

# **West Lothian Food Growing Strategy Stakeholder Workshop**

2 Oct 2018, 11.00 – 14.00, Linlithgow Burgh Halls

## **Note of the workshop**

### **1. Introduction**

West Lothian Council (NETs, Land & Countryside services) hosted the Food Growing Strategy Stakeholder workshop which was organised and facilitated by greenspace Scotland who are supporting West Lothian Council in the first stages of the development of the strategy.

The aim of the event was to establish a good picture of the current situation, with its strengths, weaknesses and opportunities, and to begin to formulate a vision for the future and how partners will work towards this over the five years of the Strategy.

West Lothian Council employees, schools, national organisations and local food growing organisations were all invited to attend.

A second workshop had previously taken place (13 September, Howden Park Centre) attended by community organisations, interested individuals and education providers. Information from this event was used to inform the programme for this workshop.

**This report details the full responses from everyone that took part in the stakeholder workshop and is intended as an accurate record for participants and West Lothian Council.** A final report will be created that takes account of the outcomes from both the workshops and makes recommendations for the development of the Food growing Strategy based on the outcomes.

### **Attendance**

People could sign up to the event using Eventbrite and were initially invited to do so by email from greenspace Scotland. A press release was also issued by West Lothian Council. The invitation was targeted at organisations and services who can support and facilitate community and local food growing in West Lothian.

33 people attended the event, representing West Lothian Council, Schools, national third sector organisations, local community gardens and allotments and community organisations with growing activities as part of their remit.

### **Event Format**

Following a welcome and presentation of the background to the food growing strategy and its planned development the attendees took part in short workshops to gather their knowledge and ideas.

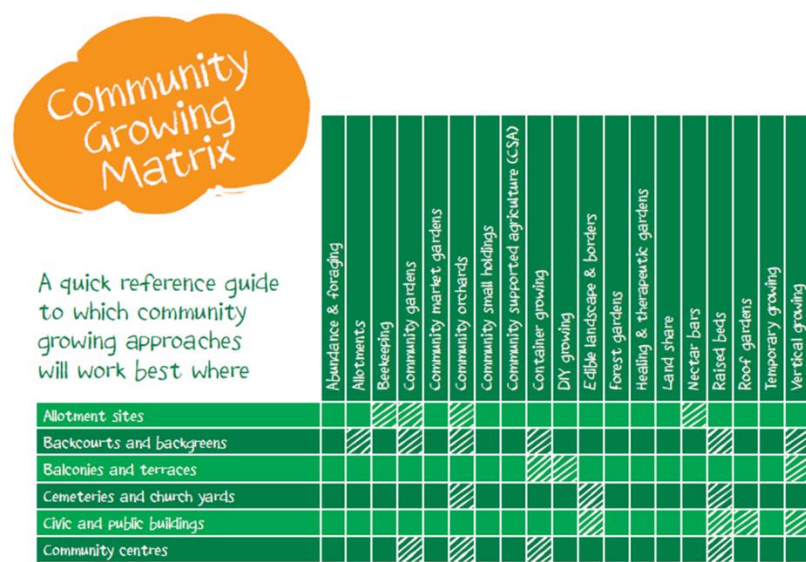
## 2. Workshop 1 – Scope of the food growing strategy

In the first workshop we asked participants to discuss the scope of the strategy. What we were looking was discussion and indication of what types of food growing and what type of food growing sites the strategy should focus on.

Draft guidance from Scottish Government on scope is very broad and states that “Local authorities must ensure that they take a balanced and considered approach when considering what greenspace, both existing and planned, could be used as growing space. There are many different forms of food growing spaces that local authorities should include in their strategies, from the traditional to the innovative. Local authorities should incorporate as many appropriate forms of growing sites, and types of growing, as their local areas allow”

The question is if there are growing sites or ways of growing your own that make sense in West Lothian and/or should have focus?

To aid discussions and prioritisation each group had a copy of the Our Growing Community Matrix and were asked to choose their top 5 ways of growing and 10 top growing sites.



