

WEST AREA COMMITTEE - 13 JANUARY 2010

Title of paper:	Food Growing Framework – A strategy for developing food growing opportunities in Nottingham – Discussion Draft 1	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Hugh White Director of Sport, Leisure and Parks	Wards affected: All
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Eddie Curry Head of Parks and Open Spaces email: eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Tel: 0115 9152784	
Other officers who have provided input:	Natalie Hallam Strategic Development Officer Alan Schofield Allotment and Community Garden Officer	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		
Neighbourhood Nottingham		✓
Family Nottingham		
Healthy Nottingham		✓
Serving Nottingham Better		
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
<p>This report introduces a framework for developing and co-ordinating food growing opportunities across the City. Comment and feedback on the strategy are encouraged to help develop a clear picture of food growing opportunities across the City and prioritise delivery of the 9 work strands put forward.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	That Committee give input to the strategy (Appendix A), giving comments and feedback on the first draft.	
2	That Committee consider the food growing needs and opportunities in their area and provide information relating to this to help inform the strategy's action planning process.	
3	<p>That Committee respond to the proposals for allotment and community garden provision in their area relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. proposal to retain allotment sites as shown on the map (Appendix B); b. proposal to change the use of potentially non-viable allotments sites; c. options for allotments in the Broxtowe area; d. future of New Aspley Gardens; e. support for establishing a 'community garden hub' in West Area. 	

1 **BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The food growing framework developed from work being undertaken by Nottingham City Council's Allotment Service to develop an Allotment and Community Garden Strategy. This work quickly established that allotments needed to be seen as just one of the different ways in which the City Council encourages food growing and can promote sustainability and healthy lifestyles.
- 1.2 While Nottingham City Council takes an active part in some food growing activities, until now there has been no central point to bring together all the work regarding food growing taking place across the Council. This strategy is the first step in co-ordinating this area of work.
- 1.3 The strategy has been developed for a number of reasons:
- § to support the interest and demand regarding food growing opportunities;
 - § 'Breathing Space', the strategic framework for Nottingham's Open and Green Spaces, identifies the need for an Allotment and Community Garden Strategy;
 - § to support delivery of Nottingham City Council's Allotment Charter;
 - § provide a strategic process to plan and prioritise need regarding developing food growing opportunities.
- 1.4 A key driver in the development of a wider Food Growing Framework, has been Nottingham's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). Whilst the food growing framework will contribute towards a number of the SCS themes, of particular significance is in relation to strategic priority 6: Improve health and well-being, and the element of the Action Programme on locally sourced food:
- "We will encourage the sourcing of locally grown food for the City, drawn from Nottingham's agricultural hinterland as well as gardens and allotments in the City itself, including every school. This will reduce the carbon footprint of our consumption and contribute to healthier eating"***
- 1.5 The Food Growing Framework outlines the way in which Nottingham City Council will work to encourage and support local food growing opportunities in the City over the next ten years which is expressed in its vision:
- Nottingham City Council will provide a range of lifelong food growing opportunities, supporting residents in healthy living and working towards a sustainable environment.***
- 1.6 The Food Growing Framework will be delivered through nine interconnected work strands which are listed below, detailed explanations can be found on page 12 of the draft strategy document (Appendix A):
- allotments;
 - community gardening hubs;
 - Blooming Neighbourhoods;
 - edible plants in public places;
 - schools, Children's Services and lifelong learning;
 - growing access to public land;
 - private gardens and land;
 - commercial land and business support;
 - partnership and research.

- 1.7 The Food Growing Framework looks at ways in which Nottingham City Council can work to encourage and support more food growing in the City over the next decade. This is focused on a number of work strands, some of which will continue to be core Nottingham City Council work such as allotments, and some of which will require new partnership approaches and cross-council working.
- 1.8 By creating a Food Growing Framework, and placing the Council's allotment provision within this broader strategy, it is envisaged that collectively the framework can do more to deliver and contribute towards a wider range of Council outcomes relating to:
- reducing carbon emissions;
 - producing sustainable food;
 - improving health and reducing health inequalities;
 - supporting community cohesion;
 - providing education, employment and training;
 - improving neighbourhoods.
- 1.9 It is not intended that Nottingham City Council is the primary delivery agency for the Food Growing Framework but that it will work in partnership and act as a central point to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate the development, implementation of food growing opportunities across the City. The strategy outlines what role Nottingham City Council will play in supporting each work strand.
- 1.10 The draft strategy sets out a vision for the proposed future of food growing across the City. The detail of delivery will be worked up following feedback from the consultation and shown as detailed action plans for each work strand in the second draft.
- 1.11 There is much work needed to further develop each of the work strands and in particular develop their supporting action plans that will make the strategy real and deliverable. Work will continue throughout this first draft consultation period on the detailed action plans.

