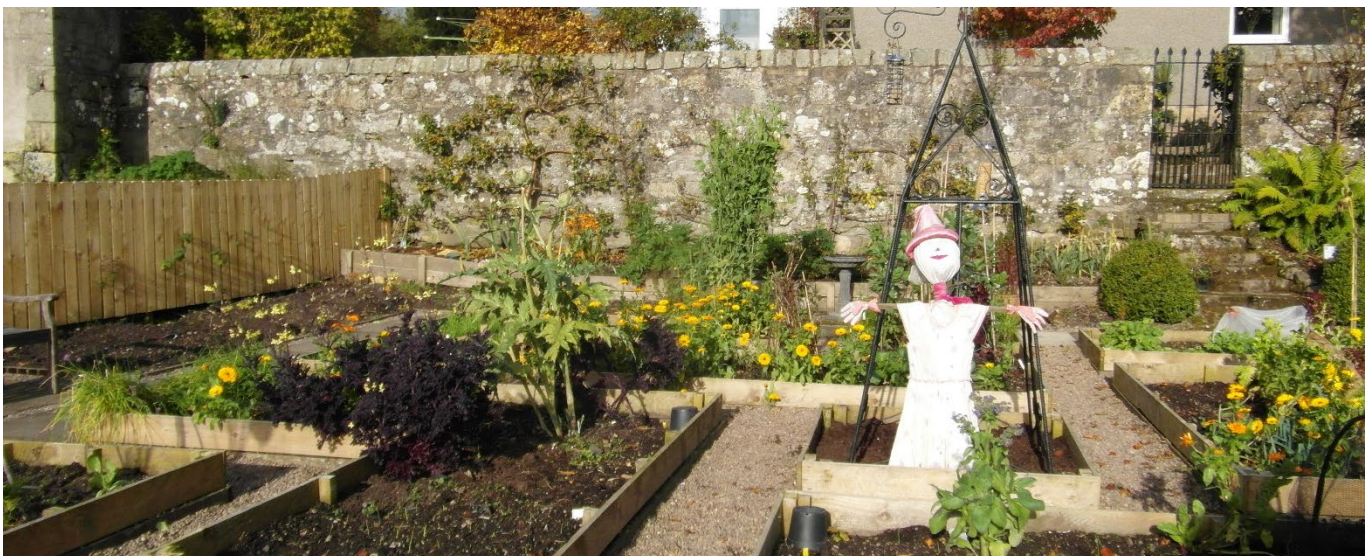

Food Growing Strategy 2021

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)

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1. Introduction

This 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.

The coronavirus crisis has added a new perspective. Demand for allotments across the country has soared, with more and more people looking for a way to access affordable, fresh food and outdoor spaces in which to relax and exercise. Many communities have stepped up to support their more vulnerable members and showed a collective spirit in these challenging times.

In Perth and Kinross, community groups have long been leading the way in providing opportunities for people to become involved in food growing. There are several well established allotment associations and community gardens across the area. Developing this strategy provides an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved so far, identify problems and barriers to food growing, and some key actions required to improve the current situation.

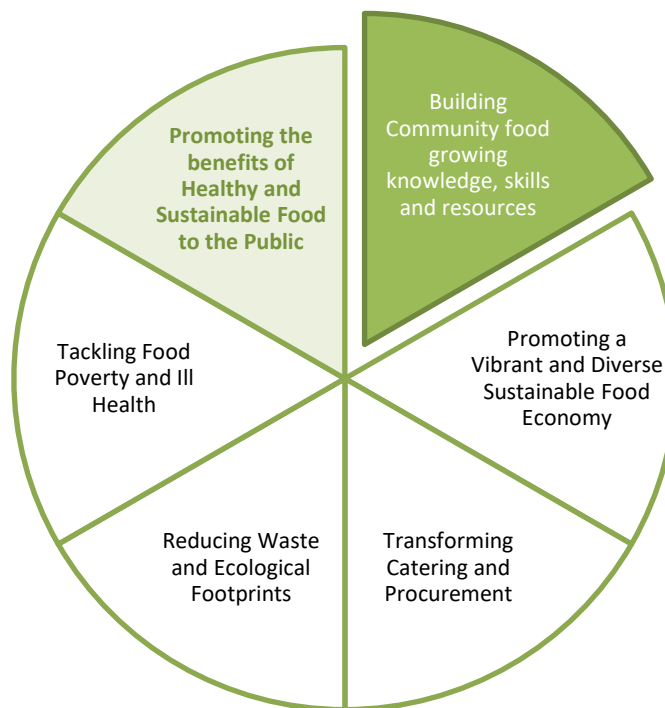
The Council is well-placed to support community food growing, for example by helping to identify land for additional growing spaces and by promoting networking opportunities with experienced, knowledgeable groups, to encourage more people of all ages and abilities to get involved. This strategy sets out a framework for actions which we can deliver through working with local groups, businesses and individuals. The projects that we take forward will contribute to the wider recovery and renewal process of Perth and Kinross.