The matrix can be found on:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q8\\_Uk87Gn1MCed2LsVWhANelRe-EHep3/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q8_Uk87Gn1MCed2LsVWhANelRe-EHep3/view)

Across the four workshop groups the following growing approaches and sites were identified as most relevant in a West Lothian context

Top growing approaches	Top growing sites
Abundance and foraging **	Allotment sites ****
Allotments ***	Community Centres ****
Beekeeping	Community woodlands
Community gardens ***	Derelict and underdeveloped land ***
Community orchards*	Green corridors
Community market gardens	Health Sector land and NHS Estate ***
Community supported agriculture	Public park and gardens ***
Container growing **	Residential and amenity spaces ***
Edible landscape and borders **	Roadside verges and underpasses
Forest Gardens	School grounds ****

Healing and therapeutic gardens ** Raised beds*	Sheltered housing and care homes *** Town Centres and High Streets
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\*denominates if mentioned by more than one group

We also asked the groups to identify if they considered any of the sites or growing approaches irrelevant in a West Lothian context. One group did not think the idea of using rail and bus stations and roadside verges and underpasses was a good idea due to contamination. Another group thought that although roof gardens and vertical growing could be great if purpose-built on a school, it probably was a less relevant growing approach in West Lothian.

[Workshop after thought: example of vertical garden in a school setting:

<https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/news/busby-primary-pupils-create-edible-vertical-garden>]

### 3. Workshop 2 and 3: Support for community growing and opportunities, challenges and collaboration

The workshop asked what organisations/services are doing currently to support community growing under 6 themes of support needs identified at the community workshop:

1. Access to land or help identify land for growing food for community groups or individuals seeking places to grow
2. Access to support and support organisations that can help groups and individuals develop their project ideas
3. A programme of regular learning events and support for growing activities
4. Programme of networking events to bring people and groups together
5. Provide access to growing resources
6. Communications and publicity

This was discussed in four groups who also considered the opportunities, challenges and potential for collaboration under each of these themes of support.

The feedback from each group is provided in full below and a few further pieces of information received by email after the workshop has been added aswell.

#### Group 1: Pink

	<b>What are you doing currently to support community growing?</b> <b>What can organisations do to deliver?</b>	<b>Look to the future and identify:</b> <b>- Opportunities</b> <b>- Challenges</b> <b>- Collaborations</b>
1. Access to land or help identify land for growing food for community groups or individuals seeking places to grow	KCAA: 44 allotment plots available for growing (turnover 2/3 plots/year)  Ronnie, WLC: provide allotments and look to support community gardens on council land  Armadale Community Garden: provide raised beds for community, family and organisations to use	Opportunities: plenty of land in WL Challenge: value of land for developments Collaboration: Developer funding of greenspace

	ComReg, WLC: Support and work with organisations/services and communities: locate areas, negotiation + facilitation, funding,	
2. Access to support and support organisations that can help groups and individuals develop their project ideas	<p>KCAA: Advice and help available to people and groups setting up growing spaces</p> <p>Ronnie, WLC: Go into schools and provide advice to staff/pupils on growing fruit and veg. Be available to provide advice and support where possible. Put people in contact with other groups.</p> <p>Tree and Woodland Officer, WLC: We planted fruit trees in the Hillhouse part of Beecraigs</p> <p>Armadale Community Garden: Support from garden worker</p> <p>ComReg WLC: Signpost, support</p> <p>SRUC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Schools education in horticulture</li> <li>2) Allotment courses in full time horticulture course</li> <li>3) Community allotment for students</li> <li>4) Educational allotment</li> <li>5) Possible future courses if potential online course</li> </ol>	<p>Opportunity: once set up Allotments don't need funding as they are self-sustaining</p> <p>Opportunity: Memorial Tree Orchard at Beecraigs Fruit for juicing and potential sale in country parks (Woodland officer, WLC)</p>
3. A programme of regular learning events and support for growing activities	<p>KCAA: Informal mentoring programme for new plot-holders</p> <p>Armadale Community garden: cooking courses, events and demonstrations</p>	<p>Opportunity: Educate people to understand about food. Experience harvesting food i.e. apples and then making apple pie.</p> <p>Opportunity: SRUC is interested in discussion online courses</p>

