

# MIDLOTHIAN ALLOTMENT AND FOOD GROWING STRATEGY 2020-2030

Rebecca McKinney

Social Enterprise Alliance Coordinator

Midlothian Voluntary Action



# Background

## Legal Duty

### **Community Empowerment Act 2015:**

Requires Local Authorities to adopt Local Food Growing Strategies, in order to identify land for allotments and other community-based food growing activities

Other provisions to enable communities take on ownership, management and/or use of public assets, including land

## Community Interest

Community gardens 'sprouting' in most Midlothian communities

### **Partnership between Midlothian Voluntary Action and Social Farms and Gardens Scotland (formerly Federation of City Farms and Gardens Scotland)**

Growing Together Project to foster a network of community gardens and community growers (volunteers and staff): project funded by Scottish Government Social Innovation Fund: 2017/18

# What Is It All About?



The Strategy was co-written by Midlothian Council and Midlothian Voluntary Action, with input from community growers and Social Farms and Gardens Scotland.





# Key Actions: Midlothian Council

## Midlothian Council will:

- a) Identify land for allotment sites and other areas of land that could be used by the community for food growing
- b) Describe how we intend to increase provision of allotments and community food growing areas if there is an increase in demand.
- c) Describe how we will address demand for new growing spaces in areas that experience socio-economic disadvantage.



# Key Actions: Third Sector Interface

**Midlothian Voluntary Action, SEAM and Volunteer Midlothian will:**

- a) Continue to provide development support to community growing groups
- b) Connect volunteers with opportunities to get involved in community growing
- c) Collaborate with key partners across all sectors to ensure that community growers have access to resources (funding and materials), assets (land, people) and expertise.



# Key Actions: Other Community Planning Partners

**Other Community Planning Partners are *encouraged* to:**

- a) Consider ways of making land available for community growing (when there is community interest in this)
- b) Recognise and foster the key benefits of community growing for our shared strategic priorities: skills, health and economic development.



# Benefits and Challenges

Identified in Growing Together Midlothian Project Report

Meeting new people

Learning new skills

Attracting and retaining volunteers

Paying staff

Improved health

Improvement of the local environment

Vandalism

Financial sustainability

Stronger community

Local produce

Good for people of all ages

Lack of essential skills

Necessary infrastructure: storage, water, etc



# Good practice in partnership: Mayfield and Easthouses Development Trust

## **MAEDT:**

Developing a 'Green Hub' using former bowling green and pavilion in Mayfield Park: community garden, building for community use, activities, training, workshops, volunteering: supporting improved mental and physical health, promoting social inclusion and addressing poverty. **Funding secured through Town Centre Regeneration Fund, National Lottery Community Fund and Scottish Government**

**Midlothian Council:** own the pavilion/green. Formal asset transfer in process to establish long-term lease.

**Social Farms and Gardens:** have provided community growing expertise and development support, and will provide practical and strategic support throughout 3-year project.

**SEAM:** have provided support with project planning and funding bids, and will continue to do so during lifetime of the project.



Contact me:

Rebecca McKinney

Social Enterprise Alliance Midlothian Coordinator at  
MVA

development@seamidlothian.co.uk

0131 663 9471

<https://www.facebook.com/GrowingTogetherMidlothian/>

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