Figure 2: The PK Offer is our approach to promoting collaboration and shared action

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 it also contributes to promoting the benefits of healthy and sustainable food choices. The pie chart below highlights other important goals that Perth and 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 3: 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 & 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
- Climate Change Action Plan by PKC ← land use, procurement
- Community Cookit by NHS Tayside ← skills development, healthy food
- 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

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”

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

1. **Continue to develop our understanding** of the existing community growing provision in Perth and Kinross, including the demand for, and the barriers to food growing.
2. **Identify potentially suitable land** for additional community growing spaces in order to improve the current provision, especially in communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.
3. **Deliver new growing spaces and support activities** such as training, knowledge and skills sharing. Work with partners across Perth and Kinross to help overcome identified barriers.
4. **Raise awareness** of the benefits of food growing, encourage more people to become involved and support the establishment of new growing groups.

Delivering the Strategy’s vision and objectives will result in a range 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(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><ul style="list-style-type: none">(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>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 and Kinross Council does not manage any allotments but leases land to Allotment Associations. Some Allotment Associations use private land, not owned by the Council.</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 many 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. Soft fruits within hedgerows adds to diversity feeding people and wildlife. They may be located within parks, school grounds or woodland areas.</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. Herbs and vegetables grown in containers can be appropriate in some spaces, in others creating raised beds and other growing structures and boundaries such as edible hedges may be possible.</p>
Home Growing	<p>Garden share schemes are arrangements between private householders and match those with surplus garden space with those who want growing areas. Gardening at home growing, including growing in containers or window boxes, may be less social but still has many health and environmental benefits.</p>

5. Food Growing in Perth and Kinross

To develop this strategy, we engaged with communities, established growing groups and relevant organisations to learn about existing opportunities and understand the barriers preventing more people from growing their own food. We collected over 250 responses through online surveys, spoke to 50 people on our online workshops and visited some groups who successfully grow their own food and learned about the challenges they have met along the way. The following section summarises the information we have gathered through this process.

5.1 Existing Community Food Growing Projects

We have a record of **39 existing growing spaces across** Perth and Kinross, all managed by community groups through leases/agreements with landowners:

- 14 Allotments (6 on council land and 8 on private land)
- 9 Community Gardens & Fields
- 4 Community Orchards and Woodlands
- 1 Urban Farm
- 6 Institutional Growing Spaces
- 1 Garden Share Scheme
- 4 Community-led Agriculture Projects

View our interactive [Storymap](#) to browse opportunities near you and find information on existing growing groups.

