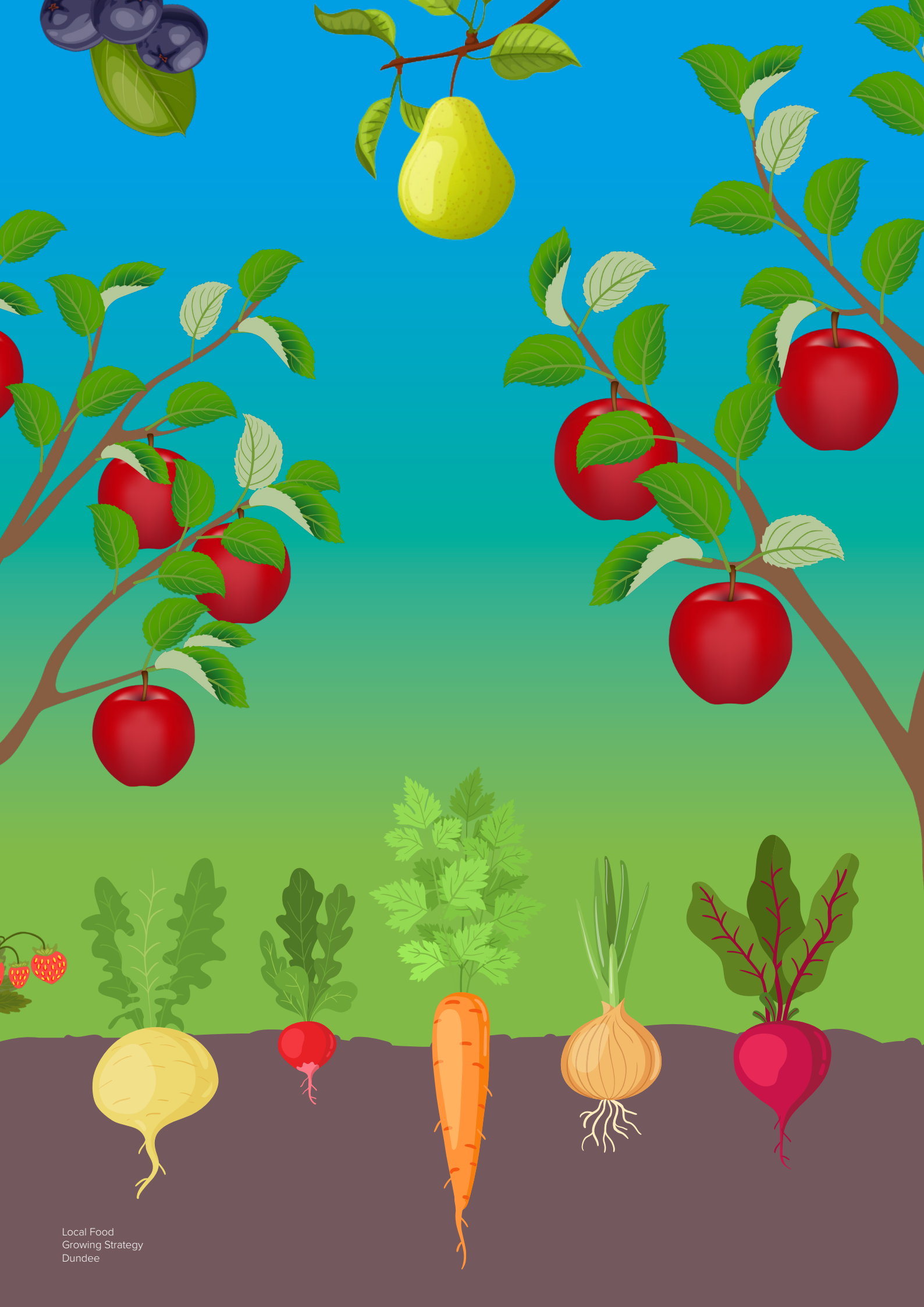
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CHANGING FOR THE FUTURE

Local Food Growing Strategy Dundee 2026-2030





Local Food
Growing Strategy
Dundee

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Introduction

Since the publication of Dundee's first Local Food Growing Strategy (2020-2025), the amount of land under community food cultivation has increased by 6 hectares, whilst the population of the city has remained stable at just under 150,000.

Food security and food poverty are major issues nationally, internationally and for people here in Dundee, which have become more critical in recent years. These topics are highlighted in the City and Council plans. Food growing is also referenced in ward-based local plans.

Dundee City Council's Climate Choices Fund was established as part of DCC's Participatory Budgeting commitment and has been a major contributor to food growing projects across the city.

The many, varied and inspirational food growing projects in Dundee are described in this Local Food Growing Strategy, as well as the highlights and achievements during the lifetime of Dundee's first Local Food Growing Strategy.

The Strategy also considers the requirements of Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 with regards to allotment sites and discusses the opportunities for further expansion whilst recognising associated challenges. The Strategy's action plan seeks to take forward new community growing spaces, support existing initiatives and includes actions which give a strategic context for community growing.

This is the second five-year Local Food Growing Strategy for Dundee. The first was published in the Summer of 2020, as the world emerged from the COVID 19 pandemic.

Vision

Dundee will build on its enviable resource of community growing spaces and allotments, working with communities, local people and organisations to enable them to access 'grow your own' opportunities, whilst recognising the value of such growing spaces in reducing food insecurity, improving health and wellbeing, creating resilient communities, combatting climate change and protecting biodiversity.

Aims

- Health and Wellbeing: Promoting physical and mental wellbeing through outdoor activity, practical skill development, and improved access to fresh, nutritious produce.
- Environmental Sustainability: Reducing carbon impact and packaging by minimising food miles, while enhancing biodiversity and supporting sustainable green spaces.
- Community Cohesion: Encouraging social interaction, reducing isolation, and strengthening community pride and self-esteem.
- Food Security and Equity: Supporting local food resilience, addressing food poverty, and reducing reliance on global supply chains.
- Education and Skills: Building knowledge across all age groups on food provenance, sustainable production, and waste reduction.

This local food growing strategy seeks to:

- consolidate and support existing growing spaces
- work with partners and local people to develop existing growing spaces, share skills and resources, identify and develop additional spaces for growing and develop new local growing spaces
- promote good environmental practice in growing spaces
- support innovative solutions for encouraging, ‘grow your own’, through development opportunities and existing infrastructure
- Integrate, ‘grow your own’ opportunities into existing strategic plans, processes and structures



Context

The benefits of community food growing and allotments are well recognised. Appendix 1 gives an illustrative summary. This is also further supported by international, national and local strategy and policy.

The main legislative driver for the production of Local Food Growing Strategies is Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which seeks to empower communities by improving access to land for food growing, helping more people grow their own produce and supporting food security. The Act requires local authorities to prepare a Food Growing Strategy which identifies land suitable for allotments and other community growing opportunities, explains how additional growing space will be provided when demand requires action under statutory waiting list thresholds, and sets out how provision will support communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. Local authorities must review their Food Growing Strategy every five years.







Local Food Growing Strategy 2020-2025

The action plan associated with the 2020-2025 strategy was ambitious in its breadth and extent. However, it is estimated that approximately 80% of actions have been achieved, with others ongoing or superseded.

With support from Dundee City Council, much of this success is attributable to organisations such as the MAXwell Centre, Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH) and the Campy Growers, who have taken local community food growing to a new level of engagement, productivity and inspirational projects, supported in large part by Dundee City Council's Climate Choices Fund.

This fund was launched in 2022 this funding was directed by participatory budgeting. It has been invaluable in helping to staff and equip local food growing projects, with funding paying salaries for support staff, sinking boreholes and providing polycrubs (tough polytunnels):

- First round: £385,000 – 34% awarded to 4 community food growing projects.
- Second round: £279,647 – 63% awarded to 4 community food growing projects.
- Third round: £106,762 – 81% awarded to 4 community food growing project.

The MAXwell Centre facilitated the Grow Dundee network (established in June 2022), promoting and connecting food growing projects as well as taking on more staff to engage their community, focused on their urban garden and the food from it. The Dawson Park Community Garden, managed by SAMH have diversified into community growing by taking on a disused bowling green incorporating permaculture principles and forest gardening.

Bolstered by £1million grant from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund and financial support from Dundee City Council which enabled the construction and opening of the Camperdown Growing Hub in 2023, the Campy Growers have established a major urban food growing facility producing tonnes of vegetables annually, with three members of staff and a new SCIO (Camperdown Growing Collective), also set up in 2023 to make it happen. (See Case Study) Several tonnes of fresh fruit and veg are produced at the site and used for cooking sessions and volunteer meals. Excess is distributed to local food larders and community cafes, with a Community Supported Agriculture veg box delivery scheme being re-introduced in 2026. This system allows people to sponsor the charity by a monthly donation, which includes delivery of two veg boxes per month in season. Part of the delivery includes 'referral' boxes, which are delivered free to families referred by local health/community workers so those who are less able to afford the subscription can also benefit from Campy Growers' organic, fresh produce.

The Criminal Justice Service's Community Payback team have been instrumental in being able to respond rapidly to requests for support for food-growing facilities in settings such as sheltered housing and nursery/primary schools. A small revenue budget allocated to community growing from Dundee City Council delivers a process using local materials, recycled green waste and 'free' labour/ transport that delivers useful tasks for people serving community sentences, to provide growing facilities.

A Community Gardens Network (see Appendix 2 for Case Study) has been funded with a part-time coordinator post based at the MAXwell Centre. Bimonthly meetings take place, and members are connected by WhatsApp to ask for/offer help and materials. This is a vibrant, enthusiastic and dynamic group who are mutually supportive and committed. This network enables further publicity and engagement to take place with stalls and events advertised throughout the group so people can turn up to help out.

The network has been very successful in helping garden participants to feel less isolated and has contributed to the expansion of special interest groups such as, 'Seed Saving' and 'Permaculture'. The Grow Dundee blog also operates out of the MAXwell Centre offering advice and signposting for interested new gardeners. This was specifically funded by the Climate Choices fund, illustrating the synergy between directed climate-positive funding and the development of community food growing. Dundee now has a pool of experienced, skilled and well-supported community focused gardeners who are making sure the gardens are productive and welcoming.