2 ALLOTMENT AND COMMUNITY GARDEN PROVISION

- 2.1 The West Area has a varied spread of allotment sites. Provision is good towards the east (and south) of the area, with large sites at Melbourne Park, Mill/Windmill, Moorfield, and Old Park Farm. There are also significant sites just outside West Area (Whitemoor and Bar Lane/Old Basford in Area 2 and others in Area 7). There is much less provision in the northwest of West Area, with few active plots in Broxtowe.
- 2.2 There are a number of smaller sites in the Area, including a cluster on the Aspley estate, and others on the western edges of the area. West Area also includes the large privately owned site of New Aspley Gardens either side of Western Boulevard. At present there isn't a large publically accessible community garden in West Area.
- 2.3 The maps attached to this report show the current range of allotments in West Area. Each site has two rings or buffers marked around it:
- § a 1.25km distance buffer, which shows the catchment area of the site in terms of the distance people could be reasonably expected to travel;
 - § a 'carrying capacity' buffer which relates the catchment area to the number of plots on the site. (Once an allotment plot is rented out, other people can't access it freely even if they live within 1.25km).
- 2.4 Because of the variety in West Area, there are range possible options, reflecting the different types of allotment sites and the overall provision of plots.

- 2.5 The Allotment Service recommends that the larger Nottingham City Council sites in the area should be retained: Melbourne Road, Mill and Windmill, Moorfields, and Old Park Farm.
- 2.6 A number of sites in West Area are difficult to use and generally vacant. These include the sites on Aspley estate, Lindfield Road and Denewood Crescent. They are typical of a number of sites across Nottingham which were laid out in the mid twentieth century in the middle of housing estates (usually built as council housing). Access to the plots is usually down a small alley between houses, the plots are small and they have no water supply. Access is often made worse if the houses or land has been sold – in some cases the allotments are effectively ‘landlocked’.
- 2.7 The Allotment Service believes that these smaller sites are generally not viable as allotments in the long term. They are unpopular, difficult to maintain, and provide little effective provision for residents in the area as a whole. As an alternative these sites could be:
- § converted to wildlife areas;
 - § sold to neighbouring housing as garden extensions (this has already happened in some cases);
 - § have a change of use to allow housing or other development;
 - § be used by community groups for food growing, as an orchard or community space.
- N.B. Some individual plots on these smaller sites are currently in use as allotments – the Allotment Service would not look to change their status unless the plotholder was in agreement or until the plot became vacant.
- 2.8 Some of the smaller sites in West Area are in use and appear to have a viable future, often because they have better access. These are: Edgeway, Glaisdale Road, Trowell Avenue, Wyrle Drive and St Martins Road.
- 2.9 As noted, the northwest of West Area has a low level of allotment provision. Currently the Edgeway site is in use and viable, but the Lindfield Road and Westleigh sites are derelict.
- 2.10 The Allotment Service believes that the Westleigh site could be viable if renovated, perhaps as part of an overall scheme to improve Broxtowe Country Park, but this would still leave the Broxtowe area with a low level of provision. One option would be to consider setting up a new site (to be viable this would need a minimum of 20 plots and an overall area of 0.6 hectares).
- 2.11 New Aspley Gardens is a large site which is currently underused, and it understood that a significant number of the plotholders are looking to sell their plots for development. The site was sold by the City Council in 1952 to a the plotholders association with a covenant restricting its future use to allotments, but as most of the plots have since been sold to individuals the covenant is difficult for the City Council to enforce. Given that this part of the city is well served by other allotment sites its future needs to be determined.
- 2.12 The Area Committee is asked to give its views on the following:
- a. proposal to retain allotment sites as shown on the map;
 - b. proposal to change the use of potentially non-viable allotments sites;
 - c. options for allotments in the Broxtowe area;
 - d. future of New Aspley Gardens;
 - e. support for establishing a ‘community garden hub’ in West Area.

