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Council Building  
2 High Street  
Perth  
PH1 5PH

22 October 2020

A meeting of the **Environment and Infrastructure Committee** will be held virtually on **Wednesday, 28 October 2020 at 09:30**.

If you have any queries please contact Committee Services - [Committee@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:Committee@pkc.gov.uk).

**KAREN REID**  
**Chief Executive**

***Those attending the meeting are requested to ensure that all notifications are silent on their device and other devices are in silent mode.***

***Please note that the meeting will be broadcast online and recorded. The recording will be publicly available on the Council's website following the meeting.***

**Members:**

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Councillor Angus Forbes (Convener)        | Councillor Colin Stewart   |
| Councillor Kathleen Baird (Vice-Convener) | Councillor Mike Williamson |
| Councillor Alasdair Bailey                |                            |
| Councillor Michael Barnacle               |                            |
| Councillor Stewart Donaldson              |                            |
| Councillor John Duff                      |                            |
| Councillor Tom Gray                       |                            |
| Councillor Anne Jarvis                    |                            |
| Councillor Grant Laing                    |                            |
| Councillor Roz McCall                     |                            |
| Councillor Andrew Parrott                 |                            |
| Councillor Crawford Reid                  |                            |
| Councillor Willie Robertson               |                            |



**Environment and Infrastructure Committee**

**Wednesday, 28 October 2020**

**AGENDA**

***MEMBERS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO DECLARE ANY FINANCIAL OR NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST WHICH THEY MAY HAVE IN ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT.***

|           |   |                  |
|-----------|---|------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES</b>  |                  |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>   |                  |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>MINUTE OF MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE OF 19 AUGUST 2020 FOR APPROVAL</b><br>(copy herewith)  | <b>5 - 8</b>     |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS SINCE 19 AUGUST 2020</b><br>Verbal update by Executive Director (Housing and Environment)                        |                  |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>PERTH AND KINROSS GROWING FOOD STRATEGY CONSULTATION DRAFT</b><br>Report by Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (copy herewith 20/197)                              | <b>9 - 36</b>    |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010-2025 - PROGRESS REPORT</b><br>Report by Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (copy herewith 20/198)  | <b>37 - 80</b>   |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>VISITOR MANAGEMENT IN RURAL AREAS</b><br>Report by Executive Director (Housing and Environment) (copy herewith 20/199)   | <b>81 - 104</b>  |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>NORTH INCH GOLF COURSE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20</b><br>Report by Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (copy herewith 20/200)   | <b>105 - 114</b> |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>FREE FESTIVE PARKING 2020</b><br>Report by Head of Business and Resources (copy herewith 20/201)   | <b>115 - 122</b> |
| <b>10</b> | <b>COMMUNITY GREENSPACE - WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES - DELIVERING THE PERTH AND KINROSS OFFER</b><br>Report by Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (copy herewith 20/202) | <b>123 - 148</b> |

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# ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee held virtually via Microsoft Teams on 19 August 2020 at 9.30am.

Present: Councillors A Forbes, K Baird, A Bailey, M Barnacle, S Donaldson, J Duff, T Gray, A Jarvis, G Laing, R McCall, X McDade, A Parrott, C Reid, C Stewart, L Simpson (substituting for Councillor W Robertson) and M Williamson.

In Attendance: B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment); B Cargill, A Clegg, S D'All and A Graham (Housing and Environment); C Flynn, K Molley and A Brown (Corporate and Democratic Services); C Wright (IT).

Apology: Councillor W Robertson

Councillor A Forbes, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led discussion on items 1-6, 8, 9 and Vice-Convener on items 7 and 10.

## 1. FLOODING IN PERTH AND KINROSS

Prior to the commencement of business, the Convener referred to the storm that occurred on the 11/12 August, resulting in severe weather conditions and flooding throughout Perth and Kinross. He added his sympathies to those who had been affected. B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment) provided an operational update, which highlighted the work being undertaken to tackle the consequences of the flooding conditions and the tighter measures that are now being introduced.

B Renton answered members questions.

## 2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Councillor A Forbes welcomed everyone to the meeting and an apology was noted as above.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillors A Forbes, A Jarvis and M Williamson declared a non-financial interest in Item 8.

## 4. MOTION

In terms of Standing Order 29(b), the Convener heard the following item on the recent local flooding event as a matter of urgent business.

THERE WAS A TWO MINUTE BREAK AND THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 9.55AM.

Motion (Councillors C Stewart and M Barnacle)

The Committee:

- Notes the extreme adverse rainfall and flooding of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August, and the devastating effect this had in many local areas across Perth & Kinross, particularly in Alyth, Kinross, Dunning and Perth; and
- Recognizes the efforts of Council and Tayside Contracts staff to assist householders, businesses and communities to deal with flooding and its immediate effects; and
- Commends communities across Perth & Kinross for the community spirit they showed and for their efforts to assist neighbours to prevent properties being flooded and to clean up afterwards; and
- Notes with concern the anxiety caused by severe weather warnings in communities that have previously experienced flooding, particularly in Alyth following the major flood of 2015 and the near miss of February 2020; and
- Notes that work has commenced on the preparation of the second cycle of flood risk management strategies and local flood risk management plans due to be published in December 2021 and June 2022 respectively.

and thus requests officers to:

- Review the existing flood schemes and local flood risk management plans to determine what further interim arrangements may need to be put in place to manage flood risk before the proposed schemes are completed; and
- Review where there are additions required to the list of local flood schemes included in the national flood risk management plan and any additions required to the lists of actions in local flood risk management plans; and
- After hearing feedback from the local community about their experiences and opinions on how to avert or mitigate future flooding, identify short, medium and long-term actions for the communities that have been affected and Alyth in particular; and
- Report back as early as possible with the result of these reviews and with the identified actions for Alyth and other areas to a future meeting of this Committee.

Councillor G Laing asked if the following recommendations could be incorporated into the motion:

Officers to:

- Review the Out of Hours Emergency Service as a matter of urgency.
- Include winter and other weather events in future Policy and Level of Service reports.

Councillors C Stewart and M Barnacle agreed to incorporate Councillor Laing's recommendations into their motion.

**Resolved:**

The Committee:

- Notes the extreme adverse rainfall and flooding of 11 and 12 August, and the devastating effect this had in many local areas across Perth & Kinross, particularly in Alyth, Kinross, Dunning and Perth; and
- Recognizes the efforts of Council and Tayside Contracts staff to assist householders, businesses and communities to deal with flooding and its immediate effects; and

- Commends communities across Perth & Kinross for the community spirit they showed and for their efforts to assist neighbours to prevent properties being flooded and to clean up afterwards; and
- Notes with concern the anxiety caused by severe weather warnings in communities that have previously experienced flooding, particularly in Alyth following the major flood of 2015 and the near miss of February 2020; and
- Notes that work has commenced on the preparation of the second cycle of flood risk management strategies and local flood risk management plans due to be published in December 2021 and June 2022 respectively.

and thus requests officers to:

- Review the existing flood schemes and local flood risk management plans to determine what further interim arrangements may need to be put in place to manage flood risk before the proposed schemes are completed; and
- Review where there are additions required to the list of local flood schemes included in the national flood risk management plan and any additions required to the lists of actions in local flood risk management plans; and
- After hearing feedback from the local community about their experiences and opinions on how to avert or mitigate future flooding, identify short, medium and long-term actions for the communities that have been affected and Alyth in particular; and
- Report back as early as possible with the result of these reviews and with the identified actions for Alyth and other areas to a future meeting of this Committee.
- Review the Out of Hours Emergency Service as a matter of urgency.
- Include winter and other weather events in future Policy and Level of Service reports.

## **5. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minute of the meeting of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee of 22 January 2020 (Arts 15-29) was submitted and approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

## **6. UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS**

The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) gave a verbal update on the activities undertaken throughout the Covid-19 pandemic by the Housing and Environment Service. She thanked all staff for their efforts and dedication throughout this time and showed appreciation to those who had been re-tasked into different services. This update also included the continued work in areas such as Flood Prevention Schemes, Outdoor Access, Greenspace, North Inch Golf Course, Garden Waste and Bereavement Services.

B Renton and B Cargill answered members questions.

## **7. COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGE FUND UPDATE**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (20/132) (1) seeking approval to amend the 'match funding' criteria with regard to making applications to the fund; and (2) providing a update on the award of Community Environment Challenge Funding to community groups between April 2019

and March 2020 (including the CEC Funding which was ring-fenced to use for the Solheim Cup Communities Fund in 2019/20).

**Resolved:**

- (i) Contents of Report 20/132 and Appendices to report 20/132, be noted.
- (ii) The additional criteria proposed for 2020/21 as set out at section 2.2. of report 20/132, be approved.

## **8. POLICY AND LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR WINTER 2020/21**

There was submitted a report by Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (20/133) recommending the level of service to be approved by the Council for the gritting and snow clearing of roads and footways in Perth and Kinross during the winter of 2020/2021 using plant and labour resources of Tayside Contracts and other Council Services.

**Resolved:**

- (i) It be noted that the budget is set at £3,715m, subject to any changes made by Council as part of the revenue budget review in September 2020.
- (ii) The delivery of the winter maintenance service as outlined in report 20/133, be approved.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Housing and Environment) be authorised to make arrangements outwith the policy and level of service in exceptional conditions such as snow emergencies.

## **9. CITY OF PERTH WINTER FESTIVAL**

There was submitted a report by Head of Planning and Development (20/134) outlining the 2019/20 City of Perth Winter Festival and its estimated impacts.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The approach to the development of the Perth Winter Festival in 2019/20 and its performance, be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that as a consequence of the Covid-19 crisis, Senior Officers took the decision using emergency powers that the Perth Winter Festival would not take place in 2020/21.

## **10. AMENDMENTS TO THE LIST OF PUBLIC ROADS**

There was submitted a report by Head of Planning and Development (20/135) recommending that the List if Public Roads be updated to take account of the amendments detailed in this report.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The List of Public Roads as detailed in Appendix 1 to report 20/135, be approved.
- (ii) It be agreed that future updates to the List of Public Roads will not be submitted to Committee, but the information will still be shared with Elected Members.

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****Environment & Infrastructure Committee****28 October 2020****PERTH AND KINROSS FOOD GROWING STRATEGY CONSULTATION DRAFT****Report by Executive Director (Housing & Environment) (Report No. 20/197)**

This report seeks approval for the Perth & Kinross Food Growing Strategy Consultative Draft 'Growing Together'. When finalised, the strategy would meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and contribute to the Scottish Government's vision to be a 'Good Food Nation' by 2025.

