is,open%20spaces%20and%20green%20network](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2019/13/part/1/crossheading/development-planning/enacted#:~:text=(1)A%20planning%20authority%20is,open%20spaces%20and%20green%20network)  
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<sup>3</sup> <https://landcommission.gov.scot/our-work/housing-development/vacant-and-derelict-land>

One solution can be ‘temporary greening’ and includes uses such as growing spaces (for food or biomass crops), community gardens, landscaping and recreation resources. This has the potential to improve sites which detract from the environment of a neighbourhood until development can be implemented and can also provide a focus for community action and make a valuable contribution to green and open space networks.

#### **4. Local context**

##### **Local Development Plan**

In terms of land use NLC is in the final stages of preparing the first North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan. It will guide the outcome of every Planning Application following its adoption and will consider a wide range of land use matters including economic development and infrastructure, retail and town centres, housing and community facilities and the natural and built environment with a view to creating high quality, sustainable places.

The LDP will contain a spatial strategy, proposals map, action programme for identified developments and schedule of the local authority’s land interests affected by Plan policies or proposals. It will focus on specific proposals for the period up to Year 10 from Adoption. The council aim to have the plan adopted in 2021.

At present the Modified LDP policy document sets out the council’s priorities. The Plan does not explicitly mention allotments or growing spaces but considers Special Landscape Areas & *Green Network Improvements*.

With the aim of creating safeguarded natural and resilient sustainable places, the modified LDP offers protection for the heritage of historic environment and for the natural heritage of habitats and species. There is also protection for those green network assets that are people-centred and contribute to the well-being of communities a category allotments and growing spaces belongs to.

##### **Environment Strategy**

The Environment Strategy 2019 supports several of the Council’s priorities and ambition statements, namely

- To improve economic opportunities and outcomes
- To improve the health and wellbeing of our communities, and
- To enhance participation, capacity and empowerment across our communities

The Environment Strategy, as an overarching strategy contains other plans and policies which contribute to the development and protection of the environment, including:

- Carbon Management Plan
- Open Space Strategy (2004; a new Strategy is under development)
- Biodiversity Action Plan

##### **Vacant and Derelict land**

North Lanarkshire has a particular challenge in relation to the **Vacant and Derelict Land** agenda. The Scottish Government V&DL survey 2017 show that NLC has the 4th largest amount of recorded V&DL (11% of Scotland total). In addition, 75.8% of North Lanarkshire’s

population was estimated to live within 500 metres of a derelict site in 2017 – the largest % in Scotland.

As part of the annual NLC Vacant and Derelict Land survey the council visits, assesses and records changes to sites that have previously been developed but are now considered unused or damaged.

A “land supplies viewer”<sup>4</sup> shows the sites that make up the vacant and derelict land supply and other land supplies. The survey is used as a valuable source of information to inform national, strategic and local policy on vacant and derelict land. It helps direct funding from sources like the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund.

Since 2006, NLC has received funding (awarded on an annual basis) through the Scottish Government’s Vacant and Derelict Land Fund programme to support the remediation and re-use of long-term vacant and derelict land sites within North Lanarkshire.

In 2019-20 North Lanarkshire along with Glasgow, South Lanarkshire, North Ayrshire and Fife received £11.447 million. Of the total amount NLC received £2.886 million. Funding from the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund has been an important resource in the development of allotment sites in North Lanarkshire.

### **Green Health Partnership**

NLC promotes the use of greenspace for Health & Wellbeing in a range of ways. This work is also supported through the Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership

The Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership was formed in April 2018 and is helping to connect health & social care with nature. The aim is to raise awareness and confidence of the health and social care sector workforce and members of the public in getting outdoors.

Partners include NHS Lanarkshire, North & South Lanarkshire local authorities and leisure and voluntary sector organisations.

The Green Health Partnership has commissioned Clydesdale Community Initiatives (CCI) to offer growing and cooking opportunities in four community hospital sites across North and South Lanarkshire. This project targets individuals experiencing severe mental health issues but also encourages volunteers locally to help in the weekly sessions. Local people can find out about outdoor opportunities including volunteering on the Green Health portal “Get outdoors Lanarkshire.”<sup>5</sup>

## **5. How the strategy has been developed**

In November 2019 NLC engaged greenspace scotland to work on assisting them in gathering up to date, local information to underpin their Local Food Growing Strategy. The activities included the delivery and reporting of an internal NLC workshop, and thereafter two

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<sup>4</sup> <http://maps.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/glaps/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.elament.org.uk/support-projects-groups/projects-campaigns/greenspace/>



evening workshops aimed at community (growing) groups and individuals with an interest in “grow your own”. These took place in Bellshill and Cumbernauld. An on-line survey was also made available. These activities are detailed in Appendix 10.

## 6. Conclusions and Actions

Following the very successful events and after taking into consideration the results of the online survey, this strategy pulls together the key measures required to support, invest and enhance the opportunities for food growing in North Lanarkshire through a series of key actions.

## 7. Vision and strategic outcomes to achieve that vision

This vision and the strategic outcomes have been developed to meet the needs identified through both internal and community consultation.

North Lanarkshire Council will continue to work alongside communities, partners and other stakeholders to increase the quantity and quality of growing opportunities available. By 2025 the aim is to achieve the following outcomes:

1. To ensure the process of applying for an allotment plot or community gardening opportunity in North Lanarkshire is straightforward.
2. To facilitate an annual food growing forum, and ongoing peer support.
3. To develop coordinated waiting lists for reporting and action.
4. To identify land through the NL Open Space Strategy and development plans for allotment plots & community gardens
5. To provide opportunities for people to develop food growing skills.
6. To promoting sustainable management of allotments & community gardens
7. To highlight funding opportunities for community groups.