Allotment site	Proposal
Old Park Farm	Retain
Mill	Retain
Windmill	Retain
Melbourne Road	Retain
Edgeway	Retain
Wyrle Drive	Retain
St Martins Road	Retain
Trowell Avenue	Retain
Glaisdale Road	Retain
Lindfield Road	Potential change of use
Aspley Estate	Potential change of use
Denewood Crescent	Potential change of use
Westleigh Road	Retain
New Aspley Gardens	To be determined

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 3.1 Committee is asked to comment on the draft strategy to ensure that all Areas across the city are given the opportunity to inform the development of the strategy. This report has previously already been discussed by the Community Wellbeing Select Committee.
- 3.2 In order to help develop a clear picture of food growing opportunities across the city it is important to ensure that both existing and proposed food growing opportunities are acknowledged. This will help determine where such opportunities can link in with the Food Growing Framework in its efforts to develop and coordinate food growing.
- 3.3 Recommendations for allotment and community garden sites which have emerged through the provision standard methodology are put forward to help determine the best use for these sites and to help channel resources where provision is lacking and need is identified.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

The draft Food Growing Framework sets out a 10 year vision therefore some of the work strands, which are new to the council, are aspirational and will be delivered in the later stages of the strategy where need still exists and as resources become available. In identifying work already taking place relevant to the framework and coordinating this will help to avoid duplication of resources and provide greater opportunities for partnership working.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)

None

7 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

Summary Document - Food Growing Framework. A strategy for developing food growing opportunities in Nottingham. Discussion Draft 1 October 2009

A copy of the full draft document can be obtained by contacting Natalie Hallam

8 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

None

FOOD GROWING FRAMEWORK

A strategy for developing food growing opportunities in Nottingham

Discussion draft 1
Summary Document
October 2009

1 INTRODUCTION

This Food Growing Framework outlines the way in which Nottingham City Council will work to encourage and support food growing in the city over the next ten years. This is expressed in its vision:

Nottingham City Council will provide a range of lifelong food growing opportunities, supporting residents in healthy living and working towards a sustainable environment.

The Food Growing Framework supports a range of local and regional policies and plans and in particular the delivery of the 'Locally sourced food' action programme of Nottingham's Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Food Growing Framework looks at ways in which Nottingham City Council can work to encourage and support more food growing in the city focused on nine interconnected work strands:

1. Allotments
2. Community Gardening hubs
3. Edible Plants in Public Places
4. Blooming Neighbourhoods
5. Growing access to public land
6. Schools and children's services
7. Private gardens and land
8. Commercial land and business support
9. Partnership and research

Details of each work strand can be found in the shaded boxes below.

2 DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

The need for a strategy

This Food Growing Framework developed from work being undertaken by Nottingham City Council to draw up an Allotment & Community Garden Strategy. This work quickly established that allotments needed to be seen as one of the different ways in which the City Council encourages food growing, and can promote sustainability and healthy lifestyles.

While Nottingham City Council takes an active part in some food growing activities, until now there has been no central point to bring together all the work regarding food growing taking place across the Council. The strategy is the first step in co-ordinating this area of work.

Who is the strategy for?

The strategy is intended to ensure the development and sustainability of food growing opportunities. Used as an action plan for delivery, led by Nottingham City Council, the strategy will help initiate and influence the development of food growing opportunities in Nottingham.

How will the strategy be used?

Implementation of the strategy will be delivered through the supporting action plans developed for each work strand. Nottingham City Council will take the lead in coordinating the delivery of the strategy through an approach that includes direct delivery and provision as well as an enabling role to support a wealth of food growing opportunities.

3 BACKGROUND

Local Context

To date much of the innovative work on food growing which has taken place in the city has been led by the voluntary sector or other partnerships and organisations. This includes the long standing Stonebridge City Farm in St Anns and the Arkwright Meadows Community Garden, and a number of community organisations are successfully using allotments to deliver community focused food growing activities.

Nottingham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2020 (SCS) sets the overall strategic direction and long term vision for the economic social and environmental wellbeing of the City of Nottingham up to the year 2020.