	<p>SRUC: course provided as part- or full-time provision.</p> <p>ComReg WLC: promotion, support with funding, signposting</p> <p>TCV: working with young people in West Lothian for the next three years. Our funding is aimed at improving physical health and we will be doing this through engaging with schools and youth groups to deliver Green Gyms. One of the activities we will be delivering with schools is food growing on school grounds- improving young peoples skills and giving them the opportunity to be outdoors.</p>	<p>Challenge: Timing – food harvests when people are around to engage and use produce</p> <p>Challenge: Brexit – economics and food supply shock due to reduced arability and rise in food costs</p> <p>TCV: A challenge for us may be space and funding. We are lucky in that we have identified space within each of the schools we are working with, however community space may be less widely available.</p>
4. Programme of networking events to bring people and groups together	<p>Ronnie, WLC: pass on information to various groups</p> <p>ComReg, WLC: Promotion, information, dissemination</p> <p>SRUC: Demonstration allotment Oatridge College and at Highland Show</p> <p>TCV: We have started linking schools with community groups and would like to continue this.</p>	<p>Opportunity: West Lothian wide federation of community gardens for knowledge sharing and funding (to prevent competition and displacement)</p>
5. Provide access to growing resources	<p>KCAA: Communal tool for plot-holders and information and plant swap/share scheme</p> <p>Armadale Community Garden: Tool lending scheme</p>	<p>Challenges</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ignorance of food source and packaging</li> <li>2) No knowledge of food supply chain</li> <li>3) Bad food is cheap</li> <li>4) Cultural perception and apathy about food sources – “inability”/unwillingness to grow your own</li> </ol>

		<p>5) Impact of income poverty and food poverty – if both exist it doesn't necessary convert into food growing</p> <p>6) Know to grown nf then cook food</p> <p>7) Few “leaders” with passion and interest to pioneer food growing in locations</p>
6. Communications and publicity	<p>KCAA: Most events are open to public</p> <p>Armadale Community Garden: Facebook page</p> <p>ComReg WLC: promotion, information dissemination</p>	
7. Other	Armadale Community Garden: Woodwork workshop and bike project (lending scheme)	

## Group 2: Orange

	<b>What are you doing currently to support community growing?</b> <b>What can organisations do to deliver?</b>	<b>Look to the future and identify:</b> <b>- Opportunities</b> <b>- Challenges</b> <b>- Collaborations</b>
1. Access to land or help identify land for growing food for community groups or individuals seeking places to grow	<p>Beechbrae: We have an orchard/forest garden and beds for community growing</p> <p>Knightsridge community garden: Raised beds available for rent</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Step community gardens at St. Ninians Longcroft Hall</p>	<p>Opportunity: Education/Schools: open school grounds for community growing.</p> <p>Opportunity: development of easy guide to decontamination in</p> <p>Opportunity: Food growing section/suggestion into new planning developments</p> <p>Opportunity: introduction of forest gardens</p>

	<p>SRUC: small number of community allotments (less than 4)</p> <p>Easterton PS: Education land, not yet community, but links to community garden.</p> <p>RHS: Campaign for school garden network – can identify which schools are actively growing</p> <p>Becky, WLC: Help with land contamination surveys (advice + financial)</p> <p>Complying with legislation and producing food growing strategy</p> <p>Helping groups ID land throughout West Lothian</p>	<p>Challenges: perceptions – “you can’t grow there” And lack of joined up thinking</p>
<p>2. Access to support and support organisations that can help groups and individuals develop their project ideas</p>	<p>Beechbrae: workshops on growing food and orchard care. Also, a lot of informal advice and support for groups on ideas, legal structure, governance, funding</p> <p>Knightridge CG: Build raised beds for other users e.g. local primary school</p> <p>RHS: Online information on community growing, resource bank for schools/communities – training in horticultural topics</p> <p>West Lothian Community Education Team</p> <p>Community Enterprise Ltd offers support to social enterprises</p>	<p>Challenges: Feeling alone in it all, burn out Opportunity: Sharing good practice and funding. Skills sharing so not re-inventing the wheel Collaboration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Anchor organisations is to work with schools</li> <li>2) Joint events</li> <li>3) Working with experts e.g. foraging experts, different skill sets</li> <li>4) Sharing the burden</li> </ol> <p>This links back to support theme 1 “Access to land.”</p>