The independent bimonthly Community Garden Network meetings have largely superseded the need for the annual community gardens network meeting organised by Dundee City Council, which ceased due to the pandemic, with regular attendances of 50 or 60 people rotating around different garden venues.

Transition Dundee has become re-established in the city. With a variety of projects aimed at cultural shift towards a more sustainable society, Transition Dundee have encompassed local food and food waste particularly with their Gleaning project. This concept makes links between farmers and a group of volunteers to harvest crops that are not economically viable but are nourishing and local. This system redirects large quantities of otherwise wasted crops such as cauliflower and berries into the network of community larders.

The requirement for major contractors to allocate a proportion of their contract value to community benefits has recently been streamlined with the creation of the Community Wishes portal. This facility enables community groups to feed in their needs to the council system, where contractors can view and select which needs they are able to fulfil. As an example, the Campy Growers were

able to replace a failed second-hand printer.

Growing spaces were built at the homeless hostel Lily Walker Centre in 2021 (see Appendix 2 for Case Study) and Fintry open space in 2022. Further infrastructure was added to the Whitfield bowling green community garden in 2024.

The Dandelion project, now known as the Fair Growing Green, adopted a redundant bowling green at Fairmuir Park. It was established in 2022 by the University of Dundee, with funding from the Scottish Government. Partnership with local people and Friends of Fairmuir Park has been key to its success.

The MAXwell Centre has been funded to set up a garden share scheme and has been linking underused garden space with aspiring gardeners e.g. the Lily Walker Centre.

Several raised beds and a wildflower meadow have been established at the Brington Place Sheltered Housing unit in 2024. This has enabled links between the older residents and the Craigie Barns nursery children.

Dundee City Council has found it challenging to facilitate community growing in residential back greens and communal gardens. Despite attempts at different locations in Kirkton, Charleston and Maryfield and with considerable community consultation and residents' support it has not been possible to establish gardens successfully due to lack of complete buy in from residents. The 'Baffin St Backies' are an exception where strong local initiative has made a success of the community rejuvenation of the back areas with DCC support. Residents at Glenmarkie Terrace have recently established communal beds in the back green to the rear of their properties.

Funded by the Nature Restoration Fund as part of a 12ha tree planting project and through funding from the Council, fruit tree planting has taken place in Riverside Nature Park in 2022/23. Some trees are thriving, but they have required robust protection against rabbit damage. Orchard trees have also been planted in Templeton Woods and Baxter Park.

Upscaling urban food growing was highlighted as an action in the previous Local Food Growing Strategy using the old Council plant nursery in Camperdown Park for a major, new community growing project opened in early 2023. The Camperdown Growing Hub and Campy Growers have been a major focus of Dundee's local food growing movement, using a 4-hectare site for community food production (see case study). The Campy Growers produce significant amounts of fresh veg, publicising and popularising local food growing and consumption. However, it is acknowledged that there is significant work to be done to achieve the cultural shift necessary to embed local food growing as the default.

Allotment provision has been supported by the digitisation of the council's allotment process, by enabling plot holders to pay for their plots online and registering onto the allotment waiting list. Allotment regulations as required by Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 were published and approved in January 2020.

The first Dundee Local Food Growing Strategy was scheduled for publication in April 2020 but was delayed by the global disruption caused by the COVID 19 pandemic. As such the 2020 -2025 strategy did not reference the effects of the pandemic on local food growing in Dundee.

During the pandemic, despite lockdowns and infection-control protection, allotments and community gardens were identified as locations for people to get out of the house in the open air. With restrictions in place, green spaces in general played an increased and significant role in society enabling people to meet each other to socialise. This appreciation of the benefits of greenspace saw a burgeoning interest in outdoor activities, particularly cycling, nature and community growing. Allotments quickly became highly sought after, with waiting lists growing significantly. DCC's waiting list increased eightfold and, despite a review in 2024, remains high at approximately 450 names.

Community gardens offer a safe way to connect with people and nature, giving them a vital lifeline with friendship, support and healthy food. Local organisations have reported that pandemic-driven interest in food growing has persisted.





Provision of Allotments and Community Growing Spaces

Dundee brings a wealth of experience and good practice to this updated Local Food Growing Strategy. For many years Dundee City Council has developed a system of leased allotment sites managed by independent Allotment Associations, as well as directly managing a number of allotment sites. There are also several privately run allotment sites. Added to these traditional allotment sites are the community growing spaces which are concentrated in areas of deprivation and regeneration.

The distribution of allotments, community gardens and other food growing areas is shown in Appendix 3.

Allotment Sites

Dundee has 14 allotment sites varying in size and tenure. Dundee City Council owns and directly manages 4 sites, the Council own but lease a further 7 sites which are managed by allotment associations. There are a further 3 allotment sites which are private.

Directly Managed Sites	Number of Plots	Waiting List (May 2026)
Ancrum Road	27	450
Arklay Terrace South	14	
MacAulay Street	16	
Magdalen Green	22	
Total	79	

Leased Sites	Number of Plots	Waiting List (May 2026)
City Road	63	52
Kinnaird	104	9
Murrayfield	40	5
Old Craigie Road	79	11
South Road	8	not known
Stirling Park	49	1
West Law	87	1
Total	430	79

Private Allotment Sites:

Allotment Site	Number of Plots
Clepington Gardens and Allotments Association	84
Gardner Street	31
Magdalen Green	13
Total	128

Waiting Lists

The waiting lists above provide information from May 2026. Under section 111 of the Act, Dundee City Council is obligated to maintain waiting lists for all sites it owns. Under Section 112 of the Act, Dundee City Council also has a duty to provide allotment sites so that: -

- sufficient allotments are provided to keep the waiting list referred to in section 111 at no more than half of the authority's current number of allotments; and,
- a person entered on the waiting list does not remain on it for a continuous period of more than 5 years.

If the above conditions are not met, Dundee City Council would be duty bound to identify additional space for the development of allotments.

Although private sites are excluded from the legislation, the information above is included to provide an accurate reflection of allotment plot provision in Dundee.

Conclusions drawn from the analysis of the above figures and from consultation with Allotment Associations are that as of May 2026: -

- 509 allotment plots are provided throughout Dundee
- The total number of people on the waiting lists for Dundee City Council's directly managed or leased sites is 529.
- The waiting list represents over 100% of the total plots available (over the 50% described by the Act)
- The average waiting time for plots is monitored by a new digital system which has been in place since 2024.

Dundee has made positive progress in supporting and expanding local food growing opportunities, including the improved management of existing allotment sites and a review of the waiting list. The Act requires local authorities to identify land that could be used to provide additional allotment space where required. In the 2020–2025 Local Food Growing Strategy, there was no requirement to provide additional allotment sites as the thresholds detailed under Section 112 of the Act had not been exceeded.

However, as set out above, demand for allotments now exceeds the statutory threshold in relation to the number of available plots. Dundee City Council is therefore required to take reasonable steps to provide additional allotment opportunities during the lifetime of this Strategy. Potential delivery of this is included in the action plan at page 13.

A 2025 survey by APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) into the state of the UK's allotments found that over 31% of local authorities had waiting lists of over 1,000. Likewise, 63% of local authorities reported extended waiting times for available plots.

Other legislative requirements

The Act required Dundee City Council to make Allotment regulations. These regulations were agreed by Dundee City Council (12-2020) and distributed to all sites in January 2020.

The Act defines an allotment as being approximately 250 square metres and obligates local authorities to charge for allotments on this basis. Over the lifetime of the previous Local Food Growing Strategy all directly managed allotment plots have been accurately mapped using GIS. Each plot holder is now charged per square metre using this data.

In 2026/27 the annual cost for a 250 square metre Dundee City Council allotment plot was £67.50 (£57.50 concession). This compares favourably with the costs reported in the 2025 APSE survey where only 22% of local authorities reported lower figures.

Community growing spaces

In addition to the traditional allotment sites described above, there is a wide and inspiring network of community growing spaces throughout Dundee, which have been developed by organisations and supported by Dundee City Council (DCC), with set up, ongoing advice, compost delivery, provision of seeds and materials. A number of Council developed projects are now run by local communities. The list at Appendix 2 gives further information about Dundee's Community Growing Spaces with case studies describing the breadth of these inspirational projects.



Development of further Community Growing Spaces

Dundee City comprises 6226 hectares of land. Of that, 24 ha. (0.4%) is given over specifically to food growing in the form of allotments or community gardens. Since the 2020-2025 Local Food Strategy was approved, an additional 6 ha. of community growing space has been created.

The 2020-2025 Local Food Growing Strategy estimated that, assuming the bulk of people's calorific intake will still come from arable farm production of staple grains and potatoes, a significant part of Dundee's 150,000 population's fruit and vegetable needs could theoretically be grown within the city limits, utilising residual open spaces which are not covered by other functions e.g. sports pitches, woodland, formal and private gardens.

Although it is potentially possible to achieve the above, realising this aspiration / vision on the ground will entail the application of dedicated resources, skills development and awareness raising of local communities and decision makers.

Opportunities for further development of Community Growing Spaces (Land Use)

The geographical spread of allotment sites and community growing spaces shows that there are opportunities for establishing further growing areas in certain parts of the city. Many of the existing community growing spaces are at capacity and there is demand for additional allotment plots.

Communal back greens and housing corners

As identified in the first Local Food Growing Strategy there is considerable untapped potential for community growing in communal greenspaces at the rear of both tenemental and low-rise housing developments, for example in the public housing areas to the north of the Kingsway. Despite concerted efforts this potential remains to be fully realised. However, there are green shoots of success, for example at Baffin Street, where residents are using their communal greenspace for growing.

Likewise, housing corners also offer potential. Nature Restoration Funding from the Scottish Government has supported the planting of fruit trees in housing corners around Court Street. Transition Dundee have also utilised a corner in the same area for a pop-up community growing space.

It is acknowledged that realising the potential, with the delivery of successful and fully supported initiatives in communal areas, takes considerable officer support. The Council will provide support to residents in taking their own ideas forward and provide advice.

