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## **PROPOSED FINALISED FOOD GROWING STRATEGY**

**Report by Service Director Assets & Infrastructure**

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### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**16 MARCH 2021**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1. Following a 12 week public consultation, this report presents the finalised Food Growing Strategy, 'Cultivating Communities', for proposed adoption. The 5 year Strategy is a legislative requirement under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. This report summarises the consultation process and outcomes, next steps in delivering on the Strategy Action Plan, and seeks approval for the adoption of the Strategy.**
- 1.2. The Food Growing Strategy supports the Locality Plans for the Scottish Borders and is itself supported with the proposed creation of new policy EP17 in the Local Development Plan.
- 1.3 The Consultation Draft Food Growing Strategy was previously presented to Executive on 15 September 2020.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive Committee:-**
  - (a) Notes the feedback provided during the consultation on the Draft Food Growing Strategy.**
  - (b) Approves the finalised Strategy and Action Plan for adoption.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introduces new duties on Local Authorities. A key requirement of the Legislation is for every Local Authority to develop a Food Growing Strategy under section 119 of the Act. Each Authority must set out in its strategy how it will provide land to meet demand for food growing as allotments or other forms of cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers for community or individual growing.
- 3.2 While Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act came into effect in 2015, the detailed government guidance on preparing the Food Growing Strategy was published in November 2018. Since then Officers have been engaging with stakeholders and undertaking a review of Allotments and Community food growing in the Scottish Borders. The Strategy was originally programmed to be adopted in Spring 2020, but due to Covid-19 and the resultant restrictions and resource pressures this has been delayed.
- 3.3 The Food Growing Strategy is prepared in direct response to this legislative driver. The scope and content of the Strategy is set out in the legislation. The remit is clear, to support community growing in all its guises. The Food Growing Strategy is a legislative requirement, but it is also our vehicle for nurturing and developing community food growing across the Scottish Borders, in line with the national food growing agenda. It is important to note that, while there are linkages, the legislation and resultant Strategy does not directly extend to socio-economic issues or commercial food growing and agricultural land use planning.

### **4 THE STRATEGY**

- 4.1 The legislation outlines that Food Growing Strategies are required to cover 5 year periods, therefore the Food Growing Strategy will run from 2021 to 2026, and will be reviewed thereafter every 5 years developing and furthering community food growing in the Scottish Borders. In preparing this new Strategy, Officers have undertaken various appraisals and measures;
- Benchmarking of other Local Authorities has been undertaken, as well as seeking out advice and guidance from various partners (Greenspace Scotland, etc).
  - A survey of community food growing sites in the region has been prepared and mapped digitally (now available online).
  - A survey of SBC owned allotment sites has been undertaken to identify plot sizes and features.
  - Officers have been working to identify land for potential new food growing sites where there is known demand.
  - Resources (the volunteer co-ordinator) has been brought in-house from Live Borders to better meet the needs of the Strategy.
  - Ensure the Council's flagship food growing project, the Wilton Lodge Park walled garden (part of the HLF legacy), continues to flourish through secured investment in refurbishment of the dilapidated glasshouse.

- Engagement with Community Planning Partners (CPPs) and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations is underway to identify opportunities.
- 4.2 Prior to preparing the Draft Strategy, a 12 week public consultation was launched on 24 July 2019. Stakeholders such as Community Planning Partners, local 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations, Allotment Associations/Societies and Community growing project managers were engaged with (where possible) through a series of meetings. The aim of this was to gain insight into current/potential local food growing activity and demand for future capacity building, to guide the development of the Strategy. It had a very good response, with 300 respondents. Following the feedback received during this process, a Draft Strategy was prepared and approved by Executive in September 2020 for public consultation.
- 4.3 The Strategy has been developed based on the findings of the consultation process. The aim of this Strategy is to support and facilitate anyone who wants to get growing, through existing growing opportunities and new approaches to growing. The key objectives of the Food Growing Strategy are:
- To provide a central resource for community growing information
  - To raise awareness around community growing in the Scottish Borders
  - To show you how to get growing: where, how and who can help you/your community group
  - To help you get your community growing project off the ground
  - To help identify potential allotment sites and growing spaces
- 4.4 In developing the Food Growing Strategy, Scottish Borders Council acknowledges the wider benefits associated with food growing including:
- Improving health and wellbeing outcomes
  - Promoting opportunities for social interaction
  - Environmental improvement including climate change and food waste
  - Skills development
  - Economic development and sustainability.
- 4.5 Survey responses identified a need for support to individuals and communities interested in food growing, broadly falling into three themes which form the structure of the strategy:
- Getting started: how can I get growing?** Support for getting started - Skills and Advice; training, confidence and resources to get started.
- Where can I grow?** Help to find space – existing sites and new growing spaces and getting the right permissions in place.
- Where can I get support for my growing project/growing activities?**  
How to resource your project: Funding, networking and skills sharing
- 4.6 The Strategy places 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 work collaboratively, sharing skills and volunteers. There are opportunities to work with local schools.

- 4.7 The Strategy also sets out new growing opportunities within the Scottish Borders, thinking creatively about how and where communities can get growing. The extensive network of amenity greenspace owned by Scottish Borders Council presents an opportunity for communities to 'adopt' areas for growing: former bedding plant areas and amenity grass areas may lend themselves to adoption for community food growing and the strategy invites exploration of these opportunities within communities.
- 4.8 As part of the Strategy, information on all growing opportunities within the Scottish Borders – existing community growing sites, allotment sites and other growing sites - are listed and mapped to be made available online. This is a 'live' resource that can be updated as new sites become available.
- 4.9 As well as supporting and facilitating self-deployment of individuals and community groups to get growing, the Strategy sets out the Council's commitments through the Action Plan:

<b>Action</b>	
1. Develop Policy Framework	1.1. Investigate and explore opportunities to develop further policies in support of food growing and community growing with Community Planning Partners
	1.2. Adopt new planning policy - EP17 Food Growing and Community Growing spaces – as part of the Local Development Plan, safeguarding food growing spaces and enabling increased provision.
	1.3. Review of corporate policies and strategies to support Food Growing and Community Food Growing.
2. Review provision and Management of Allotments	2.1. Co-ordinate waiting list information with appropriate Allotments Associations to ensure data collection is handled accurately and appropriately
	2.2. Investigate new allotment sites in areas of demand, working with community groups and private landowners where possible
	2.3. Review and implement new Allotment Regulations, including the setting of fair rent charges
	2.4 Prepare an Annual Allotment Report
3. Support the Community Growing Network	3.1. Develop a networking event(s) for community growers and volunteers
	3.2. Explore the creation of 'Growing Ambassadors', as part of the #yourpart Corporate Programme
	3.3. Consolidate resources for food growing through the development of the Volunteer Co-ordinator role

## **5 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

- 5.1 Following Executive approval, the Consultation process ran for 12 weeks from 15 September to 8 December 2020. This consultation was promoted to all Community Councils, In Bloom groups, various 3rd sector organisations, publicly via a press release and via website and social media. It received 34 responses.
- 5.2 Responses to the consultation included a number of suggestions and a broad range of support (see Appendix 2 for redacted transcript and full SBC response).
- 5.3 Practical issues such as food growing in private gardens, garden waste, composting services, seed banks and seed swaps were raised as possible opportunities. Some responses noted interest in local growing project sites, which can be further developed within the strategy and action plan. The Strategy has been amended to include reference lists and clearer links to the online map of growing sites to reflect feedback.
- 5.4 Issues such as resources were raised by several respondents, with responses outlining suggestions of creating more posts to support community food growing and outreach. Currently the Council has not allocated additional resources to the Food Growing Strategy and Action Plan. However, the Volunteer Co-ordinator post role is currently being developed to provide more outreach and support across the Scottish Borders, building on the successfully established project at Wilton Lodge Park walled garden, and a capital project is underway refurbishing the glass house which will enable an expansion of what is grown and increase in volunteering numbers.
- 5.5 Some felt that the lack of reference to commercial growing in the draft Strategy was a weakness. As outlined previously in this report, the legislation provides a clear remit for the Strategy, which encompasses community food growing on local authority owned land. The wider issues of commercial food growing and agricultural land use planning fall outside the scope of this Strategy.
- 5.6 Furthermore, two respondents felt the Strategy title was misleading, and should instead be renamed something that more clearly expressed this remit. The two suggestions were "Local Community Food Growing Strategy" and "Scottish Borders Grow Your Own Food Strategy". In response, the Strategy title has been changed from 'Scottish Borders Food Growing Strategy' to 'Scottish Borders Community Food Growing Strategy'.
- 5.7 Promotion of organic gardening and the impact of pesticide use on pollinators in relation to biodiversity loss were also raised. The Council continues to consider how it will respond to the Climate Emergency through the Climate Action Plan. These matters, and other related challenges, can be explored and developed as part of this strategy and/or other Corporate Strategies as set out in action 1.3.

## **6 NEXT STEPS**

- 6.1 When approved, the Strategy will be adopted and launched on the Council's website, social media and local press and through the current network within the Scottish Borders who have shown interest in the development of the strategy. Additionally, some community engagement perhaps under the

banner of Floral Gateway will be considered to further raise awareness, identify successes and opportunities to further aims of the strategy.

- 6.2 The Actions within the Strategy will be implemented and Officers will work with colleagues across Community Planning Partners and the different Services, to deliver on the commitments contained in the Action Plan.

## **7 IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 Financial**

- a) There are no financial implications associated with this report.
- b) Within the Parks & Environment Service a Volunteer Co-ordinator post exists, as detailed at 5.5 this post role is currently being developed to provide support across the Scottish Borders.
- c) Work at the Hawick Walled Garden Glasshouse is due to complete in 2021/22 and will enable an expansion of volunteer numbers and growing capacity.

### **7.2 Risk and Mitigations**

- a) In order to meet the requirements of the legislation Scottish Borders Council has undertaken a consultation exercise and engaged with stakeholders, and their views have been taken into account in shaping the Strategy. The Action Plan aims to ensure that the Strategy is implemented and mitigates potential risks to success.
- b) The Action Plan requires resource to be implemented. There is a risk to delivery if insufficient resource is allocated to the Actions contained therein, e.g. supporting community growing, sourcing land and associated infrastructure for growing etc. There are various options available which will be explored further to mitigate against this.
- c) Due to Covid-19, signs have been erected across outdoor volunteering and allotment sites advising the public to follow government social distancing and other guidance regarding Covid-19 in accordance with Government guidance. The same information is included in the Strategy as a central point of reference.

### **7.3 Integrated Impact Assessment**

An IIA has been undertaken and it is anticipated that there are no adverse impact or unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic (age, disability, gender re-assignment, trans/transgender identity, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race groups, religion or belief, sex-gender identity, and sexual orientation) and those who do not. Indeed, reducing socio-economic inequality is inferred in the promotion and facilitation of local food growing opportunities to all.

### **7.4 Acting Sustainably**

There are no adverse direct economic, social or environmental issues identified within this report.

## 7.5 Carbon Management

There are no direct carbon emissions impacts as a result of this report; there may be net reduction in emissions related to reduced food miles from the likely increase in locally grown produce.

## 7.6 Rural Proofing

It is anticipated there will be no adverse impact on the rural area from the proposals contained in this report.