Whilst the food growing framework will contribute towards a number of the SCS objectives, of particular significance is in relation to strategic priority 6: Improve health and well-being, and the element of the Action Programme on **locally sourced food**:

“We will encourage the sourcing of locally grown food for the city, drawn from Nottingham’s agricultural hinterland as well as gardens and allotments in the city itself, including every school. This will reduce the carbon footprint of our consumption and contribute to healthier eating.”

5 WORK STRAND SUMMARY

The approach adopted to deliver the strategies aims is centred on a Food Growing Framework, which identifies nine work strands. Each work strand has a specific role and character, but all of them contribute to the FGF as a whole.

Strand 1: Allotments

Aim: Continue to provide and improve on Nottingham's long standing allotment tradition.

Nottingham has a long tradition of allotments, and the City Council has a statutory duty to provide them. Currently over 3000 individual plots are available to rent and can be used for high yielding fruit and vegetable crops or more informal leisure gardens. Working within the context of allotment law the strategy will aim to maximise the use of plots and improve their condition.

Work strand summary:**Continue to provide and improve allotments in Nottingham**

1. Provide enough allotments
2. Improve the quality and condition of sites
3. Secure resources
4. Support community management
5. Promote and celebrate allotment gardening
6. Deliver a high quality allotment service

Delivery:

Overall responsibility for delivery lies with the NCC Allotment Service, but over 70% of allotment plots in the city are now on sites which are self managed by allotment associations on long term leases.

Resources:

Existing resources are in place for Allotment Officers, with a revenue budget for maintenance etc. Significant further resources will be required to carry out improvement works (and potentially regenerate derelict sites or create new ones).

How this work strand fits in with the rest of the Food Growing Framework:

NCC has a statutory duty to provide allotments, and there are a wide range of laws which define this role. Under the 1922 act an allotment garden is defined as being 'wholly or mainly cultivated by the occupier for the production of vegetable or fruit crops for consumption by himself or his family'.

The word 'allotment' is of course now used by people in a much wider way, and this is worth bearing in mind through the work of the Food Growing Framework. While many people and organisations may express interest in 'having an allotment', for some this may actually mean they want a vegetable patch or other place to grow food (perhaps on their own land).

Strand 2: Community Gardening Hubs**Aim: Support the development of a network of community gardening hubs**

Stonebridge City Farm and Arkwright Meadows Community Garden are existing sites which provide examples of what can be achieved. Each site will encourage food growing within its own land and in the wider local neighbourhood, providing practical examples and acting as resource with information and training. Hubs will be independently managed by community based organisations on a formal and long term basis. NCC will recognise sites through the planning process, provide support and in most case the land.

Work strand summary: develop a network of community gardening hubs across Nottingham. Each 'hub' will provide hands on food growing opportunities, education, and inspiration for the local community.

Delivery:

NCC Allotment & Community Garden Officers can play a role in initial co-ordination and consultation (along with officers from Neighbourhood management etc). Key partners are likely to be:

- A number of community growing organisations which currently meets under the umbrella of 'Garden to Plate'
- Existing Area based partnerships trusts
- New organisations which are likely to be set up specifically to run individual community gardening hubs
- A support network of growers and training organisations

Resources:

No resources currently allocated for new hubs. (Arkwright Meadows Community Garden and Stonebridge City Farm have secured some funding for their work.)

Outputs & outcomes:

- Continuation of Arkwright Meadows Community Garden and Stonebridge City Farm
- Creation of up to 7 new hubs
- Training and events
- Employment
- Volunteer and community involvement
- Food growing opportunities
- Green Pennant etc
- Neighbourhood improvement

How this work strand fits in with the rest of the Food Growing Framework:

The hubs obviously have food growing areas, but they may not in themselves deliver a high volume of crops, especially if they are used for training etc. However, they could play a role in the distribution of food from other growers (through sales, events, cafes etc), and the hubs will play a crucial role in providing skills and inspiration so that people can go on to grow food on allotments, in private gardens, or via other community projects.

Strand 3: Edible Plants in Public Places**Aim: Introduce edible and fruiting plants into public open spaces.**

Using edible plants such as fruit trees and bushes, vegetables and herbs in public open spaces owned and maintained by NCC. These can include parks, playgrounds and street planting. The aim of this strand is to inform and inspire rather than achieve high crop yield. Planting can be incorporated as informal landscape, or designed displays (e.g. Nottingham in Bloom schemes). Within a number of larger parks kitchen gardens could be created as display areas.