To meet these strategic outcomes the following actions are required.

1. Audit of current growing sites and groups			
Action	Partners	Lead	Date of completion
1.1 Develop NLC wide allotment regulations.	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace. Existing allotment associations.	NLC	April 2021

1.2 Develop NLC wide allotment waiting list system.	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace. Existing allotment associations.	NLC	April 2021
1.3 Manage and update the list of current growing sites and groups.	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace.	NLC	Ongoing
1.4 Develop a map of current growing sites and groups to identify spatial gaps as well as to look at sites in relation to areas of multiple deprivation.	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace.	NLC	April 2021
1.5 A map of allotment sites and key community gardens to be shared with the public via the NLC community growing webpage. With information and contacts available for each site.	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace.	NLC	April 2021
1.6 Production of annual allotment report in collaboration with existing allotment associations – details are set out in the guidance from Scottish Government	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace.	NLC	April 2021 and annually thereafter

## 2. Identification of new land that can be used for allotment sites and other forms of community growing

As a new Open Space Strategy and Audit is currently being produced there is an opportunity to explore how this process can support the identification of new land for “grow your own” not only record existing sites.

The strategy will consider **contaminated land**. A guide to growing on contaminated land<sup>6</sup> has been produced by the Grow Your Own working group and there is guidance from Scottish Government on how to involve Contaminated Land Officers in the process of identifying land for growing at the earliest possibility<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.growyourownsotland.info/news/new-guide-for-growing-on-contaminated-land/>

<sup>7</sup> See Annex D of the Guidance for local authorities Section 119 Duty to prepare food growing strategy



Amenity areas around new areas of affordable housing were brought up as a potential for community growing sites at the internal NLC workshop. The guidance from Scottish Government also highlights that *“When considering demand, authorities should also map where future demand for food-growing space is likely to be, such as where new housing development sites are being planned, particularly those developments which will provide little or no garden space to residents. Local authorities may also wish to take steps to retain quality topsoil in the gardens and food-growing spaces of new housing developments”*

Action	Partners	Lead	Completion date
2.1 Consult with New Build Housing team in context of up to 5,000 new affordable housing units to be built in coming 15 years. It would make sense to explore if sites earmarked for housing development could include community growing at the master planning stage.	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace. Community.	NLC	April 2023
2.2 Continue to work with colleagues from the Vacant and Derelict land team to regenerate V&DL land by developing allotments and growing spaces. Agree protocol for cooperation going forward.	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace. Existing allotment associations.	NLC	April 2023
2.3 Develop links with the Health Sector through the Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership to explore land available for growing in the NHS Estate, and around sheltered housing and care homes.	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace. LGHP and NHS. Existing allotment associations.	NLC	April 2024
2.4 Ensure food growing areas are identified in the Open Space Strategy, both existing and potential.	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace. Existing allotment associations.	NLC	April 2021

2.5 Review existing and planned food growing sites in the context of contaminated land.	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace.	NLC	April 2021
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### 3. Community engagement to develop and deliver the strategy

The following themes and actions were developed from the community events and consultation.

Action	Partners	Lead	Completion date
<i>Theme 1: Skills, training, peer support</i>			
3.1 A community forum, created in consultation with the participants at the two events to be coordinated to take this strategy forward at a practical community level.	CLD, Greenspace. Existing allotment associations. : Cumbernauld Living Landscapes, VANL, CCI, key community councils and CSGNT.	NLC	April 2021
3.2 Development and management of the NLC Food growing webpage.	CLD, Greenspace.	NLC	Ongoing
3.3 Development of 2 community case studies of local growing groups to inspire others.	Greenspace Scotland and NLC.	Greenspace Scotland	April 2021
3.4 Develop a programme of regular networking events, and regular learning events to support growing activities. Contact Social Farms & Gardens Scotland and Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society to explore how they can support this type of activity	CLD, Greenspace.	NLC	April 2021 and ongoing.

<b>Theme 2: Access to land</b>			
<p>3.5 Promote existing growing opportunities in community growing sites and community gardens.</p> <p>Promote existing volunteering and community growing opportunities to individuals via the website and links to the “Get Outdoors Lanarkshire” portal.</p>	CLD, Greenspace. Allotment and food growing groups.	NLC	Ongoing.
3.6 Ensure a clear and simple process for the public to identify and become involved in food growing opportunities in North Lanarkshire.	NLC: V&DL land team, CLD, NLC Properties LLP, Greenspace. Existing allotment associations.	NLC	April 2021
3.7 Ensure the process of leasing allotments is clear and simple. A defined North Lanarkshire allotment lease cost is to be provided, with some variation defined based on facilities on site. Consideration of development of the adoption of a standard allotment lease.	NLC: NLC Properties, CLD, Greenspace.	NLC	April 2021
<b>Theme 3: Access to Tools</b>			
3.8 Enable access and sharing of resources such as tools, seeds/plants. It is important to support networking and sharing between Allotment Groups (Forgewood, Greenlink & Viewpark mentioned at community events).	CLD, Greenspace.	NLC	April 2022
<b>Theme 4: Community Support and engagement &amp; Theme 5: Funding</b> <p>There is an opportunity to create better links between all the organisations providing support in North Lanarkshire. An online directory of resources on the web page is opportunity along with creating a NLC role as a point of contact and coordinator. However, it is recognised that resourcing this is a challenge.</p>			
3.9 Help groups know which support organisations can help them to develop & deliver their project ideas. This can be achieved through the web page, the forum and other support	VANL, CCI, Cumbernauld Living Landscapes, Social Farms & Gardens	NLC	April 2021 and ongoing.