## 7.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to the Scheme of Administration of Scheme of Delegation.

## 8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Executive Director (Finance & Regulatory), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Service Director HR & Communications, the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

### Approved by

**David Robertson**

**Executive Director, Finance and Regulatory Signature .....**

### Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Jason Hedley	Chief Officer Roads. Ext 8037
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### Background Papers:

**Previous Minute Reference:** Executive Committee - Tuesday, 15th September, 2020 at 10.00 am, Agenda item 10.

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Capital and Investment Team can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

**Contact** - Jacqueline Whitelaw, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA, 01835-824000, ext. 5431.

**APPENDIX 1 – DRAFT FOOD GROWING STRATEGY (see separate pdf)**



**APPENDIX 2 – CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

Organisation name if given/applicable	Please provide your comments on the draft Scottish Borders Food Growing Strategy.	Response
	Agreed	Noted
Galashiels	<p>Fabulous. Taking the credit for other people's hard work as always 😊</p> <p>Why do you want to push people to grow their own but not help them to do so. Why don't you collect garden waste and compost it to give it back to people who can use it in their gardens and spaces for growing.</p> <p>Why not sponsor a seed bank or give away seeds. Why not allow keen gardeners to plant up Bank St Gardens etc using flowers you have paid for. Why no grants for people wanting to garden etc?</p>	<p>SBC does not provide a green waste collection service. However a number of commercial operators do within the Scottish Borders, see web link below for details. Sustainably produced and peat free compost can be pre-purchased and picked up from our a number of our Community Recycling Centres, for further details see web link below:  <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20001/bins_rubbish_and_recycling/465/garden_waste">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20001/bins_rubbish_and_recycling/465/garden_waste</a></p> <p>While the Council doesn't currently have the resources to run or sponsor a seed bank, this may be something we explore with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations.</p> <p>The provision of the planting at Bank Street Gardens and Old Gala House is being organised by Galashiels in Bloom, funded by Galashiels Pay &amp; Display monies this year, with future funding options currently being investigated.</p>
Newstead Village Committee	<p>Glad to hear there is support for communities who are thinking about starting growing projects.</p> <p>Scottish Borders Council must work hard to protect a variety of green spaces from potential development to prepare for more community groups coming forward over the coming years. Reassuring to see this talked about with regards to the Local Plan, but imperative that commitment results in protected green spaces in and around communities. Especially old orchards which could be given a new lease of life.</p>	Noted.

Retired... member community council	Shame Eddleston does not have a space There seems to be an unused area behind the water works. Not sure who owns it. It's over grown and quite big.	Noted re: possible site in Eddleston.
Reston Community Company LTD	<p>The strategy was informative and highlighted several issues, one being of funding and the other planning. Funding, although may be small to start an allotment or growing area, it is still required initially especially if it is a community Garden/allotment.</p> <p>Planning, groups or organisations starting a community garden/allotment may find they need a shed/hut to store tools/equipment, however the erection of a shed or hut may require planning permission, to which this is an expense that may be a difficult to fund. Assistance from the planning department by means of waiver of the fee would be beneficial.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Where planning consent is required for a change of use of land to form allotments, the planning authority would encourage a single application for the allotments and any structures that may be erected on individual plots such as greenhouses, sheds or poly tunnels. A condition would be added to any consent requiring a design code for these structures to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Council. The design code would include details of the maximum height and size of the structures, or would provide series of styles and types of structures that would be acceptable. The fee for this type of application would be £401 and there is no option for the Council to waive this fee.</p> <p>In the case of existing allotments, where there is no design code in place, planning permission would normally be required for any new structure that may be erected on individual plots. The fee for this type of application would be calculated on the floor space created by the development. Where the floor space does not exceed 40 square metres, the fee would be £202.</p> <p>In both cases, there is no provision for this fee to be waived, unless the applicant is the Community Council, where the fee would be half the normal fee.</p>

<p>Hawick extension to Langholm Chill Club and Langholm digs for Victory Project</p>	<p>Hi , I am not great at putting my words across on paper, so Every little bit of unused land should be shared so long as people are willing to take of it. I started last year growing chillis in hawick and have got 3 charities in Hawick on board, Burnfoot Hub, Katherine elliot centre and Wilton School (cheeky monkeys club). I have a shared drying area and with agreement from the other residents we all have created an amazing array of 47 chilli varieties in a space the size of a double garage. Garlic, tomatoes, potatoes, onions all in homemade planters. We build a waist level retractable poly tunnel for £20. I have been on CH5 news, The Times, Sunday Herald, numerous papers, local radio etc, all because of a newly acquired love for grow and eating what you grow, it's crazy. I am planning on a 3m x 4m poly tunnel to extend for next year and between Hawick and Langholm create a world record for the largest variety of chilli plants in one display any where in the world 400 varieties. We do have 175 varieties at the moment making us the Chilli Capital place to come in the UK.</p>	<p>Noted – great work!</p>
	<p>This seems an excellent, well thought out piece of work.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

	Looks as though there is lots happening already, and there is plenty of information available.	
Hawick community council	<p>I don't understand why planning permission for greenhouses on allotments is required, and I don't understand why this is not made much clearer in the document. It took me over 3 years to confirm this.</p> <p>If this is a Scottish Government regulation, then the SBC should fill in the application template and pay for the application given that a greenhouse is improving public land and that the tenant is paying for the greenhouse itself.</p>	<p>For allotments, where there is no design code in place, planning permission would normally be required for any new structure that may be erected on individual plots. The fee for this type of application would be calculated on the floor space created by the development. Where the floor space does not exceed 40 square metres, the fee would be £202.</p> <p>There is no provision for this fee to be waived, unless the applicant is the Community Council, where the fee would be half the normal fee. There is no provision for local authorities to complete application forms on behalf of applicants.</p>
HAPi Hawick Acorn Project initiative	HAPi was set up to allow young adults with limited ability to grow harvest and eat healthily	Noted.
Greener Melrose	<p>Great to see that you have put this together. Lots of great contact information.</p> <p>The name is misleading, as most food produced in the Borders is from farms, so perhaps 'local community food growing strategy' would have been better.</p> <p>I help to organise the Greener Melrose Community Orchard (over 100 trees now 7 years old and producing well) and allotments - we have 10 couples/individuals with raised beds for</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>We can consider amending the name to Community Food Growing Strategy</p>

