



SUMMARY

Midlothian's First Allotment and Food Growing Strategy for Midlothian 2020 – 2030

MIDLOTHIAN ALLOTMENTS AND FOOD GROWING STRATEGY 2020-30

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (CESA 2015) places a duty on local authorities to publish a food growing strategy for its area. The strategy must achieve the following objectives:

- 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) How we will address demand for new growing spaces in areas that experience socio-economic disadvantage.

Scottish Government research and advice demonstrates that food growing provides opportunities for a healthy lifestyle, sustainably and in a socially inclusive environment. The physical and mental well-being benefits from growing food are now well documented while supporting family budgets for people on low incomes.

The strategy also aims to set out the Council's wider duties under the Act including new legislation in respect of Council's management of allotments and approaches to the issue of growing food in the area more widely.

Midlothian, at the time of writing, is the fastest growing area in Scotland in terms of population. The strategy seeks to provide opportunities for people to grow food for the benefit of family, friends and communities and, to develop the potential of supplying a local food chain for social and commercial uses as well as providing green areas for biodiversity.

The strategy sets out how Midlothian Council will meet the challenge to provide allotments closer to where people live and potential sites identified through the local development plan 2018.

Midlothian Council has prepared a list of sites that communities may wish to consider as potential growing spaces. Meanwhile community planning partners (including NHS Lothian, the Police Scotland and Fire Scotland) are tasked with identifying and promoting community growing on their land.

This strategy and the implementation plan within it have been written in conjunction with the Allotment and Food Growing Steering Group, Growing Together Midlothian, Midlothian Food and Health Alliance and members of the wider Community Planning Partnership. The strategy will be reviewed annually and a detailed review will be carried out after five years. The Allotment Strategy Steering Group will continue to monitor the strategy on an ongoing basis.

For community growing spaces contact 0131 561 5256

To be added to the Deanburn allotment waiting list contact 0131 271 3106