Open Spaces

With a tight administrative boundary, Dundee City Council is very urban in nature. Despite this, the city has a wealth of green and open space. However, competing uses for these spaces makes the identification of a site suitable for the creation of further allotment sites challenging. However, as previously described section 112 of the Act the numbers on Dundee's allotment waiting lists requires the Council to identify and create further allotment opportunities.

Successful community growing projects have been established at 6 of the 9 former Dundee City Council bowling greens and are flourishing. Of the remaining 3, one has been leased to a local football club, one is used by a community hub, the Change Centre, and the other is currently being promoted as an opportunity for community asset transfer.

Private Gardens

Another area of considerable potential for the production of fruit, vegetables and herbs is private gardens. At 1170ha. they make up approximately 20% of open space in Dundee.

Using private gardens can significantly increase food security, as well as having wider community benefit. Innovative schemes such as garden share have been implemented on a small scale by the MAXwell centre in Dundee (see Lily Walker case study), where gardens are cultivated by others who have no gardens. Those involved in the garden share scheme keep these spaces productive fruit and vegetables and alleviate social isolation in the process. Garden sharing helps to reduce loneliness in older, isolated people and is likely to effectively improve nutrition.

The MAXwell Centre has utilised funding from the Climate Choices to establish the 'Big Grow' project which had an initial aim to support 100 Hilltown families to grow their own food. The support includes access to Discovery compost and tools, workshops on food growing and cooking and regular communication. The Big Grow project also attracted organisations such as the groundbreaking Scottish Prison Service's Bella Centre, which has growing space within its boundary available to its residents.

Educational Facilities

Many schools and nurseries have set up growing spaces within their grounds or have adopted nearby facilities for pupils to use. Kings Park School has an extensive food growing facility (see case studies). Woodlea Children's Centre has orchard trees and raised beds. Forthill Primary School has a polytunnel and orchard. Craigowl, Mill o' Mains, St Mary's and Eastern Primary Schools all have growing facilities. In the first half of 2026, Greenfield Academy established a growing facility at the Drumgeith Community Campus.

The Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence encourages the routine use of the outdoors to support health, wellbeing and wider learning across the general school term and is heavily embedded as an expectation within the national curriculum. Food growing spaces in schools help to achieve the use of the outdoors to enhance learning across the curriculum. This Local Food Growing Strategy supports the development of growing spaces in schools particularly when they are introduced into the design of new schools.

Opportunities for supporting further development of Community Growing Spaces (Policy, Partnership, Practice)

Land use planning

The National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), published in 2023, forms part of the statutory development plan alongside the Local Development Plan. It recognises the wide benefits of community food growing, particularly with reference to health and wellbeing and tackling inequalities as an integral part of placemaking.. This aligns with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Policy 23 in NPF4 recommends that LDPs should support development proposals which have a positive effect on health and gives an example of proposals that include community food growing and allotments.

Therefore, the review and preparation of Dundee's next Local Development Plan during the lifetime of this Local Food Growing Strategy should create opportunities for healthier places, including through land for community food growing and allotments.

The establishment of additional allotment sites in Dundee is required by section 112 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and therefore new allotments will be established during the lifetime of this Local Food Growing Strategy

The Local Development Plan, added to a mandatory responsibility to produce an open space strategy in 2026 will strengthen the future development of community growing.

Local Good Food Nation Plan

Under the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 all local authorities including Dundee City Council and NHS Tayside are legally required to develop their own Local Good Food Nation Plans. The target date for the production of the plan is 1st April 2028. Local food growing will form part of the wide-ranging scope of the plan and will sit alongside themes such as procurement, healthy weight and tackling diet-related health inequalities, education and the sourcing of public meals (e.g. in schools and hospitals).

Strengthening Partnership Working

Since the publication of the first Local Food Growing Strategy, the Grow Dundee network has been established (see Appendix 2 for Case Study). This independent network of community groups is supported by a coordinator based in one of Dundee's long-established projects, the MAXwell centre. This vibrant, award-winning community centre and sustainable food garden is in an area of deprivation in the Hilltown and was established to support local wellbeing.

The MAXwell centre operates as a community hub connecting people through urban gardening, cooking, youth work and support services such as welfare advice and community food initiatives. The MAXwell centre provides an inspirational model for others to follow and has been significant in supporting and encouraging the expansion of community growing throughout the city, particularly working extensively through volunteers.

The MAXwell Centre has been at the forefront of the Camperdown Growing Hub development. Since their establishment in 2021, the Campy Growers urban food growing project (see Appendix 2 for Case Study) is now well-equipped with infrastructure and has secured 2 years' worth of salary funding for 2 members of staff. This foundation will allow excellent development as they engage with volunteers and organise sowing plans, seed saving, permaculture plantings etc. that will make future years more productive and less labour-intensive. Embedding this project in Dundee gives a template of how to develop further sites for food production and the costs involved. Several sites are now equipped with polycrubs as protected growing space will be invaluable in the future.

With the connectivity of social media and the work of the community garden network over the last few years, the people involved in local food growing now know each other and are able to welcome new participants who have engaged with community gardening communications or decided to seek out local growing projects. These foundations offer the movement the resilience it needs to sustain itself. The development of 'on the ground' projects alongside enhanced community connectivity form a secure base for this movement to grow and thrive.



The Eden Project Scotland will be a landmark development for Dundee transforming a former gas works into a beacon for regeneration and green tourism. It will encourage visitors to think, feel and act differently by revealing what can be learnt from and inspired by nature. Whilst the visitor facility is being developed, Eden Project Scotland are carrying out community consultation and collaboration. An example of this being the introduction of the establishment of contemporary guilds inspired by Dundee's Nine Incorporated Trades. The Campy Growers are their first growers' guild member.

Dundee City Council, NHS Tayside and further education bodies support the growth of the community growing movement in the city. Principally this is through officer time and limited funding. The Council has a Community Allotment Officer who can provide expertise and knowledge to fledgling projects as well as low-cost materials. Integral to this support is the involvement of the Criminal Justice Service through the Community Payback Team who are able to use these materials by constructing raised beds and filling them with Discovery Compost. The work of the Community Allotment Officer is greatly supported by council officers working in communities. This supporting work is vital to the sustainability of growing projects.

Communication

Continuing the success of the Community Gardens Network is key to supporting existing initiatives, encouraging new ventures and ensuring this engaged community learns and passes on good practice. In addition to the bi-monthly in person meet ups, the up-to-date website, managed by the MAXwell Centre, offering a range of resources, events and learning opportunities is an essential method of communication to the gardening community, individuals and organisations. However, sustaining all of this is a challenge especially as the network is supported by a dedicated paid employee whose funding is not guaranteed.

Since the last version of the Strategy was published the Council has updated its website information in relation to allotments and community growing. This will be further improved by reviewing and republishing its welcome / good practice guide for allotments.

Incredible Edible / Right to grow

The 'Right to Grow' campaign, led by the charity, 'Incredible Edible', is a movement urging local authorities to give communities the legal right to cultivate food and nature on available public land. It aims to reduce barriers, secure free zero-cost leases and help communities bid on land if it is put up for sale. The campaign was designed to tackle barriers to community gardening.

It is the intention of this Local Food Growing Strategy to investigate the feasibility of Dundee adopting the Right to Grow principles and campaign.

Promoting Permaculture

Permaculture is an approach to land management and settlement design that draws on patterns found in natural ecosystems, using whole-systems thinking to inform practices such as regenerative agriculture, urban planning and community resilience. It emphasises working with nature rather than against it. As both a practical framework and an ethical movement, permaculture promotes actions that protect people and the environment while fairly sharing resources. It focuses on observing and reinforcing natural processes that create abundance, encouraging diverse, interconnected systems and inclusive, collaborative decision-making that builds resilient and adaptive communities.

In the context of global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and food insecurity, permaculture offers practical solutions by enhancing local food production, restoring ecosystems and reducing reliance on manmade fertilisers. It strengthens community resilience through shared learning and collective action. In Dundee, permaculture principles are already evident in community growing projects, supported by an active local group and initiatives such as the Campy Growers. There is further potential for the city to expand these approaches through partnerships, low-impact maintenance practices and the repurposing of underused greenspaces into food forests, helping to build long-term environmental and community resilience.

Challenges to developing further community growing

Climate change

The five years since the first strategy was published have been punctuated by extreme weather events, which have an obvious effect on food growing both at scale and in smaller, local initiatives. Drought in spring has been a feature, leading to loss of early seedlings and greater water demands on an already strained system. Multiple storms have destroyed infrastructure, putting financial burdens on small organisations and damaging crops. The unpredictable nature of our changing climate makes food-growing a challenge, with late/early frosts, extreme rainfall or lack of it, variable sunshine and heat all impacting on the success or failure of various crops. Diversity is key here as failure of some can be compensated by success of others depending on conditions.

A seed saving group has been set up with the aim of establishing a supply of seeds adapted to local conditions, further reducing Dundee's reliance on commercial businesses for vegetable growing. The Community Gardens Network has connected Dundee's growers, facilitating distribution of skills, seedlings and growing space.



Funding and resources

From delivering a community growing project to successfully sustaining it in the long term requires funding and resources. In the past, projects have benefited from Council funding, with the most recent being Camperdown Growing Hub where, in addition to a £1million award from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, Dundee City Council identified £200,000 in order to develop the Camperdown Growing Hub.

Groups have been successful in applications to other funding bodies, such as the National Lottery. In 2025 the Campy Growers had their National Lottery application approved which has enabled them to recruit staff. In time it is hoped that the organisation becomes self-sustaining.

Over the last three years growing organisations have had the opportunity to bid into the Council's Climate Choices fund (see page 2 for further details). Community growing organisations have benefitted from approximately 60% of the total funding available. Also, from the Council the 2025 Neighbourhood Capital Fund has supported various growing projects. The Climate Choices Fund and Neighbourhood Capital Fund have been instrumental in helping to sustain and develop Dundee's growing network and there would be significant support from these groups if it were to continue.

Despite the financial challenges facing the development of community growing spaces, there is considerable experience in attracting funding in Dundee. This can be found in well-established projects including MAXwell Centre and Ninewells Community Gardens.