**1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 This Food Growing Strategy Consultation Draft responds to the Scottish Government's vision to increase the health and wellbeing of Scotland's communities by encouraging more people to grow, and eat, fruit and vegetables. Their vision for a 'Good Food Nation' is that, by 2025, people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day.
- 1.2 Growing food helps reconnect people with the place their food comes from, to meet others within their community, and to develop new skills. Community growing also contributes to increasing biodiversity, tackling climate change and food poverty by improving access to high quality, local produce that is grown and distributed in a sustainable manner.
- 1.3 Both the physical and mental health benefits of growing food help build resilience within communities which has been especially important in the current coronavirus crisis. The demand for allotments saw a significant increase nationwide (State of the Market Survey 2020, APSE) during the lock down period. Having access to fresh, affordable food as well as an outdoor space to relax and exercise in became more important for many.
- 1.4 Perth & Kinross Council does not manage any allotments directly but leases land to allotment associations who also use private land. The Council has supported the establishment of around 20 community gardens, allotments and orchards, as well as assisted communities to set up and manage allotments in Letham, Tulloch, Crieff, Kinross and Auchterarder.
- 1.5 The Council now has a statutory duty under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, to publish a Food Growing Strategy that identifies potentially suitable land for allotments and other food growing areas. Local authorities are also required to create and manage a waiting list for allotments which are owned or leased by them and make reasonable steps to accommodate local demand for growing spaces. The strategy will advocate partnership working between the Council and communities, underpinning the Perth & Kinross Offer. It would also support the implementation of the

Council's Planning Policy 14: Open Space Retention and Provision in the Local Development Plan 2. This encourages opportunities for the provision of community growing spaces and allotments as part of new developments.

- 1.6 There are several groups and organisations in Perth and Kinross, including the Council, that have an interest in food growing and have been working to establish and improve food growing spaces and expertise. The approach to developing and delivering this new strategy will be based on collaboration with these groups as part of the development of the Perth and Kinross Offer. The aim will be to promote what is currently available, help create new opportunities and support those who want to grow their own food.
- 1.7 A stakeholder survey was undertaken in October 2019 which had over 200 responses and indicated increasing interest and demand for growing. Over the past year, we have continued discussions with community groups and visited allotments and community gardens to better understand their needs and aspirations. We also reached out to organisations (e.g. NHS, local schools, Perthshire Organic Gardeners) to explore how they could get involved and support the strategy through offering space for food growing or sharing expertise with others.
- 1.8 The Food Growing Strategy, once finalised, would provide a more joined up approach, facilitate closer partnership working and better use of resources, in order to deliver more support for stakeholders and new food growing spaces. This consultation draft sets out the Council's current thinking and offers the opportunity for those already involved, as well as those who want to be involved in the future, with food growing to contribute to ensuring the final strategy is fit for purpose.
- 1.9 Furthermore, the strategy will assist in meeting the Council's objectives in relation to health and wellbeing, sustainability and education/skills development. It would also contribute to increasing biodiversity and climate change mitigation. The strategy will also ensure that Perth and Kinross is on track to deliver the 'Good Food Nation'.
- 1.10 This consultative draft has been developed to allow for further engagement with growing groups to ensure the strategy, when it is finalised, is fit for purpose.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1. The proposed consultative draft strategy includes the following components:
  - Background – setting the context and how this strategy links to other initiatives such as Zero Waste Perth and the Food Share Network, the range of food growing areas and the benefits of food growing.
  - A vision and 5 key objectives to achieve it. The vision being: "Creating opportunities for people to grow their own fruit and vegetables across Perth and Kinross to promote healthy, sociable and sustainable lifestyles".

- The current food growing position - identifying and mapping existing food growing opportunities and gaps where we know there is unmet demand.
  - Identification of barriers which currently prevent more individuals and groups growing their own food and suggestions on how these can be overcome. This will include: setting up an allotment waiting list; supporting communities to develop the skills to grow their own food and make healthy lifestyle choices; and identifying potential future growing spaces.
  - Draft Action Plan – sets out how the Council and partners will deliver the objectives. It identifies opportunities for skills and information sharing with an emphasis on increasing opportunities in the most deprived areas of Perth and Kinross. Further engagement will allow for the development of these proposals and formations of partnerships to ensure the final action plan is deliverable.
- 2.2. It is proposed that the Council publishes the consultation draft (Appendix 1) and invites feedback from existing growing groups, potential partners and communities to inform the final strategy. Further strategy development will be dependent on available resources either within the Council or from external sources. The overall approach has the Perth and Kinross Offer at its heart, as well as linking to related initiatives and areas of work such as the Food Waste Strategy, biodiversity villages and Open Space Strategy.
- ### **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 3.1. The Perth and Kinross Food Growing Strategy Consultative Draft sets out the Council's proposed approach to meeting the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- 3.2. Feedback from the consultation will inform the final proposed Food Growing Strategy and ensure a coordinated approach to managing the demand for, and benefits of, food growing opportunities in a fair and equitable way within Perth and Kinross.
- 3.3. The final strategy will assist in meeting the Council's objectives in relation to health and wellbeing, sustainability and education/ skills development. It will also assist in identifying where growing spaces could be delivered as part of new developments. This will help to deliver the Scottish Government's vision for a 'Good Food Nation' by 2025.
- 3.4. Following the consultation, resources will be required for the coordination and production of the final strategy as well as the delivery of the agreed action plan. As such, links to other complementary areas of work and opportunities for external funding will be explored. This will allow delivery of the action plan covering a wide range of food growing opportunities to ensure that people who would like to, and do, grow their own food can have the opportunity to do so. Support for community groups and individuals will be needed along with skills and information sharing, with an emphasis on the most deprived areas of Perth and Kinross. This will contribute to the Perth and Kinross Offer.

3.5. It is recommended that the Environment and Infrastructure Committee:

- (i) approves the Perth and Kinross Food Growing Strategy consultation draft (Appendix 1)..
- (ii) requests that a further report is brought back following the consultation outlining the strategy development along with resource requirements and the action plan.

**Authors**

| Name           | Designation                            | Contact Details  |
|----------------|--|--|
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| Peter Marshall | Planning & Housing Strategy Manager    |  |

**Approved**

| Name           | Designation                                | Date            |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| Barbara Renton | Executive Director (Housing & Environment) | 19 October 2020 |

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

| <b>Strategic Implications</b>                       |     |
|---|-----|
| Community Plan                                      | Yes |
| Corporate Plan                                      | Yes |
| <b>Resource Implications</b>                        |     |
| Financial   | Yes |
| Workforce   | Yes |
| Asset Management (land, property, IST)              | Yes |
| <b>Assessments</b>                                  |     |
| Equality Impact Assessment                          | Yes |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment                  | No  |
| Sustainability (community, economic, environmental) | Yes |
| Legal and Governance                                | Yes |
| Risk  | Yes |
| <b>Consultation</b>                                 |     |
| Internal  | Yes |
| External  | Yes |
| <b>Communication</b>                                |     |
| Communications Plan                                 | Yes |

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan

- 1.1 The draft Food Growing Strategy relates to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan in terms of contributing to the following priorities:
- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
  - (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
  - (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
  - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The draft Food Growing Strategy relates to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities by contributing to the delivery of:
- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
  - (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
  - (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
  - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Capital

- 2.1 Subject to the outcome of the consultation on the draft strategy, a capital funding bid may be required in future to allow the Council to acquire and develop sites to meet demand for food growing spaces.

### Revenue

- 2.2 Subject to the outcome of the consultation on the draft strategy, future revenue funding is likely to be required to ensure the Council meets its obligations to develop and manage sites and waiting lists for food growing spaces.

### Workforce

- 2.3 There will be a requirement for officer time to manage the development and implementation of the final Food Growing Strategy and action plan. This will include:

- Working with allotment associations to create and manage a waiting list for PKC leased sites
- Organising and facilitating further discussions with groups and organisations involved with food growing , in order to establish partnerships.
- Analysing feedback from the consultation and developing the draft strategy further to be ready for adoption
- Exploring funding streams / grants for the delivery of new growing spaces
- Acting as the main point of contact within PKC for community food growing

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.4 The Council will be required to secure land to meet the demand for food growing either through new development or acquisition.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 The draft Food Growing Strategy was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and were assessed as relevant and the following positive outcomes are expected following implementation.
- 3.3 The draft Food Growing Strategy aims to provide support for community groups and individuals as well as identify opportunities for skills and information sharing with an emphasis on the most deprived areas of Perth and Kinross.

## Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.4 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.
- 3.5 The matters presented in this report were considered and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

## Sustainability

- 3.6 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 the Council also has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:
  - in the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
  - in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programmes; and in a way that it considers most sustainable.
- 3.7 The draft Food Growing Strategy aims to encourage locally grown community food production on suitable areas of land. This will encourage more healthy living, a reduction in food miles and make good use of available land.

## Legal and Governance

- 3.8 Implementation of the draft Food Growing Strategy may require the acquisition of land and development of management rules for public food growing opportunities. The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted on the policy presented within this report.

## Risk

- 3.9 There is a risk that the Council may not be able to meet its statutory duties under the Act if it is unable to meet the demand for food growing opportunities.

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

- 4.1 Head of Legal and Governance, the Head of Finance, and the Head of Planning & Development have been consulted during the preparation of the draft Food Growing Strategy.

## External

- 4.2 The results of the online survey for the draft Food Growing Strategy are available on demand. The consultation on the draft strategy will involve inviting feedback from the general public as well as key partners. Potential partners will also be invited to an online workshop to help shape the strategy's action plan and discuss how it could be delivered through collaboration with the Council

## **5. Communication**

- 5.1 The Food Growing Strategy Consultative Draft will be made available for stakeholders to comment on. The draft incorporates key questions to help fill gaps in existing knowledge. It will be posted on the Council website and invitations to comment will be issued through social media and sent to known stakeholders, including growing groups and those who responded to the October 2019 survey.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers, as defined by section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

## **3. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Food Growing Strategy Consultation Draft.

# Food Growing Strategy - Appendix 1

## Growing Together

Creating opportunities for people to grow their own fruit and vegetables across Perth and Kinross to promote healthy, sociable and sustainable lifestyles.



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**Figure 1 Potager Garden (Kinross)**

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# 1. Introduction

This draft strategy responds to the Government's vision to increase the health and wellbeing of Scotland's communities by encouraging more people to grow and eat fruit and vegetables. Growing food together allows people to meet and work with others in their community; develop food growing knowledge and skills and lead healthier lifestyles. Community growing also plays a role in improving biodiversity, tackling Climate Change and food poverty by improving access to high quality local produce that is grown and distributed in a sustainable manner.

Over the past months, the coronavirus crisis put the above benefits in a new perspective. Demand for allotments across the country soared, with more and more people looking for a way to access affordable, fresh food and an outdoor space to relax and exercise. Communities stepped up to support their vulnerable members and showed a collective spirit in these challenging times.

In Perth and Kinross, community groups have long been leading the way in providing opportunities for people to become involved in food growing. There are several well established allotment associations and community gardens in the area. Developing this strategy provides an opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved so far, identify problems and barriers and identify measures to improve the current situation.

The Council is well-placed to support this aim by helping to identify land for additional growing spaces and explore other types of support that would encourage more people of all ages and abilities to get involved. However, we cannot do this on our own. Local groups, businesses and individuals - some of whom are already involved with food growing – can help us find solutions suitable for their town or neighbourhood.

This consultative draft provides an opportunity for you to comment, get involved and help develop a food growing strategy that addresses the key issues. Whether it is sharing your enthusiasm, knowledge or championing a new growing project, we believe that everyone has something to offer!



## 2. Background

The Scottish Government's Good Food Nation policy tackles an incredibly complex topic and seeks to transform the food system as a whole. This strategy focuses on encouraging community growing which is a key part of this transformation. By engaging the public throughout the process, it will also contribute to promoting the benefits of healthy and sustainable food choices. The pie chart below highlights other important goals that Perth and Kinross Council and others can work towards in order to achieve the Good Food Nation vision.

