



East Dunbartonshire  
Draft Food Growing Strategy  
2019 – 2024

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# Foreword



Food growing – in allotments and through other community growing schemes – is not new to East Dunbartonshire. We have long been aware of the social, environmental and economic benefits of ‘growing your own’, and we have been acting on these imperatives for a number of years. The community-led Edible Twechar scheme, for example, is nationally recognised for its contribution to local wellbeing, and the Council’s creation of the Rosebank Allotments has benefitted social work clients and the wider community in Merkland, Kirkintilloch.

Our Food Growing Strategy allows us to build on this strong base of knowledge and experience by extending food growing provisions across East Dunbartonshire in a systematic, considered way. To do this properly, it is important that we take account of a wide range of views. Two rounds of community engagement during the drafting of this Strategy have helped to ensure that it responds to local needs and aspirations; we hope that the public consultation on the draft document itself will be equally constructive.

We have also liaised extensively with professional stakeholders. Food growing relates to many service areas within the Council and Health and Social Care Partnership, and also links to the agendas of various external bodies, including East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action, , Keep Scotland Beautiful and Social Farms and Gardens. greenspace scotland have also been a key partner, and we are particularly grateful for their expertise and hard work in helping to draft this document.

Councillor Billy Hendry  
Convener of Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets



greenspace scotland is pleased to have been part of developing this draft local food growing strategy. As Scotland’s parks and greenspace charity, we provide a national lead on greenspace, working towards our goal that everyone can access and enjoy quality greenspaces which meet their needs and improve their quality of life.

More and more people in Scotland want to grow their own fruit and vegetables, but land availability is a big challenge. greenspace scotland champions the development of the ‘Our Growing Community’ model to support communities in urban Scotland to take a more holistic and strategic approach to community food growing. We were delighted to receive grant support from the Scottish Government to enable us to work with five Councils to pioneer this approach to developing local food growing strategies.

It has been a pleasure to work with East Dunbartonshire Council colleagues and partners to develop a framework for engaging and consulting with local people on their ‘grow your own’ ambitions and to assist the Council in developing a matrix to assess land potentially suitable for allotments and other forms of community growing. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council, as well as other partners and stakeholders, to deliver this strategy.

Julie Proctor  
Chief Executive, greenspace scotland



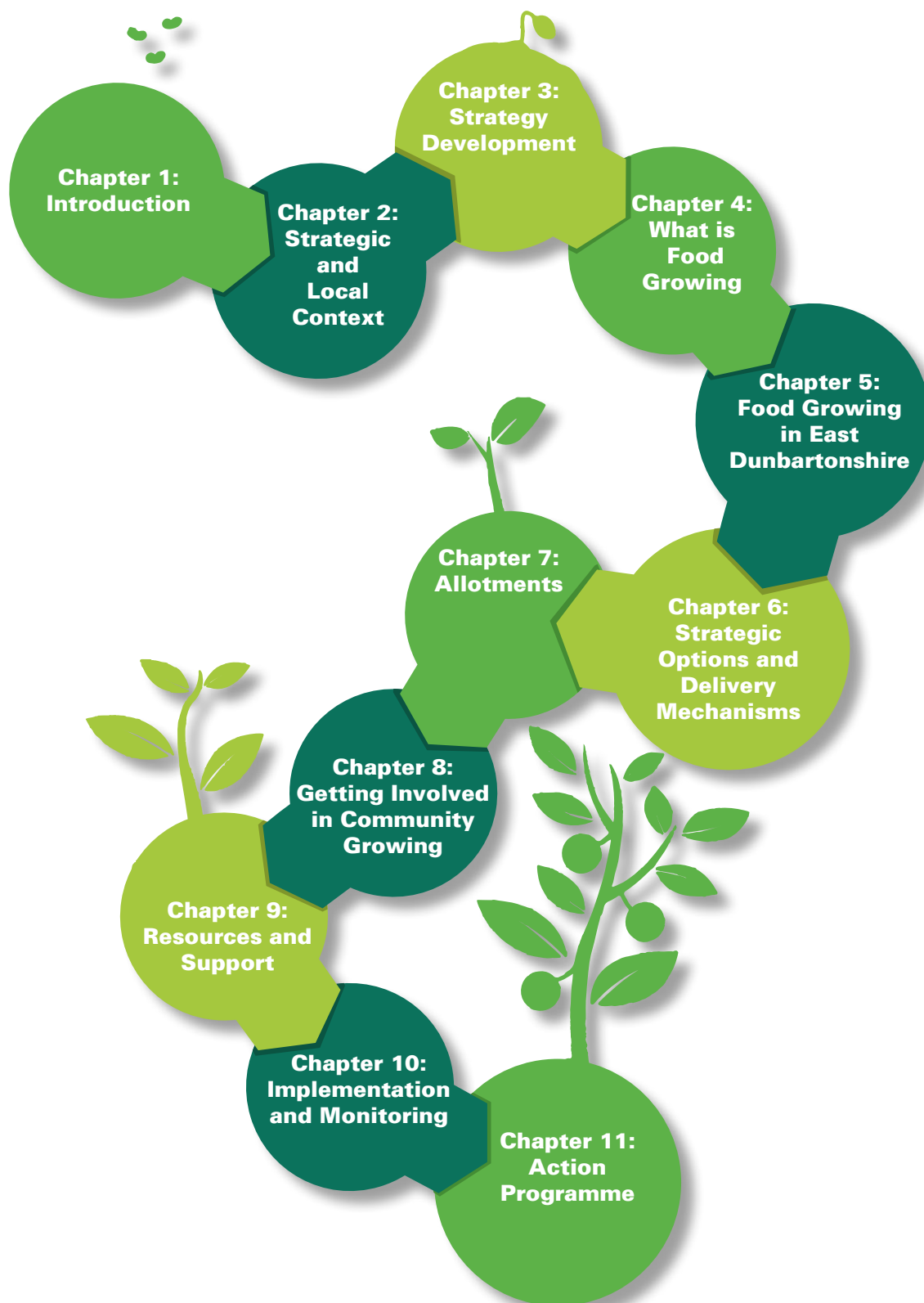
# East Dunbartonshire's Food Growing Strategy: An Overview





East Dunbartonshire's first Food Growing Strategy (FGS) outlines the benefits of engaging in food growing activity and our approach to delivering more opportunities for food growing for the people of East Dunbartonshire. The Strategy identifies potential sites that could contribute to meeting our statutory duties, set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, in relation to allotment provision, as well as a list of possible sites to give community groups a starting point towards their own food growing journey. In addition to delivering on our statutory duties, the Council is also committed to delivering on the wider benefits of food growing - including skills development, training, health and wellbeing, and sustainability - as set out in the delivery programme detailed in section 11 of this Strategy.

The Strategy sets out a framework for realising a vision for a community growing network in East Dunbartonshire for the next five years, in partnership with key Council services and external organisations.





# 1 Introduction





## 1.1 Purpose and Scope

This Food Growing Strategy aims to increase access to affordable, healthy, sustainable food by increasing opportunities for people in East Dunbartonshire 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. In East Dunbartonshire's Food Growing Strategy food growing refers to any GYO models where people have the opportunity to grow vegetables, fruits, herbs and/or flowers at varying scales.

It aims to define and identify opportunities to increase food growing provision in East Dunbartonshire in response to our legislative duties under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015<sup>1</sup> – encompassing food growing in its widest sense and the many benefits it offers. 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, including community growing, community gardens, school grounds, parks, raised beds in private gardens and growing on window sills.

The Strategy identifies land with potential suitability for both allotments and other community growing models and, in turn, will demonstrate the range of food growing opportunities that are available for communities and individuals. It also explores the support mechanisms that will contribute to an engaged, empowered and knowledgeable network of local gardeners 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.

## 1.2 Background

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act provides a legal framework that promotes and encourages community empowerment and participation. It creates new rights for community bodies and places new duties on public authorities. Different parts of the Act came into effect at different times.

Part 9 of the Act, which came into effect on 1 April 2018, introduces new rights for communities to have access to - and the right to lease - allotments, as well as duties for local authorities to maintain an allotment waiting list, increase the provision of allotments, and prepare and review a local food growing strategy for its area. It offers protection for allotment tenants where the allotment is owned or leased from the local authority only – privately owned or leased allotments are not protected by the Act – in terms of restrictions to the sale or change of use of the land or renunciation of leases without the consent of Scottish Ministers.

The requirement to carry out or deliver the legislative functions placed on local authorities begins two years after Part 9 came into effect, that is by 1 April 2020, and includes:

- 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 in 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<sup>2</sup>.
- Section 119: Duty to prepare food-growing strategy – this duty sets legal requirements on local authorities to produce a food growing strategy that identifies potentially suitable land for both allotments and other community growing opportunities, and how demand for such land will be met. There is a specific requirement to note how the local authority intends to increase food growing provision in communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantages.
- Section 120: Duty to review food-growing strategy – after five years of the Strategy being adopted, and every subsequent five years, the Strategy must be reviewed and updated where necessary.
- 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.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/contents/enacted>

<sup>2</sup> The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (Commencement No. 10, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) Order 2017 – Part 5 Transitory provisions <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/458/part/5/made>

### 1.3 A Vision for Food Growing in East Dunbartonshire

The Strategy's vision, aims and objectives have taken into account local priorities and the views of our communities, gathered through early engagement exercises. A similar approach has been taken to develop the content of the Strategy, guided by input from public engagement, internal services collaboration, greenspace Scotland and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process.

#### **Strategy Vision**

Everyone in East Dunbartonshire has access to healthy and nutritious food by having the opportunities to grow their own fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers to create an increasingly healthy environment

### 1.4 Aims and Objectives

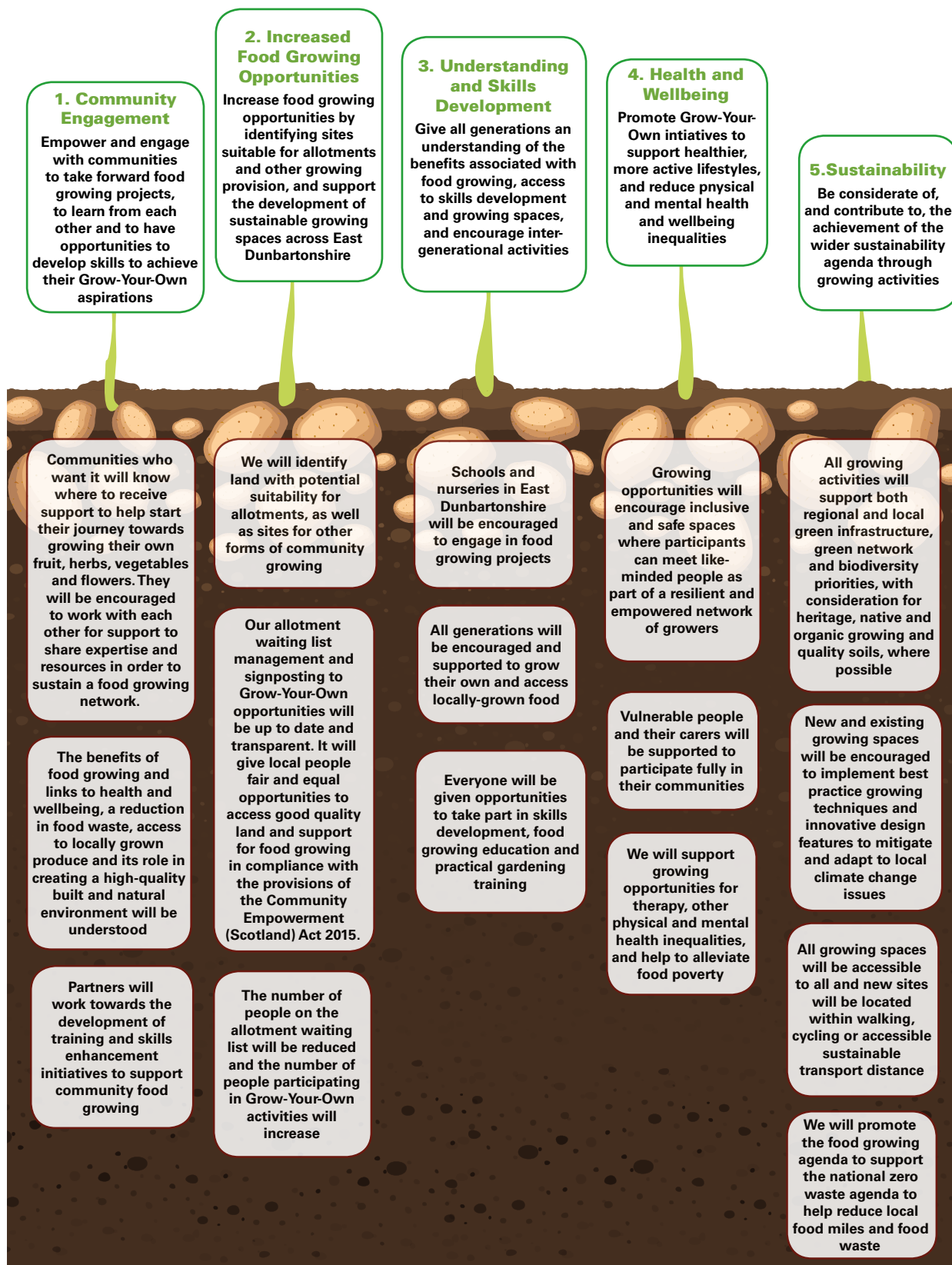
Each of the aims below reflects the links between food growing and other social, economic and environmental priorities in East Dunbartonshire and Scotland. A number of objectives have also been established to help set out how each of the aims will be met. These objectives have been broken down into a set of proposed actions which are set out in the delivery programme that accompanies this draft Strategy. The delivery programme demonstrates where there are interlinking priorities and will pursue an efficient, joined-up approach by seeking to deliver cross-cutting benefits wherever possible and within available funding.





## Aims

## Objectives





## 2 Strategic and Local Context





## 2.1 The Global Picture

As food has become more readily available for everyone, including access to food from all over the world, only 50% of food consumed in the UK is produced in the UK; 30% of imports are from the EU; with Africa, North America, South America and Asia contributing around 4% each<sup>3</sup>. Fruit and vegetables are in the top three imported commodity groups. Whilst importing produce from around the world can increase diversity and help to improve food security, global population growth is putting increased pressure on the food supply internationally and is affecting the availability of land to support agriculture and food growing. The increasing trend towards globalised food production and consumption has also contributed to the growing carbon footprint of food as food is shipped longer distances, often in refrigerated containers. An increased emphasis on locally produced food would contribute to international and national commitments to reducing carbon emissions, mitigating the effects of climate change.

A special report on global warming<sup>4</sup> produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2018 outlined the threats of climate change on sustainable development and poverty. The acceleration in the effects of anthropogenic climate change is resulting in:

- More frequent and extreme weather events
- Changes in local and regional weather patterns
- Increased flooding.

While some of these changes may be beneficial in agricultural terms, more frequent droughts and floods, changes in wind patterns and extreme weather, and rising temperatures are increasing the vulnerability of world agriculture. These trends are expected to continue and accelerate, affecting agricultural outputs globally and having a significant impact on food security - an issue that is predicted to worsen over time without intervention.

In Scotland, the diversity of produce grown locally is limited with barley being the most common cereal crop. In total, approximately 450,000 hectares of cereals, including barley, wheat, oats and oil seed rape, were grown compared to only 21,000 hectares for other fruits and vegetables in total<sup>5</sup>. The diversity of food is low and therefore our current food system is reliant on imports to increase variety.

Given the current and predicted challenges to maintaining good access to a diverse and nutritious food supply there is a need to increase participation in community growing and local food production. The issues that we are currently facing, and are expected to face in the future, relating to access to food and diversity demonstrate that there is scope, driven by the requirements of the Act, to increase community growing participation and therefore local food production. Not only can the actions of our communities growing local produce act as a means of local climate change mitigation, reducing food miles and considering how land is used, the variety of produce is likely to increase diversity.

## 2.2 Local Area

East Dunbartonshire is made up of the towns of Bearsden, Milngavie, Kirkintilloch and Bishopbriggs, and the villages of Lenzie, Milton of Campsie, Twechar, Lennoxton, Torrance and Balmore, as well as the clachans, such as Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie. These towns and villages make up 77 square miles in a mosaic of urban and rural landscapes, against the backdrop of the Campsie Hills.

East Dunbartonshire has a population of 108,130 (mid-2017 population estimates). Over the past 20 years, the local population has been steadily decreasing, but with an ageing population and above the Scottish levels of life expectancy for both females and males, the population has increased slowly since 2013, with a rise of 0.5% between 2016 and 2017<sup>6</sup>.



3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/food-statistics-pocketbook/food-statistics-in-your-pocket-global-and-uk-supply>

4 <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

5 <https://www.nfus.org.uk/farming-facts/what-we-produce.aspx>

6 <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/east-dunbartonshire-council-profile.html>

## 2.3 Our Communities

Despite evidence of healthier and safer communities with high standards of care for older people and exceptional achievements in education, as shown in East Dunbartonshire's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017 – 2027<sup>7</sup>, it is recognised that there are some individuals and community areas facing socio-economic disadvantages. Recent surveys and data analysis<sup>8</sup> identified communities in East Dunbartonshire where people are experiencing relatively poorer outcomes when compared nationally or to the rest of East Dunbartonshire. These communities are Auchinairn, Hillhead and Harestanes, Lennoxtown and Twechar, and they are known as 'Place communities' in our LOIP and Place Plans<sup>9</sup>. Place Plans are being prepared for each of these communities - setting out the particular needs and aspirations of people in each of the communities in areas of life such as health and wellbeing, local economy and environment. Community growing has the potential to make a considerable contribution to improving quality of life in these areas. This strategy has identified a number of opportunities for food growing and, in accordance with section 119 of the Community Empowerment Act, consultation on this draft Strategy will include specific community engagement in the Place communities to support and promote community growing as a means of reducing socio-economic disadvantages.

## 2.4 Green Network

Food growing is an important component of green network provision. NPF 3 identifies the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN), which includes the area of East Dunbartonshire, as one of 14 developments of national significance, considered by Scottish Ministers to be an essential element of the strategy for Scotland's long-term economic recovery and development. The CSGN Delivery Plan 2025 seeks to provide direction to ensure that the CSGN meets its vision<sup>10</sup> and included within this is a commitment to seven activity areas, one of which is community growing, aiming to triple the amount of community food growing space between 2010 and 2050. Food growing activities in East Dunbartonshire can contribute to CSGN's overall vision for food growing and demonstrate good practice in community growing within the wider Central Scotland region. In 2017, the Council renewed its concordat with the CSGN Trust to work together to improve the social, physical, cultural and environmental wellbeing of the area. East Dunbartonshire Council approved its Green Network Strategy in March 2017, which emphasises the importance of partnership working with groups including CSGN Trust and Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership to deliver these aims.

Mugdock Country Park, Lennox Forest, the Forth and Clyde Canal, the River Kelvin, the West Highland Way, Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills are all examples of strategic green network provision. There are also local open spaces within our communities - contributing to the tapestry making up East Dunbartonshire's environment - that provide not only valuable habitats to support local biodiversity, but also a place to be enjoyed by our residents and visitors. East Dunbartonshire's Local Biodiversity Action Plan<sup>11</sup> (LBAP) and Open Space Strategy (OSS) explores the various habitats and species found locally and our commitment to protecting and enhancing biodiversity. Food growing spaces can help contribute to the East Dunbartonshire Green Network Strategy and the vision of the CSGN by delivering a range of economic, environmental and social benefits that are life enhancing, open up opportunities to improve health and wellbeing, improve biodiversity and access to nature, and can help us mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. The purpose and function of the green network is explained further in the Council's Green Network Strategy<sup>12</sup>.

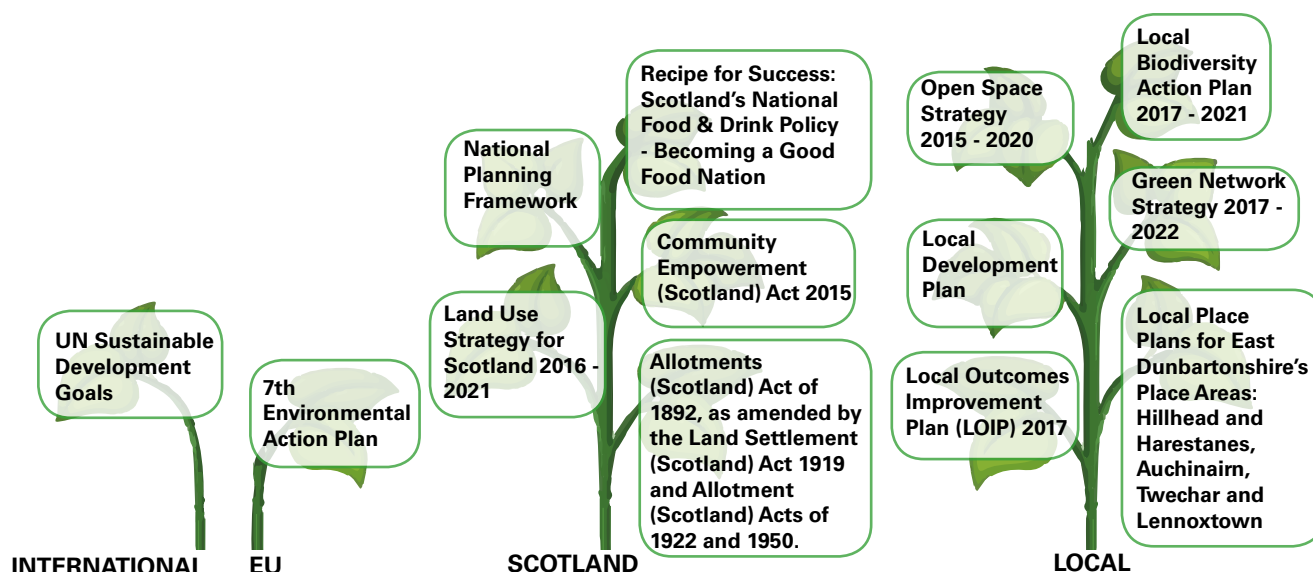


Figure 1: Timeline of influencing documents

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/our-local-outcomes>

<sup>8</sup> <http://simd.scot/2016/#/simd2016/BTTTTT/11/4.2255/55.9561/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/place-approach>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.centuralscotlandgreennetwork.org/delivering/our-vision>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/biodiversity>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/greenspace>



## 2.6 International

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets Sustainable Development (SD) Goals<sup>13</sup> with targets to guide decisions until 2030 globally, taking into account local priorities. There are a number of SD goals that align with the food growing agenda, including zero hunger, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate change action and life on land, depicted in Figure 2. Access to food growing opportunities can be promoted as a tool for meeting these goals.



**Figure 2: Sustainable Development Goals linked to East Dunbartonshire's local Food Growing Strategy**

## 2.7 European

At an international level, the **7th Environmental Action Programme** <sup>14</sup>(EAP) guides European environmental policy with 2020 in mind, setting out a longer-term vision for 2050 which focuses on: protecting, conserving and enhancing natural capital; becoming a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy; and safeguarding people from environmental-related pressures and the associated impacts to health and wellbeing.

## 2.8 National

**The National Performance Framework**<sup>15</sup> sets a 10-year vision for Scotland to measure national wellbeing and now reflects the outcomes of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Framework sets out 11 outcomes relating to a range of economic, environmental, social and health factors with indicators to demonstrate Scotland's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The National Outcomes that will closely align to East Dunbartonshire's vision for food growing include:

- We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe
- We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society
- We are healthy and active
- We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment.

**National Planning Framework 3**<sup>16</sup> (NPF3) explores the idea that land for sustainable food production within our urban environment in Scotland is becoming increasingly important to support our communities. This is backed by **Scottish Planning Policy** <sup>17</sup>(SPP), which sets out how the outcomes of NPF3 will be delivered on the ground. Specifically, SPP highlights the role that planning can have in protecting, enhancing and promoting green infrastructure, including areas of open space and our green networks, as an integral component for creating successful places.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/action-programme/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-3/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy/pages/2/>

Historically, the requirements for allotments have been determined by the Allotments (Scotland) Act of 1892, as amended by the Land Settlement (Scotland) Act 1919 and Allotment (Scotland) Acts of 1922 and 1950. More recently the **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015** modifies allotment legislation in Scotland with updates for local authorities to provide allotments under Part 9. This has built upon support for Scotland's first Food and Drink Policy 'Recipe for Success' in 2009 and 2014's related 'Good Food Nation'<sup>18</sup>, both of which seek to encourage the production of locally grown food in all forms, helping to enable everyone in Scotland to buy, eat and serve food that is affordable, healthy and sustainable, and allows them to make good food choices. The Act sets new responsibilities on local authorities to maintain an allotment waiting list, identify land for food growing provision, and support access to growing in areas of social and economic disadvantage, as part of a Food Growing Strategy. Parts 4 and 5 of the Act - covering community rights to buy land and community asset transfers, respectively - will support allotments and other food growing provision for communities.

**Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65: Planning and Open Space**<sup>19</sup> recognises allotments and community growing spaces as an opportunity for community access to open space and outlines the need to address the demand for these provisions.

In 2016, the Scottish Government set out plans to introduce new legislation to expand on existing food and drink policy, and support Scotland's ambition to becoming a **Good Food Nation**. The update to this food policy is an opportunity for Scotland to contribute to, and help achieve, the relevant Sustainable Development Goals at a national level. The Bill will be an instrument for guiding the food agenda for Scotland and will be complemented by local Food Growing Strategies.

**Scotland's Land Use Strategy 2016-2021**<sup>20</sup> is also a vital national plan for long-term, sustainable use of land resources - delivering benefits for the wellbeing of the population and environment as a result. For food growing, this Strategy sets out an objective to give opportunities for urban and rural communities to connect and enjoy the land positively. The Strategy has a greater emphasis on the roles of communities in influencing land use, with strong links to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and recognition that community influence on the use of land can increase access to the outdoors, ability to grow their own fruit and vegetables, and eat more healthily.

In support of the need to address poor health due to diet and levels of obesity, the food growing agenda in East Dunbartonshire can contribute to a local level approach by aligning with the outcomes of the Scottish Government's **A Healthier Future – Scotland's Diet and Healthy Weight Delivery Plan**<sup>21</sup> and can support the outcomes following on from the 'Consultation on amendments to the **Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2008**<sup>22</sup>.

There are also policy influences that demonstrate the need and demand for food growing opportunities, as well as a number of funding sources to support growing projects. The important role of the **Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN)** in delivering food growing is highlighted in section 2.4 above and the CSGN Development Fund has supported a range of community growing projects across Central Scotland<sup>23</sup>. The greenspace use and attitude survey<sup>24</sup>, conducted by greenspace scotland in 2017, highlights the importance of accessible greenspace - demonstrated by increasing evidence of a demand for food growing opportunities - and identifies the barriers relating to support and provision, particularly in urban areas.

At a national level, the Climate Challenge Fund<sup>25</sup>, Bags of Help<sup>26</sup> and Stalled Spaces<sup>27</sup>, for example, can aid groups to deliver food growing aspirations. Stalled Spaces funding, in particular, encourages and supports community groups to bring vacant and derelict space into temporary use, with a number of food growing projects emerging as a result of this funding across Scotland.

<sup>18</sup> <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/food-and-drink/good-food-nation/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/225179/0060935.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/Countryside/Landusestrategy>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00537708.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2008/265/contents/made>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.centalscotlandgreennetwork.org/resources/funding/csgn-development-fund>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/Pages/Category/food-growing>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/climate-challenge-fund/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/grant-funding>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.ads.org.uk/stalled-spaces-scotland/>

## 2.9 Local

There are a number of local level plans and strategies that interact with the Food Growing Strategy, with supporting actions and visions that can be integrated and explored further through the Strategy.