	<p>Education Schools: Food 4 thought grants (Education Scotland)</p> <p>Easterton PS: Running an eco-group + access to community garden</p> <p>Becky, WLC: Help to ID suitable sites (and different kinds of growing) Help getting groups constituted, signpost to specialist organisations e.g. Soc Farms, RHS, other groups in WL</p>	
<p>3. A programme of regular learning events and support for growing activities</p>	<p>Beechbrae:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Cooking from scratch workshops with Blackridge PS, Armadale Academy, Whitdale PS</li> <li>2) Weekly garden drop in Friday 1-3pm</li> <li>3) Cook from scratch over the fire with Branching Our and other groups</li> </ol> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Step café: growing sessions open to all in the community</p> <p>Transition Linlithgow: low carbon cooking classes and bread club</p> <p>Knightsridge CG: Gardening club @ PS</p> <p>Easterton PS: curriculum – no practical activities</p> <p>SRUC: Courses at Ecclesmachan NC and HNC Horticulture and Landscaping NC &amp; HNC</p> <p>RHS: CPD aimed at teachers, bespoke courses targeted at youth groups and community.</p>	<p>Opportunity: create spaces for sharing – online resource for sharing of ideas</p> <p>Links to theme 4: “programme of networking events....”</p>

	<p>Progression frameworks like School gardening awards. Structured training programme</p> <p>Education School: Food &amp; Health curriculum learning</p> <p>Becky, WLC: provide training in partnership with other specialist orgs e.g. TCV, RHS, Soc Farms</p>	
<p>4. Programme of networking events to bring people and groups together</p>	<p>Transition Linlithgow: monthly gathering of members and the community</p> <p>Beechbrae: We go visit other growing projects (time dependent!) We take part in local community council meetings</p> <p>Easterton PS: Links to community garden – advertise community garden events, but need to strengthen</p> <p>RHS: Project visits, CPD (also networking tool) Sometimes local authority wide twilight events</p> <p>Becky, WLC: Ad hoc visits and events as required organised with individual groups</p> <p>Education, Schools: Food Network (Education Scotland) Food 4 Thoughts events</p> <p>Cyrenians offer exchange visits to other growing sites</p>	
<p>5. Provide access to growing resources</p>	<p>Transition Linlithgow: Tool library (gardening tools)</p>	<p>Challenges: costs, staffing, funding (1-year funding needs to be 3- or 5-year plans) Timing of funding with growing year</p>

	<p>SRUC: Some surplus veg/plants may be available in small numbers. Would need picked out and moved on [not over summer holidays]</p> <p>Knightsridge CG: Sell or give away excess plants</p> <p>Beechbrae: give away surplus plants + signpost people to learning and funding opportunities</p> <p>Easterton PS: Raise funds for the eco area through bake sales etc. help small groups of kids to grow.</p> <p>RHS: Annual support programme includes small scale funding, seeds/plants, training opportunities.</p> <p>Education, Schools: Signpost to grants/funding, Food4Thought</p> <p>Becky, WLC: signpost groups to funding and sharing schemes, volunteers etc. Mapping existing growing projects – will share</p>	
<p>6. Communications and publicity</p>	<p>Transition Linlithgow: website, facebook, twitter</p> <p>Beechbrae: different social media for different audiences</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Facebook – local community</li> <li>2) Instagram – local and wider community</li> <li>3) Twitter – wider growing community (peers)</li> <li>4) Website – wider community &amp; funders</li> </ol> <p>Also, story in our quarterly village newsletter</p> <p>Easterton PS: Links to community garden – advertising their events</p>	<p>Opportunity: PS could do more to involve parents in growing</p> <p>Collaboration: working together, sharing load and doubling effectiveness</p> <p>Challenge: People access info in different ways, so there's never a one-stop-shop. Must be sure we/re communicating in different ways.</p>