Work strand summary: Increase the amount of edible and fruiting plants used in public open space owned and maintained by Nottingham City Council, such as parks, playgrounds and in street spaces.

Deliver this by integrating the work strand into:

1. Long term design and maintenance of open spaces
2. Nottingham in Bloom planting schemes
3. Specific display gardens

Delivery:

This work strand is not aiming to produce high yields of crops: inevitably some of the food will be picked before it is ripe and some people will help themselves to the crops. Its purpose has a more inspirational and educational focus.

Resources:

Much of this strand could be combined within existing roles and areas of work including Park Development Officers, Nottingham in Bloom, Horticulture staff, Budgets for plants and grounds maintenance and Park Rangers - for events and work with community groups.

The role of NCC in this area will be greatly enhanced by community and voluntary sector activity. The planting and maintenance of display areas in parks would give a very strong opportunity for community involvement, and voluntary groups may be able to take on formal responsibility for these.

How this work strand fits in with the rest of the Food Growing Framework:

The 'Edible plants in public places' work strand is primarily a form of Inspiration rather than a high yielding vegetable production system. It will provide a taster for a range of other work strands such as growing in private gardens, community gardening hubs, blooming neighbours and allotments as well a community involvement element that spans a number of strands.

Strand 4: Blooming Neighbourhoods

Aim: Support a variety of small scale community projects across Nottingham to introduce edible and Fruiting plants.

A wide range of community gardens or neighbourhood gardening projects exist in Nottingham. Most are informal and may focus on ornamental display, but edible plants are becoming more common. NCC supports these initiatives at present through Nottingham in Bloom.

Delivery:

The main NCC element of this work strand will be delivered by the Nottingham in Bloom team but the real work will of course be done by the neighbourhood and community garden volunteers!

Outputs/ outcomes:

- Neighbourhood improvements
- Community involvement
- Number projects in Nottingham in Bloom
- Green Pennants
- Amount of seeds, tools etc distributed.

Work strand summary: Support small scale community garden and neighbourhood projects across Nottingham, and encourage the use of edible and fruiting plants, through the Nottingham in Bloom initiative.

How this work strand fits in with the rest of the Food Growing Framework:

Key characteristics of the 'Blooming Neighbourhood' projects however are that generally they:

- i) Include a higher proportion of ornamental plants
- ii) Have a less formal organisation structure and generally do not have a lease or tenancy agreement.

'Blooming Neighbourhood' projects are unlikely to produce high food yields, and their role is much more in terms of inspiration: for both participants and their neighbours.

Strand 5: Growing access to public land**Aim: Develop new ways of providing community access to publicly owned land**

A new initiative. NCC will develop a 'matching agency' role to allow greater public and community access to grow food on land owned by NCC (and other public bodies). Suitable land will be identified, and then matched to people or organisations wanting to use it. Appropriate leases or licenses will be issued, generally on a short term basis but with some options to continue if the land use is successful.

Typically this includes:

- Land which forms part of a housing estate and which has been landscaped as grass, but which is little used by residents.
- Land which is being held for future alternative uses, but is currently empty.
- Open space which is difficult to use or maintain, and may have become overgrown and effected by fly typing etc

Work strand Summary:

Establish a land matching agency to enable areas of NCC land which has the potential to be used for food growing (for either temporary or long term use) with potential growers / communities that wish to improve neighbourhoods and local food provision.

Delivery:

This is a new area of work, although the Allotment Service and other NCC officers already receive requests and enquiries about access to land for food growing. Information on land ownership is held by Property - who would normally rent out land on a commercial basis as part of the NCC property portfolio. However, most of the land covered by this work strand is likely to be held by other NCC departments (or managed by Nottingham City Homes) as non-commercial property.

Delivery of this work strand should be co-ordinated by the Parks & Open Spaces section of NCC.

Resources:

Initially it is proposed that this could be explored through a Food Growing Framework partnership and will need a champion identified, potentially at neighbourhood level, to progress the concept.

How this work strand fits in with the rest of the Food Growing Framework:

This work strand has the potential to significantly increase the amount of land available for food growing in Nottingham. Production can be medium scale (for home use) or community/ commercial. While some sites will be publicly visible (and therefore inspirational) the legal tenancy agreements/ will generally give access rights to the grower rather than public visitors

Strand 6: Schools and children's services**Aim: encourage food growing in school grounds**

All NCC schools (and other children's services buildings and projects) will be encouraged to grow some food within their own grounds, to link with local allotments or hubs, and to have trained and supported staff.