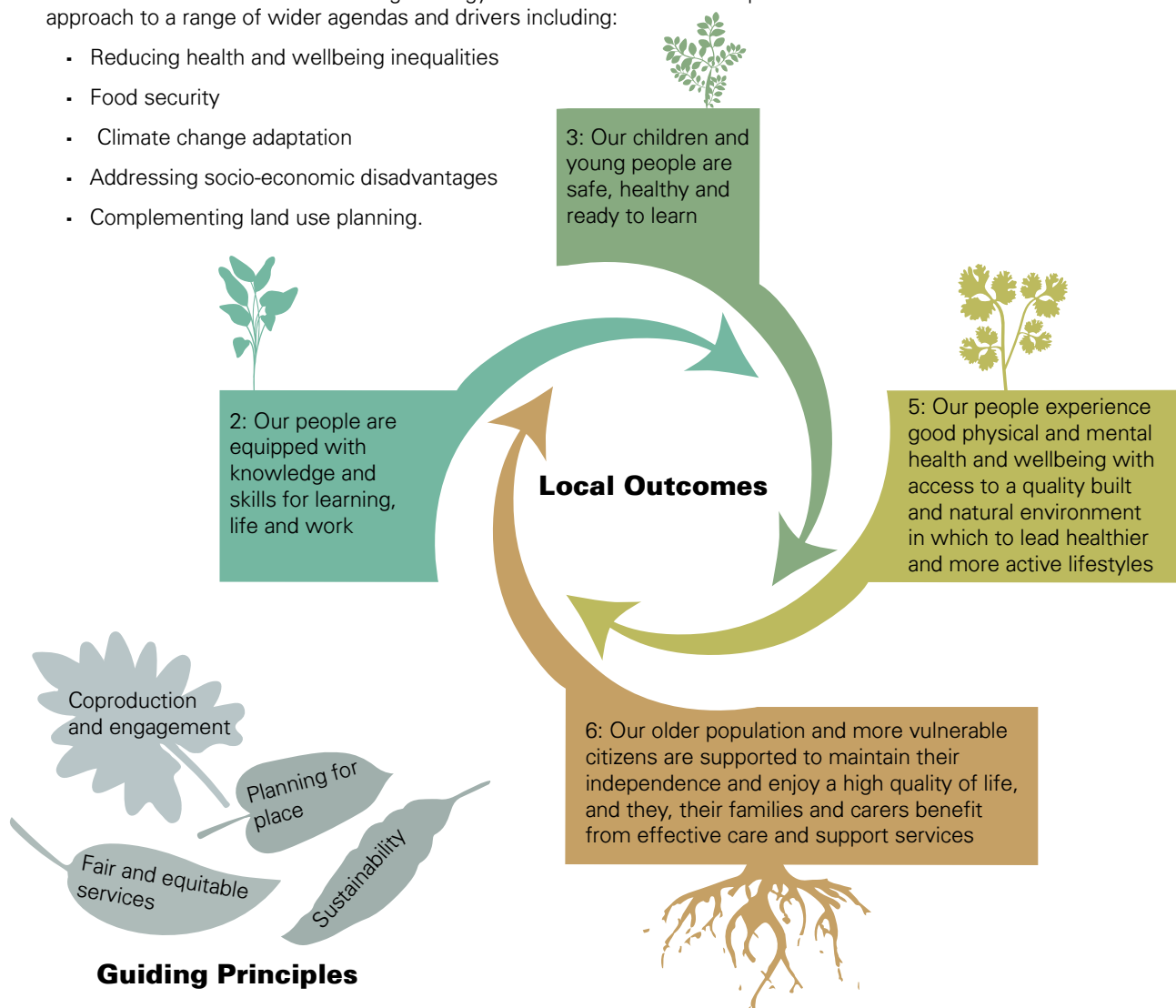
**The Local Outcomes Improvement Plan** is a shared plan for East Dunbartonshire's Community Planning Partnership (CPP), as required by Part 2 Section 6 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. It responds to the local needs, circumstances and aspirations of different communities, and sets the priorities for the Council and CPP over the next 10 years. The local outcomes and guiding principles directly linked to the intended outcomes of the FGS and the benefits are shown in **Figure 3** and discussed in section 2.3 above.

Other local strategic documents that interact with the food growing agenda include the **Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2020, Local Development Plan 2017** - including the **Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance** and **Town Centre Strategies, Green Network Strategy 2016 – 2021, Economic Development Strategy 2017 – 2020, Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021, Community Learning and Development Plan** and the **Sustainability and Climate Change Framework**.

**East Dunbartonshire's Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Strategic Plan and Joint Health Improvement Plan (JHIP)** both explore options for improving the health of our communities, including opportunities relating to obesity, physical activity and a healthy environment. Both the Strategic Plan and JHIP identify priorities for East Dunbartonshire to deliver community-led food initiatives, increase local growing and food production, increase access and availability to allotments, and improve health through activities such as walking, gardening and socialising.

The actions within the Food Growing Strategy can be used as a tool to represent East Dunbartonshire Council's approach to a range of wider agendas and drivers including:

- Reducing health and wellbeing inequalities
- Food security
- Climate change adaptation
- Addressing socio-economic disadvantages
- Complementing land use planning.



**Figure 3: East Dunbartonshire Local Outcome Improvement Plan outcomes and guiding principles**

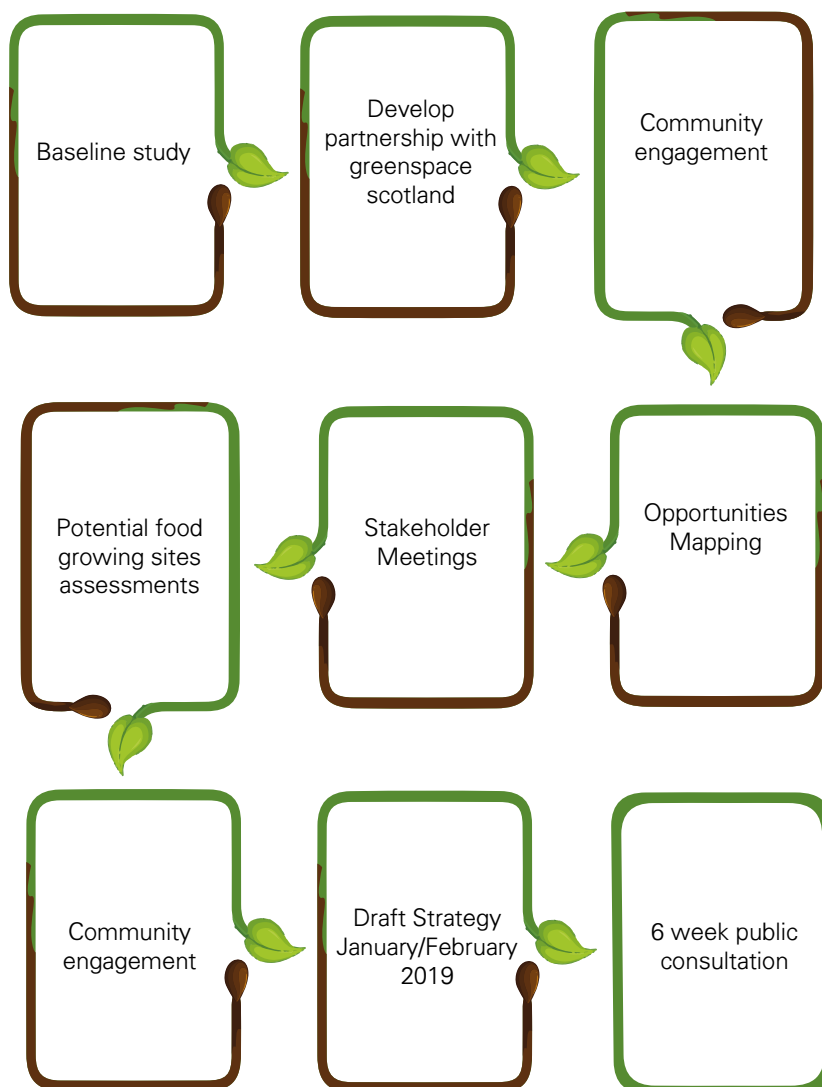


### 3 Strategy Development





The Food Growing Strategy has been in development since the beginning of 2017. A series of public engagement events in May 2017 marked a key milestone in its development, followed by a partnership with greenspace scotland to support development of the Strategy. A stakeholder group of Council representatives and external organisations have met regularly at key stages of the Strategy's development to help shape a Strategy which responds to the needs and interests of Council services, partners and local communities. **Figure 4** shows the various stages in the Strategy development process.



**Figure 4: Milestones in support of the Strategy's development**

The following supporting documents have been produced to provide further information and support understanding of the Strategy:

- SEA Environmental Report
- Maps (**Appendices A and B**) and online map <sup>28</sup>
- Assessment matrix template (**Appendix C**)

<sup>28</sup> <https://eastduncouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=9630338f1eab414b99fab36ccb884d67>



### 3.1 Partnerships

Given the complex and wide range of benefits which can result from the promotion and delivery of food growing, the Council has placed emphasis on working with a range of key partners from the Strategy inception stage. Partnership working will continue to be important throughout the draft consultation stage, finalisation of the Strategy and implementation of its Delivery Programme.

#### greenspace scotland

East Dunbartonshire Council was selected as one of six pilot local authority areas to benefit from support from greenspace scotland in the initial stages of Strategy development. In East Dunbartonshire, greenspace scotland staff supported the development of a framework to support wider Food Growing Strategy development.

This support included:

- Identifying the links between the FGS and other strategies and policy commitments
- Identifying, and planning engagement with, key local stakeholders
- Facilitating meetings, events and workshops with stakeholders and communities.

#### Grow Your Own Working Group

The Grow Your Own Working Group <sup>29</sup>(GYOWG) was established in 2009 to take forward aspirations set out within the national Food and Drink Policy: Recipe for Success, and to support the Good Food Nation policy. The group has worked together since 2010 to make recommendations and take steps that are needed to fulfil the aspirations set out in Recipe for Success and to support growing communities in Scotland, with a focus on planning, legal implications, land acquisition, skills development and training, guidance and available funding sources. The group also shares experience and good practice relating to community growing.

The GYOWG is open to any organisation with an interest in food growing. Current organisations who regularly attend meetings and contribute to the work plan of the group, and support the organisation, include Social Farms and Gardens, greenspace scotland, Central Scotland Green Network Trust, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Nourish Scotland, the Royal Horticultural Society and the Scottish Government. A full list of members can be found on the Grow Your Own Scotland webpage.<sup>30</sup>

East Dunbartonshire Council has been a member of the GYOWG since 2016 and has had the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the GYOWG's work programme, become involved in national events for local authorities, contribute to national consultation and to receive first-hand advice from organisations involved in the food growing network.

#### Scottish Government Trade Policy, Food and Drink Division

The tripartite group, hosted by the Scottish Government's Trade Policy, Food and Drink Division with representatives from Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS) and a number of local authority allotment officers, has expanded to support the development of guidance for Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The expanded group comprised of SAGS, greenspace scotland and local authorities who had been part of the greenspace Scotland pilot programme, including East Dunbartonshire Council. This collaboration led to the development of guidance supporting Part 9 and local authorities to deliver on their duties to develop a local food growing strategy. This guidance, along with guidance relating to Part 9 as a whole, underwent public consultation between June and August 2018. The publication of this guidance has supported the development of this Food Growing Strategy.



<sup>29</sup> <http://www.growyourownsotland.info/>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.growyourownsotland.info/support-organisations/>

## 3.2 Developing a Food Growing Strategy

### Baseline Study

To understand the types of growing that already exist in East Dunbartonshire and to assess the current need and demand for food growing, initial baseline data was gathered and analysed. In addition, the allotment waiting list was reviewed, with each waiting list member being asked to confirm their interest and to specify their preferred plot size. This has helped to define the allotment-related requirements relevant to the Strategy.

### Community Engagement and Opportunities Mapping

The early stages of Strategy development were driven by a series of community engagement events, which were held to gauge local demand, highlight any barriers and provide members of the public with an opportunity to identify sites across the Council-wide area with potential suitability for food growing. All potential food growing sites were digitally mapped alongside other environmental constraint data for analysis.

A second set of public engagement events were run in early 2018, in partnership with greenspace scotland, to engage with members of the community and gather opinions on public perception of the potential food growing sites identified in early engagement activities. The events provided an opportunity to describe the initial site assessment process and were supported by a variety of parties with expertise in allotments and other food growing approaches, including the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and, for the Kirkintilloch event, East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action.

The purpose of the events was focussed around the following questions:

1. What is the site known as locally?
2. Who is the landowner, if not East Dunbartonshire Council?
3. Is the site suitable for food growing? If yes, what type of growing and why?
4. Is the site unsuitable for food growing? If yes, why?
5. Do you have interest in being involved in this community growing site? If yes, what type of food growing do you prefer?

The events raised awareness of the duties placed on local authorities to produce a local Food Growing Strategy and next steps in the journey to producing a draft. Public knowledge, opinion and preferences were noted - including merits and challenges associated with sites - and there were general discussions about current growing activities, as well as an opportunity to highlight other local areas with the potential to be suitable for food growing.

### Potential Food Growing Sites Assessment

To support the selection of potential food growing sites, a 'fit-for-purpose' assessment matrix (**Appendix C**) was created, in partnership with greenspace scotland, as an initial way of gauging the food growing potential of the sites suggested during the consultation, and indicative suggestions were made as to the most appropriate type of food growing approach for each site. The assessment allowed factors such as site aspect, size and surveillance to be identified alongside environmental considerations such as potential flood risks, biodiversity designations, links to sustainable transport networks, potential contamination concerns, and existing infrastructure and utilities on site. The findings of the assessments were shared and discussed at the second set of public engagement events, as described above. This led to recommendations being made for each potential site in terms of suitability for food growing, with indicative recommendations being made, where appropriate, for specific types of food growing. For the latter stage, larger sites were prioritised as potential allotments.

This process informed the first tier of site assessments. The SEA process informed a second tier of site assessments whereby the environmental implications of using the sites were identified and informed the assessment conclusions. This resulted in a refined list of sites, as shown in **Chapter 6**.



## Stakeholders

A group of key Council services formed an early stakeholder group, which was brought together at a session co-led by the Council and greenspace scotland. The group was then expanded to include external organisations such as the Royal Highland Education Trust, Keep Scotland Beautiful, East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action, CSGNT, and Social Farms and Gardens.

The first stakeholder meeting allowed cross-Council priorities to be identified, helping to inform the development of the Strategy's vision, aims and objectives and actions. This event also involved identification of additional potential food growing spaces. Inter-departmental working was also key to understanding and agreeing the mechanisms that exist to support a process of agreeing and kick-starting a food growing project. These services included Planning, Community Planning Partners, Legal Services, Estates Management, Streetscene Technical Support and Sustainability Policy.

A further workshop was held with the extended group of stakeholders to steer development of the vision, aims, objectives and actions. This focused on identifying opportunities, and determining current and planned areas of work that could support delivery of the Strategy.

As a way of developing support and delivery mechanisms, a sub-group of Council services was set up, including the Sustainability Policy Team, Legal Services, Estates Management, Streetscene Technical Support Team, Planning and the Community Planning Partnership. The delivery mechanisms for taking community growing projects forward include a set of procedures to guide effective and efficient delivery in relation to key issues identified (**Chapter 8**).

## Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been undertaken in parallel to the development of the Strategy and has informed its development at key stages. The SEA process has also included site assessments, informed by the first tier assessments, and proposed mitigation to enhance the positive, or reduce/prevent the negative, effects on the local environment that have been identified. This second tier site assessment process has informed the list of potential food growing sites set out in the Strategy.

The influence of SEA on the development of the Strategy, including improvements to the aims and objectives, and integration of environmental factors in the site assessment process, is set out fully in the supporting SEA Environmental Report.

## Delivery and Resourcing Funding and Delivery

It is anticipated that a number of different actions will support the Council in the delivery of the Strategy through a collaborative approach and partnership working with partners and local communities. Despite the current economic position facing local councils and other public sector organisations regarding the availability of resources, the Council is committed to delivering the statutory duties of the Food Growing Strategy. Though there are challenges expected as a result of adequate funding opportunities, which are vital to the successful delivery of the Strategy's delivery programme by the Council and other partners, these challenges should not downgrade our ambitions for increasing access to food growing opportunities in East Dunbartonshire.

Given that the food growing agenda cuts across a number of priority areas and work committed to by the Council and its partners, there is likely to be a number of funding sources available to support their delivery. In particular, community groups working in partnership with the Council, housing associations and private land owners are likely to have access to a wider range of funding streams, as well as funding opportunities - linked to skills development, apprentices and social enterprises, for example - that can support community growing projects. The range of benefits that engagement with food growing related projects can provide is a strong evidence-based foundation for funding applications to a number of external sources.



## 4 What is Food Growing?





## 4.1 What is Food Growing?

Food growing is defined in the Act as the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers. There are a number of models, from traditional types to the innovative, and each GYO approach will work best depending on factors such as location, infrastructure requirements, type of food wishing to be grown and the individual needs or capabilities of gardeners.

## 4.2 Types of Food Growing Approaches

This approach to community growing can be achieved by a range of models and scales in both rural and urban settings. The following describes the various models of GYO – some of which are already established in East Dunbartonshire – but alternative models may be more suitable depending on individual or local community aspirations. greenspace scotland's 'Our Growing Community' map and resource pack<sup>31</sup> explore these models further and provide valuable information to support groups in setting up these initiatives. This Strategy will support the delivery of allotments, as a legal requirement of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, and other food growing opportunities, as outlined in the Delivery Programme.

### Allotments

Allotments are defined in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as 'land that is owned or leased by a local authority, is leased or intended for lease by a person from the authority, and is used or intended for use wholly or mainly for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers and otherwise than with a view to making a profit'. However, allotments may also be run by private allotment associations. Allotment plots can range in size and shape, but 200/250m<sup>2</sup> is most commonly regarded as an appropriate 'full plot' size. However, smaller sizes, for example half or quarter plots, are often requested.

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. To assist local authorities, and allotment associations, in managing allotments, regulations are put in place to inform holders of best practice requirements on site.

Allotments offer multiple benefits and can also provide a context for not-for-profit sale of surplus produce to support sustainability of the allotment. Whilst the social benefits offered by allotments include social cohesion within an allotment community, they may differ from other community-focused benefits arising from other types of growing opportunities.

### Community Gardens

Community gardens are less traditional than allotments and are often found in urban or semi-urban spaces. They are usually the result of an empowered group of growers wishing to grow their own food. They are distinct to allotments in that they are managed and used more communally, although they can still follow the traditional style of plots for individuals to grow in. All community garden models are different as they provide an environment to support a number of different purposes that extend further than just growing fruit and vegetables - for example, education and training, opportunities to 'green' an urban area, upgrading underused or vacant and derelict land, building community capacity, recreation and market gardening.

This form of growing is shown to have significant social benefits due to the interaction between growers. A gardening project at HMP Dumfries, which allows prisoners to work in the garden to earn a weekly wage, presents an opportunity for skills development and social inclusion. The garden is also open to dementia patients to use, with support from Dumfries Health and Social Care Partnership and Trellis, to provide a space for supported therapeutic gardening to benefit both physical and mental health. Whilst the prisoners are not involved when those with dementia are using the space, the prisoners and prison staff help to look after the plants and prepare activities ahead of the group using the space<sup>32</sup>.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/food-growing-publications>

<sup>32</sup> <https://trellisScotland.org.uk/content/cultivating-futures>

### Community Orchards and Woodlands

Similar to community gardens, community orchards and woodlands provide an opportunity for local residents to take ownership of underused spaces as well as giving people access to locally-grown fruit. They can contribute to improving and creating habitats, particularly in urban areas, to build resilience against urbanisation and climate change impacts. This approach to community growing can offer a range of ecological benefits in addition to improving connectivity within an area and increasing greenspace in an area where traditional greenspaces are lacking, depending on the scale of the project.

Fruit orchards provide a welcoming environment for all age ranges to get involved in food growing as they are well suited to thriving in urban environments and require little maintenance compared to the cultivation of other fruit and vegetables.

### Civic Planting, Edible Borders and Hedgerows

There is scope for less formal growing activities to be explored within communities – both official and unofficial – by planting and utilising produce grown in civic areas, underused spaces, borders and hedgerows. This type of growing is more commonly explored in urban areas where community groups and individuals seek permission from the landowner to grow in planters, raised beds, unused areas of grass and along verges, for example.

Guerrilla gardening<sup>33</sup>, where persons grow on someone else's land without permission, has been recognised in the UK since the 1970s and results in neglected spaces being reclaimed by a group for the purposes of food growing. Although not encouraged, this type of growing has brought positive benefits for the urban environment and those utilising the spaces, and has demonstrated the types of growing and benefits that can be achieved through civic planting, edible borders and planting of different hedgerows for the purpose of cultivating fruit and vegetables.

### Hydroponics and Aquaponics

Food growing using a hydroponic or aquaponics system can challenge growers to try something which tests their traditional gardening skills by exploring two different techniques of growing in a soil-free environment.

Hydroponics involve growing plants in water - fed with water-soluble mineral nutrient salts rather than soil - and is most suited to growing greenhouse crops such as cucumber, tomatoes and peppers, as well as some flowers such as florists' roses<sup>34</sup>. Successful growing of hydroponic plants requires moist, nutrient-rich and aerated conditions. This style of growing is best suited where traditional growing techniques cannot be practised.

Aquaponics<sup>35</sup> are different in that the growing technique requires a hydroponic environment integrated with aquaculture, derived through the process of cultivating fish. The two processes depend on each other: the waste matter from the fish is changed and used as a natural fertiliser for the plants, and the fish benefit from clean water to thrive.

### At home Growing

A home growing can benefit those with garden space or wishing to grow fruit and vegetables indoors or in window boxes. It is a good alternative for those wishing to grow on a smaller scale than allotments or community. This type of growing is likely to be practiced on an individual basis rather than as part of a growing community, but still has the potential to offer a range of community growing benefits.

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.guerrillagardening.org/gglinks.html>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=911>

<sup>35</sup> <https://permaculturenews.org/2016/05/30/what-is-aquaponics-and-how-does-it-work/>



### **Institutional Growing Spaces**

There may be opportunities for groups working at or using spaces such as those at schools, colleges/ universities, offices, Housing Associations and health and social care services buildings (hospitals, GP offices etc.) to develop small scale food growing projects, similar to community gardens. Land at these institutions is often underused and available. Not only would it provide a good environment to explore food growing opportunities, but can help improve the aesthetics and sense of wellbeing of its location.

### **Shared Gardens**

A shared garden scheme allows people to have access to someone else's garden, or other similar space, to grow food. It stems from informal agreements between neighbours but is now widely promoted as an initiative to connect people wishing to grow with a space to do so. It can give elderly people with reduced ability to manage their own garden help as well as social benefits and the opportunity to gain knowledge from each other. There is often an agreement to ensure sharing of the space and produce, although there is rarely a monetary fee for taking part in a shared garden initiative.

### **Green Roofs and Walls**

Elements of the built environment, including roofs and walls, can provide surfaces suitable for planting, for example using wall shrubs and climbers. Other greening opportunities include living wall models to create a more intensive green roof or wall. They can be beneficial in using a space that would otherwise be unused and can have a number of other advantages including a natural form of insulation for the building, a stepping stone for biodiversity and habitat enhancement and surface water management.

### **Stalled Spaces**

Stalled spaces involves the temporary use of sites awaiting redevelopment, for example a housing development. With agreement from the land owner, community groups may be able to use such spaces on a temporary basis for a given period for the purpose of food growing. This approach to food growing should make provisions so that items can be removed, and ideally located to a new space, at the end of the agreed term. This option is beneficial in terms of increasing diversity and temporarily upgrading underused spaces within the local area.

GYO groups will often have surplus produce. To prevent it going to waste there are options to register a community group as a social enterprise or set up a market garden as a way to sell produce to the local community on a not-for-profit basis. The money exchanged for produce can be reinvested into the community growing space to help create a sustainable site. Social enterprises and market gardens, for example, can be set up as an aside to other types of food growing to help sustain any project. Through East Dunbartonshire's Economic Development Strategy<sup>36</sup>, social enterprises will be supported to grow.

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/planning-and-building-standards/planning-policy/economic-development/economic-development>

## 4.3 Impacts and Benefits of Food Growing

As described in **Chapter 2**, the benefits of food growing are underlined in international, UK and Scottish Government policy, where sustainable food production is recognised for its contribution to social, economic and sustainability agendas. There are five key ways in which community growing is argued to present significant, cross-cutting opportunities:

### 4.3.1 Food Growing for Health

- Allotments and community growing sites provide a space for people to engage in low-impact exercise and physical activity with access to the outdoors. This approach to exercise can be more sustainable in the long-term. This benefit can extend to contributing to improvements to people's mental health such as reduced stress levels, social inclusion and friendships<sup>37</sup>
- Engaging in food growing activities improves access to and knowledge of locally grown food and increases people's ability to increase their consumption of and attitudes towards healthy food. This can result in improved diets and aligns with national ambitions on diet, activity and healthy weight. The ways in which people grow produce can also provide added benefits for the users. In particular, organic food growing has the potential to present secondary impacts to population health due to an increased likelihood of nutrient value in crops and reduced levels of toxic metals. For example, recent research found that 'concentrations of antioxidants such as polyphenolics were between 18-69% higher in organically-grown crops'<sup>38</sup>.
- Food growing can provide multiple mental health benefits including social interaction. For example, utilising growing spaces as a form of horticultural therapy to help ease health inequalities such as physical pain, rehabilitation, dementia and other physiological and chronic conditions<sup>39</sup>. Mixed use spaces can also provide recreation resulting in improved socialising and inclusion within a community. This is demonstrated at Gorgie City Farm in Edinburgh<sup>40</sup>

Social prescribing and lifestyle medicine is more commonly being used to help improve health and wellbeing and is a good example of how the benefits are being delivered. This is resulting in a change in culture, which is contributing to a 'clear, coherent and collaborative process in which healthcare practitioners including GPs, practice nurses and community matrons work with patients and service users to select and make referrals to community-based services'<sup>41</sup>; access to nature and gardening activities, for example, are increasingly being prescribed. The benefits of this are further supported by the British Society of Lifestyle Medicine<sup>42</sup>. Food growing can also act as a preventative measure, as proposed by Nourish Scotland<sup>43</sup>, to address ill-health concerns as well as issues relating to access to food and our national dietary goals.



<sup>37</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10460-016-9717-0>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/press/articles/archive/2015/10/organicvsnon-organicfood/>

<sup>39</sup> [https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/sites/www.gardenorganic.org.uk/files/GrowingHealth\\_BenefitsReport\\_0.pdf](https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/sites/www.gardenorganic.org.uk/files/GrowingHealth_BenefitsReport_0.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.growyourownscotland.info/case-studies/gorgie-city-farm/>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ALLIANCE-Developing-a-Culture-of-Health.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> <https://bslm.org.uk/the-natural-health-service/>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.ideas.gov.scot/fairerscotland-health/we-need-preventative-measures-focused-on-helping-the-scottish-population-to-eat-better>



### 4.3.2 Food Growing for The Environment

- The global food chain plays a role in contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and can result in adverse effects on the agricultural industry, increase the risk of deforestation and waste production. Conversely, food growing has the potential to contribute towards carbon sequestration helping to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change at a local level. In the UK, for example, approximately 1/5 of all greenhouse gas emissions result from the production and consumption of food, excluding the impacts to climate change from soil management. Carbon emissions (including reducing energy use, more sustainable transport and less waste) can be reduced by between 2kg and 5kg of carbon equivalent for every kilogram of vegetable produced<sup>44</sup>.
- Competition for land, climate change and extreme weather events are having an impact on the quality and diversity of food grown around the world, putting the availability of food for all at risk. Community growing practices at a local level can encourage low carbon behaviours such as avoiding food waste; however growers should manage what and how much is grown to avoid gluts, surplus or poor quality crops ending up as waste. This can be a key contributor to creating a more resilient and equal food system that can address rising food demands and help achieve food security.
- Food growing at a local level can benefit ecosystems and related ecosystem services in terms of enhancing local biodiversity through the growing of varied produce, creation of small-scale carbon sinks and supporting the use of organic composting/reducing the need for pesticides and fertilisers at a larger scale
- Community growing sites can also help strengthen green networks, especially in urban areas, where there is poor provision of open space or fragmented greenspace across the urban landscape in the form of stepping stones in the overall habitat network. This can support local habitats and biodiversity in order to contribute to meeting the objectives of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy<sup>45</sup>. In line with the Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017 – 2027<sup>46</sup> food growing practices and careful consideration of the types and variety of planting can support pollinator species and demonstrate local level contributions to this national commitment. Where permission is given, bee hives can also be kept as part of the community growing space to support pollination
- Food growing presents opportunities to explore organic growing practices that can help to improve soil quality and condition and reduce soil erosion. This can help yield higher mineral and better quality produce. No-till methods of food growing is one practice that can support this and support more sustainable growing<sup>47</sup>.
- Increasing 'green' spaces, particularly in urban and built up areas where the presence of green spaces is often limited, can improve localised air quality and contribute to carbon sequestration. This can reduce air pollution and particulates. This can be supported by upgrading areas of vacant and derelict land and underused spaces; using these spaces for community growing has the potential to improve these environmental scars and revitalise these spaces to bring them back in to use
- Food and drink waste in Scotland was calculated in 2013 at 1.35 million tonnes of food and drink from household, commercial and industrial waste; household waste (liquid and solid) accounted for 600,000 tonnes (44%) of the total waste<sup>48</sup>. Community growing presents opportunities to reduce food waste and food packing by growing food that people want and need. Appropriate use of the food grown, such as storage and cooking classes to use excess produce, can help to reduce waste; where waste cannot be reduced composting on site can help to manage the waste. This will respond to national agenda for zero waste and a reduction in food miles in East Dunbartonshire.
- Community gardens and allotments can present similar benefits to other green spaces for surface water management and the delivery of multiple ecosystem services, including infiltration to reduce the effects of pluvial and fluvial flooding, and bio retention to improve water quality.
- Due to a reliance on long term management to ensure that allotments and formal growing spaces do not fall into decline there is scope to explore more integrated, sustainable approaches to food growing. For example, permaculture growing<sup>49</sup> can be explored to support this approach by incorporating considered decisions relating to energy, shelter and materials used on site.



44 <http://www.iufn.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Making-local-food-work-2010-Local-food-and-climate-change.pdf>

45 <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/Wildlife-Habitats/biodiversity/BiodiversityStrategy>

46 <https://www.nature.scot/pollinator-strategy-2017-2027>

47 <https://nerc.ukri.org/research/partnerships/ride/twec/ppn/ppn29/>

48 <https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/content/how-much-food-waste-there-scotland>

49 <https://www.permaculture.co.uk/what-is-permaculture>

### 4.3.3 Food Growing for Enterprise and the Economy

- Having access to locally-grown, low-cost food creates financial efficiencies, particularly in the long-term. For example, GYO can supplement the buying of produce from retail outlets offering monetary savings. An experienced allotment holder succeeded in producing 298kg of fruit and vegetables from his 200 square metre plot in one year, which is calculated to be sufficient enough to provide the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables for a family of 4 for over 6 months<sup>50</sup>.
- Community gardens and allotments can present employment opportunities or payments for volunteers, usually by employing local people.
- Growing activities and the other social benefits including inclusion, increased confidence amongst peers and skills development can have both direct and indirect benefits to prepare and excel people to employment and therefore benefit the local economy.
- Growers can sell surplus produce or sale of by-products such as jams, on a not-for-profit basis, and can generate income for the group to reinvest into the food growing project.

