



East Dunbartonshire Council

www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Date: 3rd July 2025
SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
Area 2 H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

PLACE, NEIGHBOURHOOD AND CORPORATE ASSETS
Land Planning and Development
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ
Telephone 0141 578 8600
Fax No: 0141 578 8575

**SEA Screening Determination
Food Growing Strategy**

Dear SEA Gateway and Consultation Authorities,

I refer to your email dated 30th of June 2025 outlining the responses from the Consultation Authorities to the Screening Report that was submitted on 2nd July 2025 in relation to the proposed **Food Growing Strategy**.

The Consultation Authorities are in agreement with the Council that the Strategy is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. On 3rd July 2025 East Dunbartonshire Council made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the Strategy is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects. Therefore, the Strategy will not be subject to a full Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Environmental Report will not be prepared alongside the document.

In accordance with Section 10 of the Act, a copy of the screening determination along with the Screening Report and Consultation Authority responses will be made available on request as well as on the Council website at [Strategic Environmental Assessment - East Dunbartonshire Council](#). An advert will also be placed in the Kirkintilloch Herald and Milngavie and Bearsden Herald to publicise the screening determination.

If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact Lorena Gebran (Climate Change Policy and SEA Officer) via email on Lorena.Gebran@eastdunbarton.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Lorena Gebran
Climate Change Policy and Strategic Environmental Assessment Officer

SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1 DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

East Dunbartonshire Council

Title of the plan:

Food Growing Strategy

What prompted the plan:

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

Legislation to fulfil the duties of Part 9: Section 119 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 for each local authority in Scotland to prepare a Food Growing Strategy.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Land Use – Community Food Growing

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

☐

An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

☐

Section 5(3)

☐

Section 5(4)

☒

An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

☒

Section 5(3)

☐

Section 5(4)

Contact details:

Lorena Gebran
Climate Change Policy and Strategic Environmental Assessment Officer
Sustainability Policy Team
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Date:

2nd June 2025

STEP 2 CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

As set out in Section 119 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, every local authority in Scotland has a duty to prepare a Food Growing Strategy for its area. The Food Growing Strategy aims to improve 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.

The Strategy establishes a framework to support and develop food growing initiatives for communities and individuals. It outlines the mechanisms needed to build an engaged, empowered and knowledgeable network of local growers over the next 5 years. By taking a balanced and considered approach, the Strategy aims to encourage and sustain both new and existing growing spaces, helping to fulfil food growing aspirations and meet local needs.

This Strategy is a high-level approach to identify the need to find suitable land for allotments and other food growing provisions. However, site-specific elements, such as feasibility studies and site assessments, are intended to be delivered after the adoption of the Strategy, through the next iteration of the Local Development Plan (LDP3) that will inform the spatial strategy and/or utilise the existing planning policy framework through the planning application process when individual proposals come forward.

Description of the Plan:

The draft vision and objectives for the proposed Food Growing Strategy were developed with guidance from Section 119 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Strategy will be a local approach to the requirements set out in the Act.

What are the key components of the plan?

The key components of the Strategy are intended to be:

Vision

Everyone in East Dunbartonshire who wishes to grow their own food will have access to opportunities that support a healthier, more sustainable environment. By cultivating fruit, vegetables, herbs, and flowers, individuals and communities can contribute to local food resilience, well-being and biodiversity.