Work strand summary: Encourage food growing in all schools across Nottingham, so that every school has:

- **A food growing area within its own grounds**
- **Links to other projects such as allotments or hubs**
- **Staff who are trained and supported**

How this work strand fits in with the rest of the Food Growing Framework:

Its success is likely to depend on developing links to other work stands such as the community gardening hubs to provide inspiration and support. The potential involvement of an older generation of gardeners and allotment holders can break down inter generational barriers. Once children become interested in food growing, this will have an influence on their parents and carers, and the wider community. In the short term this work strand may not bring high food production but it will be key for inspiration

Strand 7: Private gardens and land**Aim: Encourage residents, business, and other organisations to grow food on their own land**

While many residents might want an allotment, or be involved in community projects, some of the most productive forms of food growing are in peoples own gardens. Plants can be easily cared for, weeded, watered, and then picked and eaten! While some people have fairly large home gardens, others use a backyard with pots and planters.

The Food Growing Framework overall will look to inspire individuals to use their own gardens, yards or balconies to grow food, and it will provide information, training and events to support and encourage this. Advice will also be available to private land owned by business and institutions on how their land could be used.

Work strand summary:

Encourage individuals and organisations to grow food on their own land by inspiring individuals and supporting organisations

Note on 'landshare', private gardens and NCC

There are a number of successful schemes around the country which look to match up individuals with larger home gardens that are under used with people without growing space. These schemes are offering models for bringing greater access to land, but they also have some risks, particularly for large local authority involvement. For these reasons the Food Growing Framework does not propose direct NCC involvement in projects of this kind at the present time (although information about the Landshare website etc would obviously be part of the general information provided on food growing options).

Strand 8: Commercial growing and Business Support**Aim: 'source food drawn from Nottingham's agricultural hinterland'**

The Food Growing Framework will look at opportunities to support local food production in a variety of ways including: the use of NCC owned commercial/agricultural land; supporting local business (growers and local food processing), supporting farmers markets and community purchasing; through procurement (e.g. NCC schools); and as a planning authority through the protection of food growing areas in the city.

The development stage of the Food Growing Framework (to March 2010) gives an opportunity to explore the potential role of NCC in the following areas:

- NCC commercial land
- Procurement
- Community links
- Business support
- Planning framework

How this work strand fits in with the rest of the Food Growing Framework:

Commercial food growing and agriculture outside the boundary of the city can play a major role in providing locally sourced food for residents, and meet this measure within the Sustainable Communities Strategy. As a work strand it is likely to have the highest overall level of food production, and there are significant opportunities to link with communities and business within Nottingham. However, it also presents some of the greatest challenges for NCC to deliver within the Food Growing Framework.

Strand 9: Research and Partnership**Aim: Work in partnership to implement actions and carry out research**

NCC will continue to work with other organisations which also have an interest in supporting local food growing, healthy eating, and sustainable development.

NCC will initiate and collaborate in research work to look at the potential for food growing in the city, and to assess the value and impact of the Food Growing Framework.

One of the main roles of the Food Growing Framework is to provide direction and co-ordination so that work isn't duplicated or resources wasted, and this work strand looks at how the Food Growing Framework itself will be delivered. In addition, it looks at the need for research work to provide information, set targets and check that the work streams are actually working and having a positive impact

6 MAKING IT HAPPEN

Action Plan

The food growing framework aims will be delivered through detailed action plans related to each strand that are currently being developed.

10 Year Timeline Tree - Priorities

Year 1-3 - Roots

Year 4-6 - Shoots

Year 7-10 – Fruits

Resources

As a 10 year plan the strategy is aspirational in what it wants to achieve. The strategy [will] identifies priorities that it will work on in the roots phase of the delivery. Strands of the food growing framework which are new to the Council in some cases are un-resourced. As future priorities are identified at review stages and as development and needs change the balance of resources may be re-directed accordingly. In addition the strategy identifies the need to secure resources to meet the needs of the strategy through partnership, external funding or other means suitable and available at the time.

Monitoring and evaluation

The success of the strategy will be monitored through quarterly strategy partnership meetings with reviews scheduled to take account of developments and changing needs.

