

South West Locality Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 28 March 2019

South West Community Food Growing

Item number	8.4
Executive/routine Wards	Pentland Hills (2), Sighthill/Gorgie (7), Colinton/Fairmilehead (8), Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart (9)
Council Commitments	44

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. It is recommended that the Committee:
 - 1.1.1. notes the current scale and range of community food growing provision in the South West Locality;
 - 1.1.2. notes the future projects which seek to increase this provision; and
 - 1.1.3. notes the work outlined in the next steps section of this report.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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South West Community Food Growing

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Following the presentation of the Place Local Improvement Plan (LIP) workstream to the South West Locality Committee (SWLC) on 29 November 2018, the purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee in relation to Community Food Growing initiatives in the South West Locality. This report summarises the current level of community food growing provision in the South West Locality, including the proposed measures to support and promote both existing and new community food growing sites.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires public bodies to prepare and publish LIPs to deliver better outcomes on agreed priorities, which contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequality. The South West (LIP) 2017-2022 has been developed in response.
- 3.2 The South West LIP contains five workstreams and within the Place workstream, an action was identified to “Work with communities and partners to identify and deliver a minimum of six additional community food growing sites across the South West Locality by 2022”.
- 3.3 There are many recognised benefits that community food growing brings to communities, including:
- 3.3.1 providing fresh, healthy and sustainable food;
 - 3.3.2 fewer people living in food poverty;
 - 3.3.3 getting people active, which improves overall physical health;
 - 3.3.4 educating people on where food comes from and providing opportunity for people, especially in urban spaces, to engage with their food system;
 - 3.3.5 building more welcoming, safer communities;
 - 3.3.6 providing an inclusive meeting area where people of all ages and cultural backgrounds can come together to share experiences and knowledge;

3.3.7 helping to relieve stress and increase sense of wellness; and

3.3.8 providing social opportunities that build a sense of community and belonging.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Following development of the South West LIP, staff collaborated with the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) to undertake an identification and mapping of community food growing initiatives across the South West Locality to establish a baseline of existing activity. As part of this collaboration, a South West Community Food Growing network was proposed, which would offer networking opportunities, promote exchange of best practice, and provide mentoring for new groups. The inaugural meeting of the South West Community Food Growing network took place on January 2017 and was attended by 13 partners.
- 4.2 It was quickly established that significant community food growing activity of varying scale was already taking place across the Locality, of which a number had been supported by ELGT through their Community Gardening Officer post. From the initial mapping a baseline of 15 community food growing initiatives was established in early 2017.
- 4.3 Following work to identify and deliver an increased number of sites, the number of community food growing initiatives rose from 15 in 2016/17, to 22 in 2017/18, to a current total of 26 sites in 2019/20 (see Appendix 1, South West Community Food Growing Network 2019). Ownership and management of these sites is varied and it is estimated that there are around 300 to 350 people currently using these facilities either as direct plot holders or user group volunteers. Throughout this period, South West Locality staff have supported these projects through: provision of planting materials, tools and equipment; identification and release of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) land; arrangement of peppercorn leases; provision of associated infrastructure via Neighbourhood Environmental Project (NEP) funding; and horticultural advice and mentoring.
- 4.4 Agencies and partners currently involved in community food growing in the South West Locality include: NHS Lothian, ELGT, 'Friends of' groups, Edinburgh College, South West Edible Estates (SWEE), Gorgie City Farm, Youth Vision, WHALE Arts, Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB), Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC), Tenants and Residents groups, Fresh Start, Dunedin Canmore Housing Association, Wester Hailes Health Agency, and Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH).
- 4.5 As part of the [Investment in Communities and Localities Budget 2018/19](#), £5,000 was approved by the SWLC in September 2018 to support community food growing projects in the South West Locality. The funding was promoted via ELGT funding newsflash to all known community food growing contacts.
- 4.6 Following this, 12 community food growing groups in the South West Locality applied for and benefited from this local fund (see Appendix 2, South West

Community Food Growing Localities Budget Spend 2018/19). Locality staff have continued to contact those groups who have not applied to date and advise them of the closure date of March 31, 2019. The fund has been used to purchase tools and equipment, timber to replace and repair new or damaged planters, growing medium and compost, and waterproof clothing for volunteers. To date, the originally approved £5,000 budget has been fully allocated and Locality staff are currently in the process of allocating underspend in the overall Investment in Communities and Localities Budget towards Community Food Growing as per the decision of the South West Locality Committee in September 2018.