Identification of land for growing

Dundee City Council's administrative boundary encircles the urbanised area of the city. As a result, there is limited unused space for any kind of redevelopment or development. Competing uses for 'spare' land compounds the identification of further land for growing, particularly establishing new allotment sites.

Contamination considerations

Dundee's industrial past has inevitably led to contamination of the land in certain areas. If soil contamination is considered to be a significant risk, taking into account the previous use of the land and its current condition, soil testing may be necessary to ensure that the area is safe for food growing.







Consultation

In early 2026, initial consultation was carried out with the Grow Dundee Network. Members were specifically asked to identify spaces where additional allotment sites could be established. The responses ranged from expanding existing sites to greenspaces and vacant brown land where development had previously been located. These were mapped for discussion with council colleagues to identify feasible sites. The group also identified additional growing projects which had been instigated since the last version of the strategy. The initial consultation also raised the following comments: -

Key Theme	Potential Supporting Project	Popularity
A range of learning opportunities	Growing food in work places Food growing in schools Intergenerational skill sharing	0 18 5
More partnership working	Prescribing food growing Growing skills with job seekers	5 5
Encourage more people to grow	Public Events Better integrate growing in communities	3 10
Different types of growing spaces	Re-cultivate communal back greens Edible planting and foraging	10 7
Enterprise ideas	Community food production system Public events to sell produce	7 5
Ways to increase access to healthy, affordable food	Berry bush signposting Free ‘pick your own’ patches	4 3

Further consultation on this draft document was carried out in June 2026 with key stakeholders. Generally, the draft document was well received and minor amendments suggested which have been incorporated into the document.







Local Food Growing Action Plan 20

Action	Lead organisation and pa
Policy and Strategy	
Collaborate with partnership organisations in the production of Dundee Local Good Food Nation Plan as required by the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 recognising the role of local food production in delivering outcomes.	NHS Tayside, Tayside Local Authorities, Community Partn Community Food Network, N Scotland, Bioregioning Taysid
Dundee's Local Development Plan (LDP) recognises the wide benefits of community food growing and allotments.	Dundee City Council (DCC)
Carry out a feasibility study to determine the impact and practicalities of setting a % target for land used for food growing in Dundee	DCC
Build on the 62% reduction of herbicide use achieved since 2018/19 thereby reducing the reliance on glyphosate to manage parks and greenspaces and consider the introduction of alternative weed control options, where possible.	DCC
Assess the feasibility of adopting the Right to Grow in Dundee.	Dundee City Council (DCC), Community Growing Network Incredible Edible
Investigate the feasibility of Dundee becoming a signatory of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/	DCC

Action	Lead organisation and pa
Supporting Existing Community Growing	
Support and recognise the positive contribution of Transition Dundee with their gleaning (and other) projects, redistributing unharvested crops, providing fresh food to residents and helping reduce food waste.	DCC, Transition Dundee
Food distribution; work with the Community Gardens Network to generate branding for community grown food.	DCC, Community Gardens Ne

026-2030

rtners	Measure of success	Timescale
ers e.g. ourish de	Local Good Food Nation Plan published	April 2028
	Adopted LDP creates opportunities for community food growing and allotments	2028
	Percentage determined	December 2030
	Reduction in the amount of herbicide applied to parks and greenspaces.	December 2030
k,	Recommendation considered by elected members	December 2027
	Recommendation considered by elected members	Autumn 2028

rtners	Measure of success	Timescale
	Annual increase in amount of redistributed unharvested crops.	2026-2030
etwork,	Branding launched	Spring 2027



Action	Lead organisation and pa
Expansion of Community Growing	
Faith in Communities – engender, support and prioritise local food growing in church and other religious institutional grounds.	Faith in Communities, Commu Food Network,
Support and collaborate with GrowDundee and the Community Gardens Network to help proliferate and expand food growing in public and private spaces.	DCC, Community Gardens Ne
Collaborate with RSPB, Friends groups, third sector organisations, registered social landlords etc to identify, establish and maintain micro food-growing sites across the city.	DCC, third sector organisatio
Working in partnership expand permaculture opportunities in appropriate spaces throughout the city.	DCC, local permaculture grou sector organisations

Provision of allotments	
As determined by section 112 of Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2016 develop an additional allotment site in Dundee:	
• Identify potential site(s) for additional allotment	DCC
• Carry out consultation with internal and external stakeholders	DCC, local residents
• Identify funding for allotment development	DCC
• Development of allotment site	DCC
Regenerate Arklay Terrace Allotments – make best use of existing sites / manage efficiently and effectively	DCC

rtners	Measure of success	Timescale
unity	2 in place	December 2027
etwork	Increase in number of community growing projects	Annually monitored
ns	10 micro-food growing sites identified and established	April 2030
up, third	Permaculture sites identified	October 2027

	Identification of potential allotment site(s)	December 2026
	Site(s) identified	April 2027
	Budget allocated	August 2027
	Allotment site developed	December 2027
	All allotment plots let	April 2027

Action	Lead organisation and pa
Promotion of Community Growing	
Highlight and recognise the mutually positive impacts of the intersection of food growing with climate action (emissions reduction) and biodiversity restoration.	DCC (Climate and Sustainabi Team), Changemakers, Friend groups, RSPB
Support and collaborate with Bioregioning Tayside to promote sustainable local food production.	DCC, Bioregioning Tayside
Identify suitable sources of funding to promote, support and expand Dundee's Community Growing Network	DCC, Grow Dundee
Review and re-publish Dundee City Council's Allotment Welcome Park – Good Practice Guide	DCC

Monitoring and Evaluation	
Local Food Growing Strategy subject to monitoring via DCC Pentana system and through Neighbourhood Services service plan.	DCC
Review the Local Food Growing Strategy in 2030 and present updated strategy to elected members in 2031.	DCC



rtners	Measure of success	Timescale
lity ds	Ensure that the implementation of initiatives consider food growing, climate and biodiversity restoration.	Ongoing
	Bioregioning Tayside	Ongoing
	Funding secured	Annual
	Welcome pack republished	December 2027

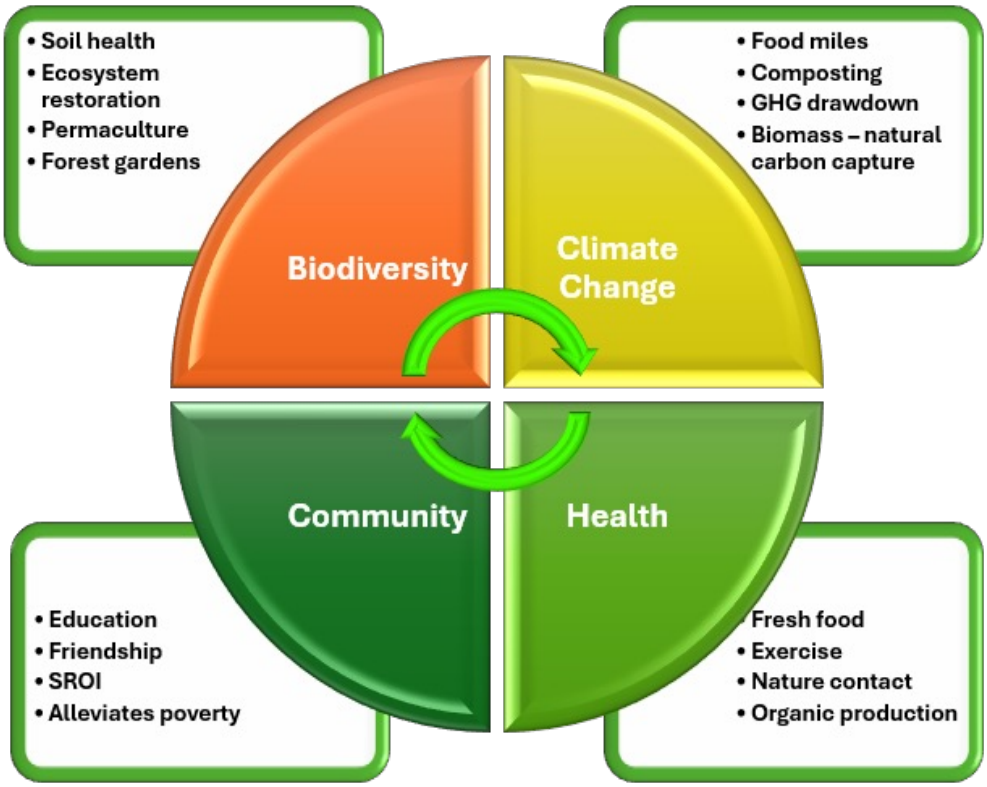
	Regular monitoring through DCC systems	Quarterly
	Updated strategy published in 2030	2030/31



Appendix 1: The benefits of Community Food Growing and Strategic Context

It is important that community food growing is recognised for all the varied benefits it offers. **Edible Estates** lists an exhaustive selection of benefits and **Social Farms and Gardens** lists links to published research evidencing these benefits.

The benefits of community food growing:



Note: SROI – Social Return on Investment, GHG – Greenhouse Gas

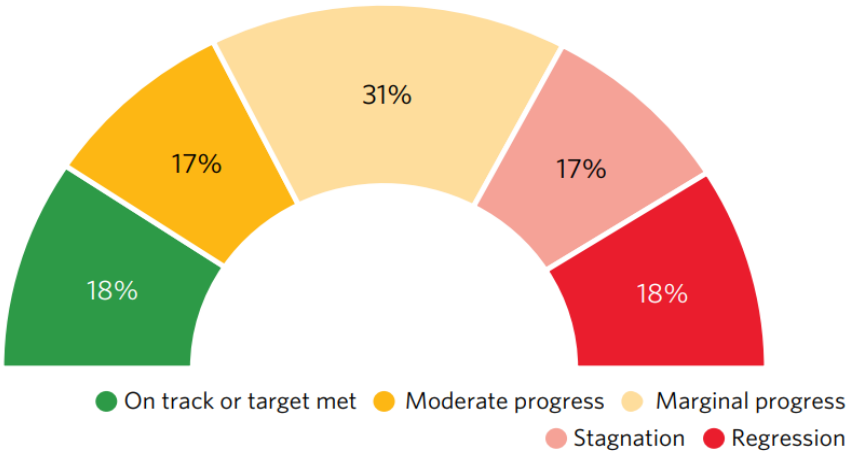
Context

International

The vast majority of food production and its transport has developed into a significant, global industrial system which has an immense environmental impact, from its greenhouse gas emissions to negative effects on habitats and ecosystems. The purpose of the Local Food Growing Strategy is to identify pathways and projects that can help to reduce emissions and facilitate a cultural shift towards local food production, resulting in a more sustainable, resilient and healthy food culture. Dundee City Council signed up to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration in 2021 (report 234-2021 refers), which was formally presented at COP26 (Conference of the Parties 2026) and outlines changes that can help achieve this. There are now over 100 signatories from six continents. Signatories include small towns, rural municipalities, cities, mega cities, states such as Catalonia in Spain and Cross River State in Nigeria, and two national governments: Scotland and Honduras.