A 2011 social return on investment (SROI) study of community gardens has shown that for every £1 invested by funders, £3.56 of social value was returned<sup>51</sup>. This study sought to measure benefits such as significant positive changes to stakeholders, including volunteers and local people, involved in or visiting community gardens. A similar SROI study from 2012 of the social return from investing in a horticultural training and community growing facility shows that for every £1 invested around £9 of community benefits was returned through benefits such as new skills<sup>52</sup>. Selling excess produce and generating local business from produce grown on grow-your-own sites (excluding produce grown on an allotment site which is grown not-for-profit) will have a positive impact on the local community through job creation.

### 4.3.4 Food Growing for Social Benefits

- GYO activities can encourage a sense of community, contributing to improved place making. This is especially crucial where more vulnerable people are involved – e.g. those in socio-economically deprived areas, disabled people or immigrants - and this sense of place can help to reduce isolation and loneliness.
- There are opportunities for community growing projects to offer training and skills development to communities and individuals that can help to encourage confidence, social skills and development of transferable skills. This, along with the potential savings outlined in Section 5.3.3., can offer the most significant benefits and opportunities to those in need.
- Scotland's National Food & Drink Policy 'Recipe for Success – Becoming a Good Food Nation' recognises the challenges of food security. Conversely, the effects of climate change are being exacerbated, in part, by the food industry. It highlights that local food is a priority for Scotland, for local economic growth and to ensure that people have access to plentiful and diverse produce.

### 4.3.5 Food Growing for Education

- The Scottish Curriculum for Excellence<sup>53</sup> has eight curriculum areas, one of which is 'health and wellbeing'. Giving young people the opportunities to learn about health and wellbeing and skills to improve their lives in the long-term have links to the wider food growing agenda.
- As community growing can offer options to gain new skills, this can aid overall learning ability; in particular there is likely to be knowledge learnt and experienced that can be translated into other areas of learning and support future job prospects
- A focus on food growing within schools can improve an understanding of where food comes from and healthy eating, particularly in relation to a willingness to try new and different food<sup>54</sup>. This can lead to long term benefits and learning of our natural environment
- Food growing spaces provide an environment to learn about other related topics including biodiversity, climate change, geography, cooking, recycling and food origins

The benefits of food growing are wide-reaching and the different growing approaches can help to deliver opportunities for everyone, taking in to account local demographics and needs. Many of these benefits are interlinked and are likely to present multiple benefits to the GYO community.

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.sags.org.uk/docs/AllotGrowingStatistics/PeterProduce.pdf>

<sup>51</sup> [https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/system/files/gorgie\\_city\\_farm\\_sroi\\_assured.pdf](https://www.farmgarden.org.uk/system/files/gorgie_city_farm_sroi_assured.pdf)

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/FAQs/sroi>

<sup>53</sup> [https://education.gov.scot/scottish-education-system/policy-for-scottish-education/policy-drivers/cfe-%28building-from-the-statement-appendix-incl-btc1-5%29/What%20is%20Curriculum%20for%20Excellence?&\\_ga=2.235029445.518786960.1527674500-293333834.1519296213](https://education.gov.scot/scottish-education-system/policy-for-scottish-education/policy-drivers/cfe-%28building-from-the-statement-appendix-incl-btc1-5%29/What%20is%20Curriculum%20for%20Excellence?&_ga=2.235029445.518786960.1527674500-293333834.1519296213)

<sup>54</sup> [https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/sites/www.gardenorganic.org.uk/files/GrowingHealth\\_BenefitsReport\\_0.pdf](https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/sites/www.gardenorganic.org.uk/files/GrowingHealth_BenefitsReport_0.pdf)



# 5 Food Growing in East Dunbartonshire: Historical and Present Day





## 5.1 National Participation in Community Growing

Community growing at a national level has most commonly been practiced in the form of allotments. However, a recent survey by the Association for Public Service Excellence<sup>55</sup> looking at local authority allotment services in the UK found that the number of allotments has fallen by 4% based on 2017 levels. This is either as a result of closure or transfer to private ownership, although there was a 5% increase in joint ownership between the local authority and community. Charges for allotment leases are now reflecting the need to account for maintenance of the site, whereas in the past many allotment services were subsidised. Some 74% of respondents concluded that leases will continue to rise over the next five years. There has also been a reduction in plot sizes to address the high number of people on waiting lists. Comparatively, East Dunbartonshire has relatively few formal growing sites, with no new allotments provided since Rosebank Allotment was opened in 2013.

greenspace scotland conducted a 'Greenspace Use and Attitude Survey'<sup>56</sup> in 2017 which found that there had been an overall 8% decrease in people engaged in food growing between 2011 and 2017 in Scotland. However, there had been an increase of 6% in people growing their own food in areas of socio-economic disadvantage in this time period. The reasons for a decrease in participation were noted as:

- A lack of space to grow at home,
- Limited knowledge and skills to grow fruit and vegetables, and
- Limited allotment plot availability.

However, in East Dunbartonshire GYO ( Grow Your Own) groups at both private and community level are actively engaging in community growing activities including community gardens, orchards, maintaining civic spaces, private shared gardens and school growing projects.



<sup>55</sup> <http://apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/members-area/briefings/2018/18-31-state-of-the-market-2018-allotments/>

<sup>56</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x\\_GfzPxPf059X-3Imz20Mj51EHCoN8F6/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x_GfzPxPf059X-3Imz20Mj51EHCoN8F6/view)



## 5.2 A History of Food Growing in East Dunbartonshire

Growing your own fruit and vegetables at home or in an allotment has been practiced for many years with allotments specifically recognised in legislation in the Allotments (Scotland) Acts of 1892, 1922 and 1950. Most noticeably during and after both world wars, there was an increase in people growing vegetables on their allotment garden or at home as a means to increase food for their family at a time when produce was scarce. At the end of the First World War, land was made available to all in response to returning service men through the Land Settlement Facilities Act 1919 which gave fair access to land to everyone.

In East Dunbartonshire there was a rise in allotments and growing at home during and after both World Wars, as evidenced in local newspapers and books. The timeline in Figure 5 shows an evolution of local community growing over the years.

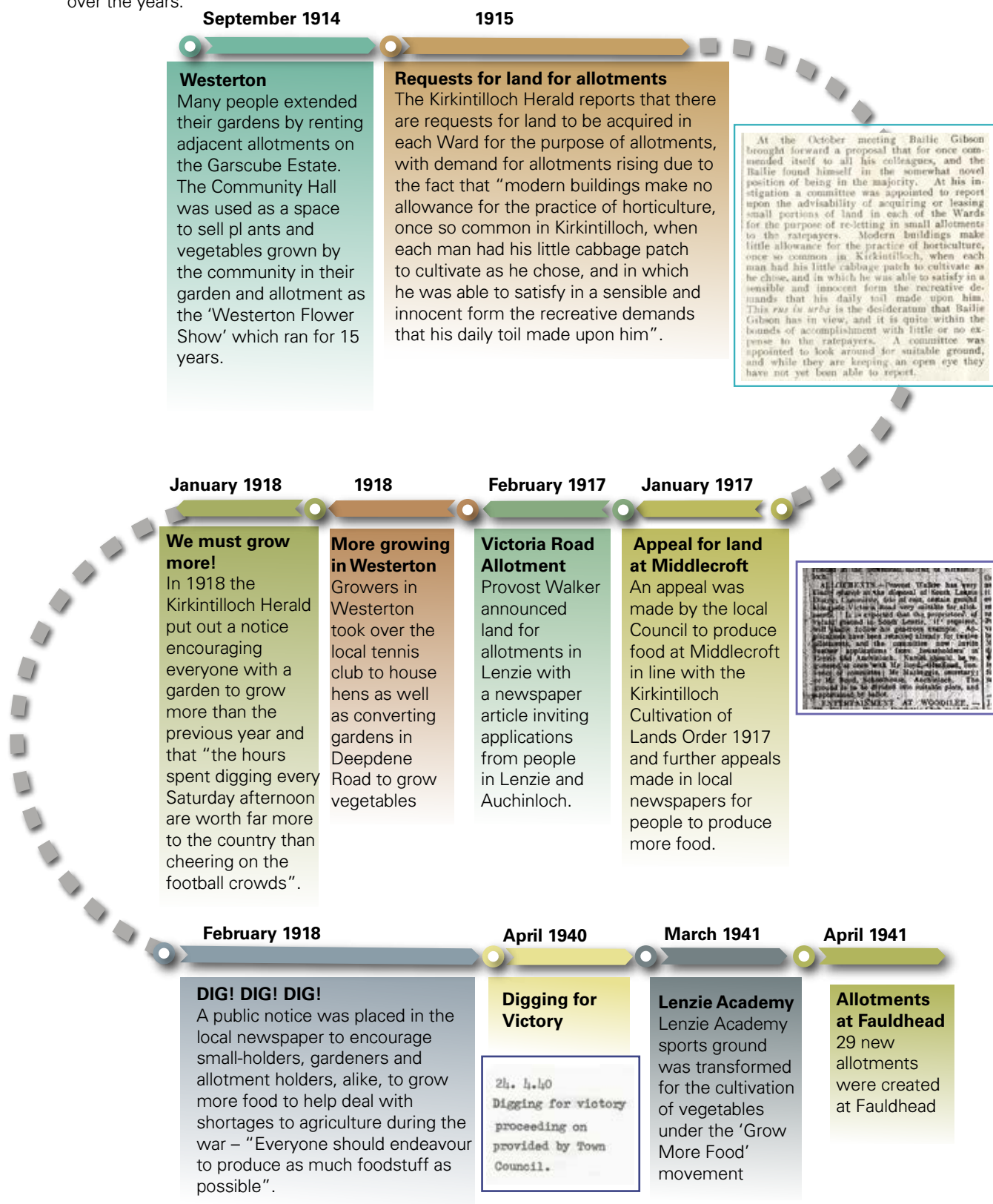


Figure 5: Timeline of food growing in East Dunbartonshire

## 5.3 Current Food Growing Projects

Nowadays the need to grow to support a declining agricultural industry does not exist and food is more readily available. However many people choose to grow their own produce and flowers, either at home, at an allotment or at other community growing space, to supplement the food that they buy and for the social and health benefits that gardening can offer. East Dunbartonshire's network of growing projects is varied and offer a multitude of benefits and opportunities for people to get involved. Appendix A shows the locations of the various projects in East Dunbartonshire. The case studies below showcase some of East Dunbartonshire's most recent food growing projects.

### Rosebank Allotment

Rosebank Allotment in Hillhead is East Dunbartonshire's first formal modern-day allotment. It started in 2009. The allotment is Council-owned but is run in partnership with Carr Gomm who utilise the space to give mental health and wellbeing and addiction support to individuals who are referred to the allotment by social care. The site contains 40 plots; half of these are rented by local residents and the other half are used by the individuals referred to the social care service for therapeutic benefits; the provision of routines, skill development and opportunities for education and employment is crucial in helping to reduce the stigma and social isolation that individuals with mental health or addiction issues face. The allotment also donates any surplus produce to the local food bank to help others in need in the local area.

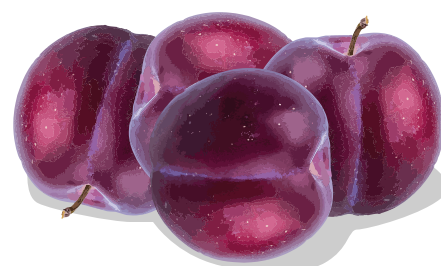


**Figure 6: Rosebank Allotment**

Local primary and secondary schools have also been contributing to the food growing agenda by developing outdoor growing spaces for the pupils to utilise and learn about the benefits of food growing. Many schools are also connecting to local community groups to demonstrate intergenerational food growing opportunities.

### Clober Primary School

Clober Primary School has an outdoor garden where apples, potatoes, plums and tomatoes are grown and harvested. The teachers and pupils are keen to develop the garden further to diversify the range of plants grown, and they welcome the involvement of parents and grandparents to help manage the growing space.





### Milngavie Nursery and Primary School

Milngavie Nursery and Primary School spent a lot of time in 2017 upgrading an unused piece of ground with fruit trees and bushes, herb garden, a polytunnel and compost bins with help from Tesco's Bags of Help grant; the growing space is for use by the nursery, school and the community. They also have a space to grow vegetables – they had success at growing potatoes and lettuce which they sold to parents to help raise money for seeds to be planted the following year.



**Figure 7: Food growing at Milngavie Nursery and Primary School**



To complement the cooking kitchen within the school, which is used to teach cooking skills to pupils, **Torrance Primary School** are looking at how to set up a group of gardeners with the involvement of parents, teachers and the wider community. The food grown will then be included in recipes for the kitchen.



### Douglas Academy

Horticulture has increasingly been explored at Douglas Academy; the Health and Food Technology department has been utilising microleaves, such as parsley and rainbow chard, that have been grown at the school in classes. Apple juice and apple crumble has been made using their own grown apples to celebrate the autumn apple harvest. Flower beds are also prepared for spring through the planting of both edible and decorative plants, including tulips and dahlias. The flowers grown and wildflowers sown provide a valuable habitat to attract bees. The polytunnel on site can be used to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers too.



**Figure 8: Douglas Academy produce**

### Lenzie Meadow Primary School and Nursery

Lenzie Meadow Primary School and Nursery have an outdoor space for their growing project, where the children have grown carrots, leeks, broad beans, herbs and strawberries. To engage children with the wider food growing benefits, the school has taken part in the Farm to Fork project with Tesco to give the pupils an understanding of where food comes from.

### Colquhoun Park Primary School

The teachers and pupils at Colquhoun Park Primary School have been taking part in many different food growing activities, including understanding where food comes from, as part of a three year cycle. P6 and P7 pupils have taken part in the Farm to Fork<sup>57</sup> project where they were able to cultivate their own vegetables and herbs, carry out experiments relating to plants and gain a better understanding of sustainability and sustainable food choices. This has enabled projects where harvested food has been cooked for parents to sample. They hope that these activities help children and parents alike to build confidence in growing, cooking and eating their own produce.

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.tescopl.com/little-helps-plan/products-health/partnerships/eat-happy-project/>



## Turnbull High School

Turnbull High School took an innovative approach to starting their food growing aspirations by building a greenhouse made from 2000 litre plastic bottles. The project took a full year to complete with help from pupils, staff and community members. Pupils collected plastic bottles from home and deposited them at school; to support this, a 'bottle lotto' was held with prizes awarded for participation. The project has since progressed through the help of parents, Morrisons, B&Q and Homebase who have all offered to help to provide materials or give discounts. The project was complete and fully functional by summer 2018. S6 leadership pupils now have the responsibility of running the greenhouse on a week-to-week basis with the help of other volunteering pupils through wellbeing lessons and lunchtime clubs.



**Figure 9: Greenhouse made of plastic bottles and planters at Turnbull High School**

## Edible Twechar

Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre and Twechar Community Action group are at the forefront of food growing in East Dunbartonshire with a number of different projects active within the community, collectively known as 'Edible Twechar'. In 2004, greenspace scotland worked with Twechar Community Action and local people to discover new options for food growing. This resulted in new opportunities being identified, information being shared with local people, and an action plan and community growing poster being produced. The Edible Twechar Map<sup>58</sup> was also created to depict the aspirations of the community (**Figure 11**).

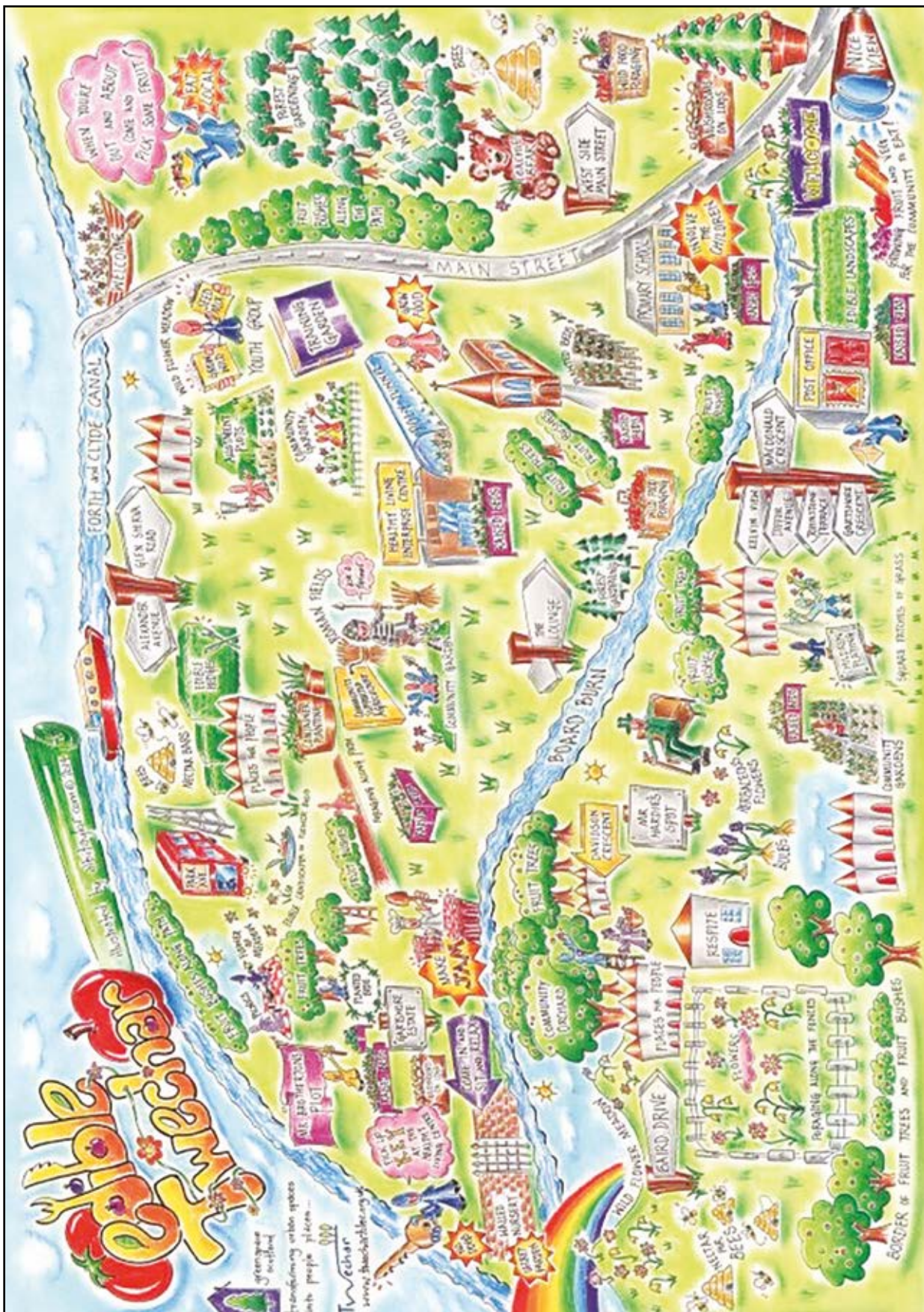
There is now a training garden, several orchard sites around the village, including ones near Kennedy Avenue and Baird Drive, and several areas designated for community growing with raised beds and communal social areas. The various opportunities in Twechar are open to all to get involved and volunteers to help manage the sites are always welcome. In addition, the centre supports apprenticeships and skills development through their training opportunities and training garden.



**Figure 10: Community growing spaces in Twechar**

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/News/edible-twechar>





### Figure 11: Edible Twechar Map



## Hillhead Community Garden

The community garden in Hillhead, Kirkintilloch, was set up by Hillhead Housing Association with support from the Big Lottery Fund's Community Spaces Programme. Initially two disused plots of ground were reclaimed and developed into community growing and recreational spaces. The project now has eleven raised beds, a large polytunnel and an orchard, as well as a space for the community to relax with seating and a growing-free area to utilise. The volunteers of the garden have dedicated time to growing a range of nectar-rich trees and climbing plants to attract wildlife and improve biodiversity.

The garden provides a valuable community space with additional benefits to improve the local environment, promote community involvement and provide activities that will reduce isolation and inequalities locally. The project currently involves three local primary schools, two nursery schools, two regular community growing groups and four individual users. They have the opportunity to utilise the garden and orchard to grow their own food and attend workshops run by volunteers. The volunteers share valuable skills and knowledge through workshops and community events. The community garden is also registered with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Campaign for School Gardening<sup>59</sup>, an initiative that gives schools support with the chance to enhance their gardening skills and receive rewards as they progress through the scheme.



**Figure 12: Transforming Hillhead Community Garden**

<sup>59</sup> <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home>

### The Torrance Ornamental and Demonstration Garden

The Torrance Ornamental and Demonstration Garden is an example of how a community growing project can provide a relaxing space that can be enjoyed by all. The garden demonstrates a variety of different planting, from trees to shrubs and flowering plants. There is also a small pond to provide a valuable habitat and attract wildlife.



**Figure 13: Torrance Ornamental & Demonstration Garden**

### Lennox Park Orchard

An orchard of heritage fruit trees was planted in 2017 at Lennox Park in Milngavie by the Milngavie Community Development Trust, local volunteers and countryside rangers. This also included an edible hedge around one side of the orchard. The project was funded by Central Scotland Green Network with a grant of £1000.

There are also small orchards planted at King George V Park and Westerton Park in Bearsden.

### Milngavie in Bloom

Milngavie in Bloom, an organisation of volunteers, has been undertaking floral and sustainable planting<sup>60</sup> in and around Milngavie since 2008. Their work aims to bring colour to the town and includes the planting of flowers and other shrubs in raised beds and planters in order to improve spaces. Some of the projects they are involved in include:

- Large planters, railing planters and tubs in the village centre
- Floral fountains in conjunction with Milngavie BID
- The Fraser Centre Garden which includes a Community Bed which different organisations plant up each year and which can be flowers or vegetables.
- Antonine Garden
- Herbs at the fish ladder along the Allander
- Spinal Injuries garden at Clober Farm in conjunction with their own volunteers from Clober Primary School and the Farm itself
- Carers' Link garden in Milngavie Enterprise Centre
- Improved planting at the entrance to the West Highland Way in partnership with the local Ramblers Association
- Working with the local schools with advice on planting flowers, fruit and vegetables in their school areas

<sup>60</sup> <http://milngavieinbloom.webplus.net/page3.html>





**Figure 14: Flowers on West Highland Way**



**Figure 15: Community bed at Fraser Centre**

There are other local groups such as Milngavie Community Development Trust, Woodhill Residents Association and Friends Of groups who are also taking part in local GYO activities.

### **Good Food, Good Health**

In 2015 social work day services local area co-ordinators secured Scottish Government 'Keys to Life Development Fund' money as part of the Keys to Life in the National Learning Disability Strategy for Scotland. The purpose of the funding was to set-up Good Food, Good Health cookery courses and a weekly supper club, to help adult clients make healthier lifestyle choices and live more independently.

To date seven Good Food, Good Health courses have successfully ran supporting nineteen individuals to learn to cook from scratch. The supper club has been up and running once a week since February 2017 and to date has supported thirteen individuals to come together to cook and share a meal once a week. The project is now run in partnership with Milngavie Community Development Trust (MCDT). The initiative has encouraged people with additional support needs and learning disabilities to work together to create raised beds, learn how to use gardening tools and skills relating to growing, looking after and picking their own produce as well as socialising and interrelationship skills.

## Woodlands Clinic

A small-scale gardening project at Woodlands Clinic in Kirkintilloch is being prepared with the purpose of giving people with Alzheimer's, early on-set dementia and other mental health conditions such as depression an opportunity to experience a peaceful and safe environment at the centre of the Clinic.

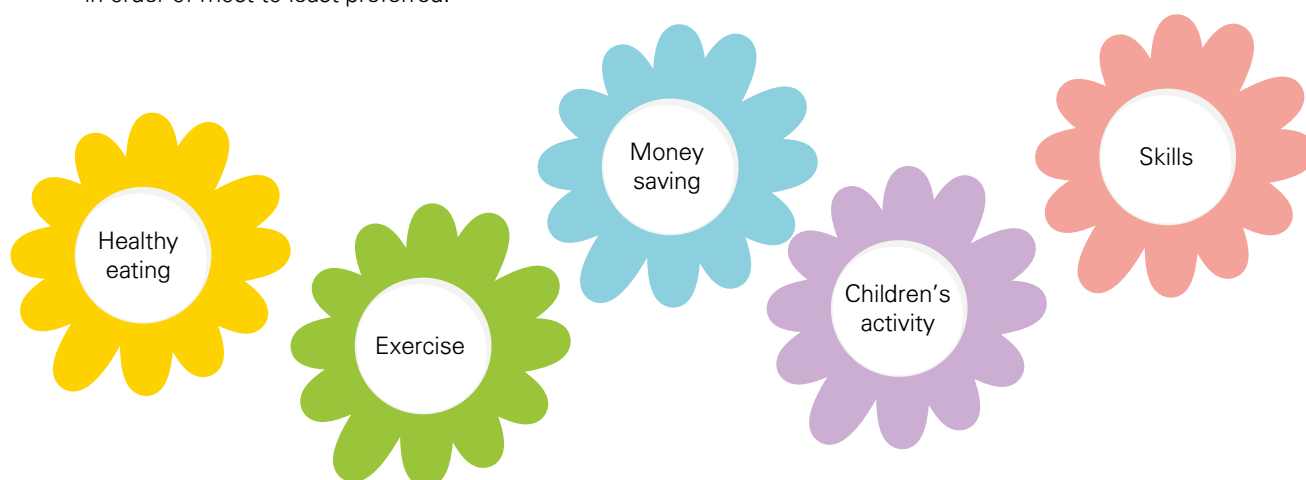
Previously cleared and in need of care and attention, East Dunbartonshire's Health and Social Care Partnership, in partnership with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), designed plans to revitalise the garden. Next steps include a consultation with the patients and their carers to gauge demand and need for the garden as part of a sensory engagement session. The garden will be maintained by TCV and volunteers at Woodlands Clinic.

Other food growing opportunities include the recovery of brambles, chanterelles, wood sorrel and wild garlic at Henderland Drive in Bearsden and plum trees planted between Maxwell Avenue and Westerton Primary School by Cairnhill Wood Group and an orchard planted by Woodhill Resident's Group near Bishopbriggs Academy.

## 5.4 Growing Demand

The different projects in East Dunbartonshire demonstrate that there is a local demand for different types of food growing activities, from less formal initiatives such as growing within school grounds and orchards to larger community gardens and allotments. Local demand for allotments is also evidenced by our allotment waiting list which has been held for over ten years. Over the years people have added their name to the waiting list to register their interest for a plot; many people have been successful in leasing a plot at Rosebank Allotments resulting in fluctuating numbers. Our approach to addressing allotment demand and the process for registering interest in a plot will be discussed in Chapters 7 and 9.

The principal reasons why people do or do not want to grow their own food were investigated as part of early engagement in 2017 and 2018. In addition to healthy eating, some of the reasons given were, exercise, money saving, children's activity and skills development, help to promote positive wellbeing (both mental and physical), enjoyment, a reduction in carbon footprint and allowed food to be cultivated that tasted better and presented a better and wider range than found at supermarkets. The illustration below (Figure 16) identifies the main catalysts in order of most to least preferred.



**Figure 16: Main reasons for growing your own food**

Despite current food growing opportunities, engagement with the public highlighted that many people would still like to have opportunities to grow more to support their families, either at home or at a communal space, but noted the following barriers to doing so:

- Skills – people report not having the necessary skill sets to set up a food growing space as well as skills relating to choosing the right plants for their space, sowing, pruning, maintenance and using the produce.
- Space – having adequate space for food growing, whether it is window boxes, planters, raised beds or an allotment, is limited for some. A lack of space to suit individuals' needs discourages participation.

This supports the national data presented in greenspace scotland's survey. The barriers identified will be addressed in forthcoming Chapters and Delivery Programme.



## 6 Strategic Options and Delivery Mechanisms





There are several ways in which we intend to deliver our legislative duties to increase allotment provision and support our communities to realise their food growing ambitions whilst delivering a range of benefits in line with the Strategy's ambition. This includes identifying strategic options, mechanisms for delivering and resources to do so.

## 6.1 Strategic Options: Identifying Sites

Early public engagement and stakeholder input identified 73 sites with the potential to be developed to support allotments or another form of food growing opportunity. First tier site assessments were carried out on each of these sites, in partnership with greenspace scotland; this informed further engagement where views on each site from community members was received as a result of focussed discussion. **Chapter 3** describes the process undertaken to identify, assess and consult on potential food growing sites.

## 6.2 Site Assessments

Table 1 presents the results of the site assessment and shortlisting process. Appendix B, and the online map shows all of these sites. The potential sites can be considered the starting point to encourage individuals and community groups to understand their own food growing needs and aspirations, and whether these options may be suitable to support their own food growing project.

To determine suitability, all sites should be investigated further in line with the procedures set out in this chapter. This is an important stage in developing any food growing project to ensure that the use of the space does not conflict with existing natural, built and historic environmental assets such as Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS), areas of peat, listed buildings, garden and designed landscapes, Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSI) as well as potential flooding and contamination risks, how accessible the site is and existing infrastructure and utilities to support its use.