	<p>vegetables and flowers, in a deer and rabbit fenced area, and have recently received funding for an area of c 0.25ha to be rabbit and deer fenced to create a Forest Garden where we will plant perennials and climbers all to produce food. This is all on land owned by Borders Forest Trust and managed by GM under an agreement. We could not find land in Melrose to create allotments. We need to provide you more information for the map.</p> <p>I think you could have provided sections to make comments in, not just one block.</p> <p>I now live in lauder (I helped set up Greener Melrose when I lived 3 miles from Melrose) and in lauder we have no provision for allotments, and I was not aware that SBC were obliged to provide areas for allotments, so i would like to follow this up. There was a great loss of opportunity when the new houses were built on the proposed school site. But there is probably land around the edges of Lauder which can be identified - also the Lauder Common Good Land - there may be space there too. A lot of land is used by recreational horse owners, so there is plenty space, but it all needs expensive fencing against livestock, deer and rabbits and a water supply and parking area provided.</p>	<p>Noted, many thanks - the map is a 'live' resource and can continue to be updated with new and additional information.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted – Scottish Borders Council will take all reasonable steps to meet local demand for allotments as per the legislation, please contact <a href="mailto:neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk">neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk</a> to discuss any local community growing aspirations.</p>
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	<p>Is there a map showing all the SBC public spaces I can access?</p> <p>The most important thing is that allotments are very close to where you live, so even a mile can be a bit too far for most people.</p> <p>Working with schools is very difficult at the best of times and currently not an option during c-19 restrictions.</p> <p>The planning restrictions seem very onerous, especially if a fee is required for say, a hut. This needs to be reviewed as planning fees can scupper a project. I can't see the link or the details of EP17 referred to in p24 of the draft consultation document.</p>	<p>SBC owned greenspace is all mapped, and there are plans to include this information in the online map available <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Where planning consent is required for a change of use of land to form allotments, the planning authority would encourage a single application for the allotments and any structures that may be erected on individual plots such as greenhouses, sheds or poly tunnels. A condition would be added to any consent requiring a design code for these structures to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Council. The design code would include details of the maximum height and size of the structures, or would provide series of styles and types of structures that would be acceptable. The fee for this type of application would be £401 and there is no option for the Council to waive this fee.</p> <p>In the case of existing allotments, where there is no design code in place, planning permission would normally be required for any new structure that may be erected on individual plots. The fee for this type of application would be calculated on the floor space created by the development. Where the floor space does not exceed 40 square metres, the fee would be £202.</p> <p>In both cases, there is no provision for this fee to be waived, unless the applicant is the Community Council, where the fee would be half the normal fee.</p>
	<p>Looks great, lots of good tips.</p> <p>A comma missing between Gala and Eyemouth on page 7.</p> <p>Will the council set plans for financial security for projects.</p> <p>I live near Innerleithen and know the funding for the school garden co-ordinator is a yearly uncertainty. I would be nice if the council could</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The resourcing challenge is noted.</p>

	financially support such important schemes, to allow room for planning ahead and attract good staff and stability.	
None	I am impressed, this is what the Council should be promoting. All assistance should be given to community projects .	Noted.
Borders Organic Gardeners (member of)	<p>This is surprisingly comprehensive and I commend the work that has gone into it. I am pleased to see the support for increasing allotments and other ways of food growing. The inclusion of Policy EP17 is great, but it would be good to know that the Council has some leverage with private developers in pushing for this. (Scottish Gov policy support?). The incessant building of large houses on small plots is disturbing but if open space for community gardening is enforced in new developments that would be a huge improvement.</p> <p>I don't know if there is any way in which all the links scattered throughout the document could be in one place to make locating them easier?</p> <p>The networking event when possible, is welcome. Our experience in Borders Organic Gardeners is its hard to cover the whole area with a single event unless its</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>We can add in a referenced list at the back</p> <p>Noted with thanks – SBC would be keen to discuss this further with Borders Organic Gardeners</p>



	<p>huge appeal, like Potato Day. So east and west events may be more useful and also reduces CO2 travel emissions.</p>	
	<p>The strategy appears to allow massive transfer of common ground to third parties to grow poor quality produce on the basis that somehow this is going to feed people better than buying produce from retailers. This is a deluded strategy that plays into the shrill screeches from the green brigade who pretend that it is possible to grow sufficient food from a small piece of land to sustain families. I predict that large parts of land currently used for recreational purposes will be annexed by middle class people who have sold their large garden as a building plot and now want to “grow their own” as it is the latest fad. I’m sure that after the first harvest of a slug ridden lettuce that even the rabbit won’t touch, after hours of back breaking</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The socio-economic benefits of community growing are well researched and documented, and are embedded in Government legislation.</p> <p>Careful monitoring of sites will be essential to avoid any greenspace becoming abandoned/neglected.</p>

	<p>digging and watering, they will abandon their dream and go back to Waitrose deliveries, allowing the annexed land to fall fallow, but still out of bounds to the many. And anyone complaining about the annexing will be treated as persona non grata. This strategy is a disaster waiting to happen, and will do nothing but exacerbate the reduction in fully accessible council land that can be used for all, instead transferring it to a loud, sharp elbowed group of the worst kind of middle class virtue signallers.</p>	
	<p>A brilliant strategy to encourage more people to grow their own food. I am part of Greener Melrose so keen to see this sort of strategy being picked up by SBC. My husband and I have a vegetable plot in our garden so have been growing food for many years. Creating and supporting school gardens is very important. And also encouraging lower income families to consider growing food. I look forward to hearing about how this strategy progresses and wholeheartedly</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

	support it.	
Allotments 4 Chirside	<p>Good, clearly set out and good signposting to information.          Might be useful to have a contact within SBC planning office who can be designated for/to the growing strategy as experience has shown it is difficult to find the right person within the council who can directly help.</p> <p>Chirside have privately run allotments which are open to the residents of the surrounding area but this is not on the map for growing strategy.</p>	<p>Noted. We can include a main contact within SBC for enquiries.</p> <p>Noted – the mapped information available <a href="#">here</a> is live and can be regularly updated with new/additional information. Please contact <a href="mailto:neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk">neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk</a> with details and these can be added in.</p>