In the previous iteration of Dundee's Local Food Growing Strategy, reference was made to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Although food is referenced throughout the SDGs, particular focus is given to it in Goal 2 – 'No Hunger'. With 5 years remaining to achieve the goals, the 2025 SDGs report published by the UN recognises that 'despite notable progress, the pace of change remains insufficient to meet our 2030 commitments'.

Overall progress across targets based on 2015–2025 global aggregate data



Note: Percentages do not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding.

Addressing food systems is acknowledged to be one of 6 key pathways where concentrated effort can drive systemic change.

The 2025 report acknowledges that making the progress required on the key SDG of No Hunger, requires urgent action to strengthen food systems, support small-scale producers, improve services, ensure access to nutritious diets and address structural drivers of food price volatility. Dundee's Local Food Growing Strategy seeks to strengthen the city's ability to 'grow your own' and support those wishing to provide fresh fruit and vegetables to those close to them from family to community.

National

In June 2025 the Scottish Government published the first National Good Food Nation Plan. This was a result of legislative commitments made in the **Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022**, which includes the requirement that all local authorities publish Local Good Food Nation Plans by April 2028. The Good Food Nation Plan presents how the Scottish Government intends to work collectively to meet their Good Food Nation ambitions. In a Good Food Nation, the people of Scotland can access and enjoy food that keeps them happy and healthy. Scotland's food industry continues to thrive and grow. The environment is protected, biodiversity loss reversed, and the country's net zero ambitions achieved.

The Good Food Nation Plan recognises the significance of local food growing under:-

- Outcome 2 – Scotland's food system is sustainable and contributes to a flourishing natural environment on our land and in our waters. It supports our net zero and climate adaptation ambitions and plays and important role in maintaining and improving animal health and welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.
- Outcome 3 – Scotland's food environment and wider food system enables and promotes a physically and mentally healthy population. This leads to the prevention of, and a reduction in, diet-related conditions.
- Outcome 5 – People and communities are empowered to participate in, and shape, their food system. Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are educated about good and sustainable food.

As expected, the Good Food Nation Plan references the duty on Scottish local authorities to publish Local Food Growing Strategies. However, the national Good Food Nation Plan recognises that there is no collective indicator to establish the success of Local Food Growing Strategies. The Good Food Nation Plan also commits the Scottish Government to support local authorities to meet the legislative duties under the **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015**.

Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (the Act) aims to empower communities across Scotland and for those wanting to 'grow your own', it improves access to land for food growing purposes, giving more people the opportunity to grow their own food and improving food security.

Section 119 of the Act requires local authorities to include the following in their strategies:-

- land identified in the area that could be used for allotment sites;
- other land identified in the local authority area which could be used by a community to grow vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers;
- a description of how the authority intends to increase the provision of allotments or other land for community growing, should the authority be required to take reasonable steps under section 112(1); and
- when detailing how the authority intends to increase the provision of allotment sites and community growing areas of land in its area as it is required to take reasonable steps under section 112(1), a description of whether and how this will apply to communities which experience socio-economic disadvantage

Section 112 above describes the points at which the local authority must identify additional land for food growing. These trigger points are based on the allotment waiting lists for both directly managed and leased sites.

Section 120 requires the local authority to review the local food growing strategy every 5 years. The Act also places a duty on local authorities to produce an allotment report for its area each year.

In response to the Scottish Parliament's inquiry into the delivery of Part 9 of the Act in 2022, the Scottish Government recognised the hard work and resilience of Local Government, particularly during the COVID 19 pandemic, Brexit and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Government also highlighted the challenge of future financial years. However, the Government assured the Parliament that it took all the recommendations of the inquiry seriously and pledged to do its utmost to provide support for the improvements suggested to allow Part 9 of the Act to support allotments and community growing initiatives to reach their full potential across the wide range of policy areas highlighted.



Local

The Dundee Partnership's **City Plan for Dundee** 2022-2032 sets out the outcomes that partners will seek to improve, which in turn should improve the quality of life of the residents of Dundee, with a particular focus on reducing inequality and poverty, improving the city's economy and tackling climate change.

Whilst not explicitly referenced, local food growing can contribute to the strategic priorities of the plan:-

- Reduce child poverty and inequalities in incomes, education and health
- Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth (including community wealth building)
- Tackle climate change and reach net zero emissions by 2045.

However, Locality Community Plans explicitly reference food growing and allotments whilst recognising the role they have in sustainability, reducing food insecurity and the benefits to the environment and health.

The **Council Plan** 2022-2027 sets out 5 priorities building on those in the City Plan: -

- Reduce child poverty and inequalities in incomes, education and health
- Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth (including community wealth building)
- Tackle climate change and reach net zero emissions by 2045.
- Build resilient and empowered communities
- Design a modern Council.

The Council Plan references food growing as having a role in servicing climate change requirements, reducing emissions and improving resilience. This plan identifies the Local Food Growing Strategy as a key strategy supporting climate action.

Under the **Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022** all local authorities are required to produce local Good Food Nation Plans. Although the relevant legislation had not been enacted at the time of writing this Local Food Growing Strategy it is anticipated that the Dundee Good Food Nation Plan will be published during the lifetime of this plan. This Local Food Growing Strategy will be included in the Dundee Good Food Nation Plan, which will be supported by earlier efforts to establish Dundee as a Sustainable Food Place.

Other key strategies and plans include the Local Development Plan, Climate Action Plan and Biodiversity Action Plan.







Appendix 2: Community Growing Spaces and case studies

Community Growing Spaces

Site	Description	Organisation
Ancrum Road Allotment	Plot 8 in existing allotment site. DCC built with community involvement and run by Lochee Community Gardeners. Produce used by a community café. Consists of raised beds, polytunnel, greenhouse, growing in the ground and a shed.	Lochee Community Gardeners
Arklay Terrace (North)	Surplus hard-core storage yard developed by DCC as community growing space with raised beds, orchard and polytunnel. Community shed.	Plot holder committee
Ardler Garden	Developed in 2016 by DCC with 16 raised beds either cultivated by local organisations or members of the public. A volunteer is on site one morning/ week and facilitates a nursery group using one of the beds.	Local people / organisations
Boomerang Centre	Several raised beds at front of building	Room to Be cultivating beds.
Campy Growers	Large food-growing project established on disused plant nursery site in Camperdown Country Park. See case study.	Camperdown Growing Collective SCIO/DCC
Douglas Community Garden	Built by DCC in 2013/14. Leased to Douglas Community Spaces Group for 25 years. They have 20 raised beds (1m x 3.5m) and a communal orchard.	Douglas Community Spaces
Dudhope Community Garden	Small number of raised beds and orchard developed by Bharatiya Ashram. Charity community centre in one of the most deprived areas of Dundee.	Bharatiya Ashram
Dundee Therapy Garden	The site is leased from DCC, reusing a disused bowling green in Dudhope Park and is specifically for veterans and military services. The project focuses on improving mental health and is run by a Dundee-based charity. It has many raised beds, a polytunnel and orchard.	Dundee Therapy Garden

Dundee University Botanic Gardens	Botanic Gardens has orchard and 8 raised beds for student growing. University Campus has 20 raised beds and fruit areas for students resident in university accommodation.	Dundee University
Dawson Park Community Garden	The demonstration garden is now a community garden space used mainly for therapeutic gardening and is managed by SAMH through an agreement with DCC. Other organisations such as and NHS Dundonald Centre, Hillcrest Futures and Broughty ferry in Bloom use it. SAMH took over adjacent bowling green in 2021 as a community growing space, growing vegetables and fruit.	Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH)
Every1's garden	The centre and garden are on land rented from the church. Four members of staff are associated with the garden space with others in main centre. They run school plots and a summer garden club involving four Primary Schools. Funding sources include Rank Foundation, Lloyds TSB, Big Lottery, Children in Need, People's postcode lottery and Dundee Partnership.	Maxwell Centre
Fairmuir Community Garden	Former bowling green with associated pavilion. This was developed in collaboration with the Dandelion Project which had funding for a year and established raised beds, a polytunnel and supported the community group for that time.	Friends of Fairmuir Park.
Fintry Community Garden	Early pilot project to the south of the Finmill Centre which is part of an aspirational initiative. Community designed. Raised beds built by Criminal Justice Team. Group were funded to construct a polycrub.	Local community
Fruit Bowls -Lochee Park	Disused, double bowling green developed by DCC as orchard, raised beds and polytunnel – see case study.	DCC and local community
Giving Garden - Menzieshill	Parish Church growing fresh vegetables for foodbank. Direct extension to church. The site has a polytunnel and it is also used by the local primary school.	Menzieshill Parish Church
Kerr Street	A local group of residents have taken a space over from DCC that once was a playpark/greenspace and have organised it themselves. Agreement with DCC for use. The site has raised beds, social space and biodiversity planting.	Local residents
Lyon Street	Project established in back green areas. Volunteer led winning an award from Dundee and Angus College.	Local residents