organisation networking that takes place locally.	<i>Scotland. NLC Greenspace and CLD.</i>		
3.10 Identify opportunities to make involvement in allotments or community groups affordable for people in disadvantaged areas. There is potential for Community Benefit Clauses in NLC contracts to release resources (funding, facilities) to be used to further local food growing.	CLD, Greenspace, Corporate procurement, NLC properties, LLP.	NLC	April 2022 and ongoing.
<p>Theme 6: Communication and support from NLC</p> <p>More could be done to make the public aware of community growing opportunities and allotments across NLC. The consultation events were the beginning of this conversation, and it is to be hoped that as the Food Growing Strategy develops this will improve via a mix of networking, training, publicity on gardening projects and adverts for participants.</p>			
3.11 Raise awareness of grow your own by developing a programme of communication and publicity.	<i>VANL, CCI, Cumbernauld Living Landscapes, Social Farms &amp; Gardens Scotland. NLC Greenspace and CLD.</i>	NLC	April 2022 and ongoing.
3.12 Bring together local community growing groups and allotment sites to find out what everyone is planning, agree a yearly calendar of events and publicise it.	<i>NLC Greenspace and CLD. Allotment and community growing groups.</i>	NLC	April 2022 and ongoing.
3.13 Launch a facebook page for North Lanarkshire Growers administrated by volunteers to publicise events and share information.	Allotment and community growing groups.	Allotment and community growing groups.	April 2022

## Appendix 10

## **Description of Consultative Activities undertaken**

### **Stakeholder mapping**

This was carried out working closely with the NLC Assistant Business Manager of Greenspace Development, and the Conservation & Biodiversity Manager. It included identification of key local authority staff, existing community growing groups and other organisations which support community growing (local and national). It was updated throughout the events & activities. Please see the stakeholder database in Appendix 1 for more information.

### **Events**

We delivered and reported on three events as part of the programme. The first event was an internal NLC colleague workshop (5 December 2019) and thereafter two evening workshops aimed at community (growing) groups and individuals with an interest in “grow your own”. These took place in Bellshill (28 January 2020) and Cumbernauld (30 January 2020). The detailed notes from the events can be found in Appendix 4 and 5.

The events were run in a participative and inclusive way to ensure everyone felt able to contribute to discussions and that all thoughts/ideas are captured.

At all the events we set out the national and local policy context for the Food Growing Strategy and then explored the following themes:

- What is local food growing?
- Where are we now? What is “growing” in North Lanarkshire already?

At the internal NLC workshop we also explored the strategy/policy connections for each service/department taking part. And we gathered as much information possible in terms of existing growing spaces and allotments in North Lanarkshire.

At the community events we shared the information on growing sites and asked community members to “ground truth” it and let us know if they had any additional information to share. The information collected can be viewed in Appendix 2.

The community events also gave us the opportunity to explore with local people whether they were currently taking part in growing activity or not and the reasons why.

We also found out what support to undertake growing activities people had used and were aware of and what kind of support they felt it would be beneficial to have to encourage themselves or others to grow their own. This data is shared in section 3.

48 people attended the community events representing:

8 Community groups

4 Community Councils

2 Allotment groups

14 Organisations

6 health professionals

3 NLC officers

18 individuals

The internal NLC workshop was attended by 4 colleagues with a further 4 giving their apologies at short notice. A note of this meeting can be viewed in Appendix 3.

### Communications and promotion

Colleagues from NLC were invited to the internal stakeholder event by NLC Assistant Business Manager of Greenspace Development, and the Conservation & Biodiversity Manager.

The two community events were advertised via direct email and people could sign up to the event using Eventbrite and were initially invited to do so by emails from greenspace scotland and communications by NLC. Social media (Facebook & Twitter) was used to promote the workshops information was posted on the NLC Community Food Growing and allotment webpage and circulated internally to CLD officers for sharing with their contacts.

Information about the events was also shared by VANL (Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire) the local Third Sector Interface and umbrella agency for local volunteers and voluntary sector in North Lanarkshire) and through the Green Health Partnership. The Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) also assisted in promoting the events through social media channels.

### On-line survey

To engage with as many different stakeholders as possible in a short space of time we also conducted an online survey. It provided those unable to attend the events with an opportunity to share knowledge and information. A total of 47 people completed the survey. The full survey results can be found in Appendix 6.

The survey was hosted by CSGNT and results subsequently shared with NLC and greenspace scotland.

## 8. Current picture of community food growing in North Lanarkshire

The information gathered at the workshops and the survey demonstrates that there is currently a variety of individual, community, schools, orchards and health facility growing sites across North Lanarkshire. Alongside this growing activity several national and local organisations provide support for food growing.

