

To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

On: 14 January 2020

Report by: Director of Communities, Housing and Planning

Heading: Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy 2020 - 2025

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy 2020 – 2025 which sets out a framework to assist in increasing the quantity and quality of growing opportunities available in Renfrewshire, supporting delivery of objectives set out in the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan and Council Plan 2017-2022.
 - 1.2 The strategy provides a positive framework for delivery of the Council's statutory duties under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 in relation to food growing.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
 - (i) approves the Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy 2020 – 2025.
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3. Background

- 3.1. Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires Local Authorities to produce a Food Growing Strategy and publish this by 1 April 2020.
- 3.2. The Scottish Government issued guidance on the production of food growing strategies in November 2018. This can be viewed on the Scottish Government website: www.gov.scot/publications/part-9-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015-allotments-guidance-local-authorities-section-119-duty-prepare-food-growing-strategy/pages/12/.

- 3.3. The Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy 2020 - 2025 sets out a framework which is in line with both the Adopted and Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plans. Delivery of this framework will be a mechanism for the reuse of vacant, derelict and previously used land assisting in supporting and contributing to the quality of Renfrewshire's Places.
- 3.4. The Food Growing Strategy 2020 - 2025 has been prepared in partnership with the Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership along with the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum, representing partner organisations which are active in Renfrewshire and a range of key stakeholders.
- 3.5. The strategy sets out a positive approach, assisting and supporting the promotion and enhancement of food growing opportunities across Renfrewshire in the right location, in line with the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan.

4. **Next Steps**

- 4.1. Delivery of the Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy through the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan Action/Delivery Programme will be taken forward through a partnership approach with key organisations and stakeholders to assist in increasing the quantity and quality of growing opportunities available in Renfrewshire over the next five years.
 - 4.2. Updates on progress will be reported to the Board as appropriate.
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Implications of the Report

- 1. **Financial** - None
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
- 3. **Community Planning** –

Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy - The strategy to supports and enhances opportunities for local food growing, developing our outdoor spaces and supporting healthier lifestyles.

- 4. **Legal** - None
- 5. **Property/Assets** - None
- 6. **Information Technology** - None

7. **Equality & Human Rights -**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety - None**

9. **Procurement - None**

10. **Risk - None**

11. **Privacy Impact – None**

12. **COSLA Policy Position – not applicable**

13. **Climate Risk - None**

List of Background Papers

- (a) None

Appendix 1 - Renfrewshire Council Food Growing Strategy 2020 - 2025

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Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy
2020 - 2025





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Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy

This is the first Food Growing Strategy for Renfrewshire. The strategy sets out a framework to assist in increasing the quantity and quality of growing opportunities available in Renfrewshire. This is in line with objectives set out in the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan and the Council Plan 2017 - 2022.

A key purpose of the Food Growing Strategy is to demonstrate how the Council will deliver its statutory duties under the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015.



Broadloan Gardens

Community Empowerment Act

This strategy reflects the provisions of Part 9 of the Community Empowerment Act in respect of allotments and community growing. The Act;

- Requires local authorities to take reasonable steps to provide allotments if waiting lists exceed certain trigger points,
- Strengthens the protection for existing allotments,
- Allows allotments to be 250m² in size or a different size (agreed between the person requesting an allotment and the local authority),
- Requires fair rents to be set and allows tenants to sell surplus produce grown on an allotment,
- Requires local authorities to develop a food growing strategy for their area.

Strategy Drivers

Active engagement with the food growing community in Renfrewshire has assisted the Council to respond positively to trends which have developed. These include;

- Increasing demands for allotment plots, community gardens and other forms of growing ground opportunities,
- A focus on grow your own provision reflected in Scottish Government National Outcomes supporting sustainability and environmental quality.
- The Local Development Plan and the Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy encouraging and supporting growing grounds in the right locations,
- The National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) endorsed the Central Scotland Green Network's adoption of the target to triple the area of growing grounds by 2050.

Renfrewshire Overview

Allotments and Community Gardens

There are four traditional allotment sites managed by independent allotment associations. Three of these associations operate on Council owned land and one is located on privately owned land.

Up until 2010 there were four established community gardens in Renfrewshire, three on Council owned land and another in the grounds of Lochwinnoch Parish Church. The numbers have since increased to 27 community growing spaces, mainly as a result of collaborative partnership working.

In August 2019 the total number of plots on Renfrewshire Council land (managed by independent associations) stood at 185. The total waiting list, combining the Council's own list with those maintained by the allotment associations, stood at 42. The Council lies comfortably below the statutory 50% ratio between waiting list and plot numbers across its whole area.

“...at least 72 new food growing plots have been created since 2009 and the number of community growing opportunities has risen from four to 27.”

Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum

Renfrewshire Council and the Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership co-ordinate and manage the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum as a means to bring stakeholders together for discussions and to provide a single point of contact.