<p>Abundant Borders</p>	<p>While I appreciate the work that has gone into the document, it is not a STRATEGY document. It is a report which records the activity of some of the community food growing in the Borders. Community food growing is small scale and can only be a small part of any overall strategy.</p> <p>The vast majority of food growing in the Borders is by farms and they are completely absent from this document. SBC should have a comprehensive strategy for food growing in the Borders which should cover all aspects of land use. This should be an integral part of the councils wider strategy. There is no use SBC declaring a climate emergency without tackling industrial scale food growing - including growing animals for food. The country as a whole will only reach net zero carbon in the target period if we tackle farm outputs.</p>	<p>The Council is required to respond to the Community Empowerment Act Part 9 Allotments and produce a food growing strategy for community food growing. Commercial food growing and the wider Land Use planning context are outwith this remit. However, a South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership is to be established to develop a Regional Land Use Framework by 2023 with a focus on delivering net zero emissions through sustainable land management. This RLUP will involve both SBC and D&amp;GC.</p>
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<p>Greener Melrose</p>	<p>This is a welcome Strategy which contains a great deal of information and inspiration.</p> <p>It is unfortunately misnamed as it doesn't refer at all to local commercial food growers. It should really be called the Scottish Borders Grow Your Own Food Strategy.</p> <p>It is a reactive document addressing the current levels of demand. Greener Melrose believes that we are living in a Climate and Ecological Emergency which is soon going to get worse. Long supply chains delivering often mediocre food will be increasingly under threat. Growing more of our own food is part of the solution and has many benefits.</p> <p>We welcome the support being given by SBC to this sector but it was unclear which department is doing this, how contact should be made and what form that help would take.</p> <p>We would like to see an additional three full-time outreach posts being established, one in each of the east, central and west parts of the Borders. They could be hosted by existing organisations such as Abundant Borders, Greener Melrose and Peebles CAN. These posts are necessary to reach out to individuals, groups and</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>We will consider amending the name of the Strategy based on the feedback provided. The Council is required to respond to the Community Empowerment Act Part 9 Allotments and produce a food growing strategy for community food growing. Commercial food growing and the wider Land Use planning is outwith this remit. A South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership is to be established to develop a Regional Land Use Framework by 2023 with a focus on delivering net zero emissions through sustainable land management. This RLUP will involve both SBC and D&amp;GC.</p> <p>Noted - contact details can be added in.</p> <p>Noted – SBC acknowledge the financial realities it is faced with in responding to this duty. Funding advice and guidance is available to communities wishing to pursue projects supporting the Councils Food Growing Strategy. The Council does employ a community food growing volunteer co-ordinator and this resource is accessible to communities wishing to receive advice and training on food growing in their community.</p>
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	<p>schools, to link people up, promote the benefits of growing your own food, demonstrate good practice, run training sessions, link with funders, etc., etc.</p> <p>Many local green groups, such as Greener Melrose, would respond well to approaches made by such a Grow Your Own Officer and organise events, promote on social media, etc. It would be a good collaboration which would allow interest to build more quickly and to address issues of food resilience in the Scottish Borders.</p>	<p>Noted – we would welcome such collaboration as the Strategy develops.</p>
	<p>An excellent idea which I hope can be expanded to provide initiatives and education in all areas of the Borders</p>	

	<p>I wish you would put as much effort into providing allotments as you do into creating glossy publications with photos etc like this consultation document. I live in Duns and know several people that would be interested in an allotment, but there are none. I would also add that I only came across this consultation by accident (mis-typed google search) so how you feel this is really “consulting” when I suspect that less than 1% of people in the Borders area are aware of it is beyond me.</p>	<p>Noted – SBC are in discussion with various communities about meeting local demand for allotments, if you would like to have a detailed discussion about your local needs and aspirations, please contact <a href="mailto:neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk">neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk</a> .</p> <p>We had 300 respondents to our initial survey, which is a good response rate. We would normally have a physical presence in local contact centres, and Floral Gateway events to further promote the consultation however this year this has unfortunately not been possible.</p>
<p>Member of Greener Melrose</p>	<p>Very comprehensive document and well put-together given the time-frame given after SBC's getting onboard. A few comments :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Much should be made of Abundant Borders' experience and knowledge, to save other groups 'reinventing the wheel';</li> <li>2 The feedback clearly identifies that lack of skills or knowledge is a prime factor holding people back. Given that combined growing and cooking guidance is apparently much more successful than growing alone, that's an area of emphasis for SBC;</li> <li>3 Much should also be made of working with schools, not only because schools provide a forum and leadership from teaching but also there's huge value in catching youngsters early and instilling knowledge and interest;</li> <li>4 That's especially so during the pandemic,</li> </ol>	<p>Noted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abundant Borders are doing fantastic work and we have been in discussion with them about their various initiatives.</li> <li>2. Noted. The inclusion of education within the strategy is recognised as important. The Council does employ a community food growing volunteer co-ordinator and this resource is accessible to schools wishing to receive advice and training on food growing in their community.</li> <li>3. The benefits of food growing within schools is well documented – SBC have been investigating opportunities for schools to link up to local skills and knowledge within their communities, however the recent restrictions on physical gathering have impeded this.</li> <li>4. Noted</li> <li>5. Noted, this definitely observed in our communities</li> <li>6. Where demand is identified, SBC are currently exploring possible sites for community gardens and allotments. This is an ongoing process that will evolve during the period of the Strategy.</li> <li>7. This depends on the individual owner and their own aspirations, however we are working with Community Planning Partners (CPP's) to investigate opportunities within their estate for community growing sites.</li> <li>8. This isn't something that has been done by a local authority in Scotland as yet, and is not part of our current budget.</li> </ol>