The community events and survey, not surprisingly, were engaged in by a cohort of people with a keen interest in food growing, with **two thirds (64%) already engaged in growing**. All (100%) of those that completed the survey and do not currently grow their own answered YES to the question “Would you like to grow your own vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers”

### Q - Do you grow your own vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers?

	Online Survey	Bellshill workshop	Cumbernauld workshop	Combined
<b>Yes</b>	60%	50%	80%	64%
<b>No</b>	40%	50%	20%	36%



<b>No of respondents</b>	47	23	29	99
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The interest amongst those not currently growing was not quite as unanimous at the community workshops, mostly due to personal lack of time, as these events included people in their professional capacity – mostly from health & therapeutic work.

These individuals and organisations, although not a representative sample of North Lanarkshire residents, represent a bank of skills and experience available to work with the Council and partners to take the NLC Food Growing Strategy forward.

*“To conclude the evening the small discussion groups were asked if there was anything specific, they wanted to highlight from their discussion about support needs and support available. Suggestions varied but were all focusing on the theme of networking and peer support.*

*Everyone had enjoyed the opportunity to get together with like-minded people and share ideas and networking. It was agreed that the email addresses of the participants would be shared to keep the momentum going and allow for everyone to continue the conversation while the strategy is under development.”*

### **Growing sites and types**

A database of sites has been created, which will be useful for taking the strategy forward, and as baseline data to monitor progress as a result of the strategy. Information from NLC and other stakeholders was gathered, and then provided at the two community events for sense checking and updating. It can be found in Appendix 2 - information confirmed & updated at community events is highlighted in grey and/or has a Y in the first column.

From this data we can see that there are:

**24 Allotment sites**, of which 1 Ward Park North Allotments is unused at present (according to community event)

**27 Community Garden sites**, of which 4 are new and in process of being established:

Carbrains Red Ash Pitch;

YMCA Cumbernauld, Kildrum;

Cardowan Community Garden;

Chryston Community Garden

**1 Community Planter project**

**4 Hospital sites**

**12 orchard sites**

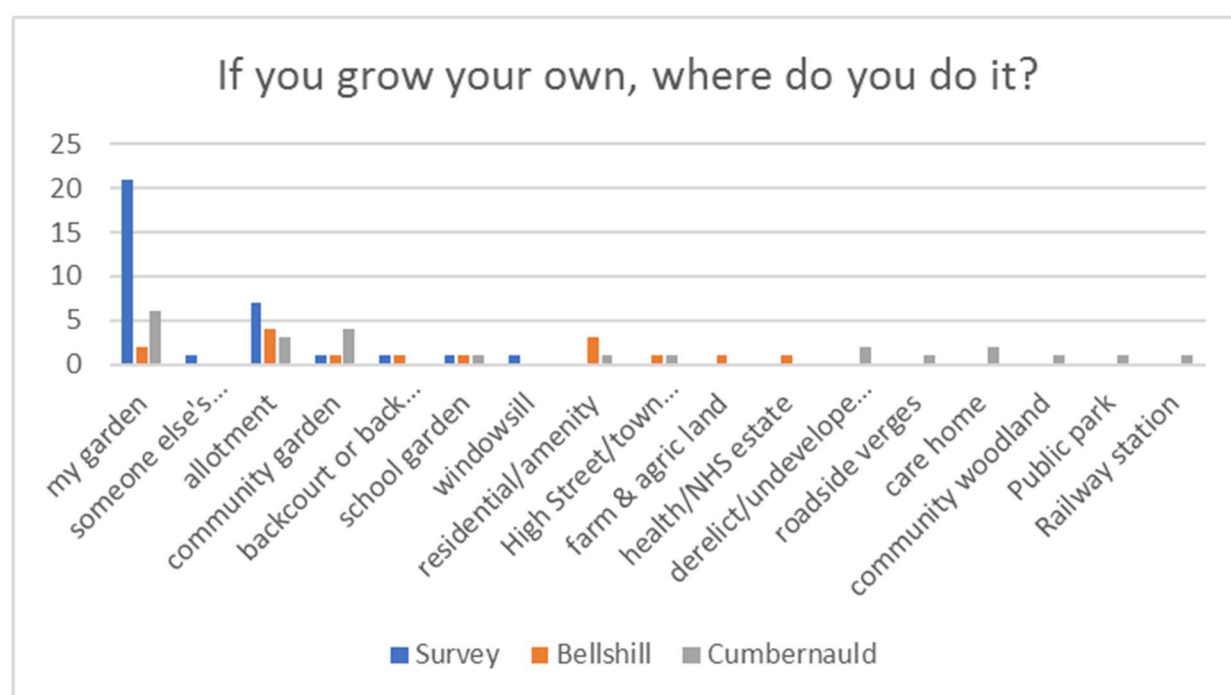
**36 School sites**

Of these **104 listed sites**, 41 were sense checked/confirmed at the community events.

From both the community workshops and the online growing survey **the most common place to grow in North Lanarkshire is private gardens**, followed by **allotment sites**. There was no mention of community orchards.

Community gardens, and NHS/care home sites were mentioned. The workshops tried to inspire attendees with the range of possible growing sites, through activities, images and greenspace scotland's Our Growing Community Map (Appendix 8), A few of those attending already use a range of sites including railway station, roadside verge and public park.

This result corresponds with the result from the national Greenspace Use and Attitude Survey from November 2017<sup>8</sup> where 87% of respondents stated that they used their own gardens for grow their own, 7% used allotments and 6% someone else's garden.