It has grown steadily to include more than 50 represented organisations and almost 120 individuals on its circulation list. A strong collaborative approach has evolved over the years, with groups working together to identify opportunities, share good practice, provide practical advice and support.

As a result of the efforts of the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum, at least 72 new food growing plots have been created since 2009.

The key role played by the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum is starting to be recognised more widely. In 2018 the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum won a Scottish Award for Quality in Planning in the Process category, and won the Renfrewshire Council Staff Recognition Award in the Sustainability category.



Grow in Glenburn Community Garden

Renfrewshire's Growing Grounds - Current Position

Allotments

The four "traditional" allotment sites run by independent associations are shown in the table below. While the number of sites has not changed in recent years, the number of plots has increased.

No.	Site name	OS grid ref.	Start	Area (m ²)	Plots	Own	Comments
1	Brediland Allotments Association, Paisley	NS464631	1916	8,728	53	RC	Plot numbers have increased in recent years.
2	West End Allotments Association, Paisley	NS473642 NS474642	After 1919	3,626	23	RC	Active engagement with local community.
3	Erskine Community Allotments	NS462702	1978	9,055	44	RC	Site recently extended to take in ground for polytunnel and wildlife area - supporting community garden uses.
4	Paterson Park Allotments Association, Renfrew	NS511679	1921	7,411	26	SP	Adjacent to Renfrew Health Centre and local schools - potential for educational role.

Ownership abbreviations: RC - Renfrewshire Council; SP - Scottish Power



Community Growing Grounds

The number of community gardens (and similar facilities) have increased steadily over the last 10 years. The diversity of community gardening initiatives being undertaken in Renfrewshire and reported via the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum is summarised in the table below.

No.	Site name	OS grid ref.	Start	Area (m ²)	Plots	Own	Comments
5	Linwood Community Garden	NS434649	Pre 2000	691	0	RC	The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) managed Renfrewshire Green Gym group operated over last 10 years. Currently vacant, the new organisation sought to bring site back into use.
6	Lochwinnoch Sustainable Community Garden	NS353587	2000	865	0	CoS	Individually allocated raised beds and polytunnel spaces.
7	Paisley Disability Resource Centre	NS482649	Before 2000	1,070	0	RC	Buildings used for horticultural training sessions and healthy eating cookery classes.
8	West Lane Gardens, Cartside Avenue Resource Centre, Johnstone	NS418625	2005	283	0	RC	Managed until recently by Capability Scotland. Community partners now being sought.
9	Grow in Glenburn Community Garden, Paisley	NS480607	2011	3,783	15	RC	Successfully mixes individual plotting with communal gardening, plus training facilities for Barnardo's Works teams.
10	Green Buds Community Garden, Glenburn, Paisley	NS481611	2011	1,068	0	RC	Run by Renfrewshire Learning Disabilities Service. Includes serviced cabin suitable for indoor training sessions and tasks.
11	Spinner's Gate Centre Garden	NS471634	2017	600	0	RC	Run by Renfrewshire Learning Disabilities Service.



No.	Site name	OS grid ref.	Start	Area (m ²)	Plots	Own	Comments
12	Mirin Centre Garden, Lagoon Leisure Centre, Paisley	NS489640	2013	816	0	RC	Run by Renfrewshire Learning Disabilities Service.
13	Milldale Centre Garden at On-X Sports Centre, Linwood	NS434651	2013	426	0	RC	Run by Renfrewshire Learning Disabilities Service.
14	The Sanctuary Garden, Paisley	NS474643	2019	2,982	25	RC	Managed by West End Growing Grounds Association.
15	Langcraigs Primary School Garden, Paisley	NS472611	2012	250	0	RC	School garden used as teaching space to assist in educating children on healthy eating.
16	Bridge Centre demonstration garden, Bridge of Weir	NS387656	2013	70	0	RC	Developed and maintained by Bridge of Weir Allotments & Gardening Group whilst seeking larger site for plots.
17	Broadloan Gardens, Renfrew	NS506665	2014	3,456	32	RC	Developed and maintained by Renfrew Association of Growers & Gardeners (RAGG).
18	Craig Hepburn Memorial Garden at Linwood High.	NS429646	2014	640	0	RC	Award winning school garden, featured in 'Scotlands Gardens' scheme.
19	ROAR Garden at West End Community Centre, Paisley	NS475642	2016	214	0	RC	Created and run by Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire (ROAR group).