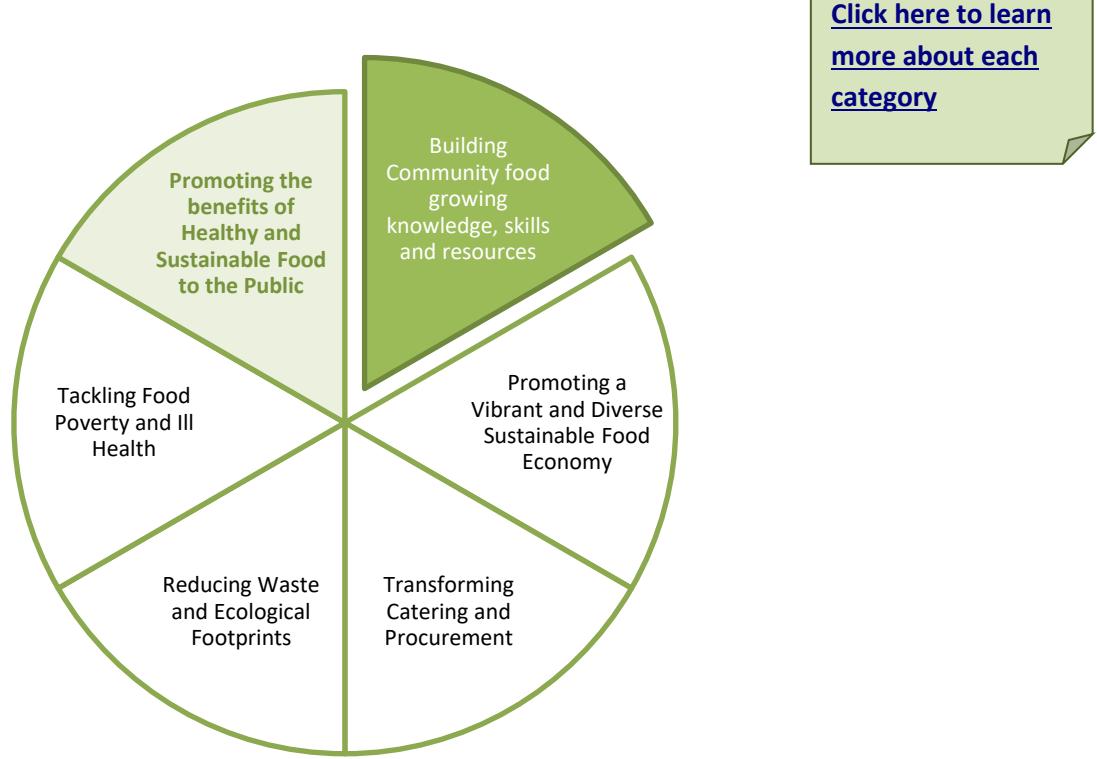


Figure 2: The [Sustainable Food Cities](#) approach shown above identifies six key areas that should be considered in relation to sustainable food production

The following initiatives within Perth & Kinross tie in with the Food Growing Strategy and play a part in delivering the Good Food Nation vision:

- Food Share Network initiative by Zero Waste Perth ← food waste, food poverty
- Community Cookit by NHS Tayside ← skills development, healthy food
- Climate Change Action Plan by PKC ← land use, procurement
- Westbank Nursery, Perth ← education, skills development, innovation
- LEADER programme ← rural business, funding
- Community, Third & Private Sector initiatives such as [Neighbourfood](#), [Broke not Broken](#) and [Giraffe](#) ← local produce, food poverty, distribution, training



Are you aware of or involved in any other relevant project?

### 3. Vision and Objectives

The main purpose of this strategy is to help ensure that more people will want to grow their own food and can do so.

#### Vision Statement:

"People across Perth and Kinross will have more opportunities and will be better skilled at growing their own food, thereby leading healthier, more sociable and sustainable lives"



Do you agree with  
the proposed vision  
& objectives?

A number of **key objectives** have been developed to help deliver the vision:

1. Develop a better understanding of the existing community growing provision in Perth and Kinross, including the demand for, and the barriers to, food growing.
2. Create and maintain an allotment waiting list to gauge the demand for growing space across Perth and Kinross.
3. Identify potentially suitable land for additional community growing spaces in order to improve the current provision, especially in communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.
4. Work with partners across Perth and Kinross to help overcome identified barriers including delivering new growing spaces and support activities such as training and sharing knowledge and skills.
5. Raise awareness of the benefits of food growing, encourage more people to become involved and support the establishment of new growing groups.

Delivering the Strategy's vision and objectives will result in a range of positive outcomes, including environmental, social and economic benefits.

| Benefits of community growing   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Environmental   | Social  | Economic   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduces waste and food miles by promoting local produce</li><li>• Contributes to biodiversity, green infrastructure, and mitigating/adapting to climate change</li><li>• Improves soil and air quality</li><li>• Promotes sustainable food production</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improves access to healthy and affordable food</li><li>• Through regular exercise and contact with others, it improves physical and mental well-being</li><li>• Promotes community empowerment</li><li>• Develops skills, knowledge and social networks; provides opportunities for outdoor education</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contributes to creating a healthy and resilient communities</li><li>• Helps groups raise funds by selling produce and promotes the local economy</li></ul> |

# 4. Types of Community Growing

## Food Growing Areas and their Definition

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Allotments</b>                                   | <p>Allotments are defined in Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) <i>Owned or leased by a local authority, and</i></li><li>(b) <i>Leased or intended for lease by a person from the authority, and</i></li><li>(c) <i>Used or intended for use-</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) <i>Wholly or mainly for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit, herbs or flowers and</i></li><li>(ii) <i>Otherwise than with a view to making a profit.</i></li></ul></li></ul> |
|   | <p>Allotment plot holders are required to enter a contract for the lease of a plot and have responsibility for using and maintaining their plot, including any structures such as tool storage, compost bins or shelters.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>Note:</b> Perth and Kinross Council does not manage any allotments but leases land to Allotment Associations. Some Allotment Associations use private land, not owned by the Authority.</p>  |
| <b>Community Gardens &amp; Fields</b>               | <p>Normally created by community groups wishing to grow their own food. They are often managed and used more communally than allotments. All community garden models are different and can have many different purposes that extend further than just growing fruit and vegetables - for example, education and training, upgrading underused/vacant and derelict land or community building and recreation.</p>   |
| <b>Community Orchards &amp; Woodlands</b>           | <p>Orchards and woodlands are shared resources, managed and often owned by local residents. Besides food production, they can contribute to improving and creating habitats and build resilience against urbanisation and climate change impacts. Orchards are normally identified as areas where there is a minimum of 5 fruit trees.</p>   |
| <b>Urban Farms</b>                                  | <p>Urban farms can be located within or around the edge of settlements and are similar to community gardens and fields. Urban agriculture however assumes a level of commerce where the produce is normally sold.</p>  |
| <b>Institutional /Organisational growing spaces</b> | <p>Growing spaces which belong to institutions or organisation. These are not normally open for the general public and serve a specific purpose beyond growing food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schools → teaching and skills building</li><li>• Care homes &amp; hospital → rehabilitation and exercise</li><li>• Social enterprises/businesses → income generation</li></ul>  |
| <b>Edible hedges, Herb and vegetable boxes</b>      | <p>Community groups and individuals can seek permission from landowners to pursue less formal growing activities such as growing in civic areas and underused spaces using planters /raised beds and creating edible hedges and boundaries.</p>  |
| <b>Home Growing</b>                                 | <p>Garden share schemes are arrangements between private householders and match those with surplus space with those who need growing space. Other forms of home growing such as individual gardening and growing in window may be less social but still have many health and environmental benefits.</p>   |

## 5. Food Growing in Perth and Kinross

The following sections set out what we know about the existing food growing provision in the Council area, what issues we face and where we would like to get to by implementing this strategy. For this, we drew on our experience and past work and fact-finding meetings with growing groups as well as the results of the stakeholder survey conducted during October 2019. The survey ran for 3 weeks and received 201 responses from a wide variety of stakeholders.

### 5.1 Where are we now?

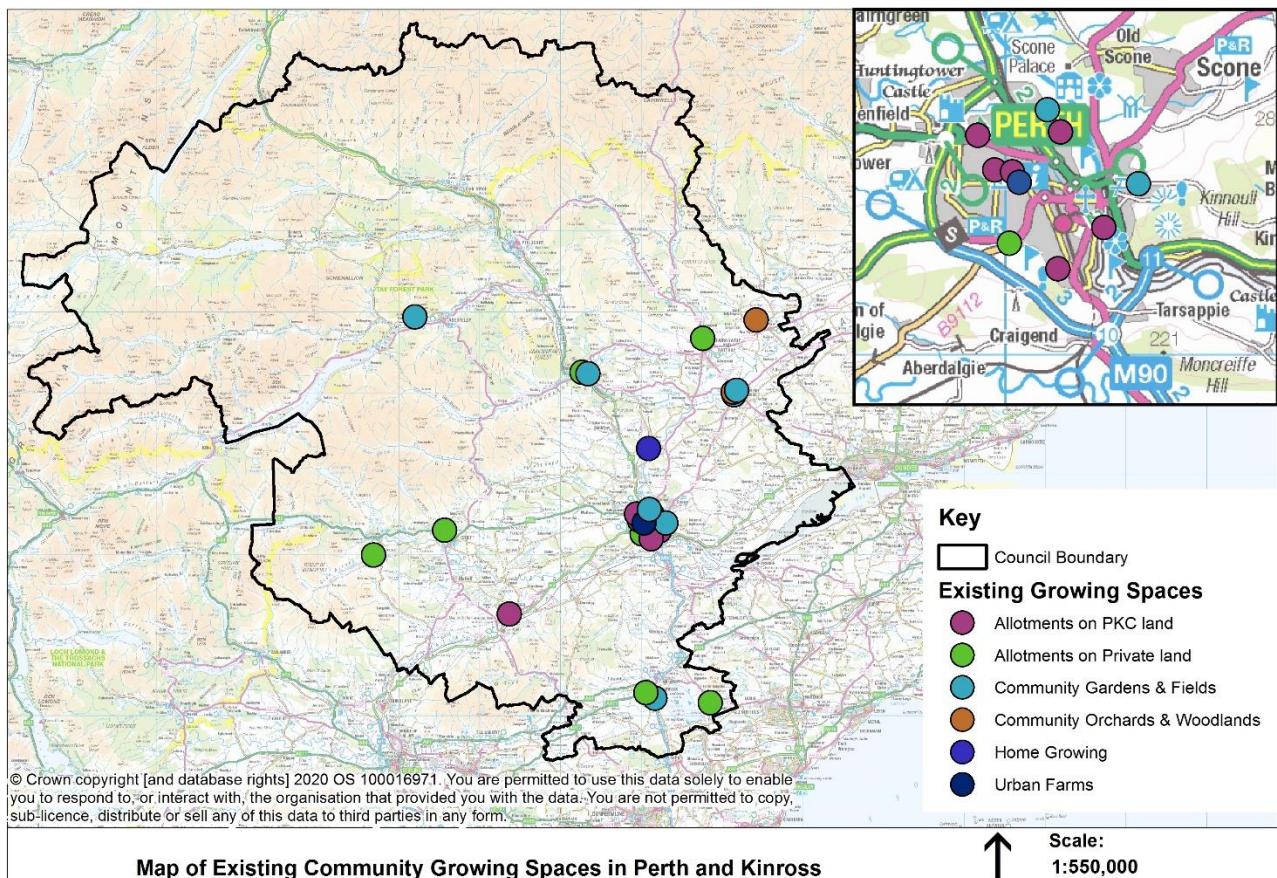
We have a record of **30 existing growing spaces across** Perth and Kinross, all managed by community groups through leases/agreements with landowners:

- 13 Allotments (6 on council land and 7 on private land)
- 8 Community Gardens & Fields
- 2 Community Orchards and Woodlands
- 1 Urban Farms
- 5 Institutional Growing Spaces
- 1 Garden Share Scheme



**Do you know any other community growing space, not listed on our website?**

Visit <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/growingspaces> for a detailed map of existing growing areas and information on existing growing groups.



