

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 25 MARCH 2021

STARRED ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 16 MARCH 2021

PROPOSED FINALISED FOOD GROWING STRATEGY

With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of 15 September 2020, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director of Assets & Infrastructure. The report presented the finalised Food Growing Strategy 'Cultivating Communities', for proposed adoption following a 12 week public consultation. The 5 year Strategy was a legislative requirement under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The report summarised the consultation process and outcomes, next steps in delivering on the Strategy Action Plan, and sought approval for the adoption of the Strategy. The Food Growing Strategy supported the Locality Plans for the Scottish Borders and was itself supported with the proposed creation of new policy EP17 in the Local Development Plan. The report further detailed the background to the development of the Strategy, the process undertaken to achieve the final strategy which was attached to the report and the consultation feedback. It was highlighted that the Strategy placed emphasis on participation and self-mobilisation, supporting and facilitating the linking up of volunteers to projects, new growing aspirations to existing resources, and skills sharing across the Borders. Within the Scottish Borders there are a wealth of projects and growing groups who worked collaboratively, sharing skills and volunteers. There were also opportunities to work with local schools. Clarification was sought on how decisions would be made on competing proposals for the use of former play parks. Mr Hedley advised that they were looking for creative solutions and each request would be considered on its merit. Councillor Tatler, seconded by Councillor Rowley moved the following amendment to the recommendation;-

“Approve the finalised Strategy and Action Plan for adoption including an additional section outlining the potential benefits from collective management of Council-owned allotments by plot holders.”

DECISION

(a) **NOTED** the feedback provided during the consultation on the Draft Food Growing Strategy.

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(b) **AGREED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL** of the finalised Strategy and Action Plan for adoption including an additional section outlining the potential benefits from collective management of Council-owned allotments by plot holders.