Menzieshill Community Garden	Built by DCC with external funding next to new Primary School and community centre. 35 raised beds, Portakabin, polytunnel, and toilet.	DCC / Local community
Ninewells Community Garden	Therapeutic garden registered as a SCIO. Volunteer-led with focus on health improvement, encouraging use by patients from adjacent hospital. Member of staff. Developed with significant external funding. Leaf Room used as a meeting space.	Ninewells Community Garden
Old Piggery	North East facing; currently under construction and orchard trees planted. Built by Community Justice Team for use by clients.	Criminal Justice Service through the Community Payback Team
Overgate Community Garden		
(William Gardner Square)	Developed by Dundee and Angus College and Bonnie Dundee in partnership with the Overgate shopping centre. Some in ground growing and flowers established with herb garden	Bonnie Dundee
Queen Street Community Garden		
	Community garden and community fridge in the heart of Broughty Ferry managed by local people. Produce grown in the garden is available in the adjacent community fridge.	Local residents
St. Mary's	Several raised beds and an orchard on church land and was built by the community justice team. The garden is run by a worker employed by the St Mary's Community Centre and is used by local people and groups. Produce supplied to church community café. Possible expansion.	St Mary's Community Church
Tay View	Terraced space developed by DCC has ground level growing plots and an orchard. Plots vary in size depending on gardener's needs. Total area of cultivation excluding orchard area is about 1000 m2.	Plot holder committee
The Attic	Youth Diversionary Project that has a small garden at the back of their shop unit space. It has raised beds and an orchard. Rented shop and use of land at rear by agreement with DCC	The Attic in Kirkton

The Friary	Land and small polytunnel. Church owned, who host a few community groups e.g. The Reconnection Project. RSBP has recently started developing the site for biodiversity.	Friary Church, RSPB
Uppertunity		
	Uppertunity offer vocational work for people with learning difficulties. Based at The Circle in Dudhope Castle, they have created growing spaces within the grounds for education, biodiversity and relaxation	Uppertunity
Wee Glenmarkie Gardens	Local residents have transformed an unmaintained part of their back green areas into a growing facility to bring neighbours together and grow fresh food. Funded by the Changemakers, a local couple have worked hard to clear litter and build beds while engaging people to join in.	Local residents
Whitfield Community Garden	Disused bowling green taken over and developed by DCC and established local gardening group - left their allotment plot to run the community garden. Fruit trees, polytunnel and raised beds.	Root and Branch local community group.
Whorterbank Tattie Patch	Established by DCC and One Parent Families Scotland as a pilot for a larger community garden. Now run by 'The Laughter Club' and St. Mary's P.S. who have installed raised beds	St Mary's Primary School
Whorterbank Community Garden	15 raised beds have been taken on by individual residents, young families and local organisations. Orchard space with nut trees as well as top fruit.	Local community tenants' association and Lochee Larder.
Victoria Garden	Asset transfer to charity organisation interested in community food. Disused bowling green in Victoria Park developed as orchard, raised beds and polytunnel.	Yusuf Youth Initiative (YYI)
YMCA Community Garden	This garden at the rear of the YMCA in Broughty Ferry has a number of raised beds for vegetable production and fruit trees.	Broughty Ferry YMCA

Whilst the table above captures the majority of community initiatives in Dundee, it is acknowledged that this not an exhaustive list. However, it should be noted that most of the original community growing projects featured in the first Local Food Growing Strategy have been sustained. The list now includes 33 projects, an increase of 10 compared with the 2020–2025 Strategy. For school growing spaces see Educational Facilities on page 7.

Case studies:

1. Camperdown Growing Hub and the Campy Growers

An action to establish a large-scale food growing project at Camperdown Park in the redundant 8-acre plant nursery was contained in the first edition Local Food Growing Strategy.

A successful £1million council bid to the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund and topped up by £200,000 of Dundee City Council funding enabled the construction of a community facility including kitchen, toilets, a cold-store and community space with a lean-to greenhouse. The construction of the building had sustainability at its core using locally produced timber, incorporating natural insulation, an air source heat pump, PVs and battery storage. Two quality and large polytunnels were also refurbished under the funding.



Alongside the physical construction of the Camperdown Growing Hub a small community of people came together in May of 2021 to start clearing, restoring and growing food in a corner of the site. As the Council retreated and compacted their stock of ornamentals, so the 'campysinas' took over more and more space for food. The site had been covered in weed-proof fabric and old carpet for decades, which was lifted to reveal severely compacted, dead soil. A system was adopted, having consulted various sources on sustainable (low-input) vegetable growing, to use a broadfork to loosen and aerate the soil, adding as much organic matter as possible on top. In addition to the two polytunnels the 'love' tunnel was restored that winter: equipped with crop bars, covered with recycled scaffolding mesh and raised beds built.

In the succeeding seasons, 3 more tunnels have been installed, and the existing frames of 3 mesh tunnels have been restored into production. Growing medium is mostly the Council's recycled Discovery compost, which is exceptionally well-suited for vegetable growing. 400 metres of raised beds have been installed, along with water-efficient, drip-line irrigation. A germination chamber was salvaged from the redundant glasshouses and restored to functionality. This speeds up bulk seed germination to only a few days, allowing for rapid and efficient generation of large numbers of seedlings in the Spring.

The site now resembles a commercial-standard production facility, but with the community at heart and show-casing sustainable growing systems and techniques. Regular volunteers have worked daily to keep the plants producing. Alongside the physical veg-growing, a charitable organisation has been developed to run the facility in partnership with the Council.

The Campy Growers became a SCIO in 2023 and have been successful in acquiring funding to pay for members of staff. There is now a gardener and development worker as well as a part-time handyperson who are all salaried to make the site work, coordinate volunteers and engage with the local community. Tonnes of fresh veg are grown, harvested and distributed every year. Further grant funding has allowed the installation of a borehole as well as an outdoor covered space for workshops and meetings. Regular events and outreach work are undertaken, and the reputation of the Campy Growers is now firmly established in Dundee as the go-to place for food-growing expertise.



2. Dundee Community Growing Network (as written by Nicola Macnee – Grow Dundee Network Coordinator)

The Community Growing network was established in the city as an informal group in 2022. The aim is to support each growing space and exchange skills and information to make sustainable food growing a reality in Dundee.

We have gone from strength to strength and now have a funded post to facilitate the network (funded by Dundee Climate Fund). We have developed a website where we can post resources, events and volunteer opportunities, Grow Dundee. Most of the sites are supported by volunteers.

As a network we meet 4-5 times a year and have training days and events interspersed in between.

2025 events

January: Dundee wide Seed Swap at Campy; RSPB supported Bird ID/Feeding workshop; Grow Dundee meeting at Camperdown Growing Hub - Growing Progress updates

April: Grow Dundee meeting at the Maxwell- iNaturalist Training and Dye Plants Project with V&A

June: Launch of the new updated Grow Dundee map; Mini Garden Display Event in collaboration with the V&A as part of Garden Futures (funded by the V&A)

July: Network Picnic at Ninewells Community Garden.

September: Dundee Seed Savers- Tomato seed Celebration Event; attended the Dundee Uni Student Sustainability Fair to promote the network and recruit volunteers; Grow Dundee meeting at Victoria Gardens; Buglife pollinator project collaboration, Permaculture project launch (Foundation Scotland funding through Dundee Changemakers hub)

November: Attending the Christmas light switch on event to promote the network.

Through the Year: Various dye plant workshops delivered by Jek McAllister funded by the V&A

We aim to work in collaboration with other organisations across the city. We have worked with RSPB, Dundee City Council, DVVA, Froglife, Scrapantics, Eden Communities and Keep Scotland Beautiful amongst others. We have benefited from our collaborations with creative and sustainable sectors in making us think out of the box at times. (e.g. The Art & Nature Collective - allows 5 garden spaces to work with 5 local artists on a chosen project).



Our Grow Dundee map now shows 29 different community growing spaces. At our meetings we usually have between 15 and 20 participants from across the city. Our city-wide events where we engage with the public (e.g. Food Festival or mini gardens at the V&A) are especially well supported by the network.

The network is a great source of information and advice. We also share a lot of resources (plants, seeds, compost) and aim to grow as sustainably as we can. One of our strengths is the knowledge and skill sharing opportunities we create. We have covered topics like composting, marketing, fundraising and seed saving. As a small, mainly volunteer-based group it is very heartening that we are able to do so much and try to improve and raise the profile of this type of work. The benefits to individuals and communities can be huge.

3. The Lily Walker Centre (as written by Nicola Macnee – Grow Dundee Network Coordinator)

The Lily Walker Centre is a unit for temporary housing of the homeless while more permanent housing is allocated. There is space for 11 residents with limited communal space; the unit is located in a deprived inner-city neighbourhood. There was a large, empty outdoor space containing mowed grass and a CCTV tower. Collaboration with the Housing Service generated a plan to landscape the area and create space for food growing, as well as fruit tree/shrub planting. Consultation with local organisations led to informal agreements with a local church and the MAXwell Centre – a well-established local charity known for its community growing project Every 1's Garden. The plan was taking shape as the pandemic started and experienced long delays, during which time the staff had changed, interest waned and agreements forgotten. Planting and building raised beds went ahead, but the project lacked an outside tap and the crucial participants! Meanwhile, the MAXwell Centre was expanding its community growing credentials by establishing a garden share scheme (see Local Food Growing Stragegy 2020).

Claire started coming to the Maxwell centre in the Spring of 2024 after she walked past the garden gate and saw the outdoor events timetable. She came along to a few workshops and then she joined the Big Grow project (a 'Climate choices' funded project set up in 2024 to encourage food growing in the local area).

In the winter of 24/25, she came along to the cooking group, the gardener's cafe and joined the tool library and became a garden partner. She really embraced what we do. In the Spring of 2025, she was garden partnered with the Lily Walker centre. The beds have been transformed from weedy patches to bountiful veg filled spaces. As a Big Grower Claire was able to access all her seeds and veg plants at the Maxwell (pic attached), plus fertiliser and compost.



It took time and effort to clear the beds and remove the weeds, but family and friends helped. Claire borrowed tools from the tool library and is now reaping the rewards of her harvest. Pumpkins and squashes, herbs, broccoli plus loads of beans. She has handed in vegetable supplies to the kitchen at the Lily Walker centre.