Quarterly Strategy Partnership meetings will report on the progress of the aims evidencing outputs and contribution to wider outcomes.

The Strategy Partnership will undertake the following to ensure the success of the strategy:

- § Implement the strategies action plan
- § Source resources to help deliver the strategy
- § Review the strategy and action plan
- § Celebrate the strategies success and achievements

DRAFT FOOD GROWING FRAMEWORK – SUMMARY OF WORKSTRANDS

	Aim	Opportunities	Mechanism	Inspiration	Delivery	Outcomes
ALLOTMENTS	Continue to provide and improve Nottingham's long standing allotment tradition	Provide enough allotments Improve the quality & condition of sites	Provide a high quality Allotment Service Support community management Secure resources	Promote & celebrate allotment gardening	NCC Allotment Service Allotment Associations From Community Gardening Hubs	Ensuring adequate provision and high quality sites. Medium scale food production for home use.
EDIBLE PLANTS IN PUBLIC PLACES	Introduce and increase edible & fruiting plants into public open spaces	Utilise parks, playgrounds, sports & housing & highways land for planting Identify locations for community managed display sites in parks	Nottingham in Bloom planting scheme Long term design and maintenance of open and green spaces	Specific display gardens	NCC Parks Development NCC Parks Rangers NCC Horticultural Officer Community organisations	Awards and achievements Increase public awareness Improvement to neighbourhoods
COMMUNITY GARDENING HUBS	Support the development of a network of 'community gardening hubs'	Identify and safeguard sites Secure additional and grant funding	Consultation & community support	Run a programme of information, events, training Education and Learning	NCC Allotment & Community Garden Service Community organisations	Creation of hubs across the city as public focal points for good ideas and hands-on opportunities.

	Aim	Opportunities	Mechanism	Inspiration	Delivery	Outcomes
GROWING ACCESS TO PUBLIC LAND	Develop new ways of providing community access to publically owned land	Identify & record suitable land Secure resources and carry out site works	Establish a 'land matching agency' Provide and administer Leases & Licences	Information, events, training	NCC Parks & Open Spaces NCC departments, Nottingham City Homes, RSLs, healthcare trusts, volunteer links	Increase in the amount of land used for food growing.
BLOOMING NEIGHBOURS	Support a variety of small scale community gardens across Nottingham	Provide seeds, plants, equipment etc	Continuation of Nottingham in Bloom 'Blooming Neighbourhoods' programme of work	Bloom events, publicity and outreach work	NCC Nottingham in Bloom NCC Horticultural Officer Community organisations & residents	Strong community connections with a variety of neighbourhood projects.
SCHOOLS, CHILDRENS SERVICES & LIFELONG LEARNING	Encourage food growing in school grounds	Incorporate food growing areas into the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme Establish food growing areas in the grounds of City schools	Children's Services role – Environmental Education and Sustainable Schools officers Schools sites open for community use	Training, information & support for school staff	NCC Children's Services Schools, Volunteer links	Early year's involvement across all city schools. Open sites for community use.

	Aim	Opportunities	Mechanism	Inspiration	Delivery	Outcomes
PRIVATE GARDENS & LAND	Encourage residents, businesses, and other organisations to grow food on their own land	Individuals homes and gardens Alternative use of private/business land	Advisory Service Access to tools, seeds and gardening materials	Inspiration from across whole range of Food Growing Framework. Information, events and training	NCC Parks & Open Spaces Residents, business etc	Increase in the number of people growing food in their own gardens (& other forms of private property).
COMMERCIAL LAND BUSINESS SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT	"source food drawn from Nottingham's agricultural hinterland"	Commercial land for rent	Rent land for food growing Procurement Business support Planning framework	Business support & promotion	NCC Property Plus, Business Support, Planning	Larger scale farming and odd production / distribution. Positive economic impact and green jobs.
RESEARCH & PARTNERSHIP	Work in partnership to implement actions and carry out research		Health & Wellbeing Partnership Food Growing Framework co-ordination NCC [Area Committees, officers] Community links National & Regional Resources, Training, Apprenticeships	Research e.g.: Health benefits, carbon emissions, plan for urban agriculture, Monitoring & information	One Nottingham - Health & Wellbeing Partnership	Implementing the Food Growing Framework and maximising resources. Research base for long term planning.

