

Glasgow Allotments Forum welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the fourth National Planning Framework as a guide to Scottish policy making and development planning for the longer term. Our manifesto for allotments identifies that their use contributes to:

- Well-being and health by providing access to a safe, green space in which people can be creative, productive and active.
- Social inclusion by creating communities that foster interaction, equality and interdependence.
- Local bio-diversity and the adoption of sustainable practices in relation to food growing and soil conservation.
- Co-working and community participation in the appreciation and preservation of urban greenspace.

These benefits are recognised in the Scottish Government's *Guidance for Local Authorities Section 119 Duty to Prepare a Food-Growing Strategy*.

1. What development will we need to address climate change?

Land use must be prioritised to ensure everyone has access to a growing space within easy distance of their dwelling. This is particularly important in urban environments. Parks, unused golf courses and derelict land should provide holistic growing spaces containing allotments, community gardens, orchards and small market gardens. These places should form part of green networks that interlink and provide alternative routes through the city. The more self-sufficient cities become in providing adequate greenspace for recreation, activity, movement and enjoyment the more likely they are to support approaches to daily living that cut carbon emissions, pollution and improve water management.

2. How can planning best support our quality of life, health and wellbeing in the future?

It should ensure that

- (i) Food growing spaces are provided within all new Housing Developments
- (ii) The use of public land is re-conceptualised and re-organised to support greater community involvement in growing.
- (iii) Land is not left vacant and derelict indefinitely, according to the vagaries of the market, but reverts to public use (including social enterprise).

The benefits of allotments and gardening are well documented as is their contribution to regenerating communities: inclusion, diversity, creativity, vibrant, safety, resilience and empowerment. The Booklet *"Plan to Grow- A Planning Guide for Allotments"* from the Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society has a succinct analysis.

3. What does planning need to do to enable development and investment in our economy so that it benefits everyone?

Food growing should be integrated into the planning system so adequate acreage is allocated and planned to satisfy the demand and supply of food security for all.

Food security, wellbeing of the citizens, and respect for the land must underpin the economy. *'Feeding Britain - our Food Problems and how to fix them'* by Tim Lang, analyses the problems with our food system. *'Integrating Food into Urban Planning'* edited by Yves Cabannes and Cecilia Marocchino - UCL Press gives examples of this in other countries.

4. What policies are needed to improve, protect and strengthen the special character of our places?

Guidance for NPF4 should link to Scottish Government proposals for Local Democracy, Good Food Nation and Health and Wellbeing.

We have to reach a situation where decisions on place can be agreed through constructive dialogue. Small local assemblies of interested parties, bringing together developers, planners, representatives of local groups and individuals who are interested in the regeneration or development plans for their area should be set up with access to information and time for discussion and review (as happens in the Citizen's assemblies). Initially this would involve time and resources but would be supportive of developing participative structures for decision-making at local level.

5 What infrastructure do we need to build to realise our long term aspirations?

Physical: holistic growing spaces available within walking distance of everyones dwelling in cities and settlements together with access to land for growing everywhere.

ICT: To enable robust community engagement, new tools to enable information, reports, recommendations and decisions to be disseminated quickly.

Attitudinal/Processual: To adopt an evolutionary/participative approach to development where flexibility and responsiveness to context can be built into processes with a strong emphasis on taking action.

The emphasis should be on listening (by all parties), efficient use of all available resources and action. It should not be, as it is currently, on the production of consultations and reports undertaken by those not directly involved in the decisions. ICT, such as VSM (Viable Systems Models) with system dynamics and interactive mapping should be available on local authority platforms, easily updated, transparent and participative. .