	<p>Knightridge CG: Facebook, community news, posters</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Step: very active FB, open garden events, sharing updates with local church newsletters</p> <p>RHS: signposting to hort info, network, funding, support</p> <p>Education, Schools: signpost to social media, website, resources, celebrating success</p> <p>Becky, WLC: new food growing page on Council website. Plan to update with info on projects/allotments etc.</p>	
7. Other	Transition Linlithgow: Neighbourfood, online farmers market (launch in October) local produce sales	Opportunity: set up green prescription group with community gardens who have certain things in place (e.g. H&S, insurance) and is certified for GPs to prescribe for patients

### Group 3: Green

	<b>What are you doing currently to support community growing?</b> <b>What can organisations do to deliver?</b>	<b>Look to the future and identify:</b> <b>- Opportunities</b> <b>- Challenges</b> <b>- Collaborations</b>
1. Access to land or help identify land for growing food for community groups or individuals seeking places to grow	<p>SRUC: Community allotment</p> <p>ComReg, WLC: mapping of assets (incl. derelict sites, open spaces etc.)</p>	<p>Opportunity: school grounds – 67 Primary and 11 Secondary schools in WLC potential for 78 school orchards</p> <p>Opportunity: amount of vacant land</p>

	<p>Planning, WLC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) general planning services openness to support community initiatives if they ID a site (the bureaucratic planning process)</li> <li>2) local development plan – general support policy and actual community growing support planning policy</li> <li>3) Community Councils get free planning applications and 50% reduction for other community groups e.g. to pursue planning permission for allotments</li> </ol>	<p>Challenge: private ownership – need to focus on public land</p> <p>Challenge: finding enough land to cater for demand, so focus on existing public land: community centres, schools, cemeteries.</p>
<p>2. Access to support and support organisations that can help groups and individuals develop their project ideas</p>	<p>ComReg, WLC: supporting community organisations in capacity building, identifying community need</p> <p>CSGNT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) project development: initial proposals, consents, landowner liaison, funding</li> <li>2) project delivery: site boundaries, services, raised beds, growing areas</li> <li>3) Strategic support via national GYOWG and online resources guidance and advice</li> </ol>	<p>Opportunity: Better links between all organisations here to pass people onto the right help e.g. WLC, CSGNT for design and funding help. To RHS/Social Farms for group coordination and growing advice</p>
<p>3. A programme of regular learning events and support for growing activities</p>	<p>Cedarbank school: could run sessions for parents to show the food grown by students + the cooking they've done. We could then have sessions to teach parents.</p> <p>Harrysmuir PS: We are teaching children to cook who will then be demonstrating skills to parents and then sell veg packs/soup packs at low cost to encourage cooking at home. We have several apple trees used to cook with children</p>	<p>Challenge: Looking after school gardens in the holidays</p>

	ComReg, WLC: sharing community engagement data – highlight need for education/learning	
4. Programme of networking events to bring people and groups together	ComREg, WLC: supporting organisations on specific projects aimed at reducing inequalities. Knowledge sharing visits  West Calder and Harburn CDT: community workdays, planting bulbs, Harburn right of way	Opportunity: support like this is offered through Social Farms, Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society. Funding for visits, knowledge exchange and running networking events.  Challenge: promoting this info to the people who want/need it. Getting it out there.
5. Provide access to growing resources	Cedarbank School: We have Food4thought funding to buy tools – these could be available for parents to borrow (extra plants given away to parents/carers)  Harrysmuir PS: We received Food4Thought funding to grow veg/cook/demonstrate to parents. Sell veg/soup/curry packs  Transition Linlithgow: Tool Library  CSGNT: Championing growing to remain in the CSGN Development Fund  ComReg, WLC: supporting community organisations with funding and building capacity West Calder and Harburn CDT: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In Bloom bulb planting and workdays. Community planters</li> <li>2) Good connections programme – volunteers</li> <li>3) Resource bank – sharing of tools, resources</li> <li>4) Partnership with community garden/volunteer support</li> </ol>	Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding out about funding sources</li> <li>• One-stop-shop to find funding opportunity sites</li> <li>• Access to allotment sites (out of town)</li> </ul>