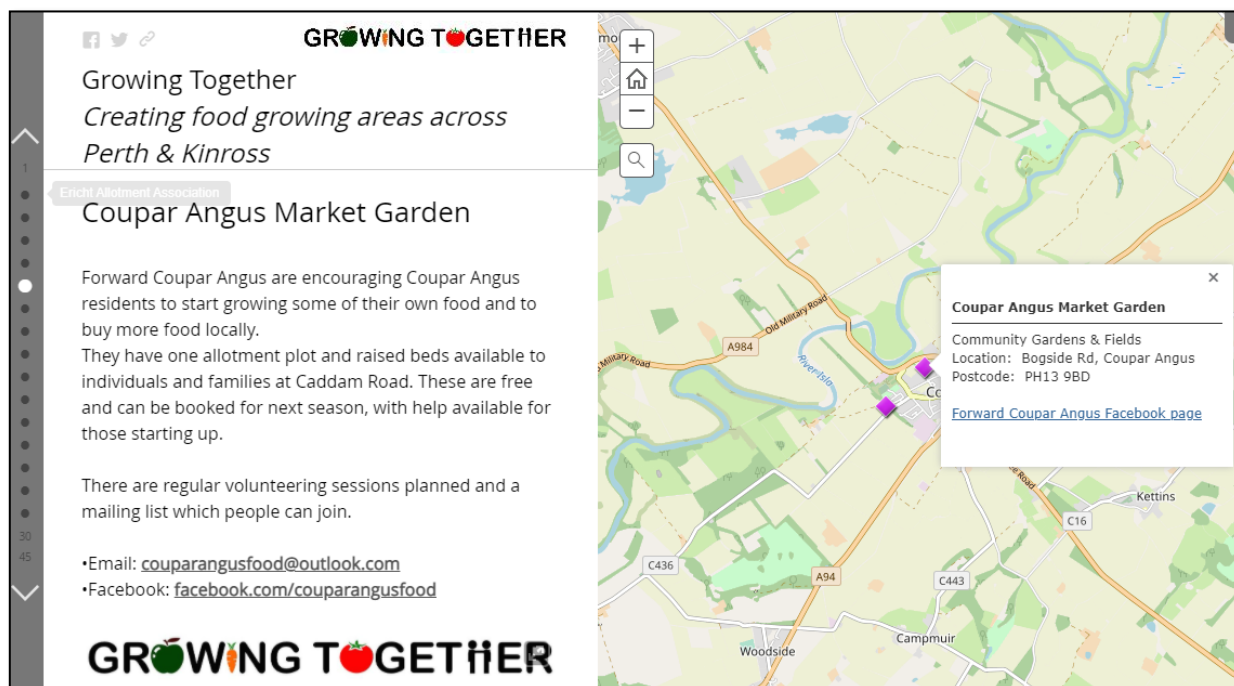


Figure 2: Example view from our Storymap with information and contact details to one of the existing community gardens in the area.

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. 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 also 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

76% of those who responded to the 2019 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 desktop 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.

We consulted on the draft strategy in **2021**, and received further responses confirming interest in community food growing. **98%** of responders supported the vision and objectives of this strategy and **32** individuals and organisations suggested that they would like to work with the Council and their local community to create new opportunities.

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 demand 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. The local Climate Café is also looking for smaller scale opportunities for planting edible hedges and fruit trees.
- **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 repurposing under utilised land for food growing and interest from the Community Council to create a new growing space
 - Muirton – proposed new community garden and public space within the grounds of the Creative Exchange
 - Letham – potential Food Share Network pilot in this area, building on established food growing.
 - Westbank (Jeanfield Road) – potential for expanding training and food growing activities
- **Scone** – There are no established community growing areas in Scone; 7 individuals registered with the Community Council, showing interest in a potential project and looking for a suitable site. Perth Community Farm is also interested to expand in this area. Finding suitable available ground has been the limiting factor to date.

- **Blairgowrie & Rattray** – Blairgowrie Climate Café initiated the creation of a community garden to complement existing opportunities in the area.
- **Crieff** – Potential opportunity to create a food growing area within the grounds of the Community Campus.
- **Alyth** – Alyth Climate Café suggested that there is local demand for an additional growing area 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.
- **Meigle** – the Community Council is investigating opportunities and interest locally.
- **Rural Perthshire** – Several residents showed interest in the strategy from smaller settlements and rural areas where there are no existing community growing opportunities. While it may not be feasible to form an allotment area in some of these places, alternatives could be explored that allow for shared gardens or other community growing.
- **Other projects**
 - A number of schools expressed an interest in starting to grow food or improving their current garden area.
 - Tayside Seed Library aims to collect, store and share local seed stocks, it is a developing initiative which would welcome support to get fully established.
 - Some communities expressed an interest in community woodland projects which could potentially incorporate food growing (e.g. Stormont Woodland).

This list is not exhaustive, we are always **keen to hear from other community groups who are interested in starting a new growing project.**



Figure 2 Part of the site at Westbank (Perth) is occupied by vegetable beds, polytunnels and sheds

5.3 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. The same applies to settlements without existing growing spaces, where 15 or more people register an interest for a food growing area.

Perth and Kinross Council own **6** 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
Old Tulloch Bowling Green, Tulloch Terrace, Perth	North Perth Allotment Association	14	Unknown	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	3/14 + 2 starter plots	£65/£45	Yes

The Council will engage with the six Allotment Associations above to agree and establish a waiting list system which will work to the advantage of all parties 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

5.4 Barriers & Ideas

The barriers to more people growing and ideas on how to overcome them shown below have been identified through stakeholder engagement.