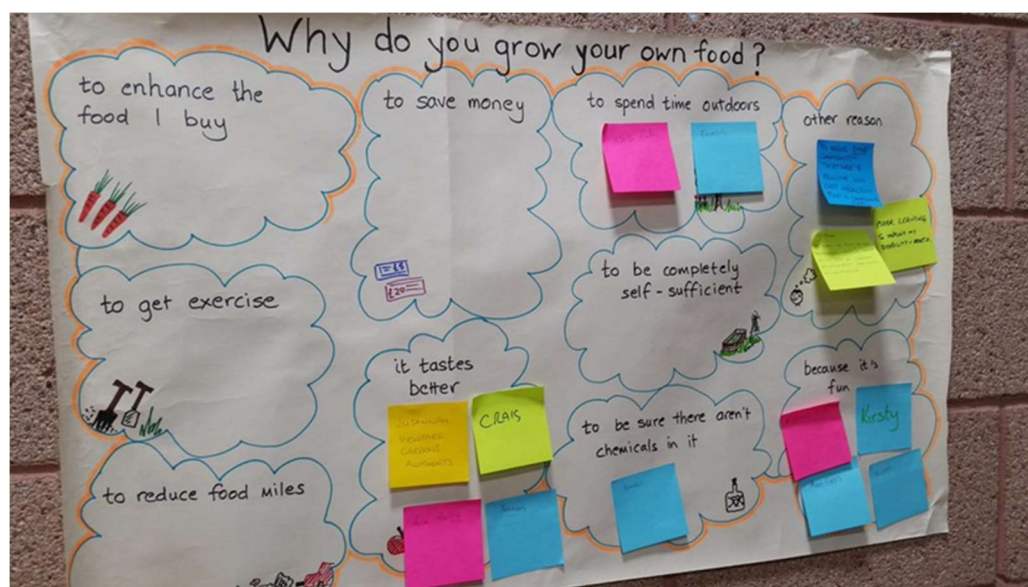


<sup>8</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x\\_GfzPxPf059X-3Imz20Mj51EHCoN8F6/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x_GfzPxPf059X-3Imz20Mj51EHCoN8F6/view)



It is interesting that to be totally self-sufficient was not given as a reason at either workshop.

Reason	Bellshill	Cumbernauld	Total
<b>HEALTH</b>			
because it tastes better	4	4	
no chemicals	1	2	
Other- fresh fruit to eat	0	1	
Other – to help my disability & health	1	0	
<b>Total HEALTH</b>			13
<b>WELLBEING</b>			
Fun & enjoyable	5	6	
Spend time outdoors	2	2	
Other-Bring community together for low cost meals	1	0	
Other -As part of Restorative Justice – food to sheltered accomm.	1	0	
<b>Total WELLBEING</b>			17
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>			
To reduce food miles	0	1	
Other – to increase biodiversity	0	1	
Other – to reduce packaging	0	1	
<b>Total CLIMATE CHANGE</b>			3
<b>POVERTY</b>			
To save money		4	
<b>Total POVERTY</b>			4

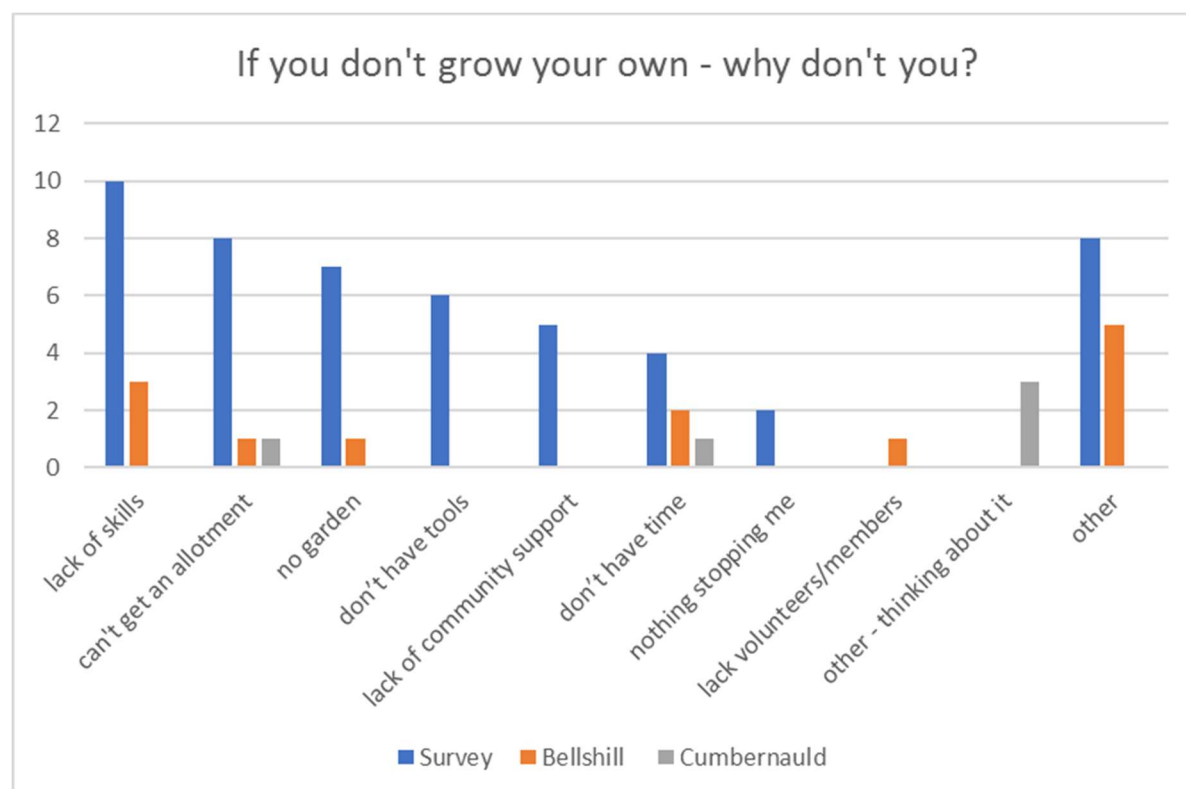


Pic 2: Participants placed a sticky note on the main reason - Bellshill

### Barriers to grow your own – what is stopping people grow their own

Through the survey and workshops, we enquired into why people do not grow their own – with a view to looking at these barriers and exploring how a Food Growing Strategy could address them.