<p>6. Communications and publicity</p>	<p>Cedarbank: idea to add to the twitter feed what we are doing in the garden areas. Ideas to what can be done at home</p> <p>Harrysmuir PS: Part of Ladywell regeneration group</p> <p>West Calder and Harburn CDT: Community Facebook page updated with events and local opportunities</p> <p>ComReg WLC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) updating communities through the regeneration planning process, meetings, events</li> <li>2) production of interactive maps in areas with regeneration plans (SIMD Areas)</li> </ol> <p>CSGNT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) monthly newsletter with all this green network related includes growing where relevant</li> <li>2) supporting national GYOWG with promotion and dissemination of relevant information</li> </ol>	
<p>7. Other</p>	<p>Harrysmuir PS: Planting a harvest hedging on WLC woodland area next to school</p>	

**Group 4: Blue**

	<p><b>What are you doing currently to support community growing?</b></p>	<p><b>Look to the future and identify: - Opportunities</b></p>
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	<b>What can organisations do to deliver?</b>	<b>- Challenges - Collaborations</b>
1. Access to land or help identify land for growing food for community groups or individuals seeking places to grow	<p>Deans PS: In early communication with council about starting a community garden</p> <p>Craigsfarm Community Hub: greenspace which could be made available to growers</p> <p>WTS: Community orchard at Bellsquarry wood in Livingston, planted in 2015</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Step: We have a community garden on church owned land</p> <p>Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS): support with lease templates, case studies, signposting</p> <p>PWCCG: We are a community garden that grows food run by volunteers</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is land available</li> <li>• Making connections is important and it works</li> <li>• Free networking events (with food) are very useful</li> <li>• Becky Plunketts knowledge is an opportunity</li> </ul> <p>Challenge: Knowing what is going on e.g. different sites and groups</p>
2. Access to support and support organisations that can help groups and individuals develop their project ideas	<p>Craigsfarm Community Hub: Community projects coordinator that aims to support new groups of all interests to develop and recruit volunteers</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Step: We were grateful for advice/support from Lou at Social Farms. Also networking with other local gardening and community contacts</p> <p>PWCCG: We have hosted Social Farms “Governance” training and offered support/advice to other groups</p> <p>Social Farms and Gardens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly ebulletin (policy, funds, training)</li> </ul>	<p>Opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of advice available</li> <li>• Opportunity to host gardening but not run it</li> </ul> <p>Challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don’t know where to start looking for advice</li> <li>• Having the capacity to run a growing project – there is a lack of leaders due to lack of confidence or avoiding responsibilities</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice training (volunteer engagement/ recruitment)</li> <li>• Online resources</li> <li>• Community Learning Exchange</li> <li>• Best practice approach to community gardens (resource, networking, enquiry service, critical friend)</li> </ul>	
3. A programme of regular learning events and support for growing activities	<p>Deans PS: Small garden for vegetable growing – children plant, harvest and cook food. 8-week courses of small groups of children cooking with parents</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Step: weekly gardening sessions in our garden, advice on growing at home, community café cooking homegrown food</p> <p>TCV: running green gyms for pupils across WL 3-year project. Pupils learn new growing skill, help in applications for funding. Tools can be provided to schools</p> <p>PWCCG: Our annual programme of events has a seed planting activity for all visitors (food &amp; flowers)</p> <p>Social Farms and Gardens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bespoke training on request</li> <li>• Outdoor cooking resource</li> <li>• Year-round planning resource</li> </ul>	<p>Opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create an online directory of resources which is updated</li> <li>• create a WLC role as a point of contact and coordinator and WLC commitment to fund this</li> </ul> <p>Challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• funding for WLC role</li> <li>• weather</li> <li>• facilities – need appropriately equipped venues for cooking e.g. schools, community centres – but barrier</li> </ul>
4. Programme of networking events to bring people and groups together	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Step: We have visited Cyrenians Farm and would like to visit other community growing spaces</p> <p>PWCCG: We have accessed the CLE for grants to visit other projects and have hosted a visit</p>	<p>Opportunity: There could be regular networking events with cake + meet the funders networking event</p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keeping momentum</li> </ul>