	<p>where outside activities are at a premium;</p> <p>5 The pandemic and recovery can be used as a way to realign people's activities and values and encourage grow-your-own, more personal care and attention to diet and well-being - SBC can focus on and encourage this, especially given the increased interest in gardening this year;</p> <p>6 Can SBC look at its property holding and identify redundant land for allotments / grow-your-own?</p> <p>7 Can SBC encourage all private landowners and Council Tax payers to do the same i.e. review any spare lots of land that may be turned over to better use?</p> <p>8 Can SBC provide incentives for grow-your-own, using any form of Council Tax incentive?</p>	
Burnfoot Community Council	<p>i would like to see more being done to help individuals to begin growing food in their own gardens.</p> <p>SBC could work with housing associations to assist anyone who wishes to begin home growing. They could organize weed killing or to turn over the garden for a small charge or for free if people are on low income. There could be a borders community plant and seed buying group set up to keep the prices down. They could place orders each season and by buying in bulk the savings would be passed on to groups and individuals</p> <p>Re start the garden waste pick ups and</p>	<p>Noted – all are invited to make use of the advice and resources provided via the Strategy, whether growing at home or in a community garden/allotment.</p> <p>Support for growing within land owned by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) is managed by the RSLs themselves, with examples such as the Abundant Borders garden in Duns.</p> <p>SBC does not provide a green waste collection service. However a number of commercial operators do within the Scottish Borders, see web link below for details. Sustainably produced and peat free compost can be pre-purchased and picked up from our a number of our Community Recycling Centres, for further details see web link below:  <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20001/bins_rubbish_and_recycling/465/garden_waste">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20001/bins_rubbish_and_recycling/465/garden_waste</a></p>

	begin a community composting area. When people bring in items to compost, this could be weighed and for every deposit this could allow them to collect an amount of compost for free. The rest could be sold to local gardeners to help cover any costs	
Tweedsmuir Community Company	I think this is a really useful document, well set out. Great links to useful resources Clear and easy to follow	Noted.
	This seems a good document, clearly set out, albeit a bit long!! I enjoyed the visuals and the personal positive examples of people already involved in projects. I agree with most of the suggestions and comments already put forward from previous consultation.	Noted.
	This is the kind of strategy that makes you wonder why SBC exists. On the one hand SBC allows houses to be built with tiny gardens or allows homeowners to sell their large garden as a building plot, and on the other hand, SBC extols the virtues of taking public land and turning it into allotments for the same middle class people who have bought the tiny house or sold their garden for a housing plot. It would be impossible to make this stuff up.	Noted.
Individual	I think its a good strategy and links into anti-poverty / reducing inequalities work.	Noted.

	<p>On the whole, this document was a well put together resource for ‘who to talk to’ for someone who wants to start growing their own food in the Scottish Borders. It was heartening and positive, but I fear it doesn’t go far enough. In the face of our present existential crisis, it would more appropriately be a few pages at the end of the sort of document that is really needed. According to the science, our current situation is dire, We have to face up to the reality of the climate emergency and the loss of our biodiversity. We have to do this on a local as well as a national an international level.</p> <p>I was disappointed that the document itself didn’t address the real issues, namely, that we need to have a strong, resilient an sustainable food network that respects the environment whilst providing low cost nutritious food for the local population.</p> <p>In my view, the document should have covered the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A discussion about local farming, which needs to move to a carbon-free, sustainable model that increases biodiversity. This might, for example, involve shifting away completely from the present model, away from sheep and</li> </ol>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Council is required to respond to the Community Empowerment Act Part 9 Allotments and produce a food growing strategy for community food growing. Commercial food growing and the wider Land Use planning is outwith this remit. However, a South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership is to be established to develop a Regional Land Use Framework by 2023 with a focus on delivering net zero emissions through sustainable land management. This RLUP will involve both SBC and D&amp;GC.</p> <p>The issues around farming and the low carbon agenda will be covered through the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership. This is being established to develop a Regional Land Use Framework by 2023 with a focus on delivering net zero emissions through sustainable land management. This RLUP will involve both SBC and D&amp;GC.</p>
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	<p>cattle - the consensus among scientists seems to be that, as a population, we will probably have to shift to a more plant based diet in order to tackle the climate emergency. We may also need to switch to organic forms of food production to try to halt biodiversity loss. These are the sorts of questions I would like to have seen in this document.</p> <p>What sort of help and guidance is being offered to farmers? Is there a way of the council working in partnership with farmers in order to meet the needs of the local people and the environment?</p> <p>2. I would also like to have seen a discussion on the banning of pesticide use both in farms and gardens as well as all council property, verges, pavements etc. Increasing evidence is coming out about the danger to human health from these toxins - both in terms of being exposed to the spray and also the residue in our food. I would like to have seen a discussion around these issues leading to what action the council is taking to protect local people and wildlife. Apart from the threat to human health, we cannot separate the loss of our insect pollinators with our food growing strategies.</p> <p>3. I would like to have seen the council leading the way in helping local people</p>	<p>The Council continues to minimise its use of pesticides and only use pesticides which are licenced for use in the management and maintenance of amenity land including roads and footways. It does so using trained competent staff and contractors and in line with the guidance associated with the application of pesticides. Alternative solutions will continue to be considered in order to continue to drive down use, including less intensive maintenance practices and non-intervention where practicable.</p> <p>Noted – SBC acknowledge the financial realities it faces in responding to this duty. Funding advice and guidance is available to communities wishing to pursue projects supporting the Councils Food Growing Strategy.</p>
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	<p>growing their own food. Rather than waiting for individuals and groups to approach the council (and then potentially ending up on a five year waiting list) I would like to have seen the council take the initiative. Why isn't the council setting up local allotment sites, preparing raised beds or getting forest gardens started and inviting local people to get involved?</p> <p>The council could set up a bank of volunteers and some funded positions that could get the whole thing going. In my view, allotments should be free, people should not have to pay anything to have access to a parcel of land to grow their own food.</p> <p>The council could have a waste collection service that makes compost and then distributes the compost to the local allotments. The council took an incredibly passive role in this document. Why isn't the council taking a proactive role in helping local people to start growing their own food?</p> <p>There needs to be a vision - what is the council hoping to achieve? In my view, that vision needs to be more of us growing our own food ourselves, backed up by local farms, alongside lots of trees and wild spaces.</p>	<p>The Council does employ a community food growing volunteer co-ordinator and this resource is accessible to communities wishing to receive advice and training on food growing in their community. There is a strong record of success in this area locally where the Council responds to and supports people wishing to get involved in food growing in their community, in a partnership model and this model is likely to yield the most success for both Community and Council in addressing and responding to this issue going forward. Scottish Borders Council will take all reasonable steps to meet local demand for allotments as per the legislation, please contact <a href="mailto:neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk">neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk</a> to discuss any local community growing aspirations.</p> <p>The issue of allotment regulation including fees is subject to a separate report.</p> <p>SBC does not provide a green waste collection service. However a number of commercial operators do within the Scottish Borders, see web link below for details. Sustainably produced and peat free compost can be pre-purchased and picked up from our a number of our Community Recycling Centres, for further details see web link below:  <a href="https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20001/bins_rubbish_and_recycling/465/garden_waste">https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20001/bins_rubbish_and_recycling/465/garden_waste</a></p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	The present document doesn't go anywhere near far enough.	
	I think that this is something that Jedburgh could benefit from.	Noted.
	I think it's a fantastic idea. Would it be possible for schools to benefit from this? As a Home Economics teacher I despair as our fruit and veg are delivered from Glasgow. Sustainability, using local produce and seasonality are all part of our curriculum!	The benefits of food growing within schools is well documented – SBC have through the Strategy been investigating opportunities for schools to link up to local skills and knowledge within their communities, however the recent restrictions on physical gathering have impeded this.
	As someone who would like to start up a committee garden here at Lindean I would welcome any help and advice from people who actually have been involved in food growing projects already up and running in the birders. Also funding would be most welcome.	Please get in touch on <a href="mailto:neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk">neighbourhoodservice@scotborders.gov.uk</a> to discuss local community growing aspirations. Funding advice and guidance is available to communities wishing to pursue projects via the Food Growing Strategy.
n/a	Its an excellent basis to build on in local communities.	Noted.