The main reason given was **don't know how to / lack of skills** (13), then **can't get an allotment** and then **no garden**. The workshop participants discussed these and commented that the skills that were in the workshop room, and in organisations known to participants, if used in a cohesive fashion could address that barrier. Likewise, lack of a garden can be addressed by growing on other types of sites.



These broadly match the results from the Greenspace Use and Attitude Survey where the respondents who wanted to grow their own (but didn't) were asked: 'What is stopping you growing your own vegetables (and fruit)?

- almost half (44%) said they do not have a garden
- around a third said they do not know how to or cited a lack of skills (32%)
- just over a quarter (26%) said they do not have time

Interestingly, the significant change in 2017 from the 2011 Greenspace Use and Attitude Survey was that in that year, only 5% cited lack of skills.

“Other” reasons of strategic interest -

- We are a community group (who deliver other projects) exploring the possibility of wider community support for a growing project
- in rented accommodation
- bad back, struggle bending
- mobility
- social anxiety
- NLC policies regarding using land
- because we need to have a fully constituted group to grow some fruit & veg. A lot of the wider community are put off by this



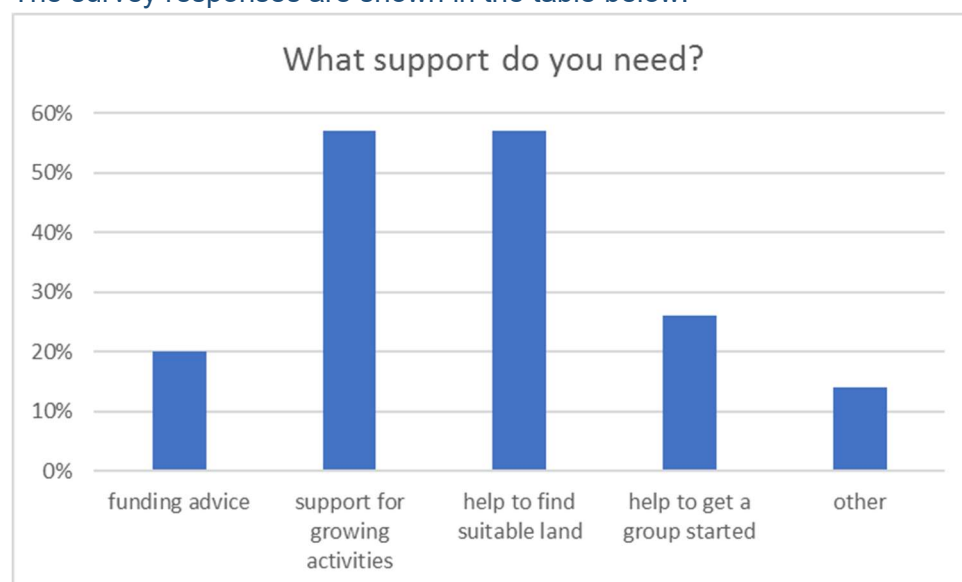
## 9. Support needed and currently available

### Survey findings

From the survey the support needed to grow your own correlated with the barriers to growing– over half the responses were equally for

**Support for growing activities (taster sessions, how to workshops etc), and Help to find suitable land**

The survey responses are shown in the table below:



All 'Other' responses are listed in Appendix 6; ones specifically mentioning NLC are:

- It would be good if there was a webpage with all allotment sites in the North Lanarkshire area, including details regarding who can apply for a plot (e.g. local residents only or available to anyone from North Lanarkshire).
- Access to mains water and metered electricity on the allotment, and toilet/washing facilities.
- If you are planning more community growing areas, please take into consideration raised beds and other accessibility issues, and who would be eligible for these, as this stopped us from growing our own and really made us feel left out of this valuable community group resource.

### Workshop discussions

At round table discussions workshop participants were asked to discuss

**A - What would encourage you and others to grow more?** (i.e. support needed to overcome barriers)

And at the same time, to list separately

**B - What support is currently being provided where you live?** (i.e. local provider known)

No themes were given to the discussion groups - the following themes emerged:

Theme	A – support needed to overcome barriers	B – local support in place
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<p><b>T1.</b> <b>Skills; training; peer support</b></p>	<p>A1. Local network of growers (or Horticulture Society)  A2. Share skills with other groups  A3. NLC should organise quarterly meetings for networking on greenspace, allotment, orchard issues  A4. Information/workshops on how to grow (Social informal, welcoming workshops – 6 week or 1 weekend)  A5. To know what is easy to grow  A6. Help with recruitment &amp; training of staff  A7. Education for schools and nurseries  A8. Training in project management  A9. Education specifically for schools &amp; nurseries  A10. Practical help to plan &amp; develop suitable facilities within school grounds  A11. Community Growing Champions – mentors who can help and inspire  A12. Social media to connect people e.g. a locality facebook page “Cumbernauld and Kilsyth growers”</p>	<p>B1. VANL (helps with management committee and structures)  B2. CCI  B3. Cumbernauld Living Landscapes  B4. Social Farms &amp; Gardens  B5. Abronhill Learning Trust (community centre) do walks and foraging  B6. Future mentoring and educational resources at Cumbernauld YMCA  B7. Seafar, Carbrain &amp; Hillcrest Community Council has support to offer  B8. Condorrat Tenants and Residents Association  B9. Cumbernauld YMCA: Community garden + allotment &amp; outreach officer  B10. Cumbernauld Peace Garden helps schools/YP do their JMT and DofE awards  B11. Watch Us Grow @ Palacerigg: Children w.learning difficulties  B12. Cumbernauld Gardening Club  <i>“Cumbernauld Gardening Club. Formed in 1975, we meet every 2nd Wednesday from September to May in Greenfaulds Community Rooms”</i>  Twitter: @CnauldGarden  B13. Kilsyth Community Garden – open growing day  B14. I am willing to help any small group to develop allotments based on my experience of setting up C’Nauld Village Langriggs Allotments – <a href="mailto:Philip.morgan-klein@blueyonder.co.uk">Philip.morgan-klein@blueyonder.co.uk</a> or just share info/experience. Facebook page: Cumbernauld Village  B15. Northern Corridor Community Volunteers – tree &amp; plant nursery in Chryston. Will be offering training in propagating and growing native trees and plants. We can also provide habitat assessments  B16. Forgewood allotments help anyone who asks  B17. We could run a training day at Forgewood or Townhead</p>
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		B18. Newarthill Community Council already supports us
<b>T2. Access to land</b>	A12. NLC help with identifying land A13. More access to grounds for community groups A14. Advertise available areas for growing better A15. NLC should have allotments available in every local area if there are 4-5 people to start them up.	B19. Viewpark Gardens have plots that community groups can use
<b>T3. Access to tools</b>	A16. Starter pack A17. Free seeds A18. Free compost A19. Better weather! or polytunnels	B17. Forgewood & Greenlink allotments B18. Viewpark allotments can offer practical support B19. Beekeeping – subsidised – course/equipment/mentors B20. Colin Barry “Caulders Garden Centres” <a href="https://www.caulders.co.uk/">https://www.caulders.co.uk/</a> B21. Cumbernauld Tool Library <a href="http://toollibrarycumbernauld.org/">http://toollibrarycumbernauld.org/</a> B22. Can apply for edible tree packages <a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/</a> B23. Tannoch Stables are open to people coming for horse manure – requires own bags and transport B24. Restorative Justice Team
<b>T4. Community support &amp; engagement</b>	A20. Can be hard to get regular volunteers A21. Help us find other non-growing groups who may be interested – eg mens sheds, parents, retirees? A22. Promote the benefits, eg mental health, physical health A23. Grow with children; make it more social – young folk, OAPs, nursery schools	B25. The community support each other
<b>T5. Funding</b>	A24. Funding A25. It can be expensive for	B26. Funders suggested: _ National Lottery (Awards for All),

	those that cannot afford – expenses should be recognised	Foundation Scotland, Campsie's Board (Wind Farm??), NLC Community Fund, B27. Schools – local consortium funding schools where communities are involved B28. Community Learning Exchange (go through Social Farms & Gardens) to fund visits to other community groups
<b>T6. Communication and support from NLC</b>	A26. More engagement from NLC, come along to our Community Council meetings so we can plan & support each other A27. Misleading advice from NLC meant process of getting a lease took two years. A28. Better communication - named person/role in NLC would make communication easier	B29. NLC has consistently helped with introductions to SUSTRANS, landfill tax, & match funding with sums raised by us.

This table illustrates that although there are barriers to growing there are also many local organisations and groups working on the ground to address these barriers and many ideas as to how the barriers can be overcome.



**NLC Interim Impact Assessment form**  
**Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty**

**Section 1. About the Policy**

<b>1.1 Name of the procedure:</b> <b>North Lanarkshire Food Growing Strategy</b>
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Is this a: -	
A new policy /strategy / function / procedure / service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget saving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review of policy /strategy / function / procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review of Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	
Is this is a key strategic decision subject to the Fairer Scotland Duty Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>1.2 Person Responsible for the policy etc.</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Job Title and Service / Team:</b>
Hayley Andrew	Assistant Business Manager – Greenspace Development (Environmental Assets)

1.3 What is the scope of the assessment?	✓	Detail where appropriate
Whole of the organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Service specific	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Discipline specific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>1.4 What is the policy/ strategy/ function/ saving trying to achieve / do?</b>
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This Food Growing Strategy aims to increase access to affordable, healthy, sustainable food by increasing opportunities for people in North Lanarkshire to 'grow-your-own' (GYO). The Strategy is based on an assessment of current demand for facilities to grow food across our area, and sets out how these needs can be met.

It aims to identify opportunities to increase food growing provision in North Lanarkshire in response to our legislative duties under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

**1.5 If this is a budget saving, how will the saving be achieved?**

N/A

**Section 2. *What do I know now?***

**2.1 Who are the stakeholders and beneficiaries?**

Stakeholders are landowners within the Local Authority where land could be utilised to provide opportunities, including, but not limited to: NHS Lanarkshire, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Schools and colleges; existing community growing groups; organisations supporting community growing (local and national).