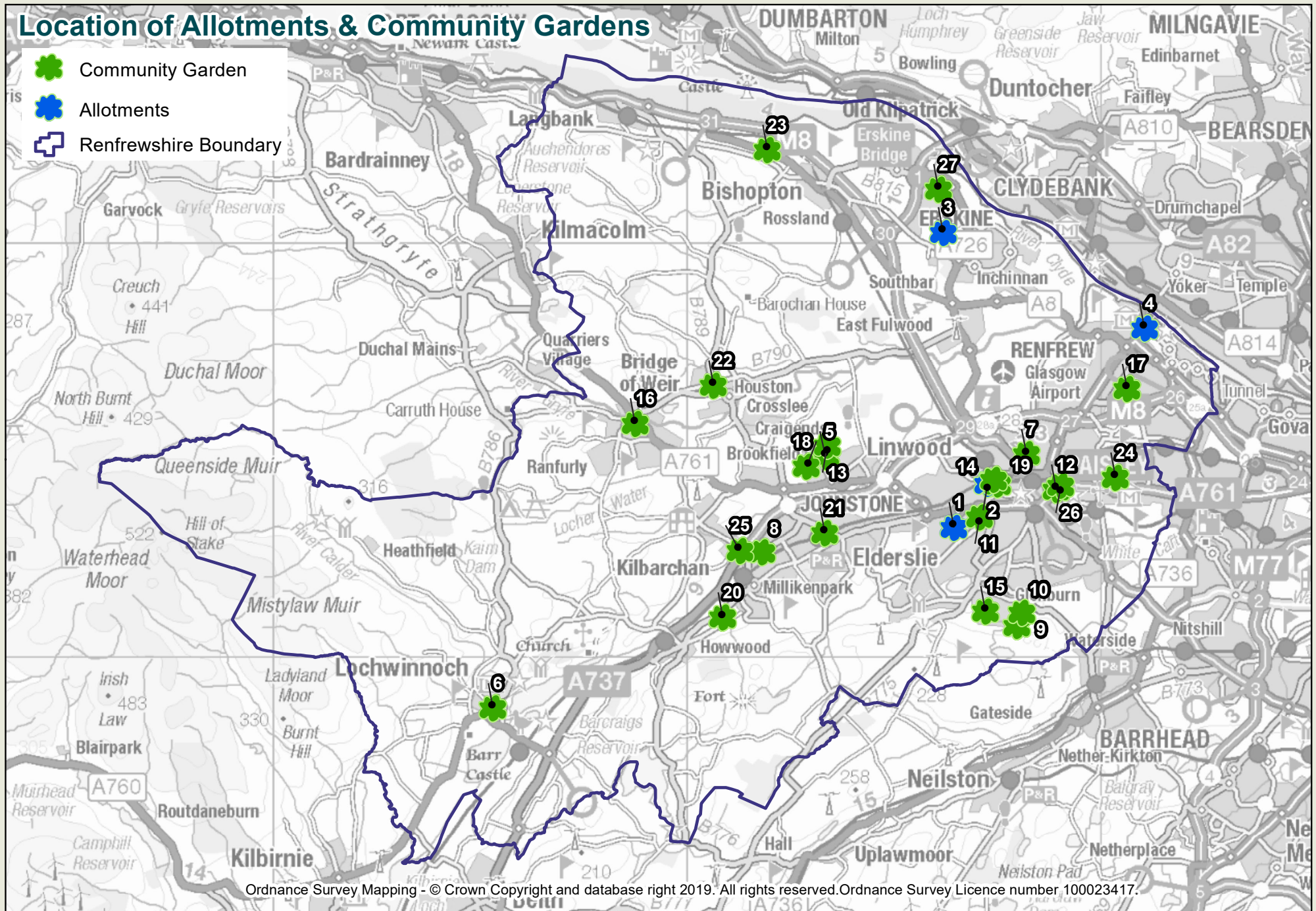
	Site name	OS grid ref.	Start	Area (m ²)	Plots	Own.	Comments
20	St Vincent's Hospice community garden, Howwood	NS409609	2016	1,785	0	SVH	Designed as an attractive outdoor facility for residents, visitors and staff at the Hospice.
21	Johnstone Railway Station "Adopt a Station"	NS433630	2016	150	0	AS	Displays located around the station platform and buildings.
22	Bee Happy Houston	NS406666	2016	200	0	RC	Various projects located throughout Houston.
23	Good Shepherd Centre Gatehouse Garden	NS419722	2016	3,804	0	GSC	Winner of RHS School Garden of the Year Award for 2017.
24	Barshaw Park "Peace Garden"	NS504643	2016	2,979	0	RC	Friends of Barshaw Park have taken over management of this historic walled garden.
25	Kilbarchan Smile's Gateway Garden	NS413626	2016	1,315	0	RC	Stalled Spaces Scotland funded scheme delivered by sub-group of Kilbarchan Community Council.
26	"Seedhill Urban Growing and Regeneration" garden at Paisley Grammar School	NS490641	2018	150	0	RC	Climate Challenge Fund project coordinated by Williamsburgh Housing Association with inputs from YES (Youth Enterprise Scotland).
27	"Fairy Garden" at Barwood Park, Erskine	NS461713	2018	3,880	0	RC	Voluntary project developed by Erskine Community Garden group.