Objectives

- Supporting healthier lifestyles by engaging people in food growing projects;
- Increased community participation in food growing and community growing projects through greater engagement, with a specific focus on areas in our community which experience the most inequalities;
- Greater social cohesion and inclusiveness in communities;
- Greater support for biodiversity as well as contributions to sustainable food supply and food security;
- Training/skills development opportunities; and,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the need for identification of sites for allotments and other types of food growing for the cultivation of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers. <p>Identification of potential allotment sites will be informed by the current allotment waiting list and funding streams available. There is also a potential for community growing elements to be tied into other projects or proposed developments. Any identified sites will be subject to either the LDP site assessment and land allocation process or individual planning application when proposals come forward and their environmental impacts will be fully addressed at that project level. This Strategy only highlights the settlement areas where a potential site should be identified based on where the waiting list members reside. Craigfoot Field is the only confirmed site in the Strategy since it has already obtained individual planning permissions.</p>	
<p>Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?</p>	<p>An initial draft of the Food Growing Strategy was in development in 2017, including a series of initial public engagement events in May 2017, followed by a public consultation on the draft Strategy in spring 2019. An SEA was developed for this draft and the corresponding ER was subject to consultation at the same time as the draft Strategy. The SEA was determined to be required at that stage mainly due to the wider scope and more extensive land implications (identification of sites and their assessment) of the previous draft Strategy. The approval of the final Food Growing Strategy (along with the Final SEA Environmental Report and Post Adoption Statement) was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as questions were raised regarding certain sites being considered for other uses and staff capacity issues following that time. New Strategy development restarted in 2025.</p> <p>Key elements and outcomes from initial development of the previous draft Strategy, including consultation feedback, will inform this high-level Strategy, while updating the waiting list demand figures and policy context to reflect the current situation. The updated Strategy will include a more limited scope compared to the original draft Strategy, which identified specific sites suitable for the development of allotments and other community growing spaces. This Strategy instead highlights the need to identify suitable allotment sites in settlements based on the current waiting list data. Craigfoot Field, the only confirmed location for an allotment site in the Strategy, was previously identified in the original draft and has already obtained planning approval following the planning process. As set out above, it is the intention that any sites identified following the adoption of the Strategy will be subject to either the LDP site assessment and land allocation process and/or separate planning application process and their environmental impacts will be fully addressed at that stage.</p>	
<p>In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:</p>	<p>The components that are likely to require screening are the draft proposed Vision and Objectives.</p>	

**STEP 3 IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Error! Reference source not found.)**

	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
Plan Components	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues	<p>The anticipated impacts from the proposed Strategy and their potential significance are outlined below.</p> <p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – There is unlikely to be any negative impacts on biodiversity value through the development and implementation of this Strategy. The potential removal / re-development of man-made barriers (such as blaze pitches or other infrastructure) could reduce or avoid habitat fragmentation. Positive secondary impacts are also anticipated through the support of groups with the setup of community growing spaces as pollination and the inclusion of pollinating species within allotments might occur within identified allotment sites. The significance of these impacts is anticipated to be minor and localised, however these will be comprehensively assessed at the project level stage when proposal site come forward through the LDP site assessment and land allocation process and/or separate planning application process.</p> <p>Population and Human Health – The allocation of community growing spaces, which will be allocated and delivered after the adoption of the Strategy through a separate process, could potentially be on areas of land which are already available for public use as an area of open space or recreational provision but could also be on private land. The new functions for the allocated sites will provide community growing space and be developed for the public good. Therefore, the overall impact is likely to be positive and localised regarding this factor, particularly through the potential improvements to community involvement into projects and the health and wellbeing aspects related to community food growing, participation and healthy eating.</p> <p>Soil – The impacts of the Strategy itself on this factor are unlikely to be significant. Some potential positive impacts could be an outcome in some of the future identified community growing locations, if and when contaminated land sites will be utilised and/or remediated, but this will be</p>	
Vision (draft)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
	Everyone in East Dunbartonshire who wishes to grow their own food will have access to opportunities that support a healthier, more sustainable environment. By cultivating fruit, vegetables, herbs, and flowers, individuals and communities can contribute to local food resilience, well-being and biodiversity.											
Objective 1:	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		
	Supporting healthier lifestyles by engaging people in food growing projects.											
Objective 2:	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗		
	Increased community participation in food growing and community growing projects through greater engagement, with a specific focus on areas in our community which experience the most inequalities.											

Objective 3:	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Greater social cohesion and inclusiveness in communities.									
Objective 4:	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Greater support for biodiversity as well as contributions to sustainable food supply and food security.									
Objective 5:	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Training/skills development opportunities.									
Objective 6:	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Determine the need for identification of sites for allotments and other types of food growing for the cultivation of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers.									

further considered through a fit for purpose/criteria assessment which will be undertaken for each potential community growing location through the LDP site assessment and land allocation process and/or separate planning application process.