4. Fruit Bowls Community Garden (as written by Harold Meikle – Chair of the Fruit Bowls gardeners)

Fruit Bowls is located on Ancrum Road, next to Lochee Park. It is an area which used to be two bowling greens. On one side we have a pond, our orchard, various types of fruit bushes, a polytunnel, the amazing raspberry maze and raised beds, on the other we have more raised beds and an open, grassy space.



Each raised bed is allocated to an individual or group and everyone is able to grow whatever they wish in their bed. People have grown various things including carrots, potatoes, kohl rabi, pumpkins, courgettes and sweetcorn. We like to think that anyone can join us in growing produce in the garden and welcome new additions to our growing group all the time.

Throughout the year we have events; we have had live music, a summer BBQ, art in the garden making pinhole cameras and using light-sensitive inks. We also have events where gardeners can bring along food that they have made with produce from the garden.

5. Kingspark School

Kingspark School caters for children who have complex additional support needs, many have additional physical disabilities or medical problems. The school was relocated into a new building in extensive grounds a number of years ago. A progressive Head Teacher and Depute both spear-headed outdoor learning for the pupils and worked with Dundee City Council (Community Allotment Officer and Community Justice) to create an enviable outdoor growing space. There are several raised beds and planters, fruit trees and bushes and a polycrub installed. The area also has a chicken run. Two teachers have specific responsibility for this outdoor space and have developed it to be an integral part of the school's offering.

6. Clepington Gardens and Allotment Association (CGAA) SCIO (as written by Ann Coull, secretary to CGAA)

The iconic plots next to Tannadice Football Stadium are probably what comes to most Dundonians' minds when you mention allotments. The site has been allotment plots since 1865, owned by the William Neish Trust and run by the committee of plot-holders. Originally called the Clepington Working Men's Allotments, known to most as the Arklay St plots, now reborn as the CGAA SCIO, for reasons which will become clear.

Gardeners have quietly grown fruit and veg on the land for generations, but in January 2025, the committee was informed that the Trust wished to give up ownership and they were offered the opportunity to buy the site. This offer came with a price tag of £100,000 and a time-scale of 18 months. This is not a huge amount of money for an urban piece of land of this size, but it's a huge amount of money for a wee group of allotmenteers to find. This came as a shock to the gardeners and there was a pervasive fear that, if they couldn't find the cash, the site would be sold off for potential carparking/3G pitches/housing developments etc.

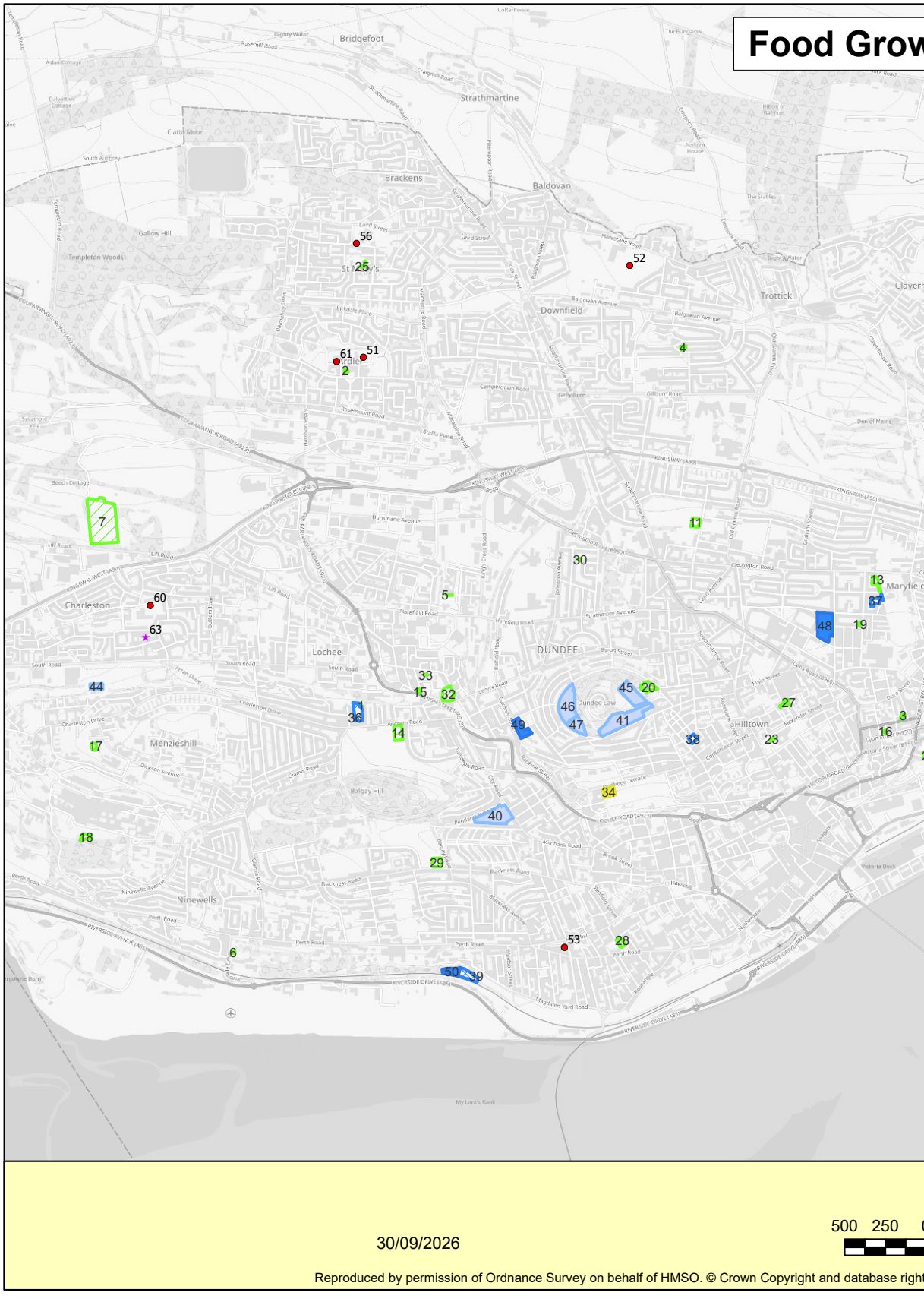
As other gardeners throughout the city were poring over seed catalogues and getting ready for the coming season, members of CGAA wasted no time and planned a strategic approach to take their campaign forward. They started by applying to OSCR for charitable status, which they were successful in securing in May 2025. They set up a Fundraising Group and a Funding Application Group to apply for funding, then they set to work.

Fundraising started with letters to local businesses, a GoFundMe page was established and a schedule of events was planned. Funding applications were submitted; some being more successful than others. Interviews with the local TV station and newspaper were offered, as well as meetings with local councillors, MSPs and other interested parties.

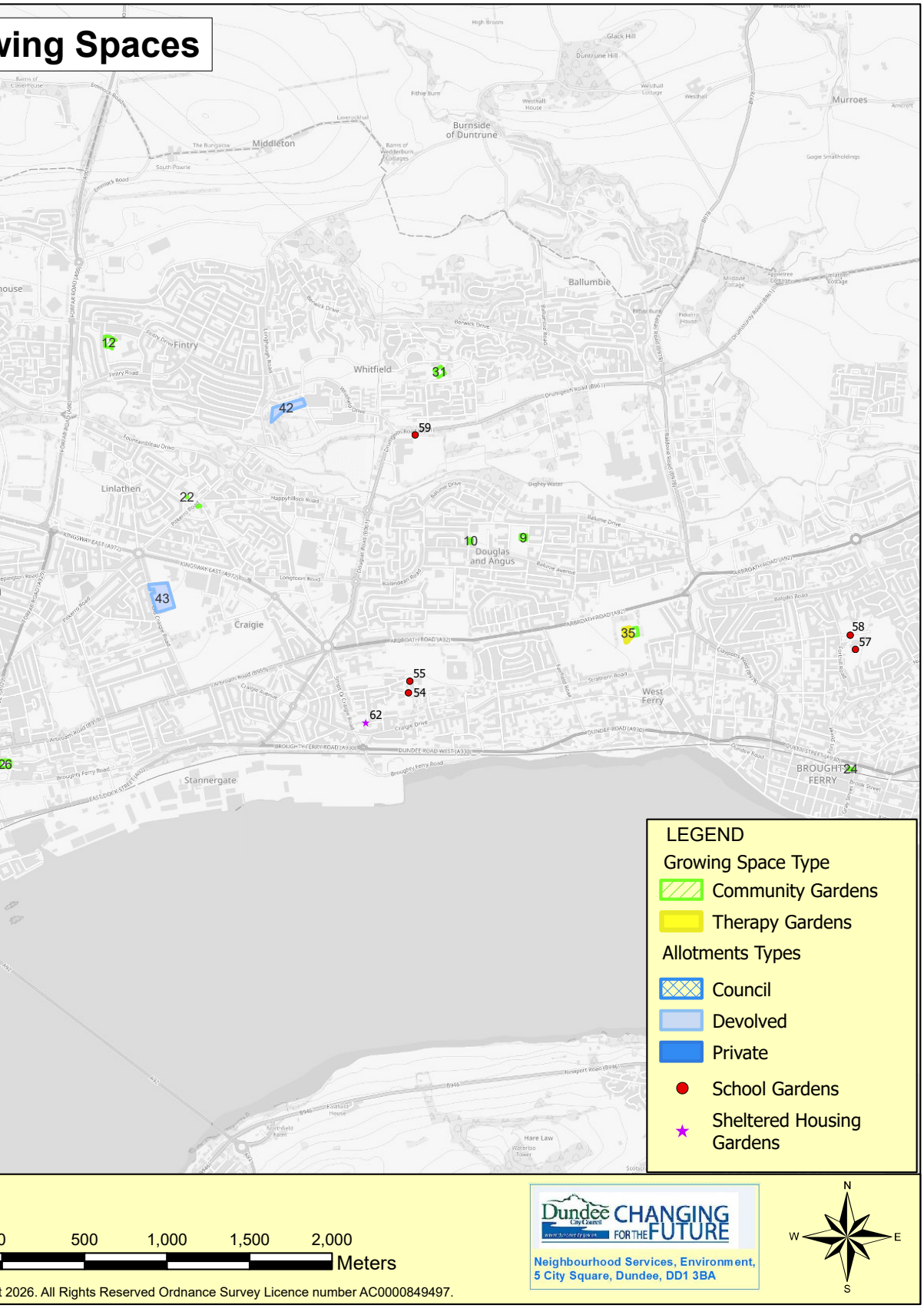
Eighteen months on and through great determination, motivation and support the members of CGAA have secured the finances to buy the site and working on the associated costs for conveyancing and land transfer. By the end of 2026 the Association should be the proud owners and custodians of these productive plots which they have gardened for over a century.