	Social Farms and Gardens: support local networking to develop through regional events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• other commitments</li> <li>• finding a suitable time to meet people at all levels for community gardening</li> </ul>
5. Provide access to growing resources	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Step: We found out about free refurbished tools from the prison service and got most of what we needed</p> <p>PWCCG: WE are part of an Asset Bank resource with our local CDT</p>	
6. Communications and publicity	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Step: Weekly facebook posts about gardening activities, harvests, meals cooked</p> <p>Social Farms and Gardens: Monthly bulletin</p> <p>PWCCG: We have an active Facebook page which provides info/signposting</p>	
7. Other	Representation to policy makers, wider stakeholders, NHS, businesses etc.	

## Policy and Strategy connections to food growing?

At the end of the workshop participants were asked to highlight and policy/strategy links from their work to the food growing strategy – below is a summary of policy and strategy mentioned including weblinks where available

### National

Scotland's programme for Government – natural environment commitments

<https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/news/scotlands-programme-for-government-2018-19-published>

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/community-empowerment-scotland-act-summary/>

Scottish Land Use Strategy – Urban and rural

<https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/Countryside/Landusestrategy>

RHS campaign for school gardening (CDP Topics and Curriculum for Excellence resources)

Eco-congregations <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>

CSGNT target: triple the amount of allotments, community gardens, community orchards by 2050

CSGN DP25 workplan: Actions to 2025 include supporting the development of good quality new growing sites, providing access to advice & guidance and improving the policy environment (e.g. incorporating growing site planning and regeneration)

### West Lothian

Local Development Plan – Specific policy ENV15 on Community growing and allotments (p.48) [https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/27735/Adopted-West-Lothian-Local-Development-Plan/pdf/West\\_Lothian\\_Local\\_Development\\_Plan\\_-\\_Adopted\\_final.pdf](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/27735/Adopted-West-Lothian-Local-Development-Plan/pdf/West_Lothian_Local_Development_Plan_-_Adopted_final.pdf)

Local Outcomes Improvement Plans <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/3893/Local-Outcomes-Improvement-Plan>

Regeneration framework and regeneration plans in 13 SIMD areas

[https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/4491/West-Lothian-Regeneration-Framework/pdf/West\\_Lothian\\_Regeneration\\_Framework1.pdf](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/4491/West-Lothian-Regeneration-Framework/pdf/West_Lothian_Regeneration_Framework1.pdf)

Open Space Strategy <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/2448/Open-Space-Strategy>

Climate Change Strategy [https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/28605/Climate-Change-Strategy-2015-20/pdf/WLC\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Strategy\\_2015-20201.pdf](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/28605/Climate-Change-Strategy-2015-20/pdf/WLC_Climate_Change_Strategy_2015-20201.pdf)

PEPAS Strategy: Physical Education and Sport

Food poverty – West Lothian Poverty Alliance

Anti-poverty strategy 2018/19 to 2022/23

[https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/28013/West-Lothian-Anti-Poverty-Strategy-2018---2023/pdf/West\\_Lothian\\_Anti-Poverty\\_Strategy\\_2018-2023.pdf](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/28013/West-Lothian-Anti-Poverty-Strategy-2018---2023/pdf/West_Lothian_Anti-Poverty_Strategy_2018-2023.pdf)

Mental Health Strategy

Asset transfers

Participatory Budgeting (move towards community having a say in how their public realm spaces are managed)

Green prescriptions

Walking groups – consistency to help GPs to prescribe green prescriptions

## Education

2018 national improvement framework (NIF) and improvement plan

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/2018-national-improvement-framework-improvement-plan/>

Curriculum for Excellence: Food and health benchmarks, Health & Wellbeing (including focus on mental health) Food technology

Health Promoting Schools (Education Scotland Food for Thought; background and findings from past 5 years) <https://www.eis.org.uk/Education-And-Professional-Publications/Health-Promoting-Schools>

HIGIOS: How Good is Our School

Eco-schools Scotland <https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainable-development-education/eco-schools/>

## 4. Workshop 4: What is the vision for Food Growing in West Lothian?

Participants were asked to take the vision ideas that came out of the community event and consider what success would look like in terms of local food growing in West Lothian in 5, 10 and 20 years from now.