Water – The impacts of the Strategy itself on this factor are unlikely to be significant. Through future identification of community growing spaces, and depending on locations, there could be potential impacts on the water table, groundwater and/or water courses within the vicinity of sites or due to the development and construction of community growing assets and the related infrastructure provision requirements. However, since this strategy focuses on only determining the need for community growing spaces within East Dunbartonshire, any proposal and further assessment will be undertaken through the LDP site assessment and land allocation process and/or separate planning application process.

Air – Impacts on air quality through this strategy are unlikely to be significant particularly in terms of the scale of community growing spaces and in terms of the limited scope of the strategy in terms of land implications and any related transport or traffic issues.

Climatic Factors – The overall proposed Strategy itself is unlikely to have any significant impact on greenhouse gas outputs. The Strategy itself will not significantly change travel or transport modes in the area, impacts on woodland habitats or integration of renewable energy technologies. There may be a limited potential for the community growing spaces and allotments (once identified and allocated) to play a flood attenuation function and provide localised climate change adaptation measures. However, this will be completely dependent on the site, the design and layout of any proposed allotments, and what will be planted. All of these issues and their significance will be considered when identifying community growing spaces through the LDP site assessment and land allocation process and/or separate planning application process. The FGS will be a key action of the forthcoming Climate Action Plan, Theme Food and Agriculture, for which a full SEA assessment has been undertaken.

Material Assets – As it stands, the Strategy itself is not anticipated to have any impact on this factor. However, any infrastructure requirements for allotments depending on the chosen sites will be assessed and addressed

		<p>during the planning application stage. These include any infrastructure provision requirements for community growing spaces and allotments in terms of utilities, access roads, toilets, office/dry space, storage spaces for plots and composting facilities.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage – No impacts have been identified in relation to cultural heritage through the development and implementation of this Strategy. However, as with the other factors, once community growing spaces are being considered cultural heritage and historic environmental assets will be fully considered through the planning application process.</p> <p>Landscape – The Strategy itself is unlikely to have a negative impact on landscape character and scenic value. However, landscape will be a key consideration depending on the identified varying forms of community growing spaces considered and their location through the LDP site assessment and land allocation process and/or the planning application process for individual proposal opportunities that come forward.</p> <p>Inter-relationships issues – The impact of this factor is the same as stated above in terms of the limited scope of the strategy and its unlikely significant effect on the other individual factors.</p>
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STEP 4 STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING

Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:

(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

As outlined in the above initial components assessment, there are no anticipated significant positive or negative impacts on the environment from the proposed Strategy itself. The only impacts identified will be minor and mostly related to community cohesion, health and wellbeing.

The potential impacts of proposed community growing spaces (not forming part of this Strategy) once identified, will be completely dependent on the proposed site locations, designs and layouts. All of these factors will be determined at the site assessment and consideration stage through the LDP site assessment and land allocation process and/or separate planning application process.

It is the Council's view that the overall environmental impacts of the Strategy are not likely to be significant. Therefore, it has been determined that, under Section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, a full SEA is not required.

When completed send to: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

PCS-20005780 SEPA Response to SEA01941

From sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk <sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk>

Date Fri 27/06/2025 14:49

To SEA_Gateway@gov.scot <SEA_Gateway@gov.scot>

Cc Lorena Gebran <Lorena.Gebran@eastdunbarton.gov.uk>; sea.gateway@hes.scot <sea.gateway@hes.scot>; sea_gateway@nature.scot <sea_gateway@nature.scot>

To Whom It May Concern,

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005

SEA01941

Food Growing Strategy

East Dunbartonshire Council

Thank you for consulting SEPA on this Screening Report by way of your email of 3rd June 2025.

In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 we have reviewed the screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Act. In regard to our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets and climatic factors) **we agree with the conclusions of the screening report** that the proposed PPS is **unlikely to have** significant environmental effects.

Although we are of the view that significant environmental effects are unlikely, it is for the Responsible Authority to make a formal determination taking into account the consultation responses received.