## 6.3 SEA Site Assessments

The role of SEA, as outlined in **Chapter 3**, is to identify both negative and positive environmental effects in relation to the options set out in the Strategy. This approach was applied to the potential growing sites, with each being assessed against a set of 'environmental factors'. The findings of these site assessments, which are reported fully in the Environmental Report, allowed the list of potential sites to be refined, with preferred site options being identified.

## 6.4 Place Communities

Section 119 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires that the Food Growing Strategy sets out how the local authority intends to increase food growing provision in communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantages. These areas are described in section 2.3 above and are subject to specific actions in the Delivery Programme (Chapter 11). During consultation on this draft Strategy particular emphasis will be placed on establishing local demand for, and the scope for community groups to take forward, those food growing sites identified with an asterisk in Tables 1 and 2 over the page, all of which are either within or easily accessible from Place communities. There will be a particular focus on opportunities in or near Lennoxton and Auchinairn where no food growing opportunities currently exist.





**Table 1 – Potential food growing sites and recommended opportunities**

Site ID	Name	Indicative Opportunity
Baldernock		
1	Field north of Glenorchard	Allotment
2	Field south of Blairnile	Community garden
Bearsden		
3	Heather Avenue	Community garden
4	Scholar's Way	Allotment/mixed use
Bishopbriggs		
5	Springfield Park*	Allotment
6	SUDS pond at Angus Avenue*	Fruit trees and planting for foraging
7	Bishop Gardens	Biodiversity enhancements
8	Etive Park*	Allotment
9	Low Moss Vacant and Derelict Land	Allotment
10	Playing field south of Low Moss Plantation	Community garden/mixed use
11	Meadowburn to Cadder Road	Biodiversity enhancements
12	Pinelands	Community garden
13	Cloan Crescent	Community garden
14	Friar Avenue	Civic planting
Kirkintilloch		
15	Moss Road	Community garden
16	Cleddans Playing Field*	Community garden
17	Burns Court*	Community garden
18	Luggie blaes pitch*	Biodiversity enhancements
19	The Greens blaes pitch	Allotment
Lennoxtown		
20	Pine Street flood scheme*	Flood management
21	Balcorrach Wood*	Community Orchard
22	Rowantree Terrace*	Community Orchard
23	Lennoxlea*	Allotment
24	Station Road blaes pitch*	Allotment
25	Ferguson Road blaes pitch*	Allotment
26	Geelong Marsh*	Flood management
Lenzie		
27	Boghead Road	Community garden
28	Wedge between Andrew Avenue/Anne Crescent	Fruit trees and planting for foraging
29	Woodilee Industrial Estate	Fruit trees and planting for foraging
30	Parkview Playing Field	Community garden
31	Park Burn	Fruit trees and planting for foraging

\* - see paragraph 6.4

Milngavie		
32	Roselea Drive	Allotment/mixed use
33	Moor Road	Biodiversity Enhancements
34	Gavin's Mill	Fruit trees and planting for foraging
35	Lennox Park	Community garden
36	Milngavie Enterprise Centre	Civic planting
37	Milngavie Youth Centre	Civic planting
38	West Highland Way	Fruit trees and planting for foraging
39	Milngavie Guide Hall	Raised beds
40	Ashburn Gardens	Allotment
41	Mains Estate Woodland	Biodiversity enhancements
42	Dougalston Avenue	Fruit trees and planting for foraging
Torrance		
43	The Daisy Field	Allotment
44	Mill Crescent	Raised beds
45	Torrance Demonstration Garden	Community garden
46	Torrance Decoration Garden	Biodiversity enhancements

\* - see paragraph 6.4

## 6.5 Additional Sites & Available Land

Early engagement with stakeholders and the community indicated a number of additional potential food growing sites (Table 2), which can be viewed in Appendix B. As these were suggested after the formal engagement period, the sites are yet to be assessed. However, the Delivery Programme sets out our intention for assessing these sites for their suitability for all types of food growing, but if there is interest from community groups to investigate these sites further then their involvement is welcomed at an earlier stage when demand is evidenced. The potential uses for these sites can range from formal growing spaces to small-scale opportunities as described in Chapter 4.

There are a number of other spaces that might be suitable for different types of food growing including both permanent and temporary sites. From pockets of open space in residential areas, parks, verges of paths, roads and canals, large private gardens and care homes, for example, all types of land can be considered for their potential to accommodate community growing.





**Table 2 – Additional food growing opportunities**

Site ID	Name
Bearsden	
47	Cluny Park
48	Donkey Field
49	East of Templehill Woods (Kessington)
50	Open space at Kilmardinny Avenue
51	West of Kilmardinny Loch
52	Manse Burn
53	Langfaulds Field
Bishopbriggs	
54	Jellyhill North
55	Back of Stirling Drive
56	Callieburn Park*
57	Open space at the Fort Theatre
58	Play area near High Moss Plantation
59	Melville Gardens
60	Hilton Park
61	Woodland behind Turnbull High School
62	Duncryne Place
63	Kincardine Drive Lock Ups*
64	Jellyhill
Kirkintilloch	
65	Tom Johnston House
66	Broomhill Walled Garden*
67	Burns Drive Lock Ups*
68	Alloway Grove Lock Ups*
69	Bothlyn Avenue Lock Ups*
Lennoxtown	
70	Commercial Inn Lock Ups*
71	Hillview Avenue Lock ups*
Lenzie	
72	Old Lenzie Primary School
Milngavie	
73	Mains Estate Park
Milton of Campsie	
74	Scott Avenue Lock Ups
Torrance	
75	'Combination End'
76	Kelvin Tennis Club
77	Balgrochan Marsh
78	West Acre Park
Twechar	
79	Park Avenue Lock Ups
80	Alexander Avenue Lock Ups

\* - see paragraph 6.4

### 6.5.1 New Schools

The Council are also committed to the provision of a new build specialist school for children with Additional Support Needs (ASN) at Waterside, and new Early Years facilities in Bearsden, Milngavie and Kirkintilloch as part of the Early Years Strategic Plan. Where there is community support these new sites could include food growing opportunities for use by the young people and teachers.

### 6.5.2 Urban Space and Vacant and Derelict Land

It is recognised that, while the assessment and consultation processes have been as thorough as possible, they were not exhaustive and other potential food growing sites may emerge in the future. It should also be noted that East Dunbartonshire has a total of 973.46 hectares of urban open space, of which 458 hectares are public parks and gardens. Some of this open space could be used for community growing or allotment sites if suitability is demonstrated with no or minimal impacts to the natural and built heritage designations and the green network, and their use doesn't result in the removal of community recreational provision. Furthermore, there are a number of underused spaces in East Dunbartonshire including brownfield and vacant and derelict land. There are 27 individual vacant and derelict land sites<sup>61</sup> (77.55 ha) of vacant and derelict land across East Dunbartonshire with the potential to be upgraded. Land that is owned by the Council, other public bodies or privately can all be considered in line with the mechanisms for permission to take forward a project in **Chapter 8**.

## 6.6 Delivery Mechanisms

### 6.6.1 Allotments

In order to increase allotment provision the list of potential food growing sites has been analysed to determine suitability, taking into account each assessment rating, the likelihood of contamination, land ownership, size and current use. However prospective sites will still be required to undergo further investigation to determine appropriate remedial measures or mitigation, where needed, along with community input and consultation before progressing. Other areas of land that can support allotment provision over the next five years will also be identified where possible. This will all be done in line with the procedures set out in Chapter 7. The actions set out in the Delivery Programme in **Chapter 4** will also support the delivery of new allotments over the life of the Strategy. The list below sets out some of the key actions proposed in the Delivery Programme.

We will...

1. Work with the community as part of the preparatory and development stages of any new allotment sites.
2. Deliver allotments to meet current demand, in partnership with local community groups.
3. Encourage and support the establishment of Allotment Associations in order to give community groups more ownership of their growing space.
4. Support community-led allotments and continue to encourage communities to be empowered to find additional sites suitable for allotments in the future.
5. Consider the integration of our legislative duties in relation to allotment provision and community growing as part of the emerging Local Development Plan 2.
6. Revise our allotment regulations and plot leases to align with the requirements of the Act and to set concessionary pricing to support the elderly, people with disabilities and people living in our Place Areas to get involved in food growing.

<sup>61</sup> <http://milngavieinbloom.webplus.net/page3.html>



## 6.6.2 Community Growing Spaces

The list of potential sites and their recommendations provides a starting point in which community groups can consider on their journey to setting up a community growing space in East Dunbartonshire, from a traditional community garden, civic planting or orchards, to the more innovative approach such as hydroponics and living roofs.

Community groups are also encouraged to consider what spaces in their local community, particularly those that are underused or derelict, could be upgraded to support a GYO opportunity. East Dunbartonshire Council welcome communities and individuals to identify areas they wish to use. Like the provision of allotments, a number of actions are set out in the Delivery Programme in Chapter 4 in relation to other community growing spaces. Some of the key actions proposed in the Delivery Programme are set out below.

Existing community growing sites exist within the Hillhead and Twechar place communities. In accordance with the objectives of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Section 119 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, particular emphasis will be placed on the identification of opportunities for community growing in or near to Lennoxtown and Auchinairn, place communities which do not currently benefit from food growing facilities. To encourage and support access to food growing for residents of place communities, Action 3 in the Delivery Programme (Chapter 11) includes a proposal to include concession prices for residents of these areas with plot leases on Council allotments.

We will...

1. Support community groups to follow the appropriate procedures for requesting use of a Council-owned space, and provide information for seeking use of privately-owned land.
2. Share information, funding opportunities and advice on our website .
3. Give people the understanding of the support and resources available to them to begin their GYO journey as set out in **Chapters 8 and 9.**
4. Assist community groups with information relating to land ownership and Common Good/ burdens.





## 7 Allotments





While the Council is committed to encouraging community-led food growing opportunities, as in **Chapter 8**, it must take reasonable steps to increase allotment provision. As stated in the Part 9 Section 112 of the Act, a local authority must take reasonable steps 'to ensure that the number of persons entered in the [allotment waiting] list... is no more than one half of the total number of allotments owned and leased by the authority, and that a person entered in the list does not remain in the list for a continuous period of more than five years'.

To meet this duty, the waiting list has been considered along with the potential food growing sites in **Chapter 6** in order for new allotment sites to be identified.

## 7.1 Local Allotment Demand

Understanding the current demand for allotments in East Dunbartonshire, as demonstrated by the Allotment Waiting List, is imperative to ensuring that we aim to provide adequate allotment provision throughout the life of the Strategy. At the end of 2018 47 people were entered onto the waiting list, although the Council are aware that flexibility in terms of allotment provision will be needed to account for future demand over the Strategy period.

## 7.2 Existing Allotment Sites

Rosebank Allotment in Hillhead is East Dunbartonshire's only formal Council-owned allotment. It was introduced in 2009 as a joint project between East Dunbartonshire Council's Streetscene Technical Support Team and Social Care, and is now run in partnership with the Council and Carr Gomm. Carr Gomm utilise half of the total number of plots to support social care agendas; therefore there are 20 plots for lease by the community.

## 7.3 New Allotment Sites

The Council will aim to provide new allotment sites on an East Dunbartonshire-wide level, but in order to provide a geographical spread it is intended that allotments will be supported in Kirkintilloch, Bishopbriggs, Milton of Campsie and Milngavie.

Taking account of the potential food growing sites explored in Chapter 6 the sites that have been prioritised for further investigation for allotments are Ashburn Gardens, Milngavie (site ID: 40) and Etive Park, Bishopbriggs (site ID: 8) (Appendix B). Delivering on these allotments over the next five years will significantly contribute to reducing the number of people on the allotment waiting list, and therefore demonstrating reasonable steps per the requirements of the Act. It is anticipated that approximately 51 plots, of varying sizes in response to current demand in the allotment waiting list, could be delivered.

In keeping with the nature of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 we will work with local communities to ensure that the delivery of allotments at Ashburn Gardens and Etive Park is carried out with community support and involvement. Future allotment sites may be Council-led, if funding is available, but the Council also supports community-led allotment provision. This approach can be supported by the Council and other organisations such as Social Farms and Gardens and Scottish Allotment s and Gardens Society (SAGS).

In addition to Ashburn Gardens and Etive Park, investigation into the upgrade of Craigfoot Field in Milton of Campsie for allotments has been on-going since 2017; the site was gifted to the Council for the purpose of allotments. The local community has been consulted on the proposal and given their feedback for the site which has informed initial designs. Despite the constraints on site, such as limited access from the main road and the site's topography, the council aims to deliver 21 plots at Craigfoot Field.

## 7.4 Delivery and Resources

The provision of the proposed allotment sites will be delivered by a phased approach, but the timescales for this, as outlined in Table 3, are dependent on the availability of resources, including staff capacity, and further site investigation that will be needed for each site to address any potential site constraints.

**Table 3 – Indicative timescales and plot sizes for new allotments in East Dunbartonshire**

Allotment Site	Preparatory (Design, consultation etc.)	Construction & Delivery	Indicative Number of Plots
Craigfoot Field	2018 – 2019	2019 – 2020	Full: 21
Etive Park	2019 – 2020	2021 – 2022	Full: 15 Half : 11 Third: 8 Quarter: 9
Ashburn Gardens	2020 – 2021	2022 – 2023	Full: 8 Half: 6 Third: 4 Quarter: 5

It is anticipated that a total of 87 mixed-size plots could be provided through the development of these proposed allotments. Together with the existing plots at Rosebank Allotment, a total of 107 plots would be available for public use over the life of the Strategy.

This would show significant steps towards meeting the duty under Part 9 Section 112 of the Act 'to ensure that the number of persons entered in the list is no more than one half of the total number of allotments owned and leased by the authority, and that a person entered in the list does not remain in the list for a continuous period of more than 5 years'. To address current baseline allotment demand, as stated in paragraph 7.1, the Council requires 94 individual Council-owned plots; the additional plots will provide capacity to address future increase in allotment demand.

## 7.5 Procedure for Identifying and Delivering Allotments

Figure 17 outlines the procedure that will be undertaken when determining site suitability and getting agreement for the use and development of land for Council-led allotments.

## 7.6 Allotment Management

For Council-leased or owned allotment sites, the overall responsibility and management of the site and its waiting list lies with the local authority. However, Section 123 Delegation of management of allotment sites<sup>62</sup> in the Act presents the opportunity for a person or group, usually an Allotment Association, to make a request in writing to the local authority to delegate certain functions and notices under Part 9 of the Act. These are:

- Request to lease allotment (Section 109(7))
- Duty to maintain list (Section 111(1))
- Display and copies of allotment site regulations (Section 116 (9) and (10))
- Promotion and use of allotments: expenditure (Section 124)
- Notice of termination of lease of allotment or allotment site (Section 126 (1))
- Notice of resumption (Section 127(2)(b))
- Notice of termination: sublease by local authority (Section 128(2)).

Where requests are made, the Council will consider the applications on its merits to determine whether the proposal for delegation intends to fulfil the obligations relating to each function in the Act. In the case of an agreement to delegate functions to a community body, a revised lease of terms and responsibilities will need to be put in place. However, the Council may recall the delegation if delegated functions are not being satisfactorily carried out or there is a material disagreement between the local authority and delegated body.

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/section/123/enacted>



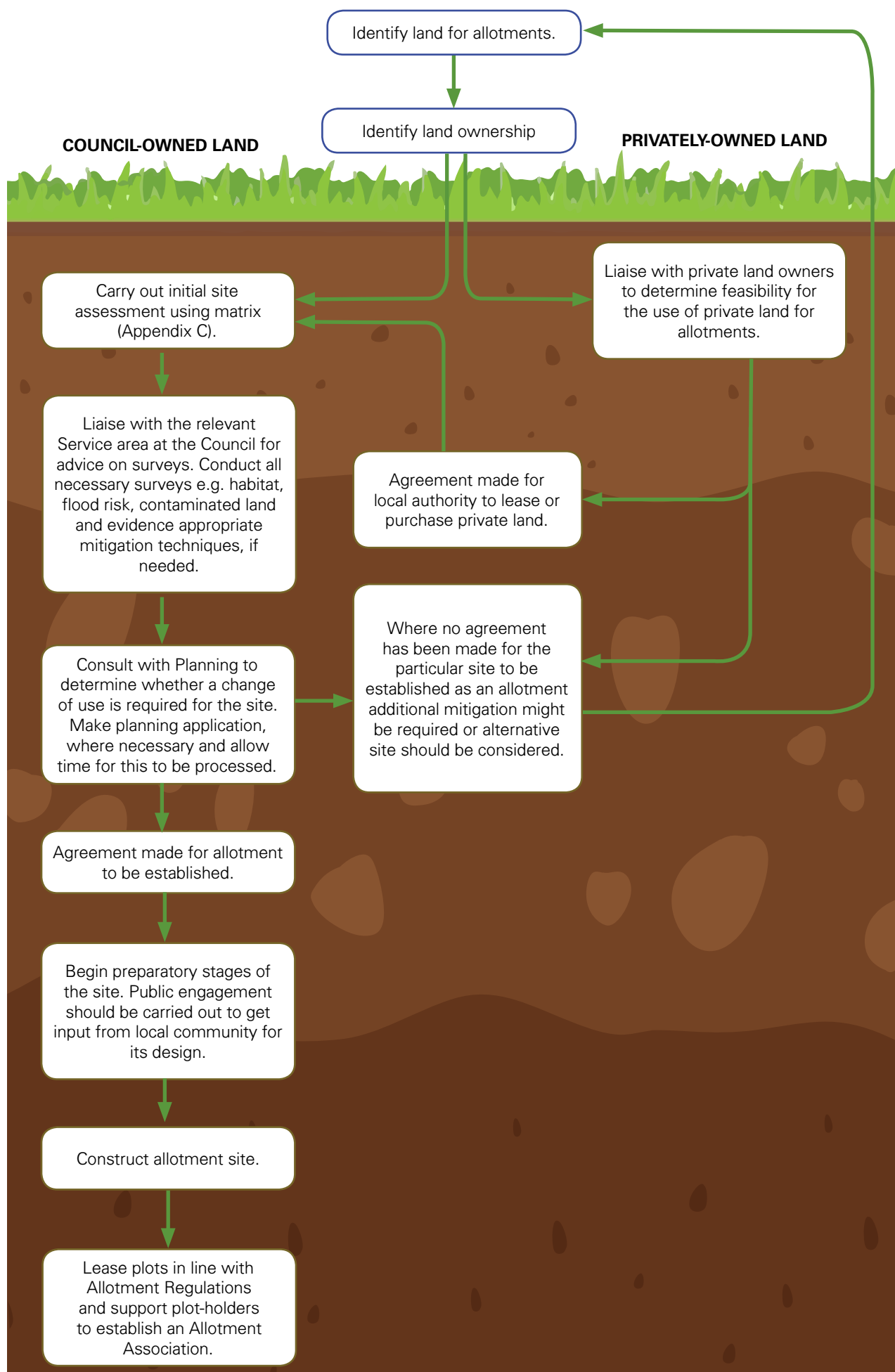


Figure 17 Procedure for identifying and developing Council-led allotments

## 8 Getting Involved in Community Growing





In addition to Council-led allotments to meet the duties of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Council supports community-led food growing opportunities including allotments. The Council recognises the importance of community empowerment for encouraging greater participation in local issues and provision as a way of improving the quality of life within communities. In terms of food growing, empowered individuals within a community can lead to the delivery of significant opportunities in response to local need and demand.

In order to give all individuals and communities fair and accessible opportunities to begin their own food growing journey a process has been determined to support evolving aspirations for food growing and the development of the project. The procedures have been developed as a way to address a number of key issues relating to land use that should be considered at the outset of any project proposal. The procedure is applicable to all types of food growing including allotments. Chapter 9 explores the various support mechanisms and resources that are available to help people start or join a GYO project.

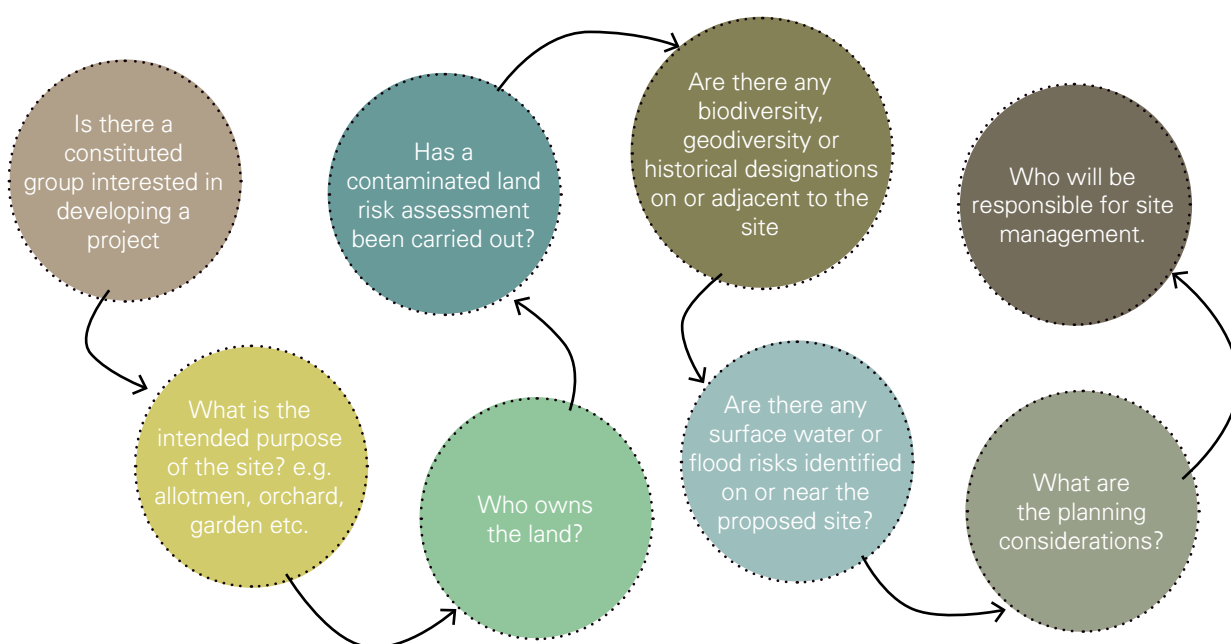
## 8.1 Legal Rights to Use or Own Land

Part 5 Asset Transfer Requests<sup>63</sup> of the Act gives powers to the community to make an asset transfer request for land owned by a public body; this involves a process which, with agreement, transfers such land to a community transfer body, defined in Section 77 of the Act as a community-controlled body or a body designated by the Scottish Ministers. Everyone has the right to buy land, where there is a willing seller, as stated in Part 2 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003<sup>64</sup> and the updates in the Act<sup>65</sup>. These legal provisions help to support communities to access land and gives them the ability to purchase land or request to use or lease land in both Council and private ownership. This is subject to planning consent.

## 8.2 Key Issues

**Figure 18** sets out the key issues that should be considered when assessing how suitable a site is for GYO. This will help to identify and eliminate any potential constraints from the outset; in turn, this proactive consideration of potential issues will strengthen the case being made in each Asset Transfer Request.

Having an understanding and clear vision for the intended use of the site will determine the types of assessments needed. The needs of the group should be considered and the most appropriate type of growing space determined based on skills, area and the characteristics of the land available. Before making a request to use the land it is important to identify the land owner – is the land owned by the Council or a private owner? The process required for getting permission to use the land will be dependent on ownership. When considering longevity of the project and to ensure that the growing initiative is sustainable and enduring it is important to also take account of who and how the site will be managed.



**Figure 18: Key Issues**

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/part/5/enacted>

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2003/2/part/2>

<sup>65</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/part/4/enacted>

## Contaminated Land

At the inception stages of the proposed GYO initiative it is important to liaise with the Council's Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) to establish if there is a possibility that the previous use of the site could indicate plausible levels of contamination on the site.

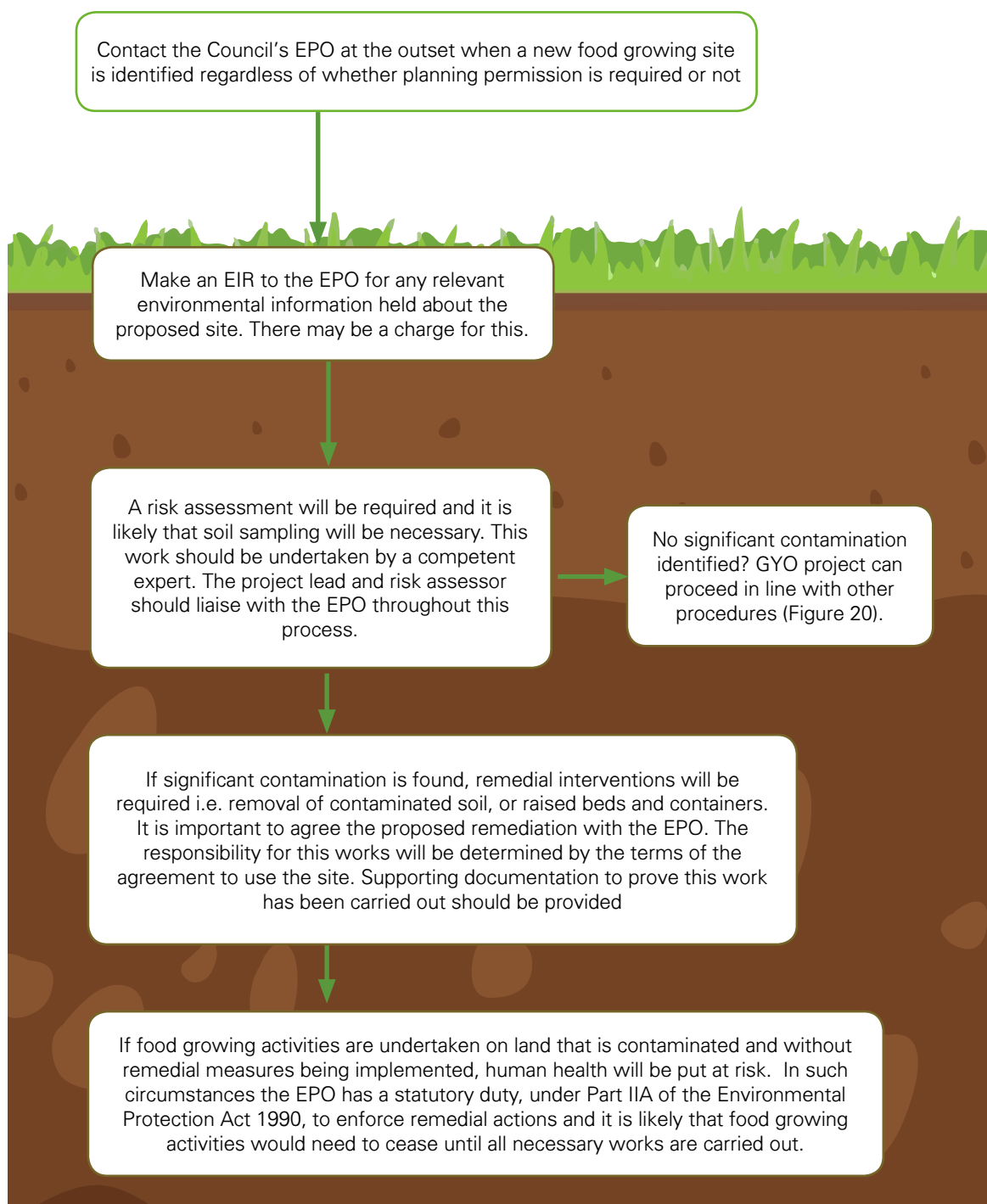
East Dunbartonshire's industrial history was concentrated along the main watercourses which were hubs as either a source of power or a transport route, as was the case for the Forth and Clyde Canal. During and following the Second World War the main uses of land included mining for coal, limestone, metalliferous minerals and ironstone, textiles, bleaching, dyeing and calico printing, and light engineering. As a result of these activities a number of sand and gravel pits have been left, although most have been infilled with material, including waste materials, for example.

Past mining and industrial activities may result in the presence of toxic minerals and heavy metals in the soil and water system, many of which can persist for many years after the activities have ended or the minerals are removed. This, in turn, increases the risk of those growing food being subjected to potentially higher levels of exposure to contaminants where they exist through skin contact with contaminated soil and inhalation of soil and dust. If produce is grown in contaminated soil, the contaminants can be absorbed and can ultimately make their way into the food system and harm people through ingestion. The surrounding water environment may also be affected as a result of leaching contaminants. The GYO working group's 'Guide for growing on land which may be contaminated' is a useful resource for understanding the type of contaminants and their effects as well as options for dealing with contaminated land issues.

In order to determine the feasibility of a site for food growing activity, an environmental risk assessment should be undertaken. The EPO will be able to offer advice and provide additional support, where appropriate. It is likely that, as part of duties set out in Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council may also hold sufficient information regarding ground condition and the contamination levels in the local area, and where such information is required to an Environmental Information Request (EIR) can be made to the Council to obtain such information.

The flowchart (**Figure 19**) demonstrates the processes relating to evaluating the presence of contaminated land that any individual or group should consider.