Appendix 3: Map of Community Food G



Growing Spaces, including allotments



List of Dundee's Growing Spaces (please refer to preceding map)

Community Gardens

1. Ancrum Road Community Plot
2. Ardler
3. Arthurstone
4. Attic
5. Beechwood Beds
6. Botanic Gardens
7. Campy Growers
8. Dawson Park
9. Douglas
10. Douglas Medical Centre
11. Fair Growing Green
12. Fintry
13. Foxglove
14. Fruit Bowls
15. Gray's Lane
16. Lyon Street
17. Menzieshill
18. Ninewells
19. North Court Street
20. Old Piggery
21. Pitairlie Road
22. Pitkerro Pirate Park
23. Poppy Land
24. Queen Street
25. St Mary's
26. Tay View
27. The MAXwell Centre
28. University of Dundee
29. Victoria
30. Wee Glenmarkie
31. Whitfield
32. Whorterbank
33. Whorterbank Tattie Patch

Therapy Gardens

34. Dundee Therapy Garden
35. SAMH Chrysalis Garden

Council

36. Ancrum Road
37. Arklay Terrace
38. Macaulay Street
39. Magdalen Green

Devolved / Leased

40. City Road
41. Kinnaird
42. Murrayfield
43. Old Craigie Road
44. South Road
45. Stirling Park
46. West Law
47. West Law

Private

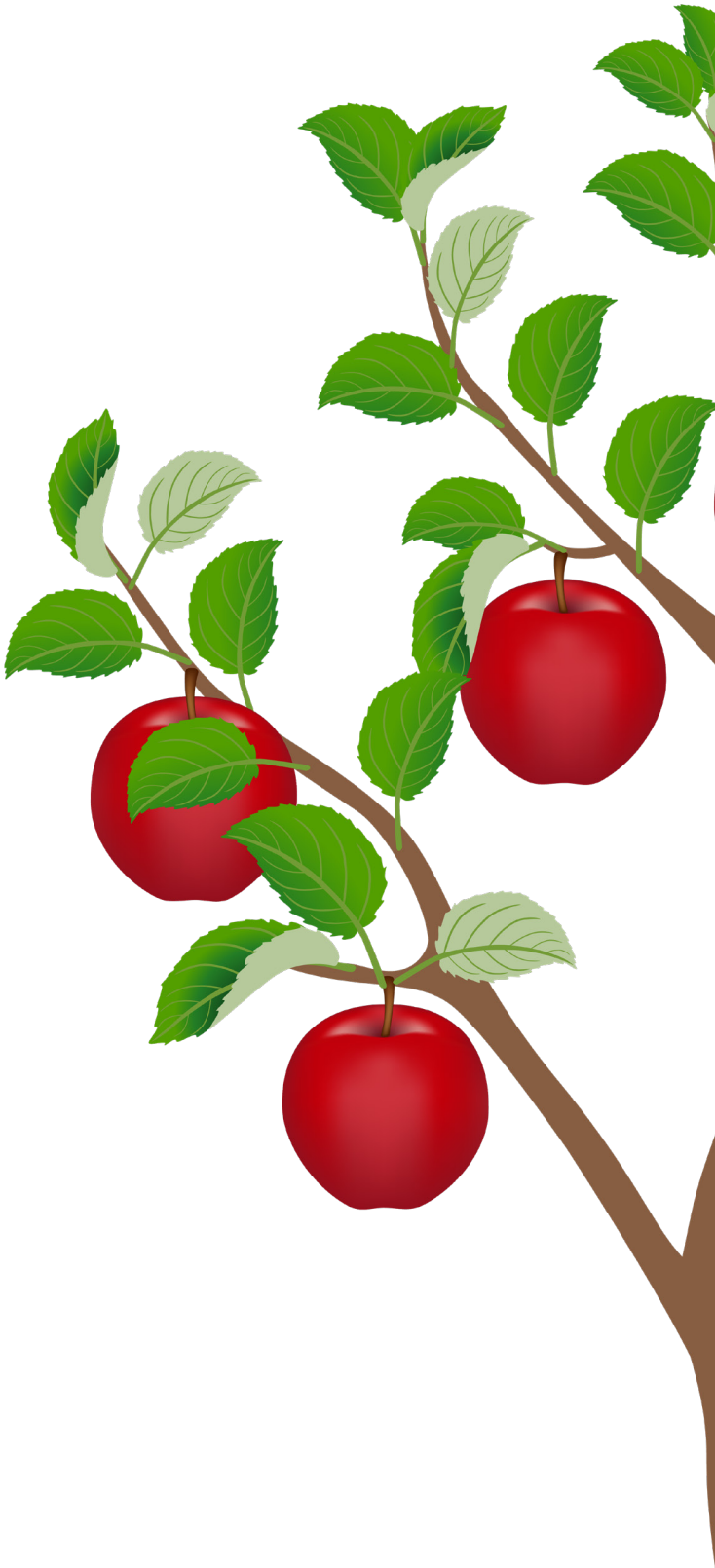
48. Clepington Gardens and Allotment Association
49. Gardner Street
50. Magdalen Green

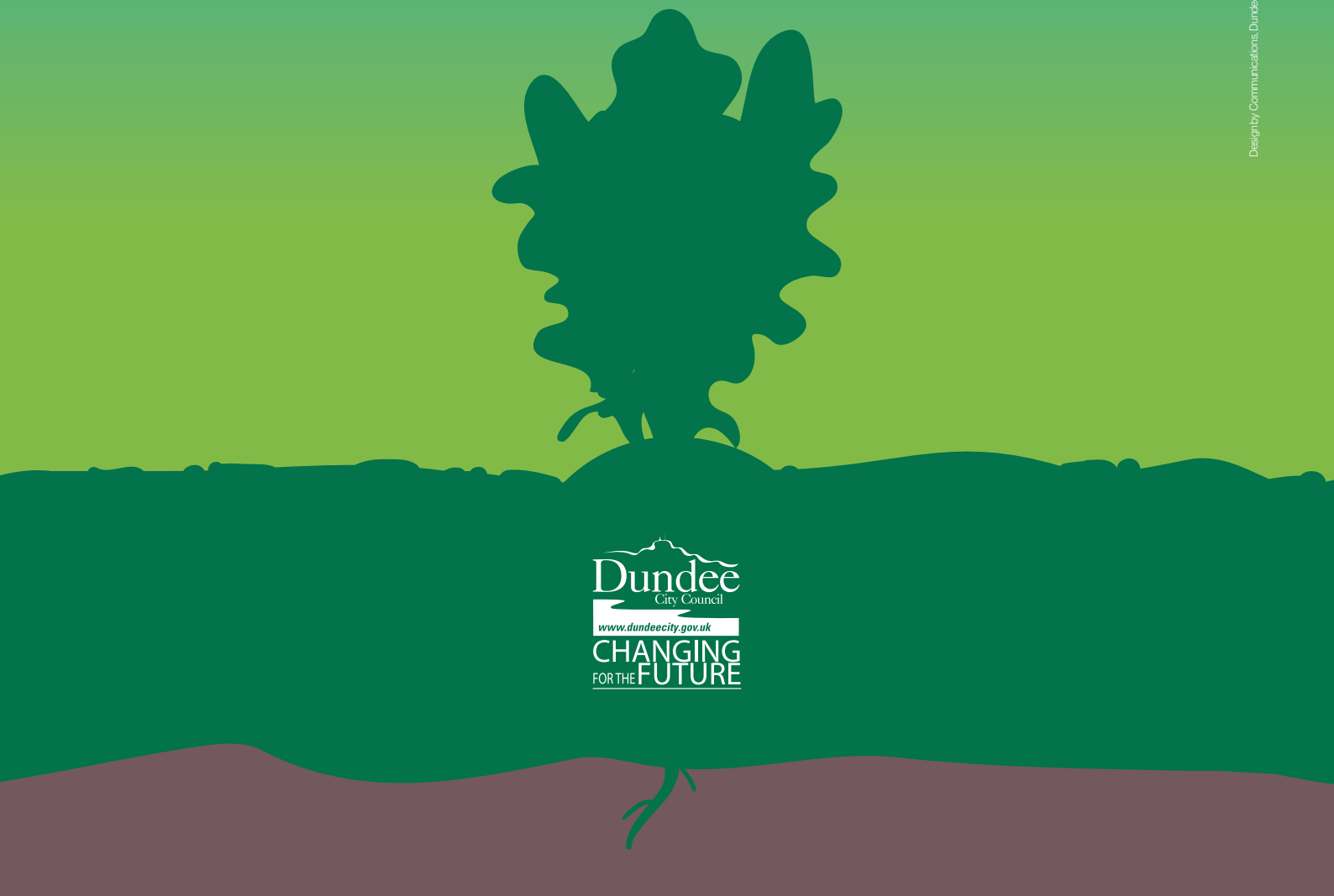
Schools

51. Ardler Primary School
52. Baldragon Academy
53. Blackness Primary School
54. Craigiebarns Nursery
55. Craigiebarns Primary School
56. Craigowl Primary School
57. Forthill Nursery
58. Forthill Primary School
59. Greenfield Academy
60. St Clement's Primary School
61. St Fergus Primary School

Sheltered Housing

62. Brington Place
63. Craigowan Road





Dundee
City Council
www.dundeecity.gov.uk
CHANGING
FOR THE FUTURE

Design by Communications, Dundee City Council LV/09/26