

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Strategic Lead – Roads & Neighbourhood (Shared Service)

Infrastructure, Regeneration and Economic Growth: 18 November 2020

Subject: West Dunbartonshire Council Food Growing Working Group

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the proposals for the make up and future operation of the Food Growing Working Group

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- a) Agree to the proposals set out in sections 4.1 – 4.6 of this report; and
 - b) Nominate Elected Members to attend Working Group.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the IRED Committee of 16 September 2020 the following motion was agreed in relation to the Council's Food Growing Strategy:

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) the contents of the West Dunbartonshire Council Food Growing Strategy which reflects the Council's duties arising from Part 9 (Allotments) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015;
- (2) that a report will be brought to the next meeting of the Committee that details the Constitution of the Food Growing Strategy working group, which is to include details of the make up of the Board, how often it will meet, how it will report back to the Committee, which Community Groups will be invited to join it and how nominations for the Board membership will be processed;
- (3) that a progress report on the Food Growing Strategy will be brought to every meeting of the Committee meeting for the next six months and that the Committee may choose to reduce the frequency of these reports once the working group is established and running;
- (4) the Food Growing Strategy's aspirational targets will be used to create a timetable and framework of goals that the Food Growing Strategy sets out to achieve; these should follow the SMART criteria, or equivalent, and the report should be brought to the first meeting of the Committee in 2021; and

- (5) the progress of the Food Growing Strategy will be made visible on the Council's website, to allow interested parties to monitor achievements.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** It is proposed that membership of the Food Growing working group is made up as follows:

Council Officers:

Greenspace
Planning
Environmental Health (contaminated land)
Asset Management
Education

2 x Elected Members (one from the Administration Group and one from the Opposition Group)

External Groups

Environment Trust
Leamy Foundation
Growing West Dunbartonshire (3 x nominations)
Castlegreen Allotment Society

- 4.2** It is proposed that the Council's Greenspace Manager will chair the first meeting of the group and the group will then agree a rolling chair structure.
- 4.3** Meetings of the group will be scheduled every two months
- 4.4** Other relevant groups/individuals would be invited as necessary to deal with specific subjects.
- 4.5** At the first meeting the group would agree what the focus would be in the short/medium/long term. The short term focus would be to further develop the Action Plan with SMART objectives.
- 4.6** The Working Group progress will be reported to every second IRED Committee for an initial 12 month period.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no direct people implications resulting from this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

6.1 There are no Financial or Procurement implications arising from this report

7. Risk Analysis

The Council has a duty under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to develop a Food Growing Strategy.

There is a risk that if the Council fails to produce a Food Growing Strategy, this may lead to legal action and reputational damage.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 An initial screening confirms there is no adverse impact.

9. Consultation

9.1 A public consultation on the development of the Food Growing Strategy has taken place. The consultation will play a major part in the success of this Food Growing Strategy by setting actions that work towards what people really want.

The consultation engaged with 65 community food growing groups, 275 residents that are on the allotment waiting list, schools and nurseries, Community Councils and Council Officers from Environmental Health and Forward Planning.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 This report supports the following Council Strategic objectives:

- A Strong local economy and improved employment opportunities.
- Supported individuals, families and carers living independently and with dignity.
- Meaningful community engagement with active empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged.
- Open, accountable and accessible local government.
- Efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents.

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Strategic Lead – Roads & Neighbourhood (Shared Service)

Date: 09 November 2020

Person to Contact: Ian Bain, Greenspace Manager

Appendices: None

Background Papers: Equality Impact Assessment Screening

Wards Affected: All