	<p>recognises the benefits of community growing in its many forms and through this Strategy seeks to support and promote community growing across the region."</p> <p>SO IS THIS STATEMENT - 'Our vision for community growing in the Scottish Borders is that people wishing to grow their own fruit and vegetables can access or develop a range of community growing opportunities in their area.'</p> <p>THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT, GIVEN THE NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AROUND THE BORDERS WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN NEED OF USING FOODBANKS. I WORK AS A VOLUNTEER WITH THE GALASHIELS FOODBANK, AND AM DISAPPOINTED TO FIND NO REFERENCE (IN THE DRAFT POLICY) TO, OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF, THE GROWING DEPENDENCY ON, FOODBANKS IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS AND HOW THE COUNCIL MIGHT ADDRESS THIS ISSUE, (ALTHOUGH MENTION IS GIVEN IN PASSING TO SOME OF THE COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING PROJECTS THAT SUPPORT THEIR LOCAL FOODBANKS). OK IT'S A NATIONAL PROBLEM, BUT STILL ONE THAT REGIONAL AUTHOTIES NEED TO ADDRESS IMAGINATIVELY AND WITH GREATER CONCERN THAN HITHERTO.</p>	<p>The strategy responds to the Community Empowerment Act duties, and while there are clear links to food poverty and education and awareness it cannot address the economic and socio-political issues which are at play behind the issue of community food banks and their increased use. There are recognised challenges around Food Banks and the distribution of perishables, however various models such as the Burnfoot Hub have successfully piloted a 'Fareshare' approach to sharing community grown produce.</p>
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	<p>COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING COULD BE ONE OF THESE IMAGINATIVE RESPONSES TO THIS ISSUE, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF THIS AS OUTLINED BELOW.</p> <p>I WELCOME THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE BENEFITS THAT COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING CAN PROVIDE WHICH ARE LISTED IN THE POLICY DRAFT - Health, Environmental, Economic, Social, Educational, Food Security, etc. THE STATEMENT 'Our vision for community growing in the Scottish Borders is that people wishing to grow their own fruit and vegetables can access or develop a range of community growing opportunities in their area' IS ALSO WELCOME.....ALONG WITH THE STATEMENT THAT FOLLOWS - 'The aim of this strategy is to support and facilitate anyone who wants to get growing, through existing growing opportunities and new approaches to growing. '</p> <p>WILL SBC EMPLOY EXTRA STAFF AND PROVIDE EXTRA FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES TO ENABLE THIS TO HAPPEN? I WOULD ANTICIPATE A MINIMUM OF 3 PART-TIME POSTS SPREAD GEOGRAPHICALLY ACROSS THE BORDERS.</p> <p>THE FOLLOWING LIST OF OBJECTIVES IS</p>	<p>Noted – SBC acknowledge the financial realities it is faced with in responding to this duty. Funding advice and guidance is available to communities wishing to pursue projects supporting the Councils Food Growing Strategy. The Council does employ a community food growing volunteer co-ordinator and this resource is accessible to communities wishing to receive advice and training on food growing in their community.</p>
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	<p>ALSO WELCOME -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide a central resource for community growing information</li> <li>- To raise awareness around community growing in the Scottish Borders</li> <li>- To show you how to get growing: where, how and who can help you/your community group</li> <li>- To help you get your community growing project off the ground</li> <li>- To help identify potential allotment site and growing spaces</li> </ul> <p>NOTING THAT 'Scottish Borders Council has a wealth of over 600 hectares of publicly accessible green space that may lend itself to accommodating food growing. From amenity bedding areas to tracts of grass in our towns and villages...', AND ALSO THAT 'The Community Empowerment Act asks all local authorities to identify land for food growing where demand exists...' AND THAT 'Across communities there are also areas of amenity green space owned by our other Community Planning Partners (NHS Borders, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Police Scotland, and Scottish Enterprise),</p> <p>IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF ALL OF THESE BODIES DREW UP LISTS OF WHERE APPROPRIATE SPACES EXIST THAT COULD</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>We are working with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations on mapping available sites where they are most needed.</p>
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	<p>BE USED FOR COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING PROJECTS. THIS WOULD ENABLE, ENCOURAGE AND ACCELERATE THE EXPANSION OF FOOD GROWING PROJECTS AROUND THE REGION - ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC AND POST BREXIT FOOD SECURITY, AND SAVE THE TIME OF INDIVIDUAL GROUPS HAVING TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS DESCRIBED IN THE DRAFT DOCUMENT - '...Should officers feel that a suitable opportunity could be realised through the 'adoption' of land within the Council's ownership, the proposal would be subject to a council report and permissions/consultations with other services...'</p> <p>I WELCOME THE STATEMENT THAT 'Planning Officers are finalising a new policy EP17 entitled 'Food Growing &amp; Community Growing Spaces' within the proposed new Local Development Plan, which seeks to safeguard food growing sites wherever possible and integrate community food growing needs into new development. IT SHOULD BE MANDATORY (AS CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS ARE) THAT ANY NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES ADEQUATE SPACE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD-GROWING ON SITE.</p> <p>I WELCOME THIS STATEMENT -</p>	<p>Noted .</p>