Beneficiaries are the people of North Lanarkshire

**2.2 What data, consultation, research and other evidence or information is available relevant to this assessment? (This is a desktop exercise)**

Internal stakeholder consultations and workshops with community growing groups and those interested in 'grow your own' (outputs are included as an appendix to the strategy).

**2.3 Considering the information in Section 1 and 2.1 and 2.2**

**2.3.1 If this policy is subject to the FSD what does it suggest about the impact or potential impact on socio-economic disadvantage? (please refer to FSD Interim Guidance)**

Low income	
Low wealth	
Material deprivation	
Area deprivation	

**2.3.2 Are any of the people communities listed below likely to be more affected by this policy than others?**

People who share one or more of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010	Yes	Details	No	Details	Don't Know
Age (a particular age or range of ages)			✓		
Disabled people and people with long term health conditions			✓		
Women and men, girls and boys			✓		
People defined by their race, colour and nationality, ethnic or national origins.			✓		
Married people and civil partners			✓		
Pregnant women and new mothers			✓		
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people			✓		
People transitioning from one gender to another			✓		
People of different religions or beliefs or non-beliefs			✓		
<u>Other groups</u>					
Children and families			✓		
Homeless people			✓		
Looked after and accommodated people			✓		
Care leavers			✓		
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members			✓		
Homeless people			✓		
Asylum seekers			✓		
Employees – full and part time. Including SES, MAs etc.			✓		
Others					

**2.4 Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy will, or may potentially affect the Council's duty to: (Please tick all that apply).**



	Yes	No	Don't Know
1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010?		✓	
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not		✓	
3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not?		✓	
4. Protect and promote human rights?		✓	
5. Reduce socio-economic disadvantage		✓	
Please provide details.			

### Section 3. What else do I need to know /find out?

**3.1 Further consultation – Please use the table directly below to say who you will consult with (tick Yes or No). Consider those groups from section 2.3 where you ticked yes or don't know. Once consultation has taken place provide the details below.**

<u>People and communities</u>	Yes	No	Describe what you did, with whom and when. Please provide a brief summary of the responses gained and links to relevant documents, as well as any actions
Age (a particular age or range of ages)		✓	
Disabled people and people with long term health conditions		✓	
Women and men, girls and boys		✓	
People defined by their race, colour and nationality, ethnic or national origins.		✓	
Married people and civil partners		✓	
Pregnant women and new mothers		✓	

Lesbian, gay and bisexual people		✓	
People transitioning from one gender to another		✓	
People of different religions or beliefs or non-beliefs		✓	
<u>Other groups</u>			
Children and families		✓	
Homeless people		✓	
Looked after and accommodated people		✓	
Care leavers		✓	
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members		✓	
Trade Unions		✓	
Employee Equality Forum		✓	.
Others			2 workshops were promoted and open to all, with 48 attendees and an online survey was promoted and attracted 47 responses.

### 3.2 What additional research or data is required?

None

### 3.3 What does the additional research and data tell you about potential or known effects?

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#### **Section 4. Assessing the impact and strengthening the policy**

Considering all the evidence you now have from section 1-3, how will the policy affect different people and communities in relation to equality, socio-economic disadvantage and human rights?

**4.1 How does/will the policy and resulting activity affect those with the characteristics listed below (including employees)? Please use the table below to provide details.**

	Detail any Positive impact	Detail any adverse impact	If adverse how can we mitigate this? Where no mitigating action is planned please say why not
Age (a particular age or range of ages)			
Disabled people and people with long term health conditions			
Women and men, girls and boys			
People defined by their race, colour and nationality, ethnic or national origins.			
Married people and civil partners			
Pregnant women and new mothers			
Lesbian, gay and bisexual people			
People transitioning from one gender to another			
People of different religions or beliefs or non-beliefs			

<u>Other groups</u>			
Children and families			
Homeless people			
Looked after and accommodated people			
Care leavers			
Carers – paid / unpaid, family members			
Employees – full and part time. Including SES, MAs etc.			
Others	Potential to have a positive impact on any person who engages		

**4.2 What measures could be taken to strengthen the policy / strategy to help advance equality of opportunity, foster good relations, promote human rights and reduce socio-economic disadvantage.**

None

**4.3 Considering questions 4.1 and 4.2 what actions / measures will be put in place before introducing this policy please provide details.**

Action	Timescales	Responsible Officer	Review details (include timescales)

**Section 5. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing****5.1. How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the new policy?**

Monitor the impact on allotment waiting lists and communications / information requests received in relation to food growing

**Section 6. Making a decision and sign-off**

Recommendation	Tick	Comment (where applicable, please give more information e.g. where to pilot, what modifications, etc.)	Timescales
Introduce the Food Growing Strategy in line with statutory duty	✓		Following committee approval
Adjust the policy then introduce			
Introduce the policy with justification regarding potential adverse impact			
Stop and withdraw the policy			

<b>Name of Procedure:</b>	North Lanarkshire Food Growing Strategy		
<b>Head of Service /Senior Manager sign-off:</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title and division/ team</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b>
	Head of Environmental Assets		

Nicole Paterson			
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**For further information please contact:**

<b>Name:</b>	Hayley Andrew
<b>Job title:</b>	Assistant Business Manager – Greenspace Development
<b>Service:</b>	Environmental Assets
<b>Contact details:</b>	andrewh@northlan.gov.uk