**Figure 19: Contaminated land evaluation process**

## Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Historical Assets

The presence of biodiversity or geodiversity designations, valuable habitats or historical assets should be identified when initial investigations of the site are undertaken. The SEA Environmental Report can be used as a starting point if the site has been assessed alongside the Strategy; however new proposals should seek advice from the Council's Greenspace and Biodiversity Policy Officer or other organisations such as Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES). Whilst the presence of biodiversity, geodiversity and historical assets does not mean that food growing activities cannot take place, proposals will need to demonstrate that use of the site will not result in negative effects. Consideration should be given to the total area being used, the type of growing and the use of appropriate mitigation.

## Flooding

Growing produce in an area at risk from all sources, including river and surface water, can pose issues for the people using the site, site infrastructure, the spread of contaminants if present and the produce grown. Flood risk may also have an impact on drainage for the site, as well as possible risks of exacerbating or transferring flood or drainage risks to neighbouring areas. It is advisable to engage with SEPA and the Council's Flood Risk Engineer to get a better understanding of the proposed site(s) and what impacts this may have. It is likely that where some flooding is identified, an assessment on flood risk will be required.

Whilst flooding poses a risk to the use of a site, using a site for food growing is possible in some cases if the right approach is used. The resources in **Chapter 9** are a useful starting point in considering options to address potential flood issues.

## Planning Considerations

Having an understanding of the planning implications for a new GYO site is a vital consideration. It is imperative that early engagement is undertaken with the Council's Development Management team who can advise on the relevant planning requirements, consent and advice in relation to the proposed site. Planning consent may be required for a number of reasons, including:

- Change of use,
- Proposals within a designated area, for example garden and designed landscapes, Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, sites of special scientific interest and conservation areas; and,
- Implementing structures on the site, such as outbuildings, fencing and parking.

There may also be other land use constraints for any potential food growing site. Notably, the use or disposal of 'common good' land or properties can be restricted by conditions imposed by those who gifted or sold the land or property. Similarly, land titles may impose burdens as to its use. Both of these factors will need to be considered and investigated further before permission is given to prospective users. In some cases, court action will be required in order to reach a decision regarding use or purchase land with common good titles or burdens.





### 8.3 Setting Up or Finding a Community Group

Identifying a community group interested in the food growing project is vital to ensuring buy-in to the project and demonstrating a long-term commitment to a sustainable and flourishing community initiative. Existing groups, such as community councils, might want to adapt to become a food growing group, or new groups can be established. Potential set-ups include, but are not limited to, 'In Bloom' groups and community development trusts.

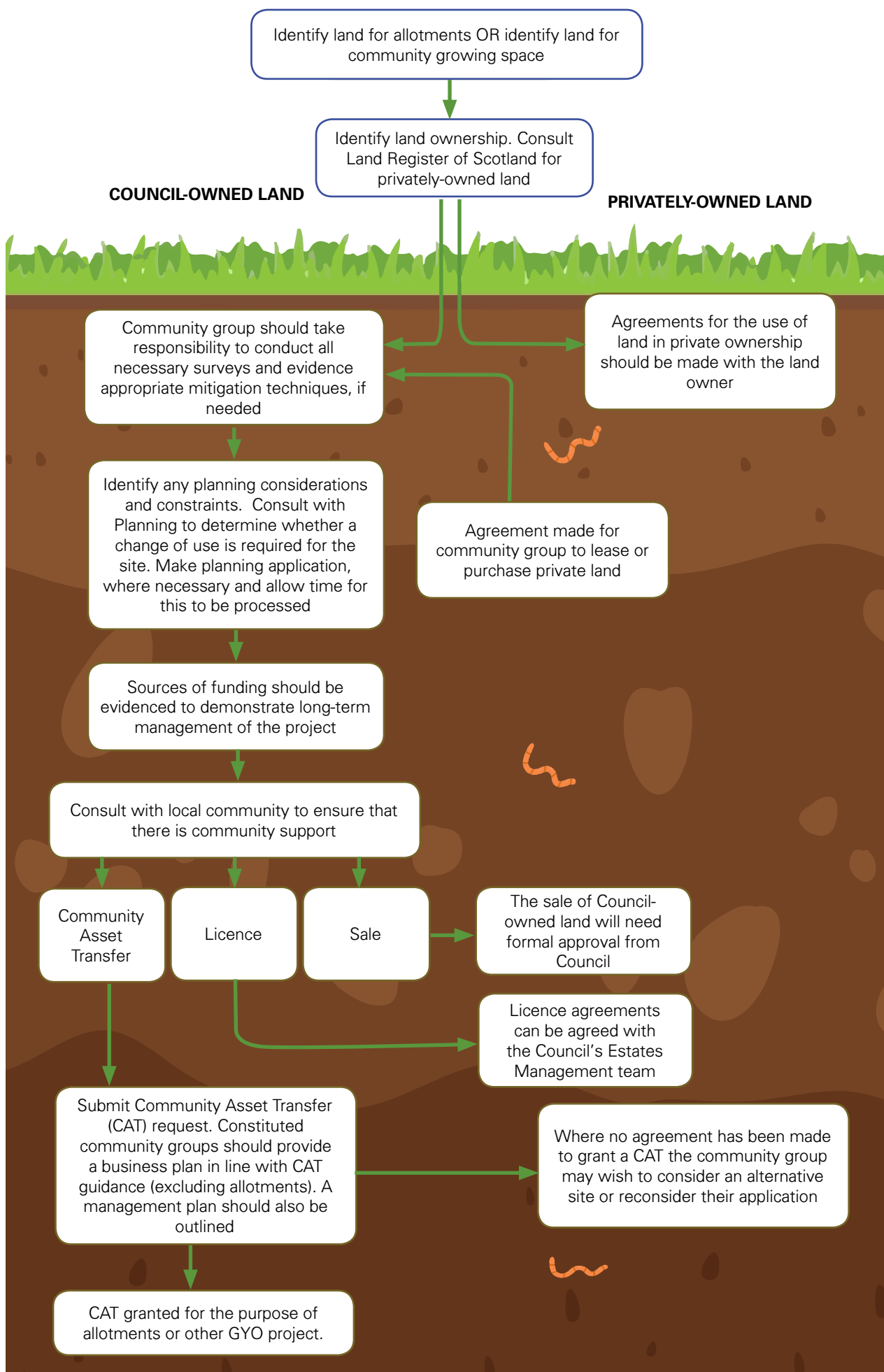
In order to maximise benefits and attract funding to support the development and management of a food growing project, groups should consider what their overall vision and aspirations are, taking into account how they will utilise a new project to support factors such as employability, sustainability, and health and wellbeing, for example. Where possible, groups should also consider how they will be able to support marginalised groups, including those living within East Dunbartonshire's Place Areas.

There are also current community growing projects in East Dunbartonshire, as described in **Chapter 5**, which might benefit from new volunteers. For example, Hillhead Community Garden are always looking for new volunteers to help maintain the space. As such, they are intending to hold open days for the community to attend to not only enjoy the space but also as an opportunity to provide training events to encourage more people to get involved. This commitment is detailed in the delivery programme.

### 8.4 Procedures

Based on the considerations described above, **Figure 20** sets out the process that should be followed by individuals and community groups wishing to start their own growing initiative. The Council has used a similar process to plan the delivery of its own allotment projects, set out in **Chapter 7**.





**Figure 20: Procedure for identifying and delivering community-led food growing projects**



## 8.5 Management of Sites

### 8.5.1 Allotments

Privately-owned allotment sites will be managed by a delegated person or body who owns or leases the land with agreement from the land owner.

For Council-leased or –owned allotment sites, the management can be delegated to a community body. This is explained in Chapter 7.

### 8.5.2 Other Community Growing

Unlike allotments, it is expected that other community growing opportunities will be managed by the community group responsible for the site. An appropriate management plan will need to be produced in line with the procedures set out above to demonstrate commitment to the site in the long-term.

## 8.6 Sustainability

For all existing or new food growing sites the design, construction, use and management of them should consider the wider impacts to the local environment to ensure that practices are contributing to sustainability. This can include construction practices and resource use that limit waste, sustainable sourcing of natural resources, preventing the misuse or overuse of chemicals on site, practicing sustainable growing practices such as organic and no-till methods, innovative approaches to water capture and encouraging access to a site through sustainable travel methods.

It is encouraged that proposals for new food growing sites consider how sustainable the approach is going to be, including whether the use and management of the site will allow for a sustained and successful community project. Site investigations and surveys will give an indication as to the most suitable practices and interventions that might be needed to ensure that the sites are development and managed as sustainably as possible in order to contribute to the wider benefits of food growing outlined in Chapter 4.

As part of the SEA process, the potential food growing sites in this Strategy have been assessed and include suggested mitigation measures to either enhance the potential positive or negative environmental effects identified as a result of the site's use for food growing. When determining site proposals and measures to ensure that the site is delivered and used sustainably the Council's Sustainability Policy Team can advise on proposed mitigation and other sustainability practices.

## 8.7 More than Profit

The meaning of 'allotment' set out in the Act<sup>66</sup> restricts the sale of surplus produce for any purposes other than with a view to making a profit. However, allotment associations and other community growers may wish to consider options to sell surplus produce to the local community on a not-for-profit basis whereby any income generated from the sale of produce is reinvested back into the community or food growing project and not for the purposes of trade or business. This will demonstrate a more than profit approach which will provide a number of other benefits to the growers, the site and the local community that is not solely focussed on the financial return.

Exploring options such as the establishment of a social enterprise or explore how a market garden could help to achieve a groups aspirations for a more than profit food growing initiative.

### 8.8 Community Engagement and Empowerment

The Council is committed to ensuring that as many people as possible are given the chance to engage in food growing activities, through community consultation on the Strategy and by having a say on community growing across East Dunbartonshire.

The information shared in this Strategy should provide inspiration for communities to become empowered to realise their own aspirations for food growing at a local level. By engaging fully with the community, whether for supporting new allotments or community growing spaces or sharing expertise and training opportunities, a more robust network of community growers is likely to be created and will lead to projects being sustained in the long term. Community groups might also use their own methods of engaging with the wider community in relation to idea sharing and project development as a way of gaining support and potentially increasing participation rates.

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/section/107/enacted>



## 9 Resources and Support





We want as many people as possible to be given a fair opportunity to get involved in the setting up, management and use of community food growing projects. There is a number of existing resources and support mechanisms to give communities opportunities for skills development and the knowledge to set up and manage a food growing initiative. The Council has expertise that they can share with those interested in getting a project off the ground. There is also a number of advisory and delivery bodies who may be able to assist groups interested in community food growing.

## 9.1 Advisory Bodies and Support Mechanisms

### LAND USE & PLANNING

Finding suitable spaces, Community Asset Transfer Requests, planning advice and land ownership. This includes information for land owners

- Land Register of Scotland
- Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS) Scotland
- Planning Advice Scotland (PAS)
- Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)
- East Dunbartonshire Council Planning and Building Standards
- East Dunbartonshire Council Streetscene Technical Support Team
- East Dunbartonshire Council Community Planning Partners

### SETTING UP A GROUP

Advice on setting up a constituted group, social enterprise, allotment association, expanding an existing group

- East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action (EDVA)
- Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS)
- Social Farms and Gardens
- Incredible Edible Network
- Sustain

### CONTAMINATED LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental advice relating to air quality, noise, soil quality and contaminated land

- Environmental Protection Scotland (EPS)
- CLAS
- East Dunbartonshire Council Environmental Protection Team
- Scotland's Soils
- The James Hutton Institute
- Social Farms and Gardens

### FUNDING

Advice on current funding sources and support for applications

- Social Farms and Gardens
- greenspace scotland
- Keep Scotland Beautiful
- East Dunbartonshire Council Streetscene Technical Support Team

## HISTORICAL ASSETS

Advice relating to food growing in or near an area of historical importance such as World Heritage Sites, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

- Historic Environment Scotland

## SUPPORT AND TRAINING

Advice on setting up a constituted group, social enterprise, allotment association, expanding an existing group

- East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action (EDVA)
- Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society (SAGS)
- Social Farms and Gardens
- Incredible Edible Network
- Sustain

## GROWING IN SCHOOLS AND NURSERIES

Advice on integrating food growing into the curriculum, teacher training opportunities and growing within the school grounds

- Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET)
- Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)
- Keep Scotland Beautiful

## BIODIVERSITY

How to enhance a food growing site to support local biodiversity, reduce impacts to wildlife and support pollination

- Buglife
- Social Farms and Gardens
- East Dunbartonshire Council Greenspace and Biodiversity Policy Officer
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

## WATER ENVIRONMENT

How to grow in an area at risk of flooding or near to waterbodies

- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
- East Dunbartonshire Council Flood Risk Officer

## SUSTAINABILITY

Find out how to design and use your site sustainably

- Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN)
- Keep Scotland Beautiful
- East Dunbartonshire Council Sustainability and Climate Change Officer

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Advice on taking forward food growing projects to support health and wellbeing such as therapeutic gardening

- Trellis
- Nourish



The list of existing resources is not exhaustive but will give groups valuable information for starting or expanding a food growing project.

Although many of the advisory groups and resources are targeted at a community level, there is also resources targeted at corporate and educator training. For example, Keep Scotland Beautiful supports educators through the Environmental Professional Learning Programme, as well as other training opportunities<sup>67</sup>.

There are also initiatives, such as One Planet Picnic<sup>68</sup>, It's Your Neighbourhood campaign<sup>69</sup> run by Keep Scotland Beautiful in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and RHS' School Gardening campaign<sup>70</sup>, that encourage groups to get involved in community growing as part of national campaigns. Participation in an initiative such as this will give community groups, including those within schools, an opportunity to showcase their food growing efforts and share their project with the wider community.

Future growing initiatives may also wish to consider greenspace scotland's 'Our Growing Community'<sup>71</sup> approach. greenspace scotland has previously worked with the Twechar community, as described in Chapter 5, using this model to identify and set-up new GYO projects. Where there is demand, this approach could be replicated for new opportunities with support from greenspace scotland.

## 9.2 Allotment Waiting List

The Council holds a central allotment waiting list for people to register their interest in a plot. As plots become available those entered on the list will be asked if they would like a plot. Plots are allocated by distance to the allotment and time on the waiting list.

If you wish to register your name on the allotment waiting list please contact [communitygrowing@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrowing@eastdunbarton.gov.uk) or follow the links on the Council's website

It might be that people remain on the waiting list for extended periods of time if plots are full until new sites are created. Parallel growing activities should be considered as alternative options for growing to meet needs until plots are available.

## 9.3 Food Growing Webpage

The advisory groups and support mechanisms above already produce a range of guidance documents and supporting information. We will share links to as many of these resources as possible and to the groups themselves on the Council's Greenspace webpage<sup>72</sup>. The page will be updated regularly with guidance and support mechanisms, where appropriate.

## 9.4 Funding

It is recognised that funding is one of the barriers to any community group starting and taking forward a project. In addition to the sources of funding from various sources in Scotland and the UK that can be applied for to support a new food growing project, including the funding support mechanisms above, a significant number of projects have benefited from the Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund aimed at improving the urban and rural landscape in Scotland. Recognising the benefits of this fund, the Scottish Government has committed to new financial support<sup>73</sup> for local authorities and community groups for the establishment of community growing options. A Community Growing Fund of £80,000 will be set up by the Scottish Government in 2019 to provide practical advice on food growing and to support the setting up of sites. It will be targeted at those living in areas of socio-economic disadvantage.

greenspace scotland's 'Fund Your Project'<sup>74</sup> and Grow Your Own Scotland's funding<sup>75</sup> pages also provide more information about other funding sources and grant schemes.

67 <https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/environmental-services/>

68 <https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainable-development-education/food-and-the-environment/one-planet-picnic/>

69 <https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/local-environmental-quality/its-your-neighbourhood/>

70 <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home>

71 <https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/food-growing-publications>

72 <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/greenspace>

73 Good Food Nation: programme of measures (September 2018) New support for community Grow Your Own opportunities in disadvantaged areas – <https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-food-nation-programme-of-measures/pages/3/>

74 <https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/pages/category/fund-your-project>

75 <http://www.growyourownscotland.info/funding/>



# 10 Implementation and Monitoring





The implementation of the Strategy is linked to various factors including the allocation of Council resources, funding opportunities, partnership working between the Council, Community Planning Partners, Health and Social Care Partnership and other organisations, and the participation of our communities.

Although the delivery programme sets out the intentions for supporting the Strategy's vision with timescales indicated for meeting the aims in the short, medium and long-term, overall project delivery can be affected by variables including capacity to lead on delivery, allocation of capital and revenue funding to deliver Council-led initiatives, unforeseen site constraints and the success of partnership working. The delivery programme in Chapter 11 indicates which actions are dependent solely on funding and resources within the Council to deliver.

## 10.1 Annual Allotments Report

The Act sets legislative duties on local authorities to prepare and publish an annual allotments report ensuring that the progress made in East Dunbartonshire to meet legislative duties to increase allotment provision is outlined. In particular, the report will provide an account in relation to the location and size of allotments, the proportion of land leased for an allotment and the period and rent payable for each allotment lease, for example, as well as other issues outlined in Section 121 of the Act.

In line with the timescales set by the Act, the annual allotments report will be produced and reported at the end of each reporting year after the publication of the final Food Growing Strategy and made available on the Council's food growing webpage.

## 10.2 Assessing Allotment Demand

Demand for allotments in East Dunbartonshire is recorded via the allotment waiting list. In line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) the allotment waiting list will be reviewed every two years to adhere with the Scottish Council on Archives Records Retention Schedule (SCARRS). This will result in all people entered on the waiting list being contacted to confirm their preferences for an allotment to determine what the current demand is. The monitoring of this will be included as part of the allotment review where timescales align.

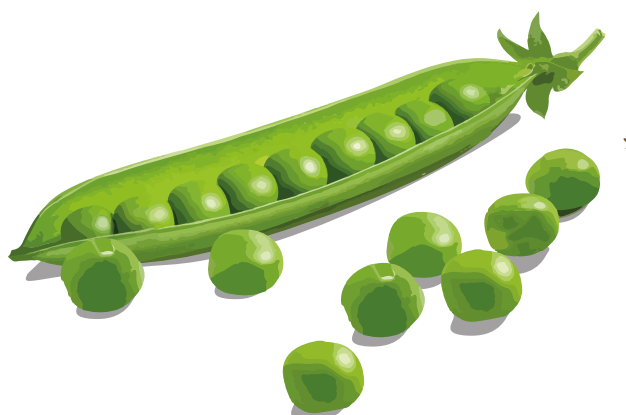
## 10.3 Monitoring and Strategy Review

The benefits of food growing highlight synergies with other commitments within the Council and other partner organisations. Where possible, the monitoring framework for the FGS will draw upon existing monitoring mechanisms and take account of the SEA monitoring framework. The monitoring framework will ensure accountability for delivering the actions set out in the Strategy.

In addition to the annual allotment report, annual monitoring reports will be presented to the relevant Council committee; this will also be an opportunity to review priorities in light of changes to local demand for food growing, funding and partnership capacity for delivery.

## 10.4 Strategy Update

In addition to any necessary updates as part of annual monitoring and Strategy review, East Dunbartonshire's FGS will be reviewed and updated within five years after the publication date of the final Strategy, and every five years thereafter. Undertaking a comprehensive review of the Strategy after five years of implementation will be an opportunity to review how successfully the overall vision of the Strategy was achieved over a longer period.





# 11 Delivery Programme





Through the work undertaken to develop East Dunbartonshire's Food Growing Strategy, a set of actions has been agreed by all of the partners involved in the collaboration of the Strategy. The actions have been developed in line with the Strategy's aims and objectives. It should be noted that the success of delivery for the actions is dependent on the availability of funding and resources, including staff capacity.

Table 4 sets out the opportunities to deliver and support food growing initiatives locally, focussing on allotments, community growing and engagement, support in education, sustainability and a corporate approach.

# Table 4 - Delivery programme

Ref	Action	Short 2020 – 2021	Medium 2022 – 2024	Long 2025+	Delivery Partners	Aim 1: Community Engagement	Aim 2: Increased Food Growing Opportunities	Aim 3: Understanding and Skills Development	Aim 4: Health and Wellbeing	Aim 5: Sustainability
Allotments										
1	Update the Allotment Regulations in line with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (CEAct) duties and community engagement with the Allotment Association.	Summer 2019 and in place by 1 April 2020			Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team; Streetscene Technical Support Team)					
2	Carry out further site assessments and investigation of potential allotment sites (phased approach to be applied to deliver one at a time): - Ashburn Gardens - Etive Park.	Etive Park	Ashburn Gardens		Lead: EDC (Streetscene Technical Support Team) Support: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team)					
3	Review and revise allotment plot leases to ensure alignment with average national allotment fees. Include concession prices for: · Students · Unemployed people · Disabilities · People on low incomes/zero contracts · Over 60s and, · Residents of East Dunbartonshire's place areas.	Summer 2019 and in place by 1 April 2020			Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team; Streetscene Technical Support Team) Support: EDC (Community Planning Partnership)					
4	Support the establishment of community-led Allotment Associations and devolved management of sites, where appropriate.	On-going			Lead: EDC (Streetscene Technical Support Team)					



Ref	Action	Short 2020 – 2021	Medium 2022 – 2024	Long 2025+	Delivery Partners	Aim 1: Community Engagement	Aim 2: Increased Food Growing Opportunities	Aim 3: Understanding and Skills Development	Aim 4: Health and Wellbeing	Aim 5: Sustainability
5	Establish and maintain an online allotment waiting list that is transparent and accessible giving everyone the same opportunity to request an allotment in East Dunbartonshire.	Spring/Summer 2020	On-going		Lead: EDC (Streetscene Technical Support Team) Support: EDC (IT; Sustainability Policy Team)					
6	Review allotment waiting list every two years to comply with SCARRS retention period and to comply with GDPR	Biennial			Lead: EDC (Streetscene Technical Support Team) Support: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team)					
7	Annual review of allotment provision in line with duties of the CEAct and a review of potential sites where appropriate.	Annually			Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team; Streetscene Technical Support Team)					
8	Consider any potential allotment sites, identified by the Food Growing Strategy, through the emerging Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) process.		✓	✓	Lead: EDC (Land Planning Policy) Support: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team)					
9	Continue to support plot holders at Rosebank Allotment and its on-going maintenance.	On-going			Lead: EDC (Streetscene Technical Support Team) Support: CarrGomm					

Ref	Action	Short 2020 – 2021	Medium 2022 – 2024	Long 2025+	Delivery Partners	Aim 1: Community Engagement	Aim 2: Increased Food Growing Opportunities	Aim 3: Understanding and Skills Development	Aim 4: Health and Wellbeing	Aim 5: Sustainability
10	Engage with the community on the use of all potential allotment sites identified in the Strategy and additional sites that may be identified, by undertaking the appropriate planning processes and public consultation.	On-going			Lead: EDC (Streetscene Technical Support Team)					
11	Finalise the design for the proposed Craigfoot Allotment site in Milton of Campsie and seek funding and delivery options to deliver all infrastructure*.	2019/ 2020			Lead: EDC (Streetscene Technical Support Team)					
12	For all prospective allotment sites that are taken forward to meet allotment demand, relevant site assessments will be carried out in partnership with experts to determine suitability of site and to identify constraints prior to design and community consultation. This applies to potential sites identified in the Strategy and other sites identified over the life of the Strategy*.	On-going			Lead: EDC (Streetscene Technical Support Team) Support: EDC (Flood Risk and Design; Sustainability Policy Team; Environmental Health)					
13	Promote local allotments and investigate the feasibility of training opportunities for allotment tenants and potential tenants about the use of allotments*.	On-going			Lead: EDC (Streetscene Technical Support Team)					



Ref	Action	Short 2020 – 2021	Medium 2022 – 2024	Long 2025+	Delivery Partners	Aim 1: Community Engagement	Aim 2: Increased Food Growing Opportunities	Aim 3: Understanding and Skills Development	Aim 4: Health and Wellbeing	Aim 5: Sustainability
Community Growing and Engagement										
14	Create regulations for community growers in line with the allotment regulations and best practice guidance*.	Spring/Summer 2020			Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team; Streetscene Technical Support Team)					
15	Explore opportunities and continue to support capacity building, training and skills development through the Food and Environment Programme for communities and the Environment Professional Learning Programme for educators. Timescales for this will be established Spring/Summer 2020 once capacity is determined by Keep Scotland Beautiful.	To be determined			Lead: Keep Scotland Beautiful					
16	Hold open days at Hillhead Community Garden and work with Hillhead Housing Association and the community garden volunteers to develop a gardening training event.	Spring/Summer 2020			Lead: Hillhead Community Garden (Hillhead Housing Association) Support: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team)					

Ref	Action	Short 2020 – 2021	Medium 2022 – 2024	Long 2025+	Delivery Partners	Aim 1: Community Engagement	Aim 2: Increased Food Growing Opportunities	Aim 3: Understanding and Skills Development	Aim 4: Health and Wellbeing	Aim 5: Sustainability
17	Investigate the feasibility of remediating and upgrading underused spaces such as potentially contaminated and/or vacant and derelict land for community growing opportunities through CSGNT's emerging Vacant and Derelict Land Strategy and in accordance with Local Development Plan.	On-going			Lead: CSGNT Support: EDC (Estates Management, Environmental Health, Sustainability Policy Team, Land Planning Policy)					
18	Establish baseline information of active growing groups and individuals and signpost to growing projects via the Council website.	Summer 2020			Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team)					
19	Support the establishment of social and therapeutic horticulture opportunities to align with health and wellbeing agendas.	On-going			Lead: Health and Social Care Partnership (Health Improvement Team) Support: EDC (Streetscene Technical Support Team)					
20	Support the setup of and assist with potential funding, guidance on governance and good practice for social enterprises, charities and/or non-profit community growing groups.	On-going			Lead: East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action (EDVA) Support: EDC (Business Gateway)					
21	Encourage the integration of food growing opportunities to meet the needs of new development, as part of open spaces, green infrastructure and/or green network on or related to a development site.		February 2022		Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team) Support: EDC (Planning)					



Ref	Action	Short 2020 – 2021	Medium 2022 – 2024	Long 2025+	Delivery Partners	Aim 1: Community Engagement	Aim 2: Increased Food Growing Opportunities	Aim 3: Understanding and Skills Development	Aim 4: Health and Wellbeing	Aim 5: Sustainability
22	Investigate the presence and capacity of any Climate Challenge Fund and It's Your Neighbourhood groups developing food growing initiatives locally and encourage groups to register with the It's Your Neighbourhood campaign in 2019 and continue over the life of the Strategy, where appropriate.	Annually			Lead: Keep Scotland Beautiful Support: RHS					
23	Support community groups to progress their food growing aspirations into business models such as social enterprises and non-profits, volunteering and capacity building organisations, Help ensure sustainability of projects by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· training opportunities</li> <li>· assistance with business plans</li> <li>· funding sources</li> <li>· finance management plans</li> <li>· start-up group grants and training</li> <li>· signposting to other relevant organisations to assist with business start ups.</li> </ul>	On-going			Lead: EDVA Support: EDC (Business Gateway; Business & Tourism)					
24	In line with the emerging Sustainability and Climate Change Framework (SCCF) Dynamic Action Plan and the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan, explore options for skill development, social inclusion, employability and volunteering in relation to food growing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· case studies of best practice food growing projects</li> <li>· skills development schemes</li> <li>· work with local businesses to explore opportunities to support local food social enterprises, market gardens and volunteering opportunities</li> <li>· professional development on food growing</li> </ul>	In line with the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework (SCCF) Dynamic Action Plan			Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team) Support: EDC (Community Learning Development Working Group)					

Ref	Action	Short 2020 – 2021	Medium 2022 – 2024	Long 2025+	Delivery Partners	Aim 1: Community Engagement	Aim 2: Increased Food Growing Opportunities	Aim 3: Understanding and Skills Development	Aim 4: Health and Wellbeing	Aim 5: Sustainability
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the standardisation of messages relating to healthy eating and nutrition through training opportunities and support partnerships with community growing groups</li> <li>cooking classes</li> <li>community nutrition training programmes</li> <li>Good Food and Good Health training</li> <li>'Train the Trainer' building capacity in East Dunbartonshire.</li> </ul>	On-going			Lead: Health and Social Care Partnership (Health Improvement Team) Support: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team)					
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver Keys to Life 'Good Food Good Health' project in Milngavie and investigate options to continue the project.</li> </ul>	On-going			Lead: EDC (Local Area Co-ordinator team (Social Work Day Services))					
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the feasibility of additional 'Good Food Good Health' projects and supper clubs in different localities.</li> </ul>	On-going			Lead: EDC (Local Area Co-ordinator team (Social Work Day Services))					
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where interest in the additional sites (Appendix B) for food growing, support community groups to undergo an initial site assessment using the assessment matrix (Appendix C). Review and update list of potential community growing sites if 'additional sites' are assessed as part of the Strategy update*.</li> </ul>	On-going			Lead: EDC (Streetscene Technical Support Team) Support: greenspace scotland					



Ref	Action	Short 2020 – 2021	Medium 2022 – 2024	Long 2025+	Delivery Partners	Aim 1: Community Engagement	Aim 2: Increased Food Growing Opportunities	Aim 3: Understanding and Skills Development	Aim 4: Health and Wellbeing	Aim 5: Sustainability
29	Work with local communities in East Dunbartonshire to secure funding to make use of the holistic Our Growing Community approach to create community growing maps and action to mirror the Edible Twechar project, where demand occurs*.	On-going			Lead: greenspace scotland					
30	Ongoing awareness raising and engagement of the Food Growing Strategy where resources permit. This could include, but is not limited to and will be dependent on demand: · Council Learning Lunches; · A presence at the Kirkintilloch Canal Festival.									
Schools and Education										
31	Continue the RHS School Gardening Awards campaign, as described in Chapter 5, at Hillhead Community Garden and encourage and support others to participate in awards scheme.	On-going			Lead: Hillhead Housing Association; EDC (Education)					
32	· Support schools to participate in RHS Campaign for School Gardening through CPD/Twilight sessions for cluster schools and investigate the demand and feasibility to extend invitation to community growing volunteers.	On-going			Lead: RHS					