4.7 Currently, a further four sites have now been identified for development and are in the process of delivery for 2019/20:

4.7.1 Saughton Park Physics Garden – Friends of Saughton Park

4.7.2 Murrayburn Green – SWEE

4.7.3 Hailes Quarry Park Orchard – ELGT/WHEC

4.7.4 Firhill Drive Garden – ELGT/Social Work

4.8 A further four projects are currently being explored for feasibility and funding:

4.8.1 Broomhouse Home Farm – SWEE/Broomhouse Centre

4.8.2 Hutchison Community Food Growing Space – SWEE/Local Residents

4.8.3 Clovenstone Community Orchard – Local Residents/SWEE/Clovenstone Primary School

4.8.4 Currie Dementia Garden – Currie Community Council

5. Next Steps

5.1 Beyond identification and delivery of additional community food growing sites, further work is planned to promote increased participation in community gardening using local advertising to highlight availability on under capacity sites. This will include a poster campaign on public notice boards and via official contacts, as well as advertising the sites to those on the current allotment waiting lists.

5.2 Future work is being explored to connect South West Community Food Growing projects with the Kindness Directory work supported by Edible Edinburgh, which aims to connect social food organisations with those that need it through a new online resource.

5.3 In addition, Locality staff plan to develop links for closer working with schools in the South West Locality, particularly primary schools, in order to develop local children's awareness and interest in this subject.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The costs associated in this report are covered within the [Investment in Communities and Localities Budget 2018/19](#).
- 6.2 There are no adverse risks or policy impacts associated with this report.

7. Stakeholder/Community impact

- 7.1 Appropriate partners and community groups have been consulted as part of the Investment in Communities and Localities Budget.
- 7.2 Locality planning activity contributes to the delivery of the Equality Act 2010 general duties of advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.
- 7.3 The support and development of community food growing spaces provide numerous environmental benefits, including supporting local biodiversity, helping to clean the water and air, and providing a location for community composting. The produce created at food growing spaces would also have low food miles, helping to reduce carbon emissions.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Allotment and Food Growing Provision](#) – Report to Culture and Communities 11 September 2018.
- 8.2 [Open Space Strategy](#)
- 8.3 [Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan 2013](#)
- 8.4 [Investment in Communities and Localities Budget 2018/19](#)

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – South West Community Food Growing Network 2019.

Appendix 2 – South West Community Food Growing Localities Budget Spend 2018/19.

Appendix 1: South West Community Food Growing Network 2019

Location	Type	Partner(s)	Status	Ward
Calders	Community Garden	Residents	Existing	2
Calders	Community Garden	Edible Estates	Existing	2
Calders	Community Garden	Wester Hailes Health Agency	Existing	2
Harlaw	Community Garden	Youth Vision	Existing	2
Malleny Garden	Community Garden	National Trust	Existing	2
Juniper Green	Community Garden	Community Council	Existing	2
Clovenstone	Community Garden	Residents and Edible Estates	Existing	2
Hailesland Mini Garden	Community Garden	Edible Estates	Existing	2
Murrayburn Greenway	Community Garden	Edible Estates	New	2
Westburn	Community Garden	Whale Arts Centre	Existing	2
Wester Hailes	Community Garden	ELREC	Existing	2
Saughton Park	Physics Garden	Friends of Saughton Park	New	7
Whinpark Health Centre	Community Garden	ELGT	Existing	7
Gorgie City Farm	Community Garden	GCF	Existing	7
Saughton Mains	Community Garden	Health all Round	Existing	7
Sighthill Campus	Community Garden	Edinburgh College	Existing	7
Hailes Quarry Park	Community Orchard	ELGT/WHEC	New	7
Firrhill Drive	Community Garden	NHS Lothian	New	8
Hailes Avenue	Community Orchard	Friends of Hailes Avenue	Existing	8
Oxgangs	Community Garden	Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre	Existing	8
Harrison Park	Herb Border	Friends of Harrison Park	Existing	9
Harrison Park	Community Orchard	The Grove	Existing	9

	and Community Garden			
Springside	Community Garden	The Grove	Existing	9
Polwarth	Community Garden	Fresh Start	Existing	9
Redhall Walled Garden	Community Garden	SAMH	Existing	9
Slateford Green	Community Garden	Dunedin Canmore	Existing	9

Appendix 2: South West Community Food Growing Localities Budget Spend 2018/19

Site	Partner	Ward	Amount
Calders	Edible Estates	2	£720.00
Calders	Wester Hailes Health Agency	2	£735.00
Malleny Garden	National Trust	2	£350.00
Wester Hailes	ELREC	2	£135.00
Saughton Park	Friends of Saughton Park	7	£440.00
Hailes Quarry Park	ELGT/WHEC	7	£425.00
Saughton Mains	Health All Round	7	£380.00
Hailes Avenue	Friends of Hailes Avenue	8	£310.00
Redhall Walled Garden	SAMH	9	£540.00 * estimate
Harrison Park	Friends of Harrison Park	9	£220.00
Harrison Park	The Grove	9	£500.00
Polwarth	Fresh Start	9	£250.00
		Total	£5005.00