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	<p>We (SBC?) will help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating specific policy safeguarding for Allotments and food growing sites in the Local Development Plan.</li> <li>• Support community growing within council land where possible</li> <li>• Planning for future allotment sites in new developments and securing land for growing to meet demand</li> <li>• Identifying potential community growing sites</li> </ul> <p>and Sharing information on what's happening in your area.</p> <p>AGAIN, THE DRAFT DOES NOT MENTION THE CREATION OF NEW POSTS AND FUNDING WITHIN SBC TO ENABLE THESE WAYS OF HELPING. THIS WILL BE ESSENTIAL IF THE PROPOSALS ARE TO TAKE OFF EFFECTIVELY, EVEN THOUGH OTHER AGENCIES, GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS ARE LISTED THAT CAN PROVIDE SOME ADVICE AND EXPERTISE. THEY ALREADY HAVE THEIR OWN WORK TO DO, AND AGENDAS TO FOLLOW, AND CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO TAKE ON MORE.</p> <p>SBC DRAFT REPORT IS PROPOSING HELP IN A NUMBER OF WAYS -</p> <p>We (SBC?) will help by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting groups in submitting grant applications for their community growing</li> </ul>	<p>Noted – SBC acknowledge the financial realities it is faced with in responding to this duty. Funding advice and guidance is available to communities wishing to pursue projects supporting the Councils Food Growing Strategy.</p> <p>The Council does employ a community food growing volunteer co-ordinator and this resource is accessible to communities wishing to receive advice and training on food growing in their community.</p>
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	<p>project(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating opportunities for groups to share resources to make growing affordable to more people.</li> <li>• Providing information for networking with other groups who have a growing project</li> <li>• Providing information on organisations and businesses that can help community projects as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility commitments</li> </ul> <p>Share up-cycling and recycling opportunities, for example by connecting community growing groups with wood recycling projects</p> <p>ALL OF THIS HAS POTENTIAL FOR CREATING ZERO CARBON GREEN JOBS AND IS WORTH FUNDING.</p> <p>I WELCOME THIS STATEMENT -  'With our partners, we will:  Explore the feasibility of 'sharing events' hosted by different organisations bringing growers together to share plants and seeds...'</p> <p>COULD THIS ALSO TAKE THE FORM OF SBC SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF WEEKLY 'FOOD MARKETS' IN EVERY BORDERS TOWN - NOT JUST THE ONCE-A-MONTH ARRANGEMENT IN DIFFERENT PLACES THAT IS CONFUSING AND NOT</p>	
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	<p>LOCALLY BASED ON A REGULAR ENOUGH BASIS. WEEKLY MARKETS WOULD HELP KEEP THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF CAR TRAVEL DOWN AS WELL. CONSIDERATION COULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO ENABLING EMPTY SHOPS ON THE HIGH STREETS OF OUR TOWNS TO HOST INDOOR SPACES FOR MARKET STALL HOLDERS, AS WELL AS MAKING OUTDOOR VENUES AVAILABLE. VISITORS TO THE REGION WOULD APPRECIATE THE PRESENCE OF LOCAL WEEKLY MARKETS TOO.</p> <p>‘...Liaise with the Council’s Unpaid Work team (Community Justice Service) who may be able to provide help with clearing your plot and preparing the ground for planting; Share information about potential funding sources and work together to maximise opportunities for all community growing groups in the Scottish Borders...’</p> <p>I WELCOME ALL THE POINTS IN THE FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN, BUT AGAIN AM NOT SEEING ANY MENTION OF EXTRA JOBS BEING CREATED WITHIN THE SBC TO FACILITATE AND ENABLE THIS TO HAPPEN.</p> <p>ONCE THE FINAL VERSION OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, EVERY</p>	<p>SBC themselves don’t have the capacity or remit to run weekly markets.</p> <p>Noted – SBC acknowledge the financial realities it is faced with in responding to this duty. Funding advice and guidance is available to communities wishing to pursue projects supporting the Councils Food Growing Strategy. The Council does employ a community food growing volunteer co-ordinator and this resource is accessible to communities wishing to receive advice and training on food growing in their community.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>HOME IN THE BORDERS SHOULD BE ISSUED WITH A COPY, TO STIMULATE ACTION AND INTEREST IN GETTING INVOLVED IN LOCAL COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING PROJECTS. PERHAPS COMMUNITY COUNCILS COULD BE GIVEN THE TASK OF HOSTING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE BENEFICIAL OPPORTUNITIES OF LOCAL COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING PROJECTS AS WELL.</p>	
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