Ref	Action	Short 2020 – 2021	Medium 2022 – 2024	Long 2025+	Delivery Partners	Aim 1: Community Engagement	Aim 2: Increased Food Growing Opportunities	Aim 3: Understanding and Skills Development	Aim 4: Health and Wellbeing	Aim 5: Sustainability
33	· Develop and deliver 'Sustainable School Food' programme, in which food-growing is a cross-cutting priority.	2018 – 2021			Lead: EDC (Education) Support: EDC (Food Sustainability Steering Group); Keep Scotland Beautiful					
34	· Promote refreshed Eco-Schools Scotland framework and resources to support food growing development in schools.	Monthly/on-going			Lead: Keep Scotland Beautiful; Support: EDC (Education; Sustainability Policy Team)					
35	· Identify on site food growing opportunities for all new schools and nurseries in East Dunbartonshire, appropriate to age and ability.	On-going			Lead: EDC (Estates Management; Education; Planning)					
36	· Promote Keep Scotland Beautiful One Planet Picnic to increase local participation.	Winter/spring annually			Lead: Keep Scotland Beautiful; Support: EDC (Education; Sustainability Policy Team)					



Ref	Action	Short 2020 – 2021	Medium 2022 – 2024	Long 2025+	Delivery Partners	Aim 1: Community Engagement	Aim 2: Increased Food Growing Opportunities	Aim 3: Understanding and Skills Development	Aim 4: Health and Wellbeing	Aim 5: Sustainability
Sustainability										
37	Ensure that allotment regulations, community growing spaces regulations and procedures set out in the Strategy are in line with the East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), Pollinator Strategy for Scotland and Sustainability Climate Change Framework as a support mechanisms to increase the diversification of pollinator-friendly planting and the planting of native species for all growing opportunities in East Dunbartonshire.	On-going			Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team; Streetscene Technical Support Team)					
38	Continue to promote food growing opportunities in new development as green infrastructure and green network through the LDP, Town Centre Strategies and Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance.		February 2022		Lead: EDC (Land Planning Policy; Sustainability Policy Team)					
39	Work with flood risk management to consider the scope for integration of food growing options as part of flood water management projects where appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· food growing options to support the planned Surface Water Management Plans for East Dunbartonshire</li> <li>· Include diverse planting as part of the options for the River Glazert River Restoration Project</li> <li>· natural flood management and river restoration opportunities</li> <li>· opportunities for food growing spaces to support naturalisation and daylighting of culverted river where flood risk</li> </ul>	On-going			Lead: EDC (Flood Risk Engineer Officer; Roads and Transportation, Sustainability Policy Team; Streetscene Technical Support Team)					

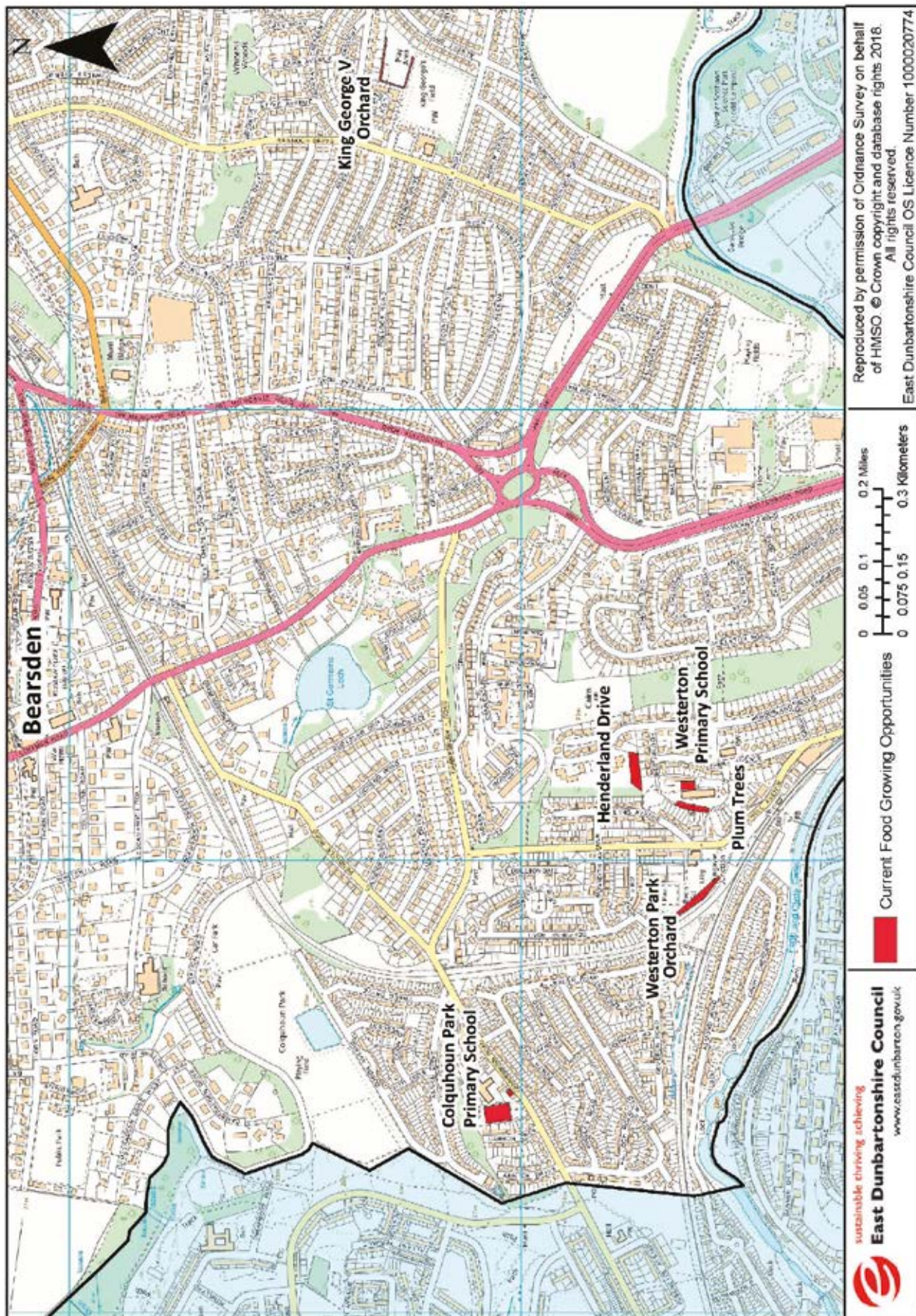
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40	Integrate food growing opportunities where appropriate into the emerging Climate Change Adaptation Strategy by contributing to its development.		2019 – 2024		Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team)					
41	Carry out Love Food Hate Waste training for householders and community growers.	Spring /summer 2020			Lead: Zero Waste Scotland Support: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team)					
42	Consider options for new food growing opportunities within Local Development Plan Policies.	Spring 2020			Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team; Planning Policy Team)					
Supporting Actions										
43	Work with People Development to develop options for incorporating the food growing and sustainability agendas into corporate training and development opportunities.	Summer 2020	On-going		Lead: EDC (People Development; Sustainability Policy Team)					



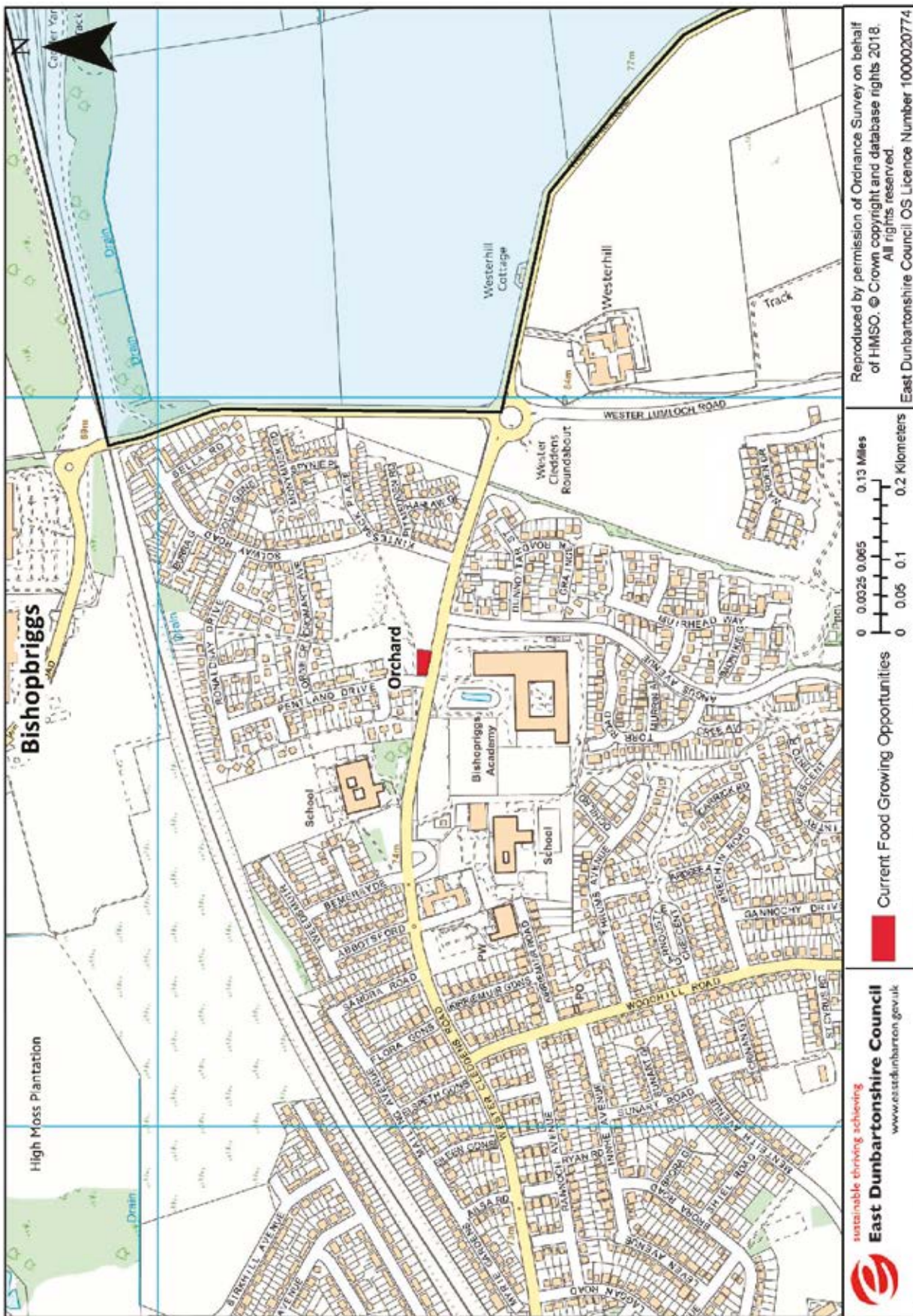
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44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the Food Growing Strategy and food growing agenda in East Dunbartonshire as part of the Healthy Working Lives Strategy and schedule of activities. Work with the Healthy Working Lives Group to consider food growing opportunities in the revised Healthy Working Lives Strategy and delivery programme.</li> </ul>	On-going and in line with Healthy Working Lives Strategy updates			Lead: EDC (Healthy Working Lives Group)					
45	Develop a monitoring framework for the Food Growing Strategy.	Winter 2018 – spring 2020			Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team)					
46	Form a Food Growing Partnership group made up of all delivery partners to aid monitoring of the Strategy.	Summer 2020			Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team)					
47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a dedicated webpage for food growing on the Council website and update regularly*.</li> <li>The webpage is to include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>best practice guidance for setting up, designing and managing allotment sites</li> <li>promotion of local and national campaigns relating to food growing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	On-going			Lead: EDC (Sustainability Policy Team; IT)					

# Appendix A

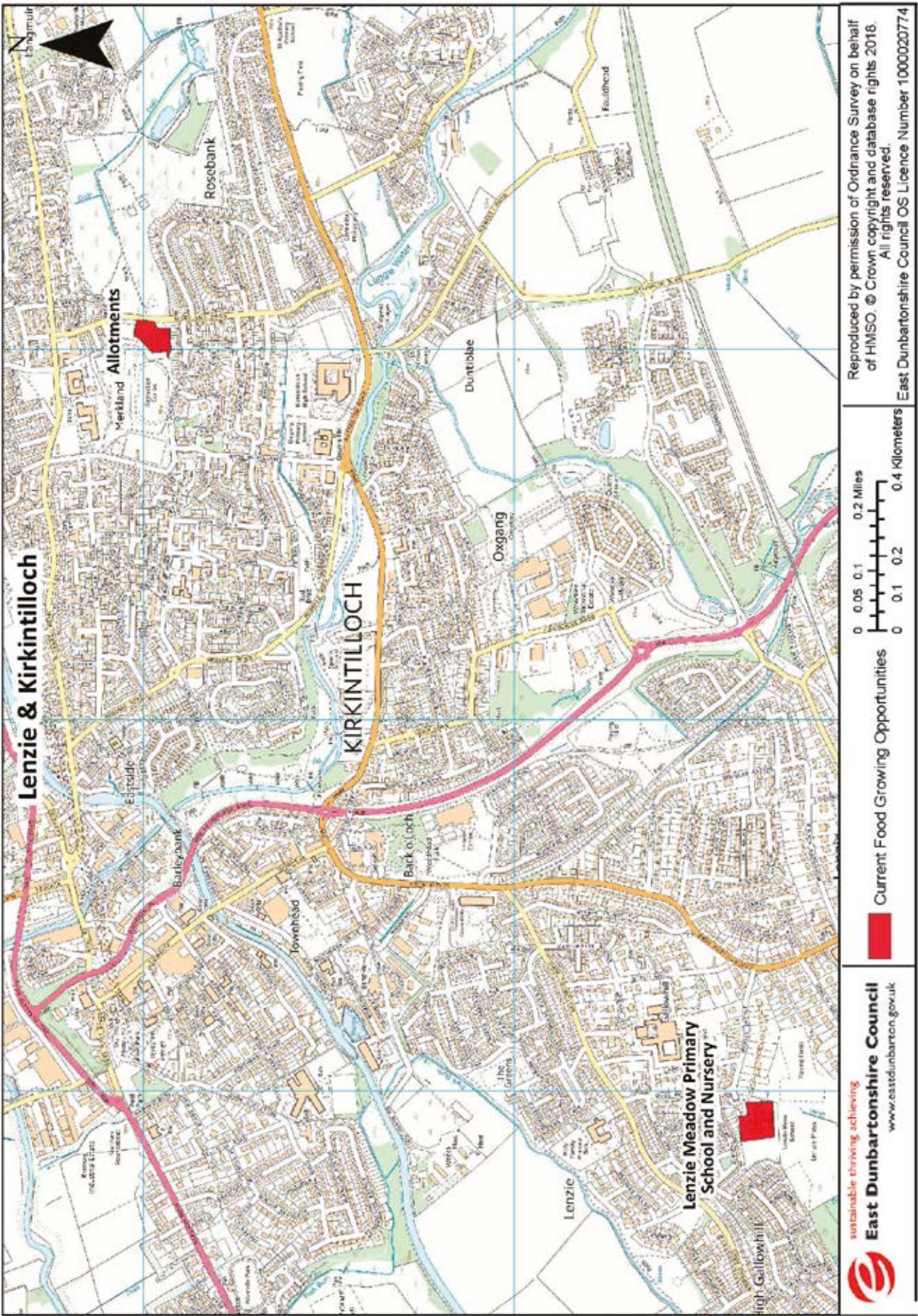
## Current food growing sites in East Dunbartonshire



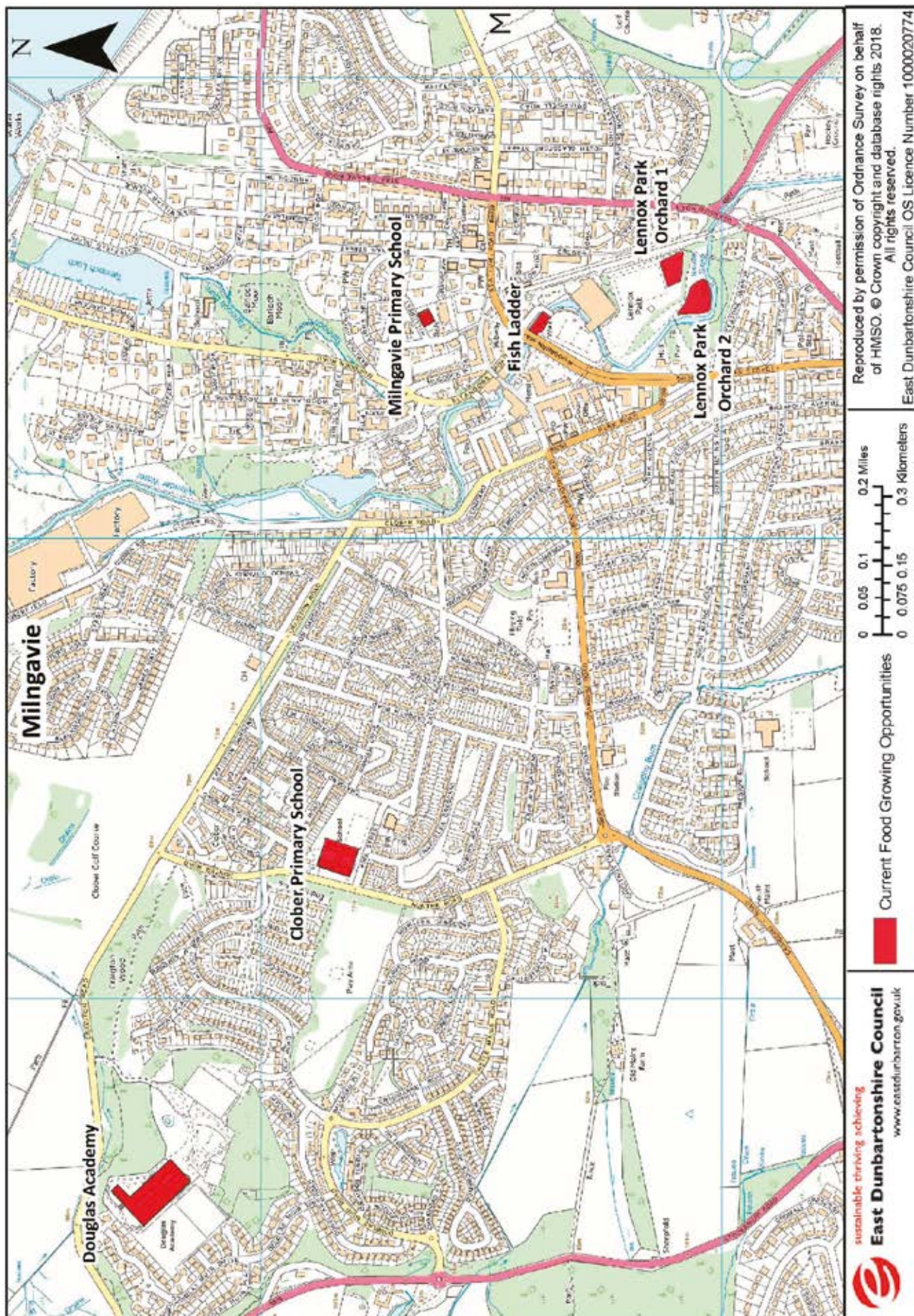








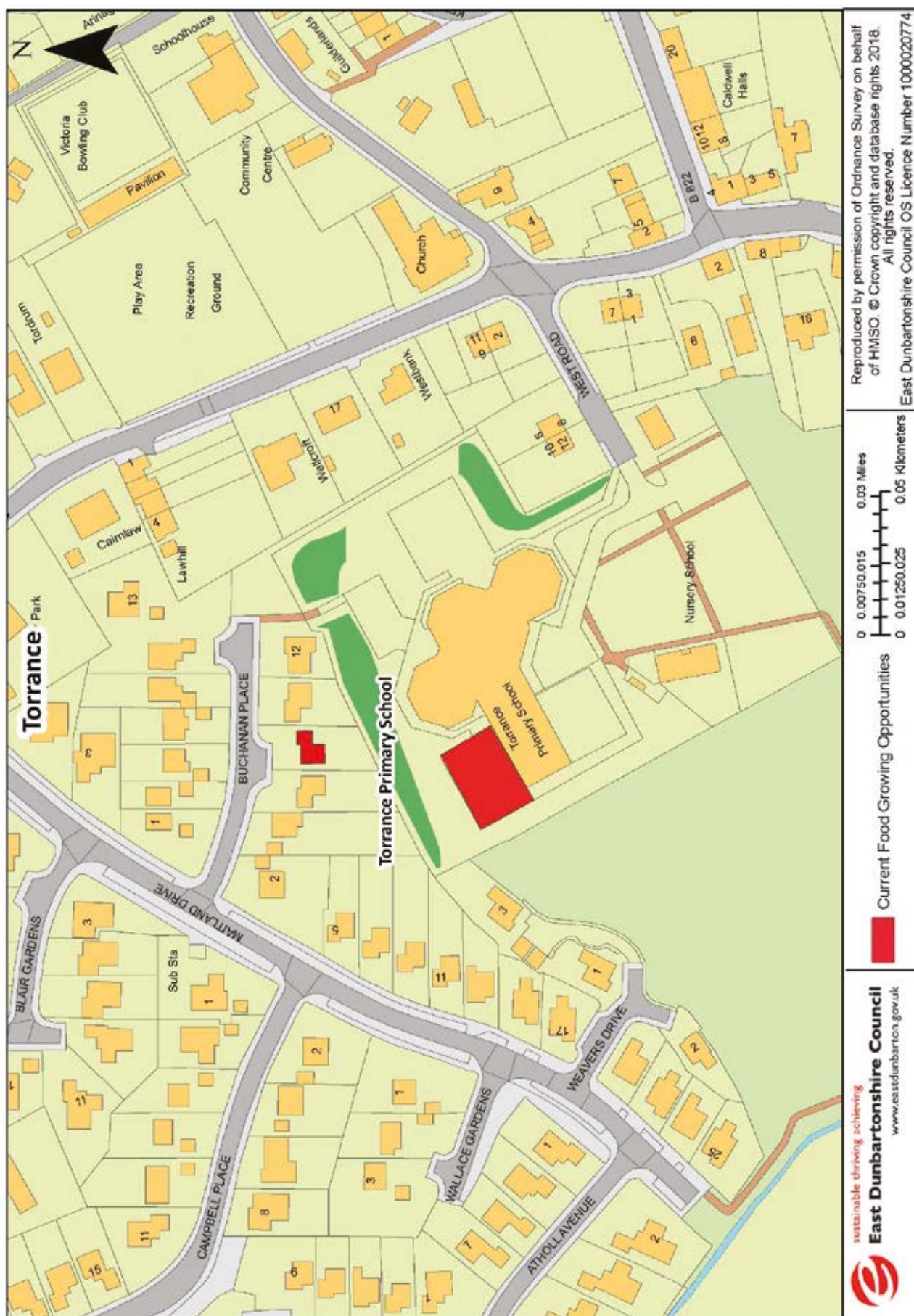




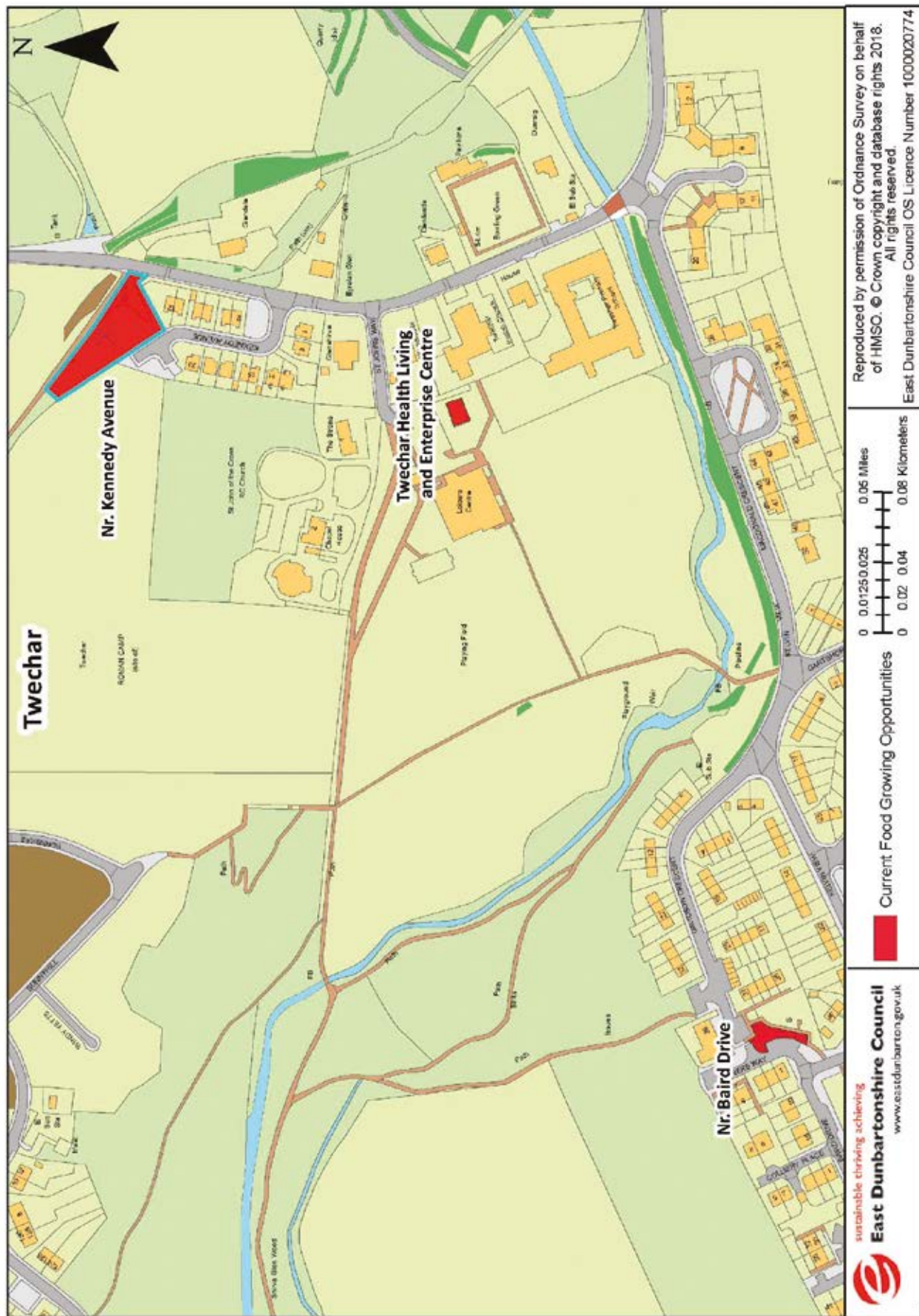
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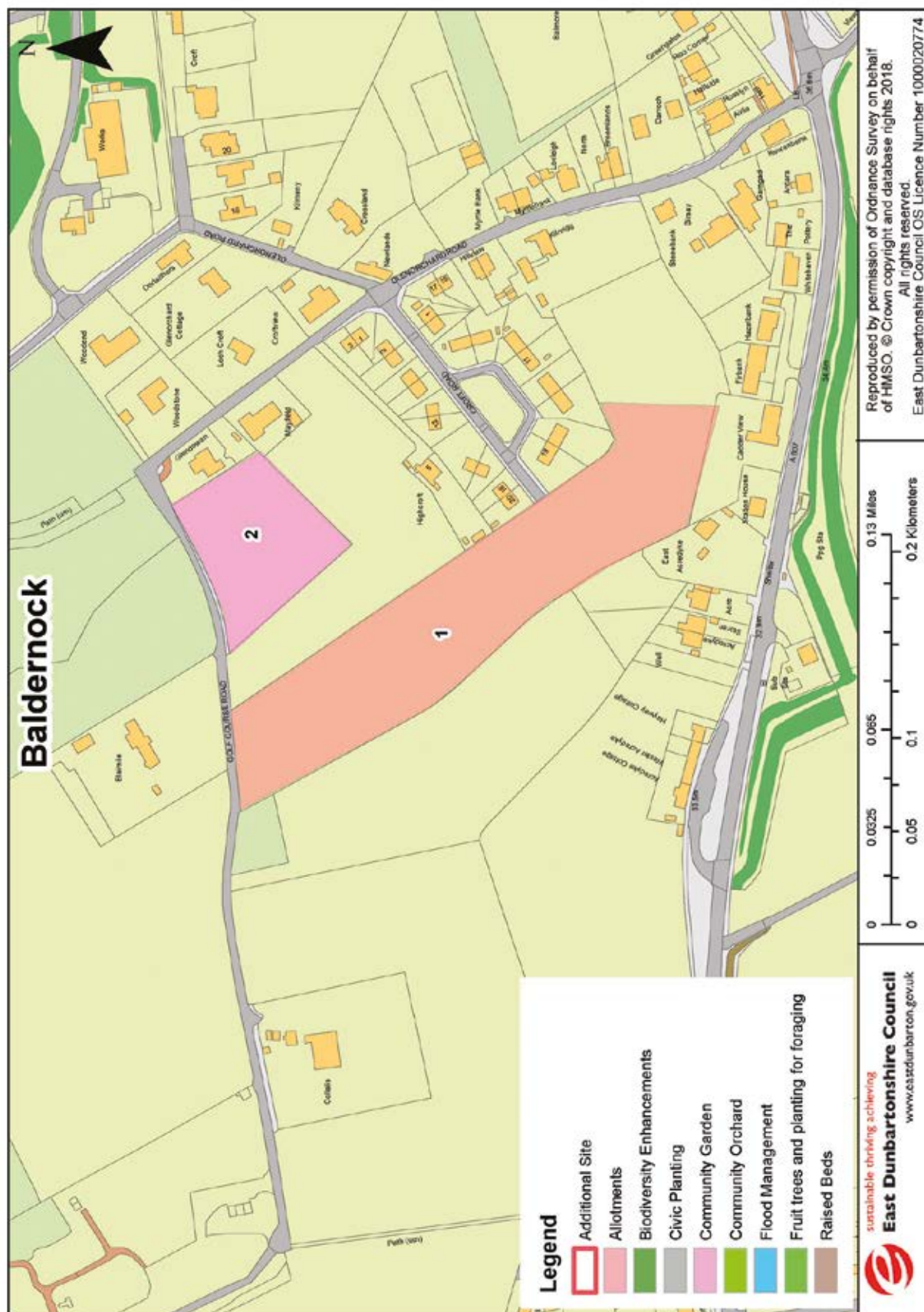