The two main barriers to growing food is the lack of knowledge and lack of space. Respondents suggested that **advice on gardening, cooking and preserving produce** would encourage them to grow their own food. This reflects the fact that most comments came from individuals with access to private gardens. For others, the main barrier is **finding a suitable growing space**.

Advice on ladders, distribution, insurance, access to compost and funding was requested from several growing groups and organisations. Access to volunteers and funding were the main barriers for groups to expand their existing activities.

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

- Advice on what and how to grow & how to use produce
- 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)
- Insurance

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

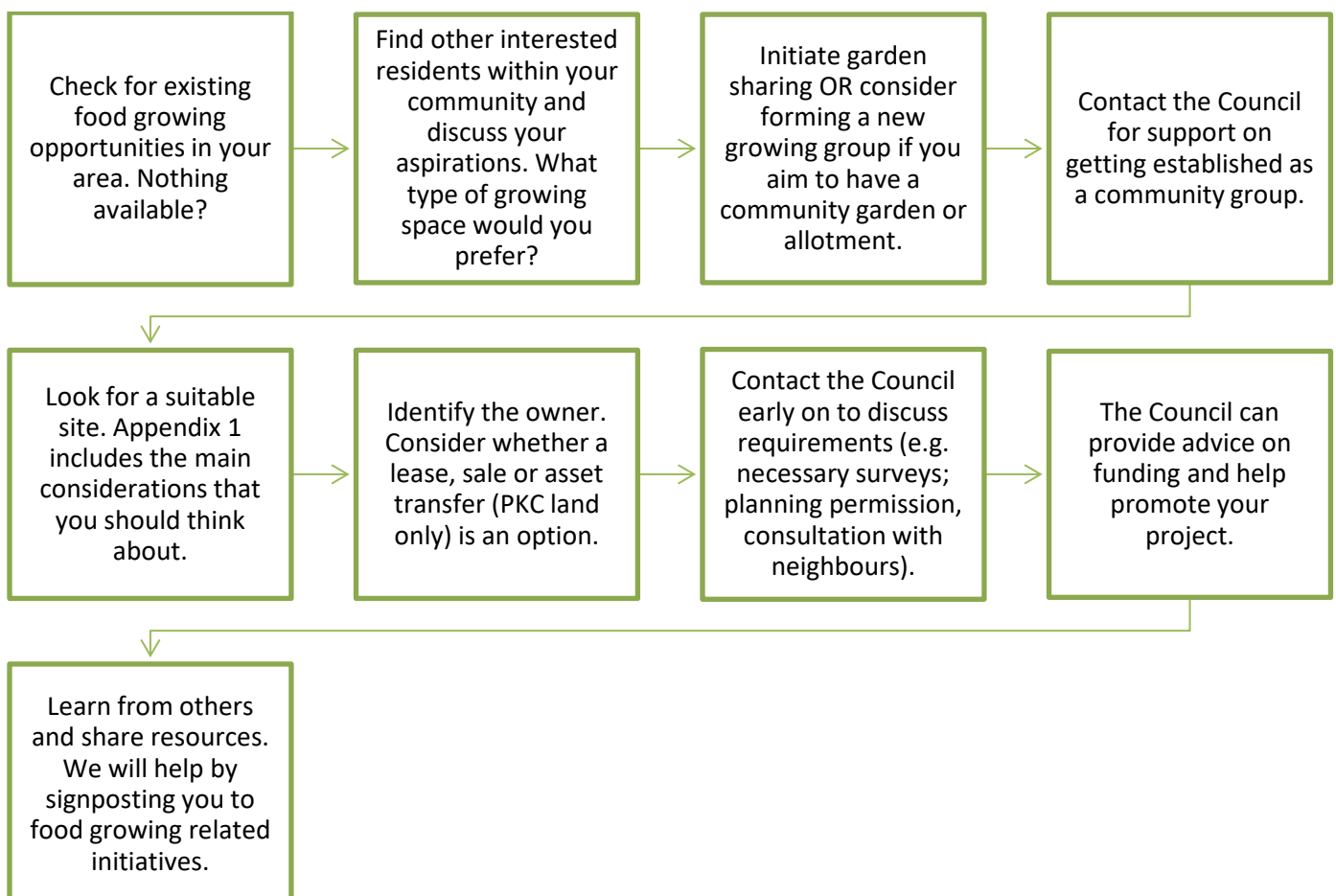
5.5 Overcoming Barriers

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

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

The Council is also committed to support **groups who are already established** and help them expand, diversify and overcome challenges. This could be focused on knowledge sharing and providing advice on common issues such as obtaining funding or acquiring land. Signposting those needing advice to those able to offer it and forming a network to share experience and knowledge is also considered important.