Ownership key: RC - Renfrewshire Council; CoS - Church of Scotland; SVH- St. Vincent's Hospice; AS - Abellio ScotRail; GSC - Good Shepherd Centre.



Location of Allotments & Community Gardens

-  Community Garden
-  Allotments
-  Renfrewshire Boundary



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Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy to 2025 - Outcomes

Renfrewshire Council will continue to work alongside its Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum 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

Residents living in Renfrewshire find it straightforward to apply for an allotment plot or community gardening opportunity.

2

A co-ordinated waiting list system and regular monitoring processes introduced by the Council.

3

Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum continues to be a valuable mechanism for identifying where inputs need to be prioritised to satisfy demands for community growing opportunities.

4

New community growing sites have been created in line with identified demands and gardeners with special needs being integrated successfully into the Renfrewshire community growing community.

5

Facilities are being managed efficiently, fairly and sustainably because they have appropriate tenure arrangements for the levels of investment required and their operations are covered by constitutions, rules and regulations which the Council has judged to be equitable and fair to all participants.

6

An increased awareness of the thriving community growing scene locally, as a result of the joint initiatives undertaken by the Council and its community partners.

Delivering the Outcomes

Part 9 of the Community Empowerment Act requires the Food Growing Strategy to set out how the outcomes will be delivered. These are set out in six themes.

1. Applying for an Allotment Plot or Community Gardening Opportunity

Clear communication channels for those interested in allotment plots or community growing opportunities will be delivered in partnerships with groups and individuals.

- This will include the development of online and digital portals, as well as maintaining other points of contact such as letter and telephone.



2. Co-ordinating Waiting Lists

The Council will continue to maintain a list of those making requests for allotments.

- Partnerships with existing community growing groups will also continue with the aim of reducing waiting lists.



3. Satisfying Demand for Allotment Plots and Community Gardens

Explore opportunities to expand existing growing activity, where these are in line with and supported by the Local Development Plan.

- Publication of a Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy and renewal every five years.

Continuing to support the role of the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum as a mechanism for the development and delivery of growing opportunities.

- Considering how the Forum may evolve to investigate future funding opportunities which assist in satisfying local demand.

4. Providing Sites in Line with Demand

Partnership working with local communities to investigate opportunities for sites where demand is expressed and proposals align with the Local Development Plan. This will include:-

- Reviewing the Renfrewshire Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy and engaging with Community Planning Partners to identify suitable growing sites.
- Working with communities to identify land most suitable for growing opportunities and providing technical and funding assistance to develop and deliver proposals.
- Liaising with existing allotment and community growing groups to discuss opportunities for expansion.
- Assess opportunities for provision of allotment plots and community gardening within communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, as well as growers with special needs.
- Highlight sites which may be suitable for growing opportunities digitally, through the Council's online Community Asset Transfer portal.



5. Promoting the Sustainable Management of Allotments and Community Gardens

The Council will aim to ensure that Renfrewshire's growing sites operate efficiently and are managed in a fair and sustainable manner. This includes statutory duties under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

- Publish regulations for sites operating on Renfrewshire Council land, in accordance with the Council's statutory duties.
- Update leases for allotment sites operating on Renfrewshire Council land, where required.
- Delegate powers to growing organisations operating on Renfrewshire Council land, where requested and in line with statutory provisions.
- Publish annual Renfrewshire Council Allotment Reports, in accordance with the Council's statutory duties.



6. Encouraging Community Growing

Partnership working to build on the valuable work already undertaken to promote community growing across Renfrewshire. This will include:-

- Developing an information portal on the Renfrewshire Council website for allotments and community gardens.
- Support further development and delivery of social media channels, for example the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum Facebook Page.
- Work with Renfrewshire Schools participating the Eco-Schools programme and engaged in food growing.
- Continue to promote informal training and awareness raising opportunities across Renfrewshire, including events such as Paisley Food and Drink Festival and Doors Open Day.
- Raise awareness of community growing in the context of actions in the Renfrewshire Biodiversity Strategy 2018-2022.



Implementing the Strategy

Achieving the outcomes of this strategy will be supported by the continuation and strengthening of partnerships between Renfrewshire Council and local community organisations, voluntary sector groups and other public sector agencies.

While the Council may play a lead role in some circumstances, a key role will be to simply act as a link between local growing groups and support providers, funders and training agencies.

Staying on Track

The delivery of the Renfrewshire Food Growing Strategy 2020 - 2025 will be monitored and reviewed at the quarterly meetings of the Renfrewshire Growing Grounds Forum. The outputs will inform the Council's Annual Allotments Reports which will be prepared and submitted in line with the provisions of Section 121 of the Community Empowerment Act.





Broadloan Gardens Open Day 2019



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