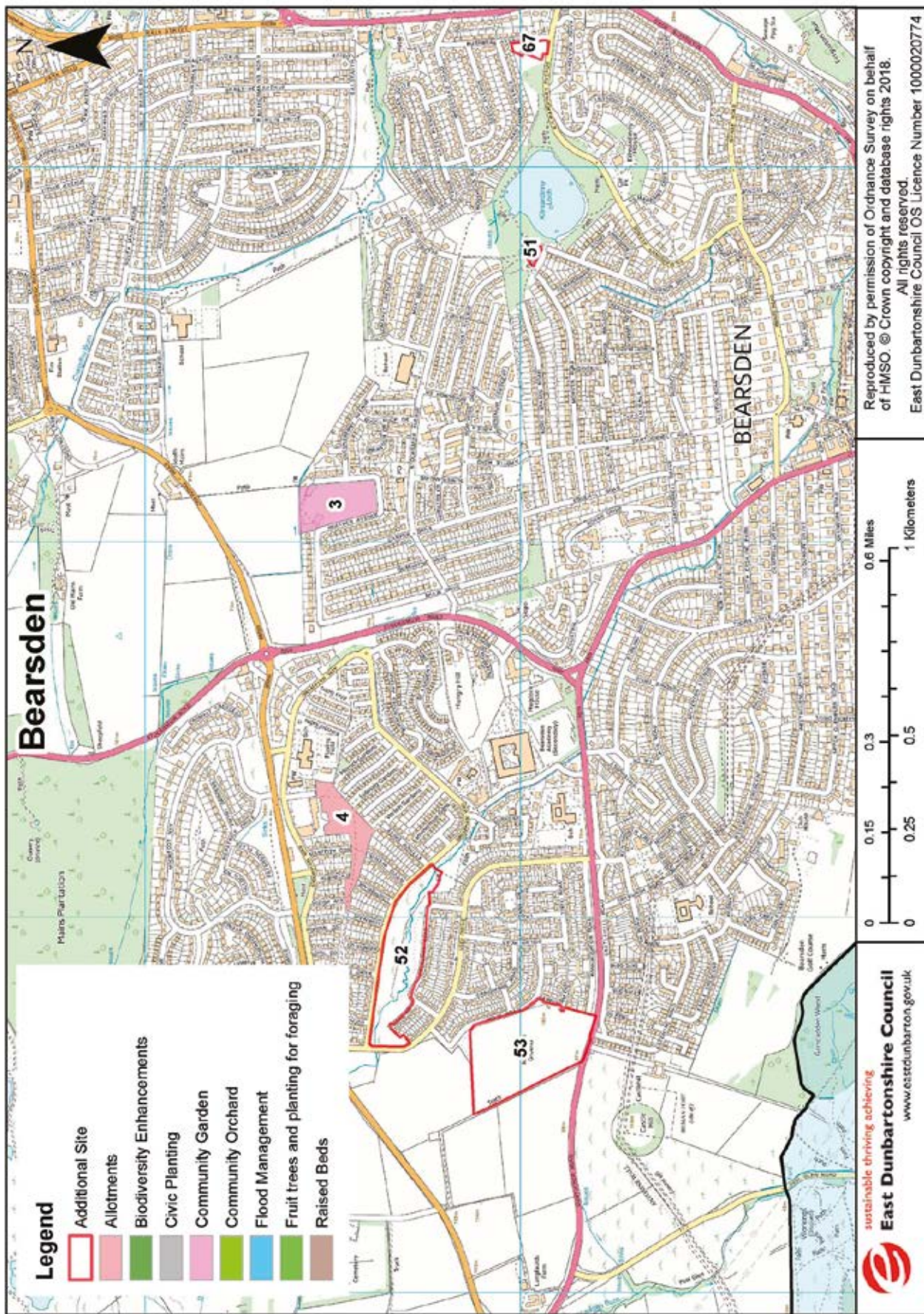


# Appendix B

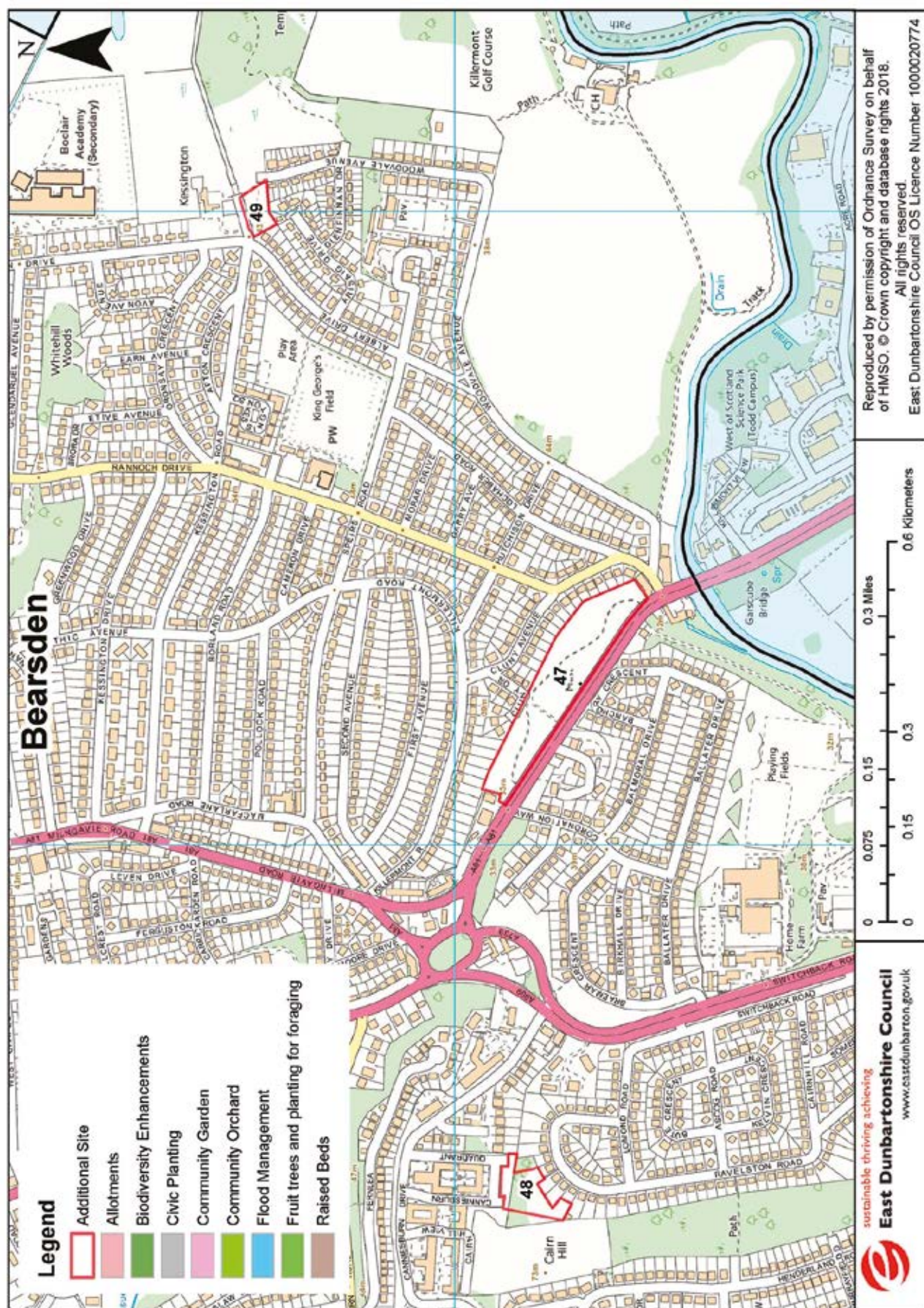
## Potential food growing sites in East Dunbartonshire