If you are interested in growing your own food, consider these simple steps:



When it comes to **advice on gardening, cooking and preserving produce**, there are a number of organisations who provide resources, training and advice. We highlighted some useful contacts in the section below.

Useful Contacts

Perth and Kinross Council

<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/growingspaces> is the Council's webpage for food growing. It includes a map of existing projects, funding options and other useful advice. Other useful contacts include:

- 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, opportunities for use of land for growing.
- Communityplanningpartnership@pkc.gov.uk (Community Planning) - advice on getting established as a community group, advice on the community right to buy process, asset transfers and funding.
- communitygreenspace@pkc.gov.uk (Community Greenspace team) – information on which open spaces the Council maintain and potential growing space.

Other organisations

- [Trellist Scotland](#) provides advice and training to individuals and community groups on a wide range of subjects linked to community food growing.
- [The Soil Association](#) can help communities find and acquire land for food growing.
- [Social Farms & Gardens](#) is a UK wide charity supporting communities to farm, garden and grow together.
- The [Scottish Allotments and Garden Society](#) provides advice on setting up your own allotment group.
- [Tayside Biodiversity Partnership](#) can provide advice on creating gardens that support local species and provide habitats for wildlife.

5.6 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. 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. Providing other community growing spaces through the planning process is also encouraged, especially for proposed residential developments which will lead to the creation of new communities. This approach is being trialled at Bertha Park near Perth, which will incorporate large community growing spaces.

➤ **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, particularly with nearby residents.

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>

➤ **On private land**

Landowners may agree, if approached, to appropriate areas being used formally, or informally, for community growing. 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 safeguard the security of the project however, it is recommended that arrangements are formalised with the owner (eg. through a lease for an agreed period). 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 Council may be able to help you start a local garden sharing scheme.

Alternatively, you can join [Lend and Tend](#), a UK wide network for garden sharing. The platform is free to use and you can sign up by filling in a simple form. Once you are matched with someone who is happy to lend their garden, you can meet up to discuss your expectations and set the ground rules before starting garden sharing.



Figure 3 One of the small growing sites in Coupar Angus

6. Action Plan

The table below includes the list of actions which we are going to take forward in partnership with others, in order to meet the objectives set out in section 3. Based on feedback from communities, we identified four key actions which will be prioritised.

Proposed Actions		Stakeholders	Timescales & Progress	Additional resources required
Objective 1: Continue to develop our understanding of the existing community growing provision in Perth and Kinross, including the demand for, and the barriers to food growing.				
1.	Further consultation with existing growing groups (site visits and workshop) to explore barriers and opportunities	PKC, existing growing groups	Workshops took place in 2021 and we will continue to keep in contact with local groups.	Staff time
2.	Maintain the Food Growing Storymap and keep up to date with information on local groups.	PKC, existing growing groups	Continuous	Staff time
3.	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	PKC (IT, planning, community greenspace)	To be completed by 2022 and maintained thereafter.	Staff time

4.	Annual review of allotment provision & potential sites and size of waiting list in line with duties of the Act.	PKC	Annual reporting with continuous monitoring of the central waiting list once established.	Staff time
5.	Update the Allotment Regulations in line with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 duties and engagement with Allotment Associations.	PKC	To be completed by 2022	Staff time
6.	Continue to support the Council's Good Food working group to link food growing objectives to other priorities such as reducing food poverty and encouraging healthy eating habits.	PKC	Continuous	Staff time
Objective 2: Identify potentially suitable land for additional community growing spaces in order to improve the current provision, especially in communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.				
7.	Carry out an open space audit and identify underused open spaces which could be suitable for food growing. >>PRIORITY ACTION<<	PKC (planning & community greenspace)	Ongoing, to be completed by end of 2022	N/A – separate resourcing required
8.	Work with partners to confirm land opportunities within areas where there is demand /shortfall. This will include a detailed assessment of potential sites. >>PRIORITY ACTION<<	PKC, communities, land owners	Continuous, priority will be given to settlements with demonstrated demand.	Staff time - significant new duty
9.	Work with public sector partners (e.g. hospitals, schools) and Housing Associations to identify potentially suitable land within their grounds.	PKC, public section partners, Housing Associations	Continuous	Staff time
10.	Support the co-location of `Good Food` services - promoting food growing opportunities near schools, food share schemes, libraries, community centres, sport centres etc.	PKC services	Continuous	Staff time
Objective 3: Deliver new growing spaces and support activities such as training, knowledge and skills sharing. Work with partners across Perth and Kinross to help overcome identified barriers.				
11.	Work with communities to support the establishment of new growing groups and the delivery of food growing sites. Ensure that new sites are equipped with appropriate infrastructure. >>PRIORITY ACTION<<	PKC, communities, landowners	Continuous, first set of projects to be selected/delivered by 2022	Staff time & capital funding – significant new duty
12.	Establish opportunities for learning and knowledge sharing about food growing as well as preserving, storing, and cooking seasonal produce (e.g.	PKC, experienced growers, colleges,	Continuous	N/A (remit of Good Food Coordinator)