There are several **inspirational initiatives across Perth and Kinross** that provide space, advice, opportunities for skills development and other types of support to those who would like to grow their own food and vegetables. **Some of them are...**



[Perth Community Farm](#) is a one of a kind project with the aim of feeding the city with organic produce. They are proud to be an inclusive growing space and regularly host school groups to teach children about food growing.

[Neighbourfood](#) is a simple platform where even the smallest producers get the chance to sell their produce. A new pick-up point has recently opened in the Carse of Gowrie.



[Giraffe](#) helps trainees with mental health issues, learning disabilities and autism toward independence through working in a professional kitchen. They also have a growing space and often host events around zero waste and local produce.

Moncrieffe Allotments have been providing people the opportunity to grow fruits and vegetables since 1896. Go along to their summer open day to see how they do it!



[Broke not Broken](#) in Kinross includes a foodbank, a gardening project and also offers cookery courses focusing on healthy and budget meals.



[Tombreck Farm](#) in Highland Perthshire aspires to form a community around regenerative agriculture and organic farming.

## 5.2 Demand – What we know so far?

76% of those who responded to the stakeholder survey already grow their own vegetables, fruit or herbs but 66% would like to grow more than they do currently. Although the emphasis is on food growing, flowers are also grown to increase numbers of insect pollinators and, in some cases to sell cut flowers. 61 respondents suggested that they would like to join an allotment waiting list and 51 people thought that there is interest within their community to form a growing group.

Responses to the survey were received from across the Council area with almost half of the comments coming from post codes where residents are most likely to experience socio-economic challenges (based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).

In terms of access, a desktop mapping exercise identified that 40% of households in Perth and Kinross live within an ideal walking distance (15 mins / 1200m) from an existing community growing space. 34% of residents who live in flats have poor access to community growing areas. The same applies to 25% of residents who live in areas which are most likely to experience socio-economic challenges.

Based on the accessibility of existing facilities, the known demand for growing spaces and discussions with local groups, we identified some of the **settlements and neighbourhoods where there is a need for new community growing opportunities**:

- **Pitlochry** – There are no established community growing areas in Pitlochry; Pitlochry Community Council advised that 15+ residents had previously expressed an interest in having an allotment.
- **Perth** – Largest population and percentage of residents living in flats; opportunities to join up with schools and build on existing growing initiatives
  - North Muirton – potential for a new growing space managed by PKC's REACH team
  - Letham – potential Food Share Network pilot in this area
  - Westbank (Jeanfield Road) – potential for expanding training and food growing activities by using the entire site



Figure 3 Part of the site at Westbank (Perth) is occupied by vegetable beds, polytunnels and sheds

- **Scone** – There are no established community growing areas in Scone; 7 individuals registered with the Community Council, showing interest in a potential project; Perth Community Farm is also interested to expand in this area. Finding suitable available ground has been the limiting factor to date.
- **Alyth** – Alyth Climate Café suggested that there is local demand for an additional growing area to provide alternative to the existing allotment site which is oversubscribed
- **Coupar Angus** – Opportunity to consolidate current efforts on a larger site and potentially manage it as a community farm
- **Rural Perthshire** – Several residents showed interest in the strategy from rural areas where there are no existing growing opportunities. While it may not be feasible to form an allotment in some of these places, alternatives could be explored that allow for community growing.

This list is not exhaustive, we are **keen to hear from other community groups who are interested in starting a new growing project**. Respond to the consultation and tell us about your aspirations!



**Is your community not on the list? Let us know if there is demand for additional growing spaces.**



**Figure 4 One of the small growing sites in Coupar Angus**

## 5.3 Allotment Waiting List

The Community Empowerment (2015) Act requires Local Authorities to maintain and manage a waiting list for allotment sites they own. The purpose of the central waiting list is to allow for an overview of the overall demand for plots and for a fair and transparent process for distributing spaces. Where the waiting list exceeds 50% of the available plots, the Council is required to take reasonable steps to increase the food growing provision.

Perth and Kinross Council own **6** allotment sites which are leased to and managed by Associations. Allotment Associations currently maintain their own waiting lists.

| Allotment land                                    | Allotment Association                  | Number plots/half plots  | £ per plot/half          | Waiting list (January 2020)                        |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| Moncrieffe Island, Perth                          | Perth Working Men's Garden Association | 60/12  | £45/£22.50 (£22.50 OAPs) | 30 (Perth/Scone residents only)<br>3 yrs + waiting |
| Old Tulloch Bowling Green, Tulloch Terrace, Perth | North Perth Allotment Association      | 14   | Unknown                  | Small  |
| Kingswell Terrace, Letham                         | Letham Climate Challenge               | 5/5<br>3 raised beds (schools)<br>community fruit & polytunnel | £56/£35                  | small  |
| Kinloch Terrace, Letham                           | Letham Climate Challenge               | 2/2<br>community orchard                                       | £40/£25                  | None   |
| Glengarry Road, Perth                             | South Perth Community Partnership      | 54<br>+ 20 raised beds   | £45/£25                  | 0-5  |
| Behind St Margaret's Hospital, Auchterarder       | Auchterarder Allotment Association     | 3/14 + 2 starter plots   | £65/£45                  | Yes  |

It is proposed that the Council and the six Allotment Associations listed above collaborate to establish a new waiting list system which works best for all parties involved and satisfies the requirements of the Act:

- Work with Allotment Associations and explore the possibility of a new waiting list system that meets the requirements of the Act
- Ensure that those currently waiting for an allotment are transferred to any new system
- Advertise the waiting list on the Council's website
- Highlight alternative opportunities to those waiting for allotment plots e.g. joining a community garden, getting involved with garden sharing



**Need more volunteers?  
We can direct interest  
people to your  
gardening project.**

## 5.4 Barriers & Ideas

The barriers to more people growing and ideas on how to overcome them shown below have been identified through responses from the consultative survey.

Most survey respondents requested **advice on what and how to grow; and how to harvest, preserve and store food**. This reflects the fact that most comments came from individuals with access to private gardens. **55 respondents thought that finding a suitable growing space is a barrier**. Advice on larders, distribution and funding was requested from several growing groups and organisations.

Several respondents provided examples and suggestions on how food growing could be encouraged. Besides taking steps to make land available for community growing, advice and knowledge sharing was regularly mentioned. In some cases, resources such as access to volunteers and funding were the main barriers for groups to expand their existing activities.

### This is what you've asked for! Example suggestions from the food growing strategy survey.

The full report on the survey findings are available at: <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/foodgrowingstrategy>

#### Help with finding and accessing space for community growing

- A list of potential sites for food growing and details on ownership, contamination etc.
- Encourage garden sharing
- Repurpose leftover and underused open spaces owned by the Council

#### Advice & Knowledge Sharing

- Better advice on the community right to buy process and establishing community growing projects (lease, agreements etc.)
- Advice on indoor growing; powering growing spaces and sourcing materials
- Highlight good practice examples that others can learn from

#### Resources

- More volunteers for established groups/ schools
- Funding for various purposes (e.g. seeds, compost)

#### Other

- Connect farmers and landowners who are interested in developing regenerative agriculture
- Link sustainability projects together (e.g. composting and reducing waste)

## 5.5 Overcoming Barriers

The Council would ideally, subject to resources being available, work with communities and other partners to overcome barriers to more people being involved with growing food. We will focus on providing advice, information and hands on support wherever possible to help groups at various stages of their journey.

For **anybody who wants to start up community growing space**, the first step is to work within their community and find like-minded people. Where only a few people are interested in food growing, a garden share scheme may be the best option. Where there is considerable demand a community garden or allotment may be required. The Council can help advise on how to set up an allotment association and find potential new growing spaces.

The Council is also committed to support **groups who are already established** and help them grow, diversify and overcome challenges. This could be focused on knowledge sharing and providing advice on common issues such as funding or acquiring land. Signposting groups to each other and forming a network where experience and knowledge can be shared is also considered important.



## Useful Contacts

- [allotments@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@pkc.gov.uk) (Food Growing Strategy working group) – queries about this strategy and generic enquiries
- [developmentplan@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:developmentplan@pkc.gov.uk) (Development Planning team) – planning permission, land opportunities
- Community Planning - advice on getting established as a community group, advice on the community right to buy process and funding
- [communitygreenspace@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:communitygreenspace@pkc.gov.uk) (Community Greenspace team) – access to Council maintained open spaces

**Section 6** sets out what actions we are planning to take forward in order to improve the support available to those interested in community food growing.

## 5.6 Potential New Growing Spaces

Local Authorities are required to identify potentially suitable land for allotments and community growing areas where there is proven demand. The initial stakeholder survey indicated demand for additional space in Perth and Kinross (see section 5.2). Waiting lists for some existing allotments are long and some growing groups operate on land that does not meet their requirements. There are different ways for delivering additional growing spaces:

### ➤ Within new developments

The Local Development Plan states that new developments should incorporate allotments where there is a proven demand in the local area. Providing other community growing spaces through the planning process is also encouraged. By identifying areas where there is a shortfall of growing spaces and a proven public demand, the Food Growing Strategy will provide the basis for fulfilling this requirement for future development proposals. This approach is being trialled at Bertha Park which will include a larger scale community growing space.

### ➤ On Council owned land

Repurposing appropriate publicly owned amenity green spaces, parks and vacant & derelict land is another solution to providing new growing areas, the latter being supported by those who responded to the stakeholder survey. Council ground has already successfully been repurposed for allotments in Letham, Tulloch and Craigie. Local consultation would be required prior to any sites being repurposed.

The Council are intending to undertake an **Open Space Audit** that will provide a holistic overview of the provision of public and private green spaces across the Council area and highlight sites which could be repurposed for food growing. The map of Council maintained open spaces is available at:  
<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/18659/Map-of-maintained-open-spaces>



**Get in touch if you are interested in initiating a growing project on a Council maintained open space**

### ➤ On private land

Landowners may agree for their land to be used formally, or informally, as a community growing area. The temporary use of sites for community growing is supported by the Council and can allow for flexibility and/or testing project ideas. In order to guarantee the long-term security of the project however, it is recommended that arrangements are formalised with the owner (e.g. through a lease). Groups should contact the Council at the outset in order to confirm that the site is not contaminated and establish whether planning permission would be required.

### ➤ Garden sharing

Garden sharing can be initiated by anyone, whether they own a garden that they cannot maintain, or are looking for a space to grow fruits and vegetables. Your community or the Council may be able to help start garden sharing networks.

Through the survey, we received some suggestions for specific sites that could accommodate new growing spaces. In order to ensure that these are suitable for food growing and there are no significant barriers to their delivery, **the Council will assess each site** based on criteria such as land use, ownership, size and physical aspects.