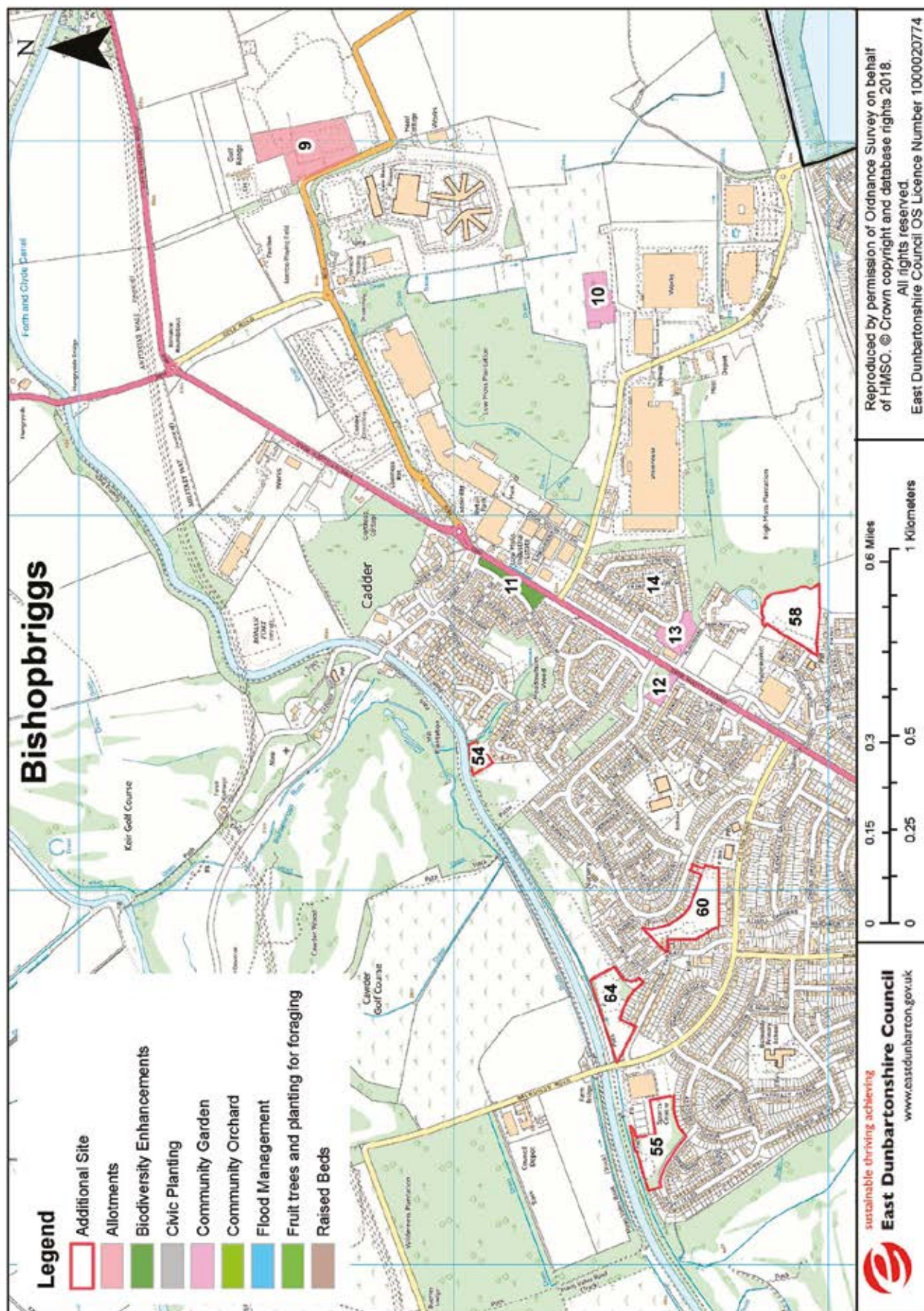




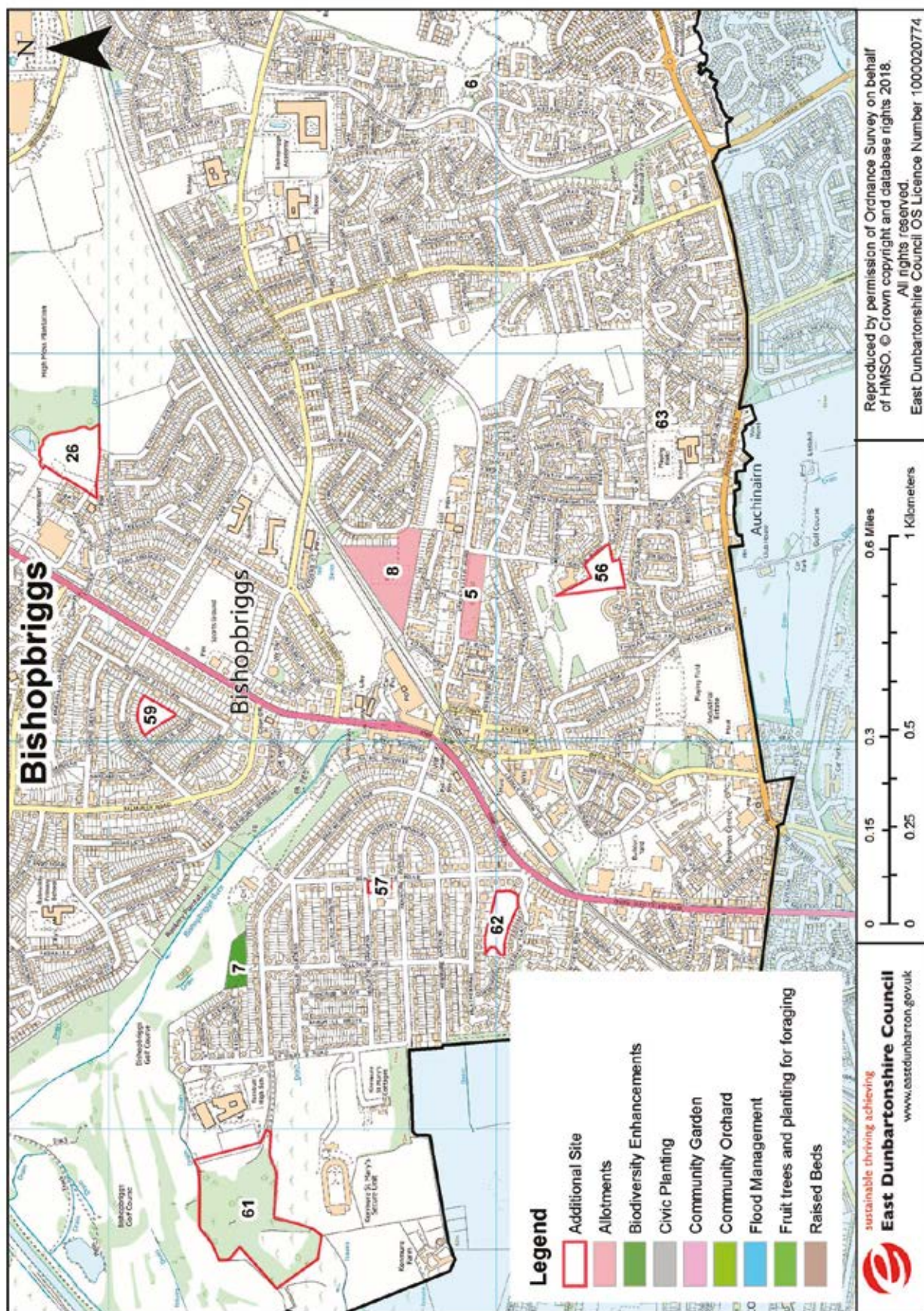




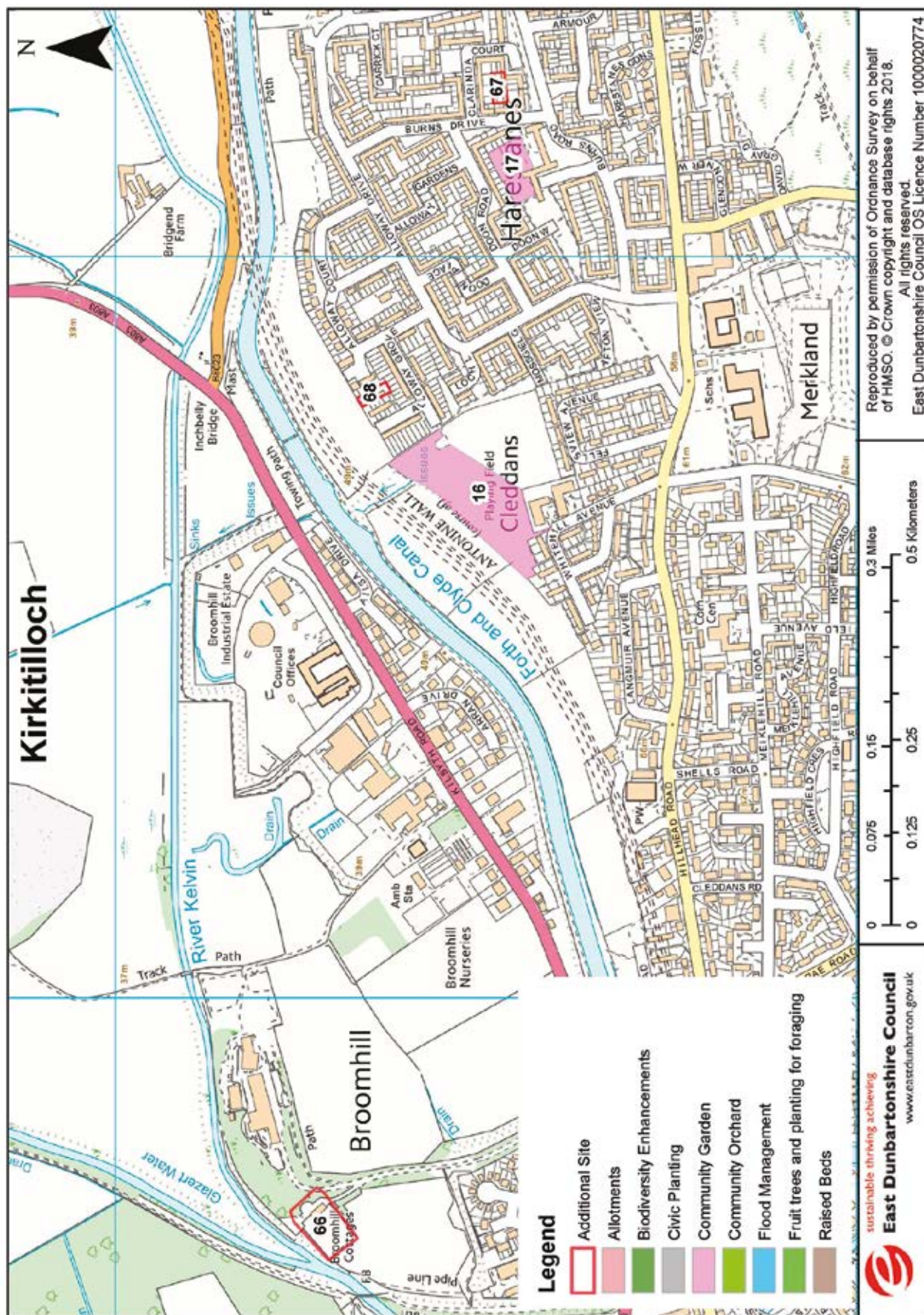




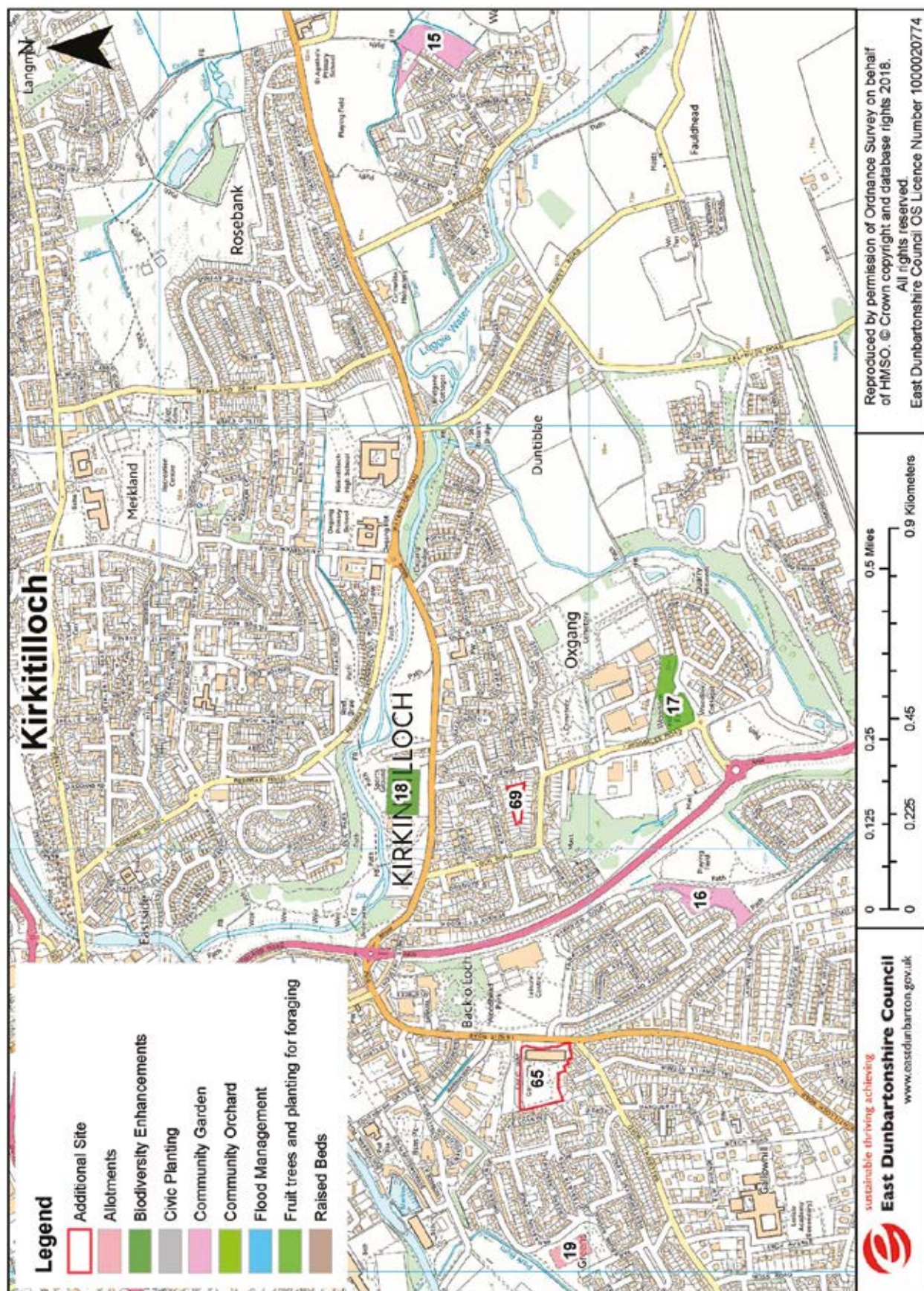




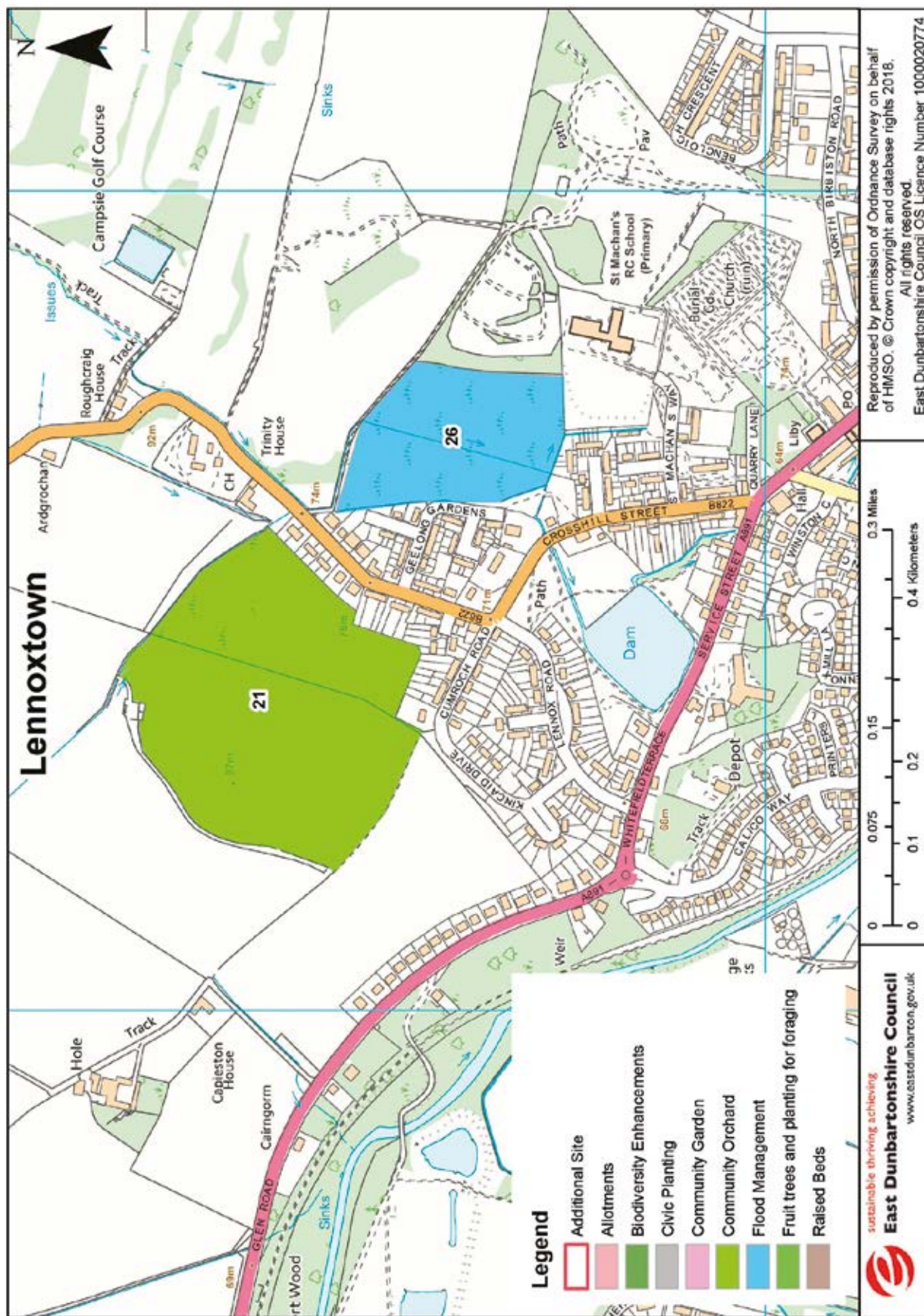




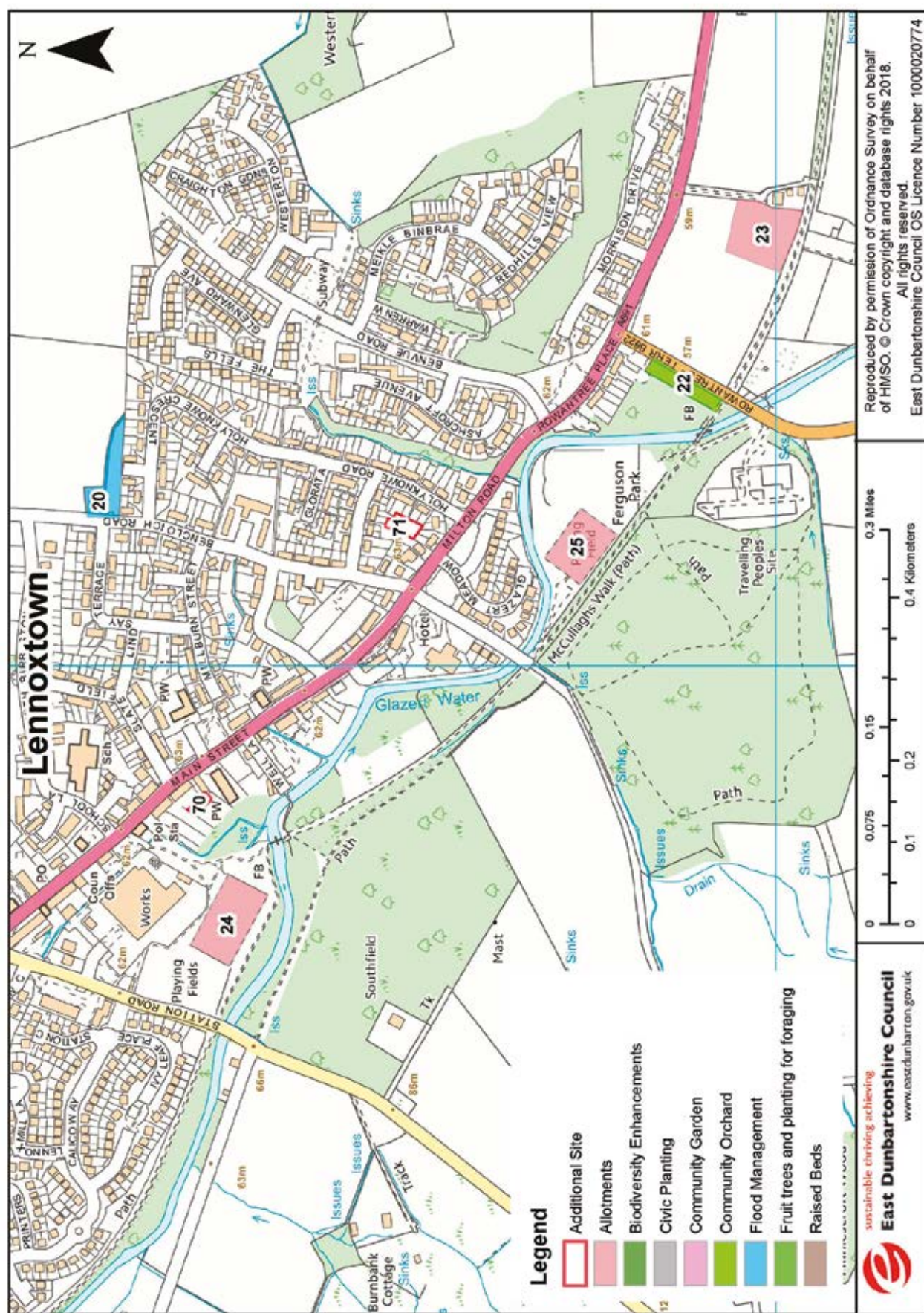




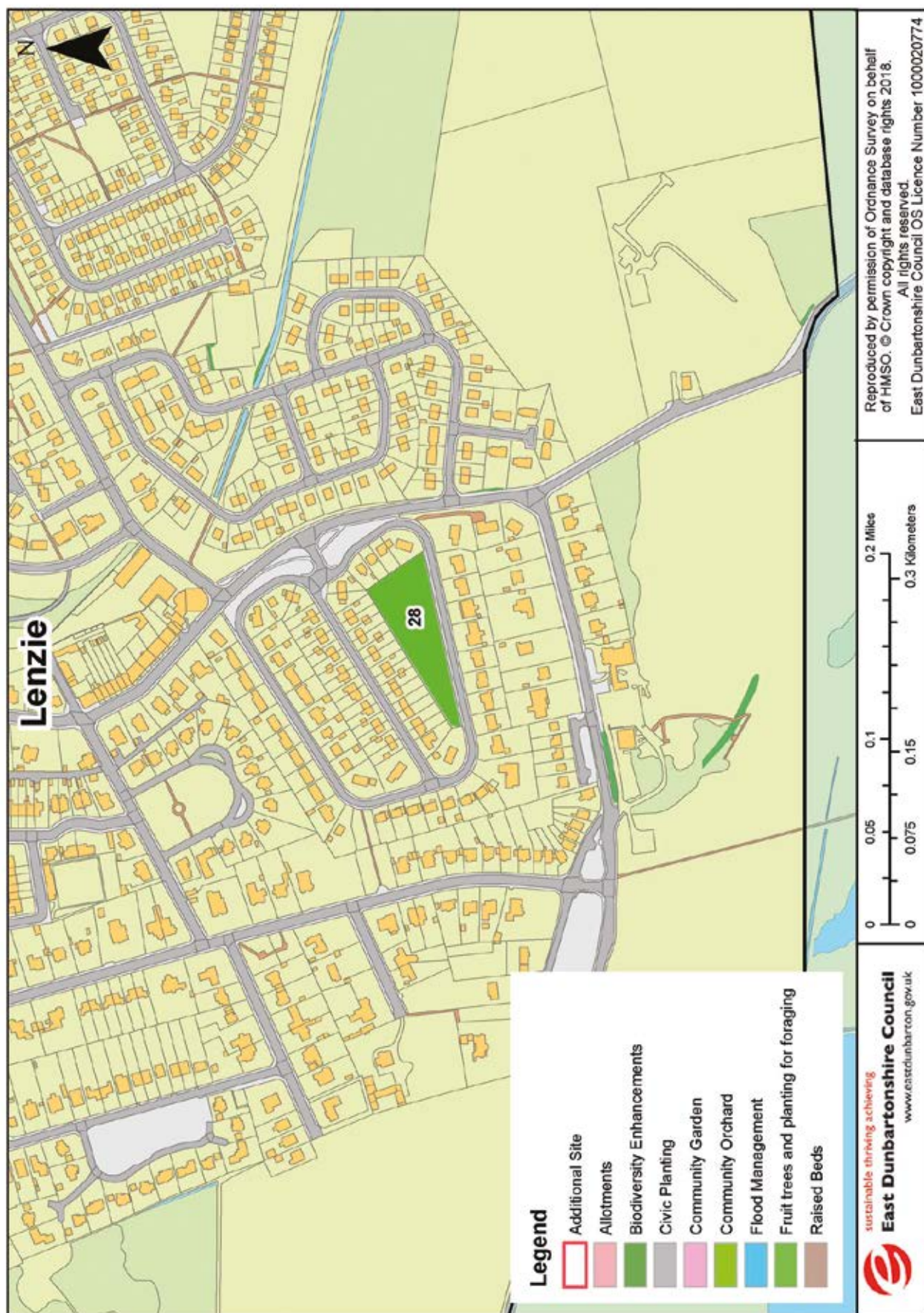




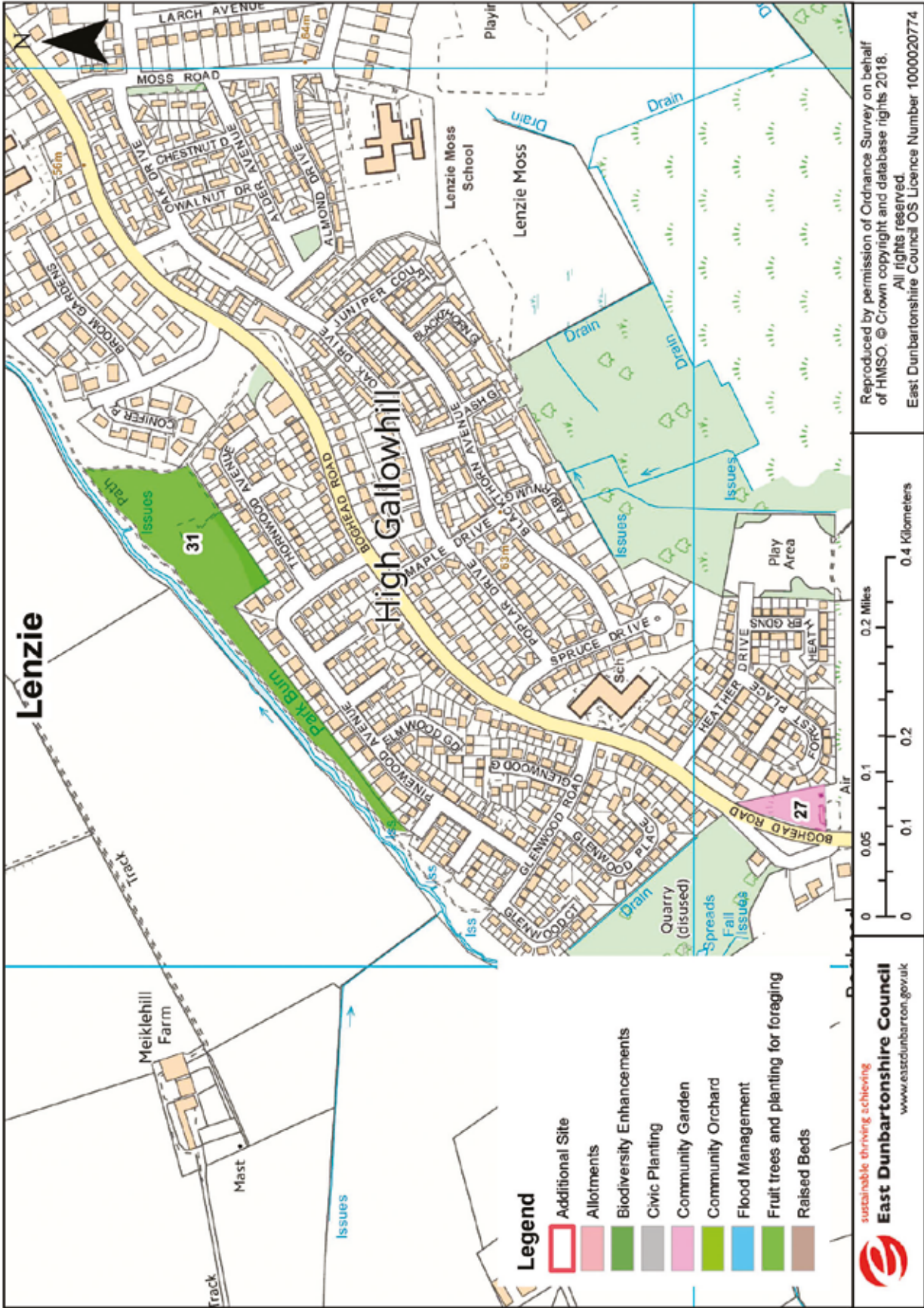




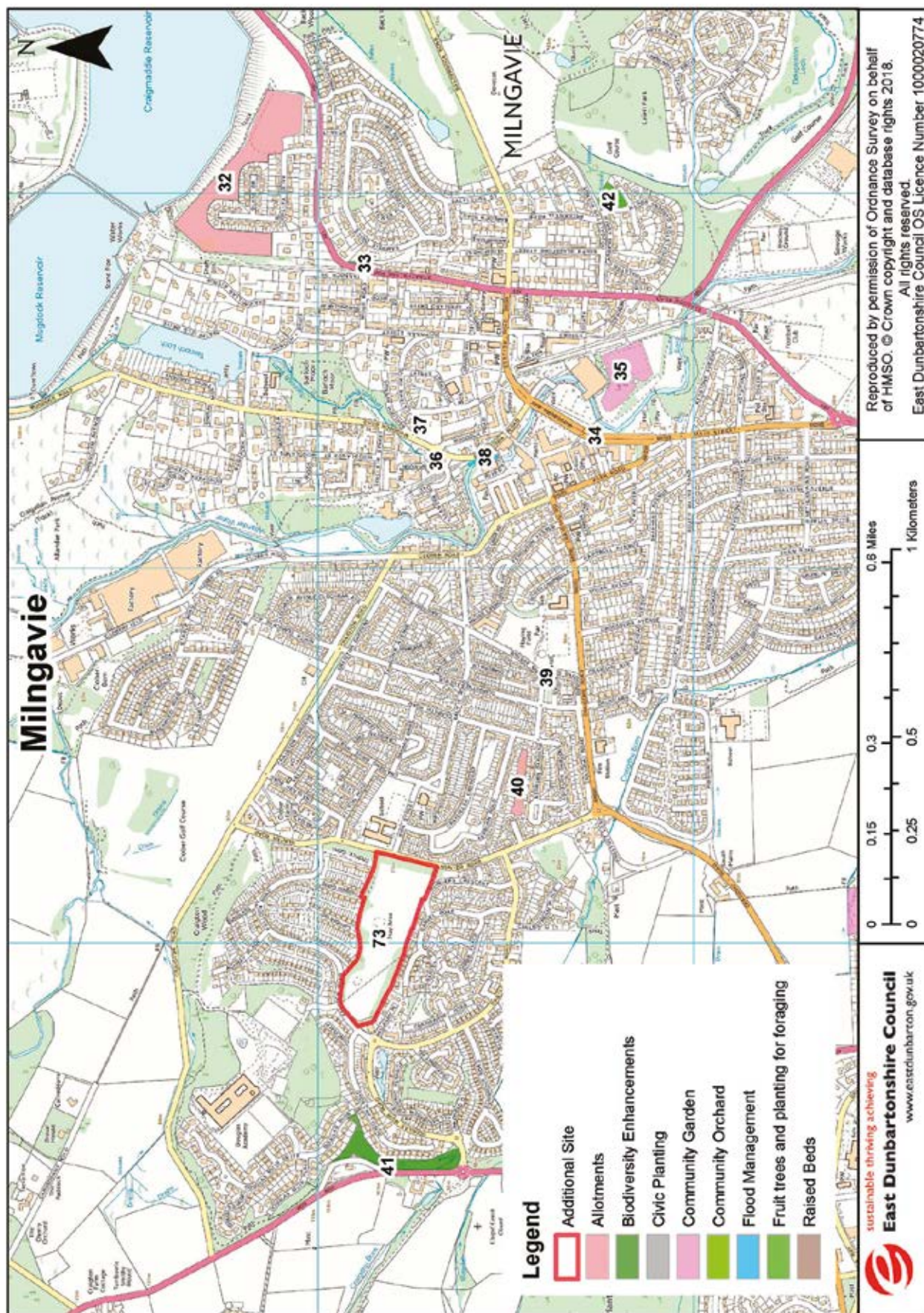




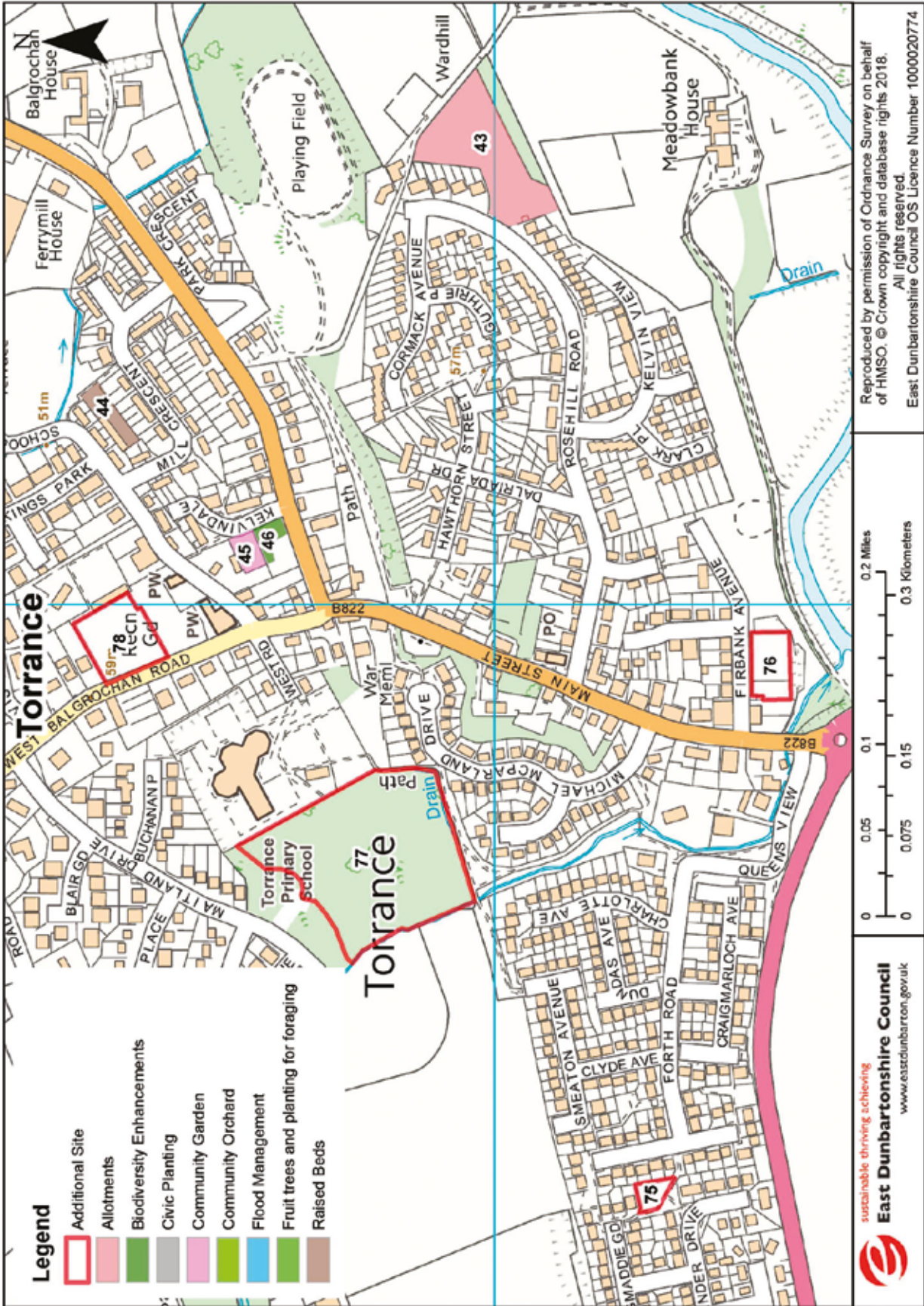














# Appendix C

## Assessment matrix

### Potential Food Growing Sites in East Dunbartonshire Fit for Purpose Assessment Criteria

#### Pre-site assessment

	Yes		No
Is this site scheduled for development or any other non-growing use?	Site is only suitable for temporary growing (or short term growing) approaches		Site should be assessed for all forms of 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.)	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 (River Kelvin, Manse Burn, Bishopbriggs Burn, Park Burn or the Allander Water)?	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.)			

	Score 5 – Excellent	Score 4 – Very Good	Score 3 – Good	Score 2 – Fair	Score 1 – Poor	Minimum Required Score
<b>a) Configuration</b> 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	The space is of a shape and configuration that will easily accommodate the intended range of functions suitable for food growing. Food growing will add to the overall quality of place and little of the space is rendered less functionally useful as a result of the shape of the space.	The space is of a shape and configuration that will accommodate the intended range of functions suitable for food growing. Food growing will not affect the overall quality of place and little of the space is rendered less functionally useful as a result of its shape.	The space is of a shape and configuration that will accommodate some of the intended range of functions suitable for food growing with difficulty and in a form that would affect their functionality. Food growing activities could reduce overall quality of place (e.g. restricting use by others). Large parts of the space are rendered less functionally useful because of its shape.	The space is of a shape and configuration that cannot accommodate the intended range of functions suitable for food growing in a functionally useful way. It has been designed and located with no cognisance to the needs of the wider place and is likely to have detrimental effects on it.	3/5	
<b>b) Surveillance</b> 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	All or most parts of the space (95-100%) benefit from being overlooked by surrounding homes, streets/roads or other buildings likely to be occupied on a 24 hour-a-day basis.	Most parts of the space (65-94%) will benefit from being overlooked by surrounding homes, streets/roads or other buildings likely to be occupied on a 24 hour- a-day basis or all parts of the space (95-100%) will benefit from being overlooked by non- residential buildings occupied during most of the day.	About half the space (35-64%) will benefit from being overlooked by surrounding homes, streets/roads or other buildings likely to be occupied on a 24 hour-a-day basis or most of the space (65-94%) will benefit from being overlooked by non- residential buildings occupied during most of the day or all of the space (95-100%) will benefit from being overlooked by non-residential buildings occupied during normal working hours.	Very little of the space (0-9%) will benefit from being overlooked by surrounding homes, streets/roads or other buildings likely to be occupied on a 24 hour- a-day basis or less than half of the space (10-34%) will benefit from being overlooked by non- residential buildings occupied during most of the day or about half of the space (35-64%) will benefit from being overlooked by non- residential buildings occupied during normal working hours.	4/5	
<b>c) Accessibility</b> 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;	The space is readily accessible from the wider area, particularly residential areas, by means of a good network of well-designed, DDA compliant paths, routes and accesses. The space may be designed to provide for access along desire lines (including proposed, or links to, routes identified as core paths, Rights of Way, green networks or sustainable transport routes, where appropriate) and may provide increased permeability for the surrounding area where desirable. Main paths are or will be well lit and no barriers restrict movement between the path and key parts of the site	The space is designed to be directly accessible from most of the wider area by means of a good network of well-designed, DDA compliant paths, routes and accesses. The space may be designed to provide for access along desire lines (including proposed, or links to, routes identified as core paths, Rights of Way, green networks or sustainable transport routes, where appropriate) and may provide increased permeability for the surrounding area where desirable. Main paths should be lit and any barriers (e.g. high kerbs) between the path and key parts of the site should be negotiable.	The space is designed to be accessible from parts of the wider area by means of a good network of well-designed, DDA compliant paths, routes and accesses. The space may provide for an element of enhanced permeability for the surrounding area. Entrances would be well lit and any barriers (e.g. high kerbs) between the path and key parts of the site should be negotiable.	Access to the space is limited and may be from only one entrance or be informal in nature. Paths and accesses have not been designed to be DDA compliant and the space doesn't enhance permeability for the surrounding area. Entrances are likely to be poorly lit and barriers between the path and key parts of the site exist that could not be negotiated by many users.	2/5	



Score 5 – Excellent	Score 4 – Very Good	Score 3 – Good	Score 2 – Fair	Score 1 – Poor	Minimum Required Score
<p><b>d) Aspect</b> Much of the space should, where possible, be designed to benefit from direct sunlight during much of the day;</p>	<p>Most of the usable/flat parts of the space are likely to benefit from direct sunshine for much of the day or all of the usable/flat parts of the space are likely to benefit from direct sunshine for some of the day.</p>	<p>Some of the usable/flat parts of the space are likely to benefit from direct sunshine for some of the day.</p>	<p>Some of the usable/flat parts of the space are likely to benefit from direct sunshine for some of the day.</p>	<p>The usable/flat parts of the space) are unlikely to benefit from direct sunshine for some of the day.</p>	4/5
<p><b>e) Place</b> 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>The space could include areas that can cater for "quieter" uses, including relaxation, picnicking etc. Trees and shrubs provide some shade and shelter. The location complements the setting of surrounding areas and is likely to create a sense of wellbeing for users of the space and enhance the attractiveness of the space.</p>	<p>The space could include areas that can cater for "quieter" uses, including relaxation, picnicking etc. The location will provide some visual amenity for surrounding areas and enhance the attractiveness of the space.</p>	<p>There is little opportunity to cater for "quieter" uses, including relaxation, picnicking etc. There is limited scope to provide some visual amenity for the surrounding areas and little opportunity to enhance the attractiveness of the space or use of the site would reduce the amenity of an existing attractive open space.</p>	<p>There are no obvious areas of the open space that might cater for "quieter" uses, including relaxation, picnicking etc and no opportunity to provide for visual amenity and enhance the attractiveness of the site or use of the site would remove an existing open space and its attractiveness in the surrounding area.</p>	3/5
<p><b>f) Biodiversity</b> Spaces should enhance sites with little existing biodiversity and habitat value without compromising habitat links and connections to the wider green network (see note b.).</p>	<p>The site is not designated as a SSSI, LNCs, LNR or other valued site for biodiversity including ancient or native woodland, and/or there are no Tree Preservation Orders. There is evidence of biodiversity and habitat value but potential use of the site for food growing is unlikely to deteriorate or detract from this value.</p>	<p>This site has been designated as having biodiversity and habitat interest (SSSI, LNCs, LNR etc). Whilst there is evidence of biodiversity and habitat value, potential use of the site for food growing is unlikely to deteriorate or detract from this value.</p>	<p>This site has been designated as having biodiversity and habitat interest (SSSI, LNCs, LNR etc). Use of the site for food growing has the potential to significantly remove or deteriorate biodiversity value to an extent, including creating habitat fragmentation.</p>	<p>This site has been designated as having high valued biodiversity and habitats (SSSI, LNCs, LNR etc) on all or part of the site. Use of the site for food growing has the potential to significantly remove or deteriorate biodiversity value, including creating habitat fragmentation.</p>	3/5
<p><b>g) Water Quality and Flooding</b> 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 food 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>The site is not in the vicinity of a waterbody but there is the potential to have an impact on ground water. The site is out with the SEPA flood risk area. The site has low flooding risks and minimal drainage issues. It will also protect existing woodland habitats with the potential to enhance woodland capacity and act as a functional floodplain, where appropriate. Suitable pollution control measures should be employed wherever there is an identifiable risk to the water environment including groundwater.</p>	<p>The site is within the vicinity of a waterbody and could potentially lead to impacts on the waterbody (surface water run-off) and have an impact on water quality from the development and/or use of the site for food growing. There is a low to medium risk of fluvial and pluvial flooding. The site has low flooding risks and minimal drainage issues. It will also protect existing woodland habitats as part of a functional floodplain, where appropriate. Suitable pollution control measures should be employed where there is an identifiable risk to the water environment including groundwater.</p>	<p>The site is directly adjacent to a waterbody which could potentially lead to waterbody degradation and have a negative impact on water quality from the development and/or use of the site for food growing. There is a medium to high risk of fluvial and pluvial flooding. The site shows evidence of poor drainage and medium to high risks of flooding. Use of the site for food growing has the potential to remove elements of woodland habitats/functional floodplain on site.</p>	<p>The site has a waterbody within the site boundary which could potentially lead to waterbody degradation and have a detrimental impact on water quality from the development and/or use of the site for food growing. There is a high risk of fluvial and pluvial flooding. The site is within a flood risk area and/or use of the site for food growing will result in the removal of existing woodland habitats as part of the functional floodplain.</p>	4/5

	Score 5 – Excellent	Score 4 – Very Good	Score 3 – Good	Score 2 – Fair	Score 1 – Poor	Minimum Required Score
<b>h) Active and Sustainable Transport Links</b> The site encourages the use of active travel and sustainable transport for access and is close to village and town centres.	The site is walking /cycling distance from town and village centres and is accessible from sustainable transport modes. Parking provision is unlikely to be required.	The site is walking /cycling distance from town and village centres or is accessible from sustainable transport modes.	The site is accessible by public transport modes.	The site is accessible by sustainable transport modes but likely to encourage private vehicle use.	The site is only accessible by private vehicle	3/5
<b>i) Infrastructure</b> 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).	The site includes 2 or more existing infrastructures that could potentially be used on site including: . Buildings/structures e.g. for storage, on-site toilets etc. in order to prevent or reduce demolition needs and the creation of waste and/or, . Existing drainage schemes and/or, . Existing path and road networks and/or, . Existing on-site utility connections e.g. electricity and water supply.	The site includes 2 existing infrastructures that could potentially be used on site including: . Buildings/structures e.g. for storage, on-site toilets etc. in order to prevent or reduce demolition needs and the creation of waste and/or, . Existing drainage schemes and/or, . Existing path and road networks and/or, . Existing on-site utility connections e.g. electricity and water supply or close proximity to an established built up/residential area where connection to such infrastructure is likely to be feasible	The site includes 1 existing infrastructures that could potentially be used on site including: . Buildings/structures e.g. for storage, on-site toilets etc. in order to prevent or reduce demolition needs and the creation of waste or, . Existing drainage schemes or, . Existing path and road networks or, . Existing on-site utility connections e.g. electricity and water supply or, . Close proximity to an established built up/residential area where connection to such infrastructure is likely to be feasible	The site has no existing usable infrastructures such as path or road network and appropriate drainage systems, and the provision of utilities (either on site or connections to established/residential area) is unlikely to be feasible.  The demolition of any existing buildings/structures are likely to be avoided as part of the use of the site for food growing.	The site has no existing usable infrastructures such as path or road network and appropriate drainage systems, and the provision of utilities (either on site or connections to established/residential area) is unlikely to be feasible.  The usability of the site for food growing will result in the demolition of structures and is likely to create significant waste.	3/5

**Notes:**

- Allotments should be provided on a site with the potential to provide multiple plots of approximately 250m<sup>2</sup> in size. Where this is not the case, this gives an indication that the site will be more appropriate to other food growing provisions such as community gardens, orchards, food forests, planting along verges, foraging etc.
- In considering sites for allocation to food growing projects, East Dunbartonshire Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Open Space Strategy and Green Network Strategy should be consulted.
- Not all spaces will be appropriate for the incorporation of measures to minimise and reduce flood risk. Where the space is not suitable, for example in terms of topography, aspect, type of food growing provision in question, and need for flood risk management, then this criterion should be excluded from the assessment.
- Determining ability to connect to vital utilities is subjective at this stage in the assessment, therefore further investigation for suitable sites will need to be carried out.



# Other formats

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This document can be provided in large print, Braille or on audio CD and can be translated into other community languages. Please contact the Council's Corporate Communications Team at 12 Strathkelvin Place, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow G66 1TJ Tel: 0300 123 4510

本文件可按要求翻譯成中文，如有此需要，請電 0300 123 4510。

اس دستاویز کا درخواست کرنے پر (اردو) زبان میں ترجمہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ براہ مہربانی فون نمبر 0300 123 4510 پر رابطہ کریں۔

ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0300 123 4510 ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Gabhaidh an sgrìobhainn seo cur gu Gàidhlig ma tha sin a dhìth oirbh. Cuiribh fòn gu 0300 123 4510

अनुरोध करने पर यह दस्तावेज हिन्दी में भाषांतरित किया जा सकता है। कृपया 0300 123 4510 पर फ़ोन कीजिए।



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