	mentoring programmes, Community Cookit). >>PRIORITY ACTION<<	schools, community cafes		
13.	Deliver food growing opportunities as part of public realm improvement projects where possible (e.g. Dunkeld Road corridor regeneration).	PKC (City Development) & communities	Continuous	Staff time
14.	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. Encourage/Require all large residential development proposals to provide food growing opportunities.	PKC (Planning)	Subject to LDP revision timescales	N/A
15.	Assist the Good Food Coordinator in working with community groups. Support the food share pilot projects in Letham & Kinloch Rannoch	PKC (various teams) and pilot participants	Continuous	Staff time
16.	Extend the learning and growing space at Westbank Nursery in Perth	PKC, Westbank Nursery & Perth Community Farm	To be determined	To be determined
17.	Explore demand for creating tool sharing schemes to make larger / more expensive tools available for community groups.	PKC	Continuous	Staff time

Objective 4: Raise awareness of the benefits of food growing, encourage more people to become involved and support the establishment of new growing groups.

18.	Promote Lend and Tend and help establish local garden sharing schemes if required.	PKC, communities	Social media campaign during summer 2021. Any interest in local networks will be logged.	Staff time
19.	Improve PKC website to act as a `one stop shop` for community growers. Signpost users to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing growing sites ▪ Groups looking for volunteers ▪ Training opportunities and resources on growing & using produce ▪ Planning advice ▪ Funding advice ▪ Best practice examples 	PKC, existing growing groups	Ongoing, to be completed by the end of 2021 and update regularly.	Staff time
20.	Support the implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan by promoting practices and site design that supports biodiversity and deliver	PKC, Tayside Biodiversity Partnership, growing groups	Continuous	Staff time

	other benefits to the environment (e.g. improves soil quality)			
21.	Promote available Council support for existing and new growing groups.	PKC	Continuous through social media and regular website updates.	Staff time
22.	Work with schools, the NHS, community councils and others to promote community food growing and spread the word about available opportunities.	PKC, schools, NHS, community councils, others	Continuous	N/A (remit of Good Food Coordinator)

7. Monitoring & Review

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: Site Assessments

The assessment template below is a useful tool for the Council as well as community groups or other stakeholders who are looking for potential food growing sites.

The proposed 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. Sites which pass this stage can progress to the detailed assessment and be scored according to their physical characteristics. Sites which score high on these criteria are likely to be unsuitable for food growing in the long-term and worth the initial investment in site infrastructure.

Fit for Purpose Assessment Criteria

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	Site should be assessed for all forms of growing
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		
Are neighbouring residents supportive of creating a food growing space on this site? (consult with residents where necessary)	This should add a 'premium' to the assessment scoring		Consider if concerns can be alleviated through mediation or adjusting the proposal. If not, the site is not suitable for food growing.

Detailed site assessment matrix

Score 5 – Excellent // Score 4 – Very Good // Score 3 – Good // Score 2 – Fair // Score 1 – Poor	Score
<p>a) <u>Configuration</u></p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>b) <u>Surveillance</u></p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>c) <u>Accessibility</u></p> <p>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;</p>	
<p>d) <u>Aspect</u></p> <p>Much of the space should, where possible, be designed to benefit from direct sunlight during much of the day;</p>	
<p>e) <u>Place</u></p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>f) <u>Biodiversity</u></p> <p>Spaces should enhance sites with little existing biodiversity and habitat value without compromising habitat links and connections to the wider green network</p>	
<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>	