If you would like to discuss this consultation response, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or via our SEA Gateway at [sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk]sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk.

I trust these comments are of assistance - please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Lee Harkness

Senior Planning Officer

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Dh'fhaodadh gum bi am fiosrachadh sa phost-d seo agus ceanglachan sam bith a tha na chois diomhair, agus cha bu chòir am fiosrachadh a bhith air a chleachdadh le neach sam bith ach an luchd-faighinn a bha còir am fiosrachadh fhaighinn. Chan fhaod neach sam bith eile cothrom fhaighinn air an fhiosrachadh a tha sa phost-d no a tha an cois a' phuist-d, chan fhaod iad lethbhreac a dhèanamh dheth no a chleachdadh arithist. Mura h-ann dhuibhse a tha am post-d seo, feuch gun inns sibh dhuinn sa bhad le bhith cur post-d gu

[postmaster@sepa.org.uk]postmaster@sepa.org.uk. Togalach Aonghais Mhic a' Ghobhainn, 6 Craobhraid Parklands, Eurocentral, Baile a' Chuilinn, Siorrachd Lannraig a Tuath, ML1 4WQ. Faodar conaltradh còmhla ri SEPA a sgrùdadh no a chlàradh no a sgaoileadh gus obrachadh èifeachdach an t-siostaim a ghlèidheadh agus airson adhbharan laghail eile.



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

By email to: sea.gateway@gov.scot
Ms Lorena Gebran
Climate Change Policy & SEA Officer
Sustainability Policy Team
East Dunbartonshire Council
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate
Assets
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131 668 8716
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our case ID: 300023859
Your ref: 01941
26 June 2025

Dear Ms Gebran

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
01941 - Screening - East Dunbartonshire Council - Food Growing Strategy
SEA Screening Report

Thank you for consulting us on this screening report for the Food Growing Strategy, which we received on 02 June 2025. We have reviewed this report in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act. This is in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). To do this we have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment.

Our view

The screening report states that there are **unlikely** to be significant environmental effects for the historic environment. We **agree** with this assessment.

Next steps

The [Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#) requires you as the Responsible Authority to determine whether an environmental assessment is required. You must then notify the Consultation Authorities within 28 days of making this determination. You can do this via the SEA Gateway (sea.gateway@gov.scot).

We hope this advice helps to you to make this decision. Please do contact us if you have any questions about our response. The officer managing this case is Cailee Mellen. You can contact them by phone on 0131 651 6807 or by email at cailee.mellen@hes.scot.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH
Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**
VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

Food Growing Strategy Screening Determination - NatureScot's response

From informed@planning.nature.scot <informed@planning.nature.scot>

Date Wed 04/06/2025 10:12

To SEA_Gateway@gov.scot <SEA_Gateway@gov.scot>

Cc sea.gateway@hes.scot <sea.gateway@hes.scot>; sea_gateway@nature.scot <sea_gateway@nature.scot>; Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot <Jimmy.Hyslop@nature.scot>; sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk <sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk>

Lorena Gebran
Climate Change Policy and Strategic Environmental Assessment Officer
Sustainability Policy Team
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By e-mail: sea.gateway@gov.scot

Cc: sea.gateway@hes.scot

sea_gateway@nature.scot

sea.gateway@sepa.org.uk

04 June 2025

Our ref: CEA180471

Your ref: 01941

Dear Lorena,

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Food Growing Strategy Screening Determination

Thank you for your screening report submitted on 02 June 2025 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan.

NatureScot has considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act. In terms of our interests, we agree that the above Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects.

Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the strategy to have significant environmental effects. We cannot comment on whether or not the strategy meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act.

Should you wish to discuss any of the comments detailed in this response, please do not hesitate to contact Jimmy Hyslop on 0131 314 6769 or at jimmy.hyslop@nature.scot.

Yours sincerely,

Lyndsey Kinnes
Operations Manager – West Central Scotland



NatureScot **NàdarAlba**

Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

NatureScot is the operating name of Scottish Natural Heritage