<b>What would success in West Lothian look like?</b>
<b><i>Now and when the Strategy is launched</i></b>
Food growing being a priority as it ticks so many boxes but is always bottom of the list
Horticulture promoted at schools as a careers option
Permanent jobs in growing edibles not just short-term funding
Link to other council areas - Linlithgow is right at the edge of West Lothian, Boness is nearby but no idea of activity there
Every group or individual who wants to grow food is supported to do so through adequate resources/skills/space/links
Lots of positive community level interactions happening with food growing as a focus
Children feel ownership for their local environment
Children understand the importance of locally produced food (i.e. food mileage)
Children learn skills to grow flowers, veg and fruit helping develop a young workforce and interest in food/farming careers
Children all have the opportunity to grow food and know why it matters
Children are able to cook from scratch and understand the benefits to health rather than fast food
More funding available for schools to have food growing areas
All primary schools engage in growing on school premises

<b>5 Years from now - three years into the Strategy 2023</b>
A vibrant network sharing skills across West Calder- growing, cooking, maintenance, education workshops
Environmental transformation of unused/unloved spaces into growing spaces for the community
More people having access to quality locally grown food and the skills to make use of it
Every school child understands where food comes from
Network of local community gardens offering intergenerational activities
West Lothian would have an inclusive policy (and practice) strategy engaging with a diverse range of people
Livingston would have a community garden in each district
Livingston would have school children understanding where food comes from
Livingston would teach people skills to grow food
There is an active and successful networking/learning networking providing support to new and existing groups to secure sustainability
More community growing spaces and allotments
More education in schools on food growing
All primary and secondary schools incorporate growing in school -ideally linked to curriculum learning
Deans Primary school to have a community garden
Practical cooking self-grown food is embedded in our schools
Children have access to the practical activities of food growing - resourced well in school
Schools have a knowledgeable body to do workshops and to train teachers, so they are more confident
Schools use locally grown food in canteens
Have achievable and easier wins in the first 5-year plan and realism on what can be delivered with existing West Lothian Council staff, resources and declining budgets
Children know where food comes from
Children leave school knowing how to make a pot of soup
People growing gardens and if no gardens containers throughout West Lothian
All residents of West Lothian have access to a community growing space
West Lothian Council should never sell land that could be used for growing without safeguarding some of it for growing
Community orchards in every community with training and maintenance
Every school, hospital and community centre should be growing edibles
Excellent network of grow your own resources and experience exists
<b>10 years from now 2028</b>
Livingston would have more allotment areas in towns
Livingston would have more people growing food in allotments, community gardens and private gardens
An ACE (adverse childhood experience) aware nation will use growing food to benefit community health especially mental health
Children will be more involved in growing in their community so that mental health problems will be reduced
Access to all for community growing areas
There is a choice and an availability of growing spaces - for those that want it

Locally sourced food is available for all either self-grown or food co-ops
No one must eat a meal alone if they don't want to
Bathgate's closed station is transformed into a community growing hub, with raised beds and fruit trees
Every school will have community growing spaces
There is a full/part time volunteer or funded person who co-ordinates community growing activities across West Lothian
All adults have had some experience of gardening and have skills to garden in a home or community setting
Households growing their own food and cooking from scratch
A community growing project in each community
Abundance of free fruit in parks, green corridors and greenspaces with people confident to pick their own and use their harvest
All schools growing some food in school grounds (with public access in Summer) or local community gardens
West Lothian supports food banks, shelters and even schools with locally grown produce with a steering group to co-ordinate
<b><i>20 years from now 2038</i></b>
People with physical and mental health problems are involved in food growing projects
True sense of community in all areas
Every community has a supported, cost effective and sustainable community growing area meeting the communities needs and accessible for all
All school children have basic skills in food growing
Community growing taken into consideration in all aspects of council policy development

Finally, at the end of the workshop we asked who was missing at the event, but should be involved in the development of the local food growing strategy

The following organisations/services were mentioned:

- West Lothian College
- Health Service
- Other community groups not currently involved in growing
- The “new” Health improvement team within the council – currently going through restructuring