**Do you know of a site  
that could be suitable  
for community  
growing?**



**Figure 5 Photo from Crieff Allotments**

## 6. Draft Action Plan

### What are we planning to do?

The table below includes examples of actions that the Council, communities and other partners could take forward in order to deliver the strategy objectives.



What other actions would you like to see?

Be a delivery partner and let us know how you can help!

|     | <b>Proposed Actions</b>   | <b>Objectives</b> | <b>Potential Stakeholders</b>                                |
|-----|---|-------------------|--|
| 1.  | Further consultation with existing growing groups (site visits and workshop) to explore barriers and opportunities  | 1                 | PKC, existing growing groups                                 |
| 2.  | Establish facility(s) and opportunities for new groups to learn about food (and flower) growing, preserving & storage (e.g. mentoring programmes)   | 4                 | PKC, experienced growers, colleges, schools, community cafes |
| 3.  | Extend the learning and growing space at Westbank Nursery in Perth  | 3,4 & 5           | PKC, Westbank Nursery & Perth Community Farm                 |
| 4.  | Promote available Council support for existing and new growing groups.  | 5                 | PKC  |
| 5.  | Improve PKC website to act as a 'one stop shop' for community growers. Signpost users to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Groups looking for volunteers</li> <li>▪ Training opportunities and resources on growing &amp; using produce</li> <li>▪ Planning advice</li> <li>▪ Funding advice</li> <li>▪ Best practice examples</li> </ul> | 4 & 5             | PKC; existing growing groups                                 |
| 6.  | Carry out an open space audit and identify underused open spaces which could be suitable for food growing.  | 3                 | PKC (planning & community greenspace)                        |
| 7.  | Develop a Food Share Network and help growing groups reduce their food waste (support potential pilots in Letham & Kinloch Rannoch)   | 4                 | PKC (waste services) and pilot participants                  |
| 8.  | Work with residents and support the establishment of community allotment/growing groups.  | 5                 | PKC, communities   |
| 9.  | Assist PKC REACH team to find a suitable growing site that allows them to extend their growing project with young people  | 3 & 4             | PKC  |
| 10. | Help establish garden sharing schemes where required  | 5                 | PKC, communities   |
| 11. | Incorporate any potential allotment site, identified by the Food Growing Strategy, into the next revision/update of the Local Development Plan and any development brief work   | 4                 | PKC (Planning)   |

|     |  |            |                                       |
|-----|--|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 12. | Work with partners to investigate land opportunities and explore ways of delivering new growing spaces within areas where there is demand /shortfall.                        | 4          | PKC, land owners, growing groups      |
| 13. | Carry out an assessment of suggested sites for food growing.   | 4          | PKC                                   |
| 14. | Explore opportunities for promotional work to encourage more people to grow, through media, schools and community councils   | 5          | PKC, schools, NHS, community councils |
| 15. | Establish and maintain an online allotment waiting list that is transparent and accessible giving everyone the same opportunity to request an allotment in Perth and Kinross | 2          | PKC                                   |
| 16. | Update the Allotment Regulations in line with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 duties and community engagement with the Allotment Association.                  | -          | PKC                                   |
| 17. | Annual review of allotment provision & potential sites and size of waiting list in line with duties of the Act   | monitoring | PKC                                   |

## 7. What happens next?

The sections above explained what the Food Growing Strategy is, what it is trying to achieve; and the draft action plan set out what we are planning to do in order to encourage food growing in Perth and Kinross. Now, it is your turn to give us feedback and let us know your views on the approach we have taken!

The engagement on the draft will run from *4th November* until *16<sup>th</sup> December*. The finalised document will be adopted by the Council.

### 7.1 How to comment on the draft strategy?

**Fill in the questionnaire on (*link to be provided*) to answer the following:**

1. Are you aware of or involved in any other relevant project that the strategy should link to?  
*(See page 4)*
2. Do you agree with the proposed vision & objectives? *(See page 5)*
3. We identified some settlements / neighbourhoods with a shortfall in community growing spaces. Are there other areas with demand for new growing opportunities which are missing from the list? *(See page 9-10)*
4. Do you know of sites which may be suitable for food growing? *(See page 15)*
5. Did we choose the right priority actions? If not, can you suggest additional key actions?  
*(See page 16)*
6. Can you be a delivery partner, or can you suggest key partners?

## Come along to our online workshop!

We are organising online workshops for groups and organisation who are involved or would like to be involved in community food growing. The workshop will be an opportunity to meet like-minded people and share ideas, while feeding into the Food Growing Strategy. To register your interest, email us on [allotments@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@pkc.gov.uk)

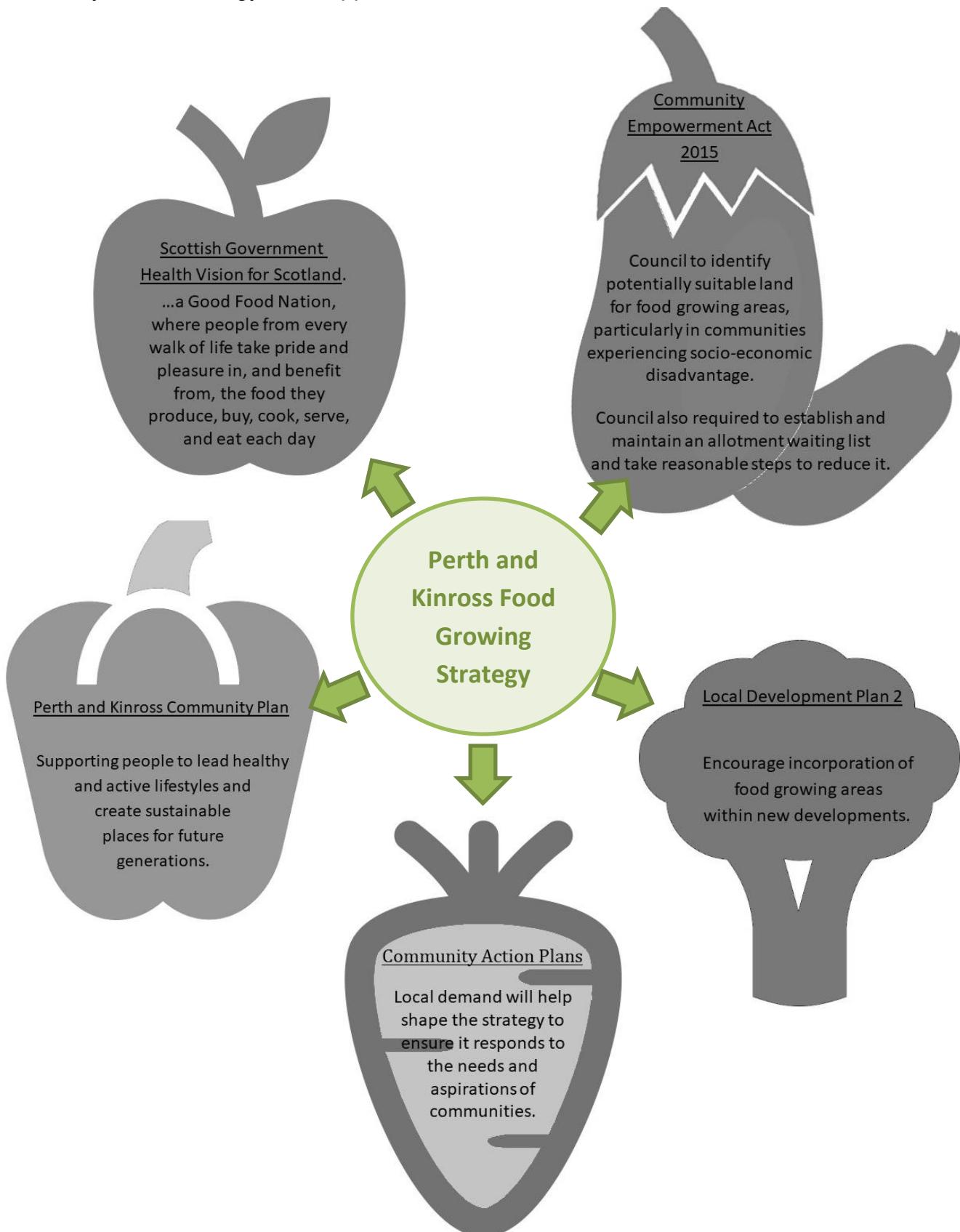
## Monitoring & Review

Once adopted, the strategy will be reviewed and updated every five years. Annual monitoring of the demand for allotments will be undertaken as part of managing the allotment waiting list and updates will be provided on progress in implementing the action plan.



# Appendix 1: Policy context

The Food Growing Strategy is not a standalone document, it is strongly related to other local and national level strategies, plans and legislation which seek to create healthier, greener and more sustainable places. The collaborative approach we aim to take with partners in the development and delivery of this strategy also supports the aims of the Perth & Kinross Offer.



## **Appendix 2: Site Assessments**

Proposed methodology for site assessments (Appendix C):

<https://eastdunbarton.gov.uk/council/consultations/consultation-archive/have-your-say-our-draft-food-growing-strategy>

## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

### Environment & Infrastructure Committee

28 October 2020

### WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010-2025 - PROGRESS REPORT

#### Report by Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (Report No. 20/198)

This report provides an update on progress with the action plan of the Perth and Kinross Council Waste Management Plan. The report recommends approval of the new actions 102-103 (shown in Appendix 1B) which are in line with recent national regulatory and strategic developments.

#### 1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 In November 2010, the Environment Committee approved the Perth and Kinross Waste Management Plan 2010-2025 (Report No.10/597 refers). The Waste Management Plan was developed to work towards delivering Scotland's Zero Waste Plan targets at a local level:
  - recycling 70% of all waste by 2025
  - a ban on biodegradable waste going to landfill. The implementation date of the ban was previously 2021 but has now been postponed until 2025.
  - no more than 5% of waste going to landfill by 2025.
- 1.2 The aim of the Council's Waste Management Plan is to map out a way forward for the Council in terms of:
  - achieving the national recycling and composting rates at local level;
  - developing initiatives to control waste arisings and waste growth;
  - determining the strategy for the procurement of residual waste treatment;
  - determining the future financial implications for waste management in Perth and Kinross; and
  - promoting the circular economy where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible.
- 1.3 Annual progress reports to Committee have provided a full update on all the original actions, as well as new actions. These had been developed considering the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and other national strategy or regulatory changes. The updates are:
  - June 2013 ([Report 13/267 refers](#))
  - September 2014 ([Report 14/364 refers](#))
  - November 2015 ([Report 15/532 refers](#))
  - November 2016 ([Report 16/491 refers](#))
  - November 2017 ([Report 17/367 refers](#))
  - November 2018 ([Report 18/362 refers](#))
  - October 2019 ([Report 19/310 refers](#))

- 1.4 This report provides the eighth annual update on progress with the action plan. If an action was completed and previously reported (and there is no further update) reference should be made to earlier progress reports for more information. Of the 101 previously agreed actions, 93 have been achieved (92%).
- 1.5 These actions have contributed to improving performance in the following areas:
- in terms of waste minimisation, over the last 10 years, the average levels of general waste collected weekly from households in Perth & Kinross has decreased by 45%. In September 2019, this was 4.49kg per household, compared to March 2013 when it was 8.3kg per household.
  - the household recycling and composting rate was 52.7% for 2019. At the time of writing, the waste data for Scotland has not been published so no benchmarking data is currently available.
  - our equivalent 2018 carbon emissions are 140,239 TCO2e (source: SEPA). These emissions have decreased from 209, 000 TCO2e in 2011 - a reduction of 33%.
- 1.6 In addition, the Council continues to maintain a high Local Environmental Audit & Management Scheme (LEAMS) score with 91.6% of streets found to be at an acceptable standard in 2019/20, a decrease of 6.1% on the previous year. LEAMS results were slightly below the national average (92.2%) but above the benchmarking group of (91.4%). The data will be used to inform ongoing discussions around locality planning and contribute to the development of the Perth and Kinross Offer.
- 1.7 Key Waste Management Plan actions which have been achieved in the last year include:
- roll out and completion of the Perth City Centre Containerisation project in 2019, moving residents from sacks to utilising bin hubs (Report 18/271 refers) (Action 54);
  - working with our consortium partners, Beautiful Perth and Perth College to deliver Year 3 of Zero Waste Perth and completion of the project (Action 91). The campaign, which was funded until June 2020, included a branded Zero Waste Perth campaign and a large programme of community outreach activities aligned to the following themes – food waste prevention, reuse and repair, recycling promotion, resource efficiency and circular economy opportunities. A key highlight from Year 3 included the research and development of the Food Share Network, working in conjunction with Letham4All to introduce a community larder.
  - co-creating the Eating Well, Living Well project with communities, community food organisations, Fareshare and other food suppliers, to design a quality surplus food redistribution network in Perth and Kinross, known as the Food Share Network. Appendix 2 contains an executive summary of the final report that was completed in March 2020 with recommendations for developing a Food Share Network. Following this there has been a swift mobilisation and response from all organisations during COVID who provided food and essential items as part of the welfare

response. This has led to the development of key supply chain relationships, encouraged partnership working and ultimately the establishment of the Food Share Network being accelerated (Action 99).

- investigating a procurement route for Residual Waste Treatment and the development of a procurement strategy for a long-term solution for Residual Waste Treatment (Action 100).

1.8 Since the Waste Management Plan was originally published, the policy landscape has developed significantly. The new actions in this report and previous reports are informed by the following Scottish Government policies, programmes and strategies:

- Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2010)
- Waste (Scotland) Regulations (2012)
- Safeguarding Scotland's Resources (Scottish Government, 2013)
- Towards a Litter Free Scotland (Scottish Government, 2014)
- 'Making Things Last – A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland' (Scottish Government, 2016)
- Zero Waste Scotland's Programme Plan (2016-17)
- Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2018
- Climate Change Plan, Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032 (RPP3) (Scottish Government, 2018)
- Good Food Nation Programme of Measures (Scottish Government, 2018)
- Food Waste Reduction Action Plan (Scottish Government, 2019)
- A Deposit Return Scheme for Scotland Full Business Case Stage 1 (Scottish Government, 2019)
- The Deposit and Return for Scotland Regulations 2020 (Accompanying Statement & Regulations)

1.9 These policies aim to deliver key national ambitions, such as supporting a circular economy (where materials are valued as a resource and dependence on raw materials is reduced), improving recycling performance, transforming attitudes to food waste, and reducing the impacts of litter and fly-tipping.

1.10 In the last year, progress has been made on the introduction of the Deposit Return Scheme for Scotland (DRS). The DRS was approved by the Scottish Parliament on May 13, 2020 and has now passed into law. More information and FAQs is available at [www.depositreturn.scot](http://www.depositreturn.scot).

1.11 In summary, the industry led scheme will see a 20p deposit placed on all single use beverage containers made of PET plastic, cans and glass and refunded when returned for recycling. From 1 July 2022, the scheme will be operational, with the first ambitious targets of 70% capture requiring to be achieved by 2023.

1.12 The return to retail model will see all retailers who sell drinks being required to accept returned containers either over the counter, through reverse-vending machines or through takeback for online delivery customers. Retailers can apply for an exemption and dialogue is taking place regarding local authority

environmental health officers assisting with processing exemption applications. Non-retail spaces could also act as return locations and this includes recycling centres and schools operated by local authorities, as well as community hubs.

- 1.13 The Scottish Government has stated it will work with local authorities and future Deposit Return Scheme administrator(s) to unlock reprocessing investments, including pricing and incentive schemes, to create jobs and a ready supply of recycled material for new packaging. This will have implications for future recycling contracts procured by the Council.
- 1.14 The Deposit Return Scheme will influence the planning for the implementation of the Household Recycling Charter and associated Code of Practice (Report No 16/140 refers). A Charter compliant system includes a general waste bin and a twin stream recycling service – one container for paper and card and another for plastic, cans and cartons (to replace current mixed dry mixed recycling – blue bin). The mix of materials included within a fourth kerbside bin will be influenced by the final design of the Deposit Return Scheme. The Scottish Government have committed to working with COSLA in the coming year to evaluate the Household Recycling Charter and its Code of Practice as a key step in developing a future model of recycling collections. A consultation on the new Code of Practice (CoP) is anticipated in March 2021 and the Council will provide a response to this.
- 1.15 The Deposit Return scheme is a form of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). EPR is a financial or physical responsibility on producers for post consumption products with the aim of reducing waste, conserving resources and encouraging better product design. In addition to the DRS, the current UK Packaging Producer Responsibility System is being reformed and a second stage consultation is due in Spring 2021, with final scheme design being finalised thereafter. This is significant from a local authority perspective as the full net costs of collection and disposal of in-scope packaging materials incurred by local authorities may be recovered through the EPR scheme for packaging. Perth & Kinross Council have been invited to take part in a cost modelling exercise to exemplify costs incurred by rural and inaccessible authority areas in Scotland. This data will inform the consultation and final scheme design.
- 1.16 The Scottish Government's 'Programme for Government' (September 2020) highlighted that poor quality recycling and contamination are linked to confusion about how best to recycle and it needs to be made easier for people to do the right thing. This can be achieved by ensuring clearer information and labelling; promoting more consistent collection services; and providing stronger incentives for recycling. The Scottish Government will, therefore, establish a £70 million fund to improve local authority collection infrastructure and develop a new route map to reduce waste and meet the waste and recycling targets for 2025. The Fund, which is anticipated to launch in April 2021, will make available £50 million to local authorities in the first 3 years and £10 million in year 4 and 5. Waste Services will explore what opportunities there are for funding infrastructure for Perth & Kinross that will help us achieve our ambitions within our Waste Management Plan and

potentially support the roll-out of a Charter compliant system, including the twin stream recycling service. The response to Scottish Government funding initiatives will also need to take into account the current workload of the team, along with any further actions required to address future responses to address COVID 19 guidance.

- 1.17 This year some of the actions in the Waste Management Plan were paused due to COVID and new activities were undertaken in response to the pandemic. This included contingency planning for essential refuse collection services and developing closing and re-opening strategies for household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) and public toilets.
- 1.18 These activities contributed to ensuring we continued to provided kerbside services to all households in Perth & Kinross and commercial customers requiring service— 100% of the routes completed equalling 100,000 collections each week. We also continued to administer the Garden Waste Permits scheme and the income target was met for this.
- 1.19 In addition, in response to concerns around incidents of fly-tipping, street sweeping crews gathered evidence, and we sent advisory/warning letters and issued Fixed Penalty Notices. Finally, a COVID Fly-Tipping Fund was established to support private landowners with prevention and clear-up activities. Further work will continue on litter and fly-tipping as part of the on-going WMP actions.
- 1.20 Key actions in the plan placed on hold due to this work included the asset management review of waste & recycling infrastructure, improving performance at HWRCs and developing a Single Use Policy for the Council. These will all be progressed as part of the Council's recovery and renewal phase. It will also need to take into account any move back into dealing with COVID response.
- 1.21 Finally, at a national level, it has been recognised that reducing Scotland's consumption of goods and materials is a crucial part of a green recovery and that the circular economy will be key to enabling us to meet our environmental, economic and social ambitions within a wellbeing economy. Therefore, delivering actions in the Waste Management Plan which focus on waste prevention, reuse and repair and which also contribute social value to residents and communities will be critical going forward. They will also assist with delivering on net zero carbon ambitions.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 The Council is contributing to the national ambitions and targets, as well as local outcomes, by delivering the actions within Appendix1. Key actions, which will be progressed in the next year, are:
  - continue to plan services to ensure they align with the revised Household Waste and Recycling Charter and associated Code of Practice. This will include exploring the feasibility of using the Scottish Government Local

- Authority Collection Infrastructure Fund to roll-out a twin-stream recycling service (Action 78).
- rollout of the new Litter Management System (LMS) in Perth & Kinross to align with the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2018 (Action 95).
- implement Phase 2 of the Smart Waste Project which includes the implementation of in-cab technology. In-cab technology utilises hardware and software within the waste collection vehicle, enables a more efficient and sustainable logistics model of operation and improves communications with customers. It will also introduce Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) which will allow us to monitor recycling centre usage patterns to prevent commercial misuse and explore online payment options for Recycling Centre Permits. (Action 97).

2.2 The report also seeks approval of the new Actions 102-103 of the Waste Management Action Plan set out in Appendix 1B which are:

- roll-out of recycling provision in Perth City Centre (Action 102).
- develop further reuse and repair opportunities focusing on textiles (school uniform), furniture, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and bikes (Action 103).

The delivery of these actions will be dependent on any future actions required to deliver the response to Government direction and guidance in relation to COVID 19.

### **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 This report provides an update on progress with the action plan of the Perth and Kinross Council Waste Management Plan. These elements provide a firm foundation from which the Council, residents and businesses can assist in achieving the targets relating to recycling and composting, along with a reduction of non-recyclable waste.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
- endorses the annual update on progress on the Waste Management Action Plan.
  - understands that the ability to address the Action Plan will be dependent on any response required to deal with COVID 19
  - notes that the Council will engage with Scottish Government, COSLA and the Waste Management Officers Network (WMON) and contribute to national consultations, discussions on new policy areas and explore funding opportunities
  - approves the new actions (number 102 -103) of the Waste Management Action Plan set out in Appendix 1B.
  - requests the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) to bring back a further progress report in November 2021.

**Author**

| Name        | Designation                      | Contact Details  |
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| Sheila Best | Waste Services Manager (Interim) | <a href="mailto:HECommittee Reports@pkc.gov.uk">HECommittee Reports@pkc.gov.uk</a><br>01738 475000 |

**Approved**

| Name           | Designation                                | Date            |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| Barbara Renton | Executive Director (Housing & Environment) | 19 October 2020 |

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## ANNEX

### 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

| <b>Strategic Implications</b>                       | <b>Yes / None</b> |
|---|-------------------|
| Community Plan                                      | Yes               |
| Corporate Plan                                      | Yes               |
| <b>Resource Implications</b>                        |                   |
| Financial   | Yes               |
| Workforce   | Yes               |
| Asset Management (land, property, IST)              | Yes               |
| <b>Assessments</b>                                  |                   |
| Equality Impact Assessment                          | Yes               |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment                  | Yes               |
| Sustainability (community, economic, environmental) | Yes               |
| Legal and Governance                                | None              |
| Risk  | None              |
| <b>Consultation</b>                                 |                   |
| Internal  | Yes               |
| External  | Yes               |
| <b>Communication</b>                                |                   |
| Communications Plan                                 | Yes               |

#### 1. Strategic Implications

##### Community Plan

- 1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan and delivery of the key priority of creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations by reducing environmental impact of our consumption and production by managing municipal waste and increasing recycling and composting rates.

##### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The Council's Corporate Plan lays out five outcome focussed strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resource allocation. These are as follows:
- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
  - (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
  - (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
  - (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, health and active lives; and
  - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.
- 1.3 This report contributes to objective (i) & (v).

## **2. Resource Implications**

### Financial

- 2.1 The cost of implementing the actions detailed in the Waste Management Action Plan will be prioritised from the approved Waste Services Revenue and Capital Budget. The Eating Well, Living Well Project has a recurring budget of £50,000 which is augmented with a 2019/20 carried forward budget of £50,000 and Community Food Initiative budget of £50,000 making the available funding £150,000 in 2020/21.
- 2.2 The extent of funding received, as well as applied for and pending, over the last six years, totals over £900,000 in external funding.

### Workforce

- 2.3 The Smart Waste Project has a funded (ERDF) Smart Waste Systems Officer, recruited to deliver the projects. A Recycling Performance Officer was recruited in September 2020 to assist with the delivery of Action 26.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.4 The proposals in this report have implications for ICT. ICT form part of relevant project boards to ensure full consultation and input to specific projects.
- 2.5 The Asset Management Review will consider options for all waste and recycling infrastructure including the 9 Household Waste & Recycling Centres, 4 transfer stations and associated depots.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups.
- 3.2 Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allow the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.3 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in the Perth and Kinross Waste Management Plan 2010-2025 report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcomes:
  - assessed as relevant and the following positive outcomes have been investigated / implemented with updates provided in Appendix 1
  - investigate feasibility of collecting reusable materials at Recycling Centres for resale and redistribution in the local area in conjunction with local charity and reuse organisations. This potentially could benefit people on

- low incomes including students, long-term sick, retirees, homeless families, migrant workers setting up home etc.
- provision of further Recycling Points to enable residents to recycle glass and other materials locally
- investigate the use of clear plastic sacks for the collection of dry mixed recyclate for assisted lift customers and those in city centre locations

#### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.4 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.
- 3.5 The Perth and Kinross Council Waste Management Plan was modified by the SEA process with the following main themes incorporated into the plan:
- promoting the SEA objectives by utilising the objectives when developing assessment criteria for the residual waste treatment procurement exercise
  - assumed mitigation through meeting modern regulatory standards and ensuring operator competency
  - provide education and awareness to reassure residents about impacts of any waste management facilities that may be used in the future by PKC. By providing up-to-date, relevant and researched information to residents would allow them to make informed opinions
- 3.6 A post adoption statement, outlining how the plan incorporated the results of the Environmental Report, the responses received from the Consultation Authorities and other consultation responses, was prepared and submitted to the SEA Gateway once the Plan had been approved by the Council.
- 3.7 The post adoption statement contained information on how we would monitor the environmental effects of the Plan and the mitigation and enhancements proposed.

#### Sustainability

- 3.8 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council must discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.
- 3.9 The actions contained within the Waste Management Plan are subject to both internal and external monitoring such as Scotland's Resource Sector Commitment and funding criteria and governance procedures related to external funding requirements.

#### Legal and Governance

- 3.10 The Head of Legal and Governance and the Head of Finance have been consulted on the content of this report.

## Risk

- 3.11 Risks associated with individual actions are identified and managed accordingly through project implementation.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

### Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Legal and Governance and the Head of Finance have been consulted on the content of this report. Individual actions are consulted upon with relevant internal stakeholders.

### External

- 4.2 Individual actions are consulted upon with relevant external stakeholders.

## **5. COMMUNICATION**

- 5.1 The Waste Services Team engages in proactive communication with all known stakeholders for the delivery of domestic and commercial waste and recycling services.
- 5.2 Stakeholders may include elected members, focus group candidates, online communities, internal colleagues, external partner organisations and charitable groups, social housing providers and community organisations, geographic communities of interest and service users. Communications plans are created for all significant campaigns and projects to identify the timeline for delivery.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 2.1 The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report; (list papers concerned).
- report to the Environment Committee in November 2010 entitled Perth and Kinross Council Waste Management Plan 2010-2025 (Report Number 10/597)
  - report to the Environment Committee in June 2013 entitled Waste Management Plan 2010- 2025 Progress Report (Report Number 13/267)
  - report to Environment Committee in August 2013 entitled Containerisation of Waste in Perth City Centre (Report number 13/418)
  - report to the Environment Committee in September 2014 entitled Waste Management Plan 2010- 2025 Progress Report (Report Number 14/364)
  - report to the Environment Committee in June 2015 entitled Evaluation Report of the Improved Recycling Service Trial (Report Number 15/243)
  - report to Environment Committee in November 2015 entitled Waste management Plan 2010-2025 – progress Report (Report Number 15/532)

- report to Environment Committee in January 2016 entitled Perth and Kinross Zero Waste Communities (Report number 16/12)
- report to Environment Committee in March 2016 entitled Household Waste and Recycling Charter (Report number 16/140)
- report to Environment Committee in June 2016 entitled Introduction of a Trade Waste Permit System at Council Recycling Centres (Report Number 16/240)
- report to Environment Committee in September 2016 entitled Update on Perth and Kinross Council's Volunteer and Community Advocate Programme - Zero Waste Highland Perthshire (Report Number 16/372)
- report to Environment Committee in September 2016 entitled Household Waste and Recycling Public Satisfaction Survey (Report Number 16/371)
- report to Environment Committee in November 2016 entitled Waste Management Plan 2010-2025 - Progress Report (Report Number 16/491)
- report to the Environment, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee in September 2017 entitled Zero Waste Update (Report Number 17/276)
- report to Environment, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee in November 2017 entitled Waste Management Plan 2010-2025 - Progress Report (Report Number 17/377)
- report to Environment & Infrastructure Committee on September 2018 entitled Perth City Centre Containerisation (Report Number 18/271)
- report to Environment & Infrastructure Committee on November 2018 entitled Waste management Plan 2010-2025 – Progress Report (Report Number 18/362)
- report to Environment & Infrastructure Committee on October 2019 entitled Waste management Plan 2010-2025 – Progress Report October 2019 (Report Number 19/310)
- Protecting Scotland, Renewing Scotland: The Government's Programme for Scotland 2020-2021 (Scottish Government, September 2020)

### **3. APPENDICES**

- 3.1 Appendix 1 - Perth and Kinross Waste Management Plan Action Plan – Update on Progress/New Actions.
- 3.2 Appendix 2 – Executive Summary for the Food Share Network.

## APPENDIX 1

Part 1 outlines the Action Plan to support the delivery of Perth and Kinross Council's Waste Management Plan 2010 – 2025. The last two columns indicate respectively whether the action has been achieved (Yes or No) together with an update on progress. Part 2 comprises new actions which are a continuation of the original actions in Part 1 and which are in line with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and other recent national strategy developments. The Action Plan is a list of key activities which excludes recurring work activities.

In the table below:

- **Short term** means within 1 year
- **Medium term** means within 3 years
- **Long term** means more than 3 years
- **Ongoing** means existing action set to continue

Priority was scored taking into account landfill diversion, resource implications and statutory requirements.

If an action was completed and reported last year and there is no further update, it has been removed from the table and reference should be made to earlier progress reports for more information.

| No.                                   | Action  | Timescale | Priority | Achieved<br>Y / N | Progress   |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Waste Composition and Arisings</b> |   |           |          |                   |  |
| 5                                     | Perth and Kinross Council to carry out annual waste composition analysis of household waste arisings. | Ongoing   | Low      | Y                 | <p>The Waste Analysis programme included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household residual waste analysis carried out in March 2020 from areas of the New Household Waste &amp; Recycling Service (Tulloch, Crieff &amp; Auchterarder).</li> <li>• Average percentage of material in the residual waste that could be recycled or composted through the kerbside collection was 39.17% a decrease on the previous year.</li> <li>• Kitchen/food waste is still the biggest single component found in the bin (31.61%)</li> <li>• Nearly a quarter of the residual waste bin is avoidable food waste (24.45%)</li> <li>• 10% of the residual bin was recyclable glass</li> <li>• All together the recyclable content (kerbside and Recycling Centres/Points) of</li> </ul> |

| No.                              | Action  | Timescale   | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress   |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------|----------|----------------|--|
|                                  |   |             |          |                | <p>the residual waste bin was 57.82%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A communications campaign is being run focussing on promoting the food waste recycling service.</li> <li>• This will be an ongoing action in future years and will only be reported if any significant changes in the data.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Recycling and Composting</b>  |   |             |          |                |  |
| 26                               | Set a target of reusing, recycling/composting 80% of source segregated Recycling Centre waste by 2013.                                    | Medium term | Low      | Partial        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Recycling rate at Recycling Centres for 2019/20 was 71.7%. This is an increase of 2% on the previous year. In order to work towards increasing the recycling rate we are undertaking the following proposals:</li> <li>• Identifying further opportunities to increase the range of materials collected including carpet recycling (Action 24)</li> <li>• Developing a Communications Campaign to raise awareness of the range of materials that can be collected for recycling and reuse at Recycling Centres.</li> <li>• A Recycling Centre Performance Officer, as agreed through the 2019 Revenue Budget setting process, has been recruited and will take forward these actions</li> <li>• ERDF Funding support has been secured to implement Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and will enable a policy review based on returned data.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Residual Waste Management</b> |   |             |          |                |  |
| 31                               | Target promotion and enforcement of Council policies on presentation of waste and recycling bins in areas identified as requiring action. | Ongoing     | Low      | Y              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication and support campaigns are scheduled to promote Waste &amp; Recycling Bin Policy and tackle kerbside contamination, following a relaxation of the policy due to COVID.</li> </ul>  |

| No.                        | Action                                   | Timescale | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress  |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|----------|----------------|---|
|                            |  |           |          |                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will be an ongoing action in future years.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Non-municipal Waste</b> |  |           |          |                |   |
| 54                         | Roll out of City Centre Containerisation | Long-Term | Low      | Y              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perth City Centre Waste Containerisation proposal was approved at Environment &amp; Infrastructure Committee on 5 September 2018</li> <li>The project, which included 43 bin hubs, was rolled out and monitored in Autumn 2019 and additional hubs were added to Rose Terrace and Stormont Street in Autumn 2020.</li> </ul> |

Part 2 comprises new actions which are a continuation of the original actions in Part 1 and which are in line with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012. The Action Plan is a list of key activities which excludes recurring work activities.

In the table below:

- **Short term** means within 1 year
- **Medium term** means within 3 years
- **Long term** means more than 3 years
- **Ongoing** means existing action set to continue

Priority was scored taking into account landfill diversion, resource implications and statutory requirements.

If an action was completed and reported last year and there is no further update, it has been removed from the table and reference should be made to earlier progress reports for more information.

| No.                             | Action                                    | Timescale | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment  |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------|----------|----------------|---|
| <b>Actions Added in 2014</b>    |   |           |          |                |   |
| <b>Recycling and Composting</b> |   |           |          |                |   |
| 62                              | Route Optimisation Project Implementation | Long-term | Medium   | Y              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Route Optimisation Project aims to utilise technology and software to improve the efficiencies of our waste &amp; recycling collections.</li> <li>Review of Blairgowrie and Rattray area routes at the development stage.</li> <li>Garden &amp; Food (brown bin) routes review in progress.</li> </ul> |

| No.   | Action                 | Timescale   | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment   |
|---|------------------------|-------------|----------|----------------|--|
|   |                        |             |          |                | <p>Route changes, which incorporate existing and some planned new builds, planned to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 when the 2020/21 Garden Permit started. This has been postponed due to COVID.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future route planning will be undertaken for residual waste, recycling and garden &amp; food waste routes, considering planned future developments and new build properties.</li> <li>This will be an ongoing action in future years and no further updates provided.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Actions Added in 2015</b>                    |                        |             |          |                |  |
| <b>Waste Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b> |                        |             |          |                |  |
| 73  | Inveralmond Reuse Shop | Medium-term | High     | Partial        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Phase 2 Application to Zero Waste Scotland's Circular Economy Investment Fund by the Council's preferred operator (PUSH) to fund the development of a Reuse Shop at Inveralmond Recycling Centre was submitted in November 2018, but the application was unsuccessful as it did not fully align with the funding criteria.</li> <li>PUSH was considering the options to further develop their Reuse operations but due to COVID this has not been progressed.</li> <li>Further discussion will take place with PUSH, Community Recycling Network Scotland (CRNS) and other reuse organisations about how to promote further reuse opportunities and drive social value within Perth &amp; Kinross.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Actions Added in 2016</b>                    |                        |             |          |                |  |

| No.            | Action  | Timescale  | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment   |
|----------------|---|------------|----------|----------------|--|
| <b>General</b> |   |            |          |                |  |
| 78             | Commence Planning for Household Waste and Recycling Charter and associated Code of Practice.  | Long-term  | High     | Partial        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Code of Practice is currently under review due to the Scottish Government's plans to implement a Deposit Return Scheme for beverage containers in Scotland in 2022.</li> <li>Waste Services conducted an internal review and financial analysis in November 2019 relating to the provision of a twin-stream system. The report recommended that implementation of the twin-stream service would be progressed once greater confidence can be placed in savings from material processing costs and following the review of the Household Recycling Charter Code of Practice.</li> <li>Waste Services will continue to work closely with Zero Waste Scotland on the charter review and associated implementation planning and will respond to the consultation due in Spring 2021. We will also explore whether the Scottish Government Local Authority Collection Infrastructure Funding will support the roll-out of a Charter compliant twin-stream system for Perth &amp; Kinross.</li> </ul> |
| 79             | As part of the SMART Cities Project, pilot the use of sensors for Litter Bins and Recycling Bells and radio frequency identification tagging of commercial bins | Short-term | Low      | Y              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative style litter bins were trialled in Perth City Centre to establish if improved data accuracy could be achieved. A second type of housing will be trialled with sensors as part of SMART Waste Phase 2.</li> <li>Cost/Benefit analysis on sensors Recycling Bells showed this application of the technology did not represent best value for the Council and will not be continued,</li> </ul>  |

| No.   | Action   | Timescale   | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment   |
|---|--|-------------|----------|----------------|--|
| <b>Waste Prevention &amp; Resource Efficiency</b> |  |             |          |                |  |
| 83  | Install mini-glass recycling points as part of the new Household Waste & Recycling Service                     | Medium-term | High     | Y              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of glass points has been completed and any future roll-out will be on hold until post DRS implementation.</li> <li>Sensor technology has been installed to determine fill levels – data being used to optimise collections.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Street Sweeping &amp; Litter</b>               |  |             |          |                |  |
| 85  | Review of current approaches to litter enforcement and identify any opportunities for trialling new approaches | Short-term  | Medium   | Partial        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This has been undertaken to progress an action under the enforcement section of the Litter Action Plan (Approved at Environment Committee, 25 March 2015).</li> <li>Following a review within Parking Services consideration has been given to including litter enforcement within the remit of this role and this is being taken forward with Parking Services.</li> <li>An Enforcement Strategy, which includes actions for litter enforcement, was to be brought forward to Committee but has been put on pause due to COVID.</li> <li>During COVID, enforcement approaches were trialled for fly-tipping including detailed investigation of fly tipping incidents and the subsequent issue of Fixed Penalty Notices.</li> <li>A mobile camera to detect fly-tipping at hotspot areas is also being explored with the Community Safety Team.</li> <li>Nationally, a Litter Strategy is being developed and future planning will take account of the final plan. The Strategy will also have a separate theme of fly-tipping.</li> </ul> |

| No.                          | Action   | Timescale   | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment   |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|----------|----------------|--|
| 86                           | Investigate the use of 'Flymapper' and GIS for mapping fly-tipping incidents   | Medium-term | Medium   | Partial        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A mobile phone application has been developed for use by all street sweeping crews to enable them to log fly-tipping in the field.</li> <li>Application now being actively used by Street sweeping crew's throughout PKC. Information returned is being used to tackle offenders i.e. issue warning letters, address commercial compliance.</li> <li>Further training on the application to street sweeping and other relevant teams across the Council will be carried out.</li> <li>Work is ongoing with Zero Waste Scotland to integrate the information gathered locally with the national 'flymapper' system to enable sharing of the fly-tipping hotspots information and build a cross boundary picture of fly-tipping.</li> <li>Finally, a review of fly-tipping data has revealed the amount of household black bag and bulky waste that makes up a large proportion of recorded incidents and actions will be taken to address these issues.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Non-Municipal Waste</b>   |  |             |          |                |  |
| 88                           | Work in partnership with SEPA to undertake an enforcement initiative with businesses relating to the compliance with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 | Short-term  | Medium   | Y              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Actions Added in 2017</b> |  |             |          |                |  |
| <b>General</b>               |  |             |          |                |  |
| 89                           | Deposit Return Scheme – Extended Producer Responsibility   | Medium Term | Medium   | N              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland (DRS) was approved by the Scottish parliament on</li> </ul>  |

| No.   | Action   | Timescale   | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment  |
|---|--|-------------|----------|----------------|---|
|   |  |             |          |                | <p>May 13, 2020 and has now passed into law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRS will see people pay a 20p deposit on metal cans and PET plastic and glass bottles, refunded when they are returned for recycling</li> <li>• From 1 July 2022 the scheme will be operational, with the first ambitious targets of 70% capture requiring to be achieved by 2023.</li> <li>• The Scottish Government has stated it will work with local authorities and future Deposit Return Scheme administrator(s) to unlock reprocessing investments, including pricing and incentive schemes, to create jobs and a ready supply of recycled material for new packaging.</li> <li>• Extended Producer Responsibility forms an important part of the Scottish Governments Circular Economy vision. The 4 current schemes for Packaging, Waste Electricals (WEEE), batteries and End of Life Vehicles (ELVs) will be reviewed; along with research into including other items such as mattresses. This could lead to changes in funding for Local Authority Waste Collections. Work is ongoing but timescales may alter due to the impact of COVID.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Waste Prevention &amp; Resource Efficiency</b> |  |             |          |                |   |
| 91  | Work in conjunction with our consortium partners (Beautiful Perth and Perth College) to deliver Zero Waste Perth | Medium-term | Medium   | Y              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following successful award of the £300K to the Zero Waste Perth consortium in 2017, two coordinators were employed for the delivery of the campaign on behalf of the consortium.</li> </ul>  |

| No.                             | Action | Timescale | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment  |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----------|----------|----------------|---|
|                                 |        |           |          |                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The campaign has delivered a series of communications, engagements, events and workshops to promote behaviour change and waste minimisation within Wards 11 and 12</li> <li>Zero Waste Perth was granted an extension and concluded at the end of June 2020</li> <li>The highlights for the final year included the completion of the Zero Waste Space, a community hub within The Bike Station that can be used for repair and upskilling workshops and talks and in December 2019 a reuse Christmas Market. This was a popular craft style event that showcased many local artists, jewellers and crafts that were repurposed, upcycled or made from reusable materials</li> <li>A final evaluation report has been submitted by Zero Waste Perth and will be collated into a national report by Zero Waste Scotland and published in due course,</li> <li>The next stages of the programme are to ensure the legacy of the project continues and to integrate this into the current team workload. However, the programme was suspended at the start of the pandemic.</li> <li>Planning will recommence later in 2020 and the main areas of focus will be the Zero Waste Space, Tool lending library and keeping awareness of the Zero Waste brand in the public domain.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Recycling and Composting</b> |        |           |          |                |   |

| No.                                 | Action  | Timescale   | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment   |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|----------|----------------|--|
| 93                                  | Self-Catering Properties Recycling Project            | Medium-term | Medium   | Partial        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project will identify self-catering/holiday accommodation properties (non-domestic rates classification) and provide information on waste &amp; recycling services to ensure legal compliance.</li> <li>Customisable materials and reusable recycling bags will be offered to accommodation providers with a Council collection contract to provide to their customers to support recycling.</li> <li>To date 2 phases (of 9) has successfully been completed with 62% of properties choosing PKC to collect their waste. The remaining are fully compliant with waste contracts with alternative collectors.</li> <li>Phase 3 resulted in 15 new customers coming on board and being fully compliant with Waste Regulations. The 3rd phase was not fully completed due to COVID and it is anticipated that the project will recommence early 2021</li> </ul> |
| 94                                  | Re-introduction of Charging for Garden Waste          | Short-term  | Medium   | Y              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Street Sweeping &amp; Litter</b> |   |             |          |                |  |
| 95                                  | Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2018 | Short-term  | Medium   | Partial        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Code of Practice provides practical guidance on fulfilling duties under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to keep land free of litter and refuse and to keep roads clean.</li> <li>The revised CoPLAR was passed by Parliament in July 2018 and explains what the duties are, who is responsible, what types of land are in scope and how to zone land and roads</li> </ul>   |

| No.                          | Action   | Timescale   | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment   |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|----------|----------------|--|
|                              |  |             |          |                | <p>based on the likelihood of issues arising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actions will be taken forward to ensure compliance with the new 2018 CoPLAR guidance including taking a focus on litter prevention, a new monitoring regime and rezoning.</li> <li>ZWS have developed and tested a new Litter Monitoring System (LMS)-</li> <li>All PKC land has been zoned as per the requirements of the new system.</li> <li>The LMS is now available and will be rolled out in 2021/22. A meeting is scheduled with Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) to discuss how the system will be used by PKC.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Actions added in 2018</b> |  |             |          |                |  |
| 97                           | Smart Waste Project – Phase 2                            | Medium-term | Low      | N              | <p>Expanding on the success of the Phase 1, Phase 2 will continue to focus on using technology to design and optimise Waste &amp; Recycling Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fill level sensors will be installed on a different style litter bins, domestic communal containers and recycling points to enable expansion of reactive servicing and establish more efficient collection routes.</li> <li>Install 'in-cab' technology; which refers to the use of IT hardware and software within waste collection vehicles.</li> <li>Use Automatic Number Plate Recognition to identify abuse of domestic Recycling Centres by commercial businesses.</li> </ul> |
| 98                           | Single Use Purchasing Policy for Perth & Kinross Council | Short-term  | Low      | Partial        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In order to inform policy development a scoping exercise was carried out focussing on key single use items such as cups,</li> </ul>   |

| No. | Action | Timescale | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment   |
|-----|--------|-----------|----------|----------------|--|
|     |        |           |          |                | <p>and straws and other non-plastic items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An internal and stakeholder survey was completed which focused on the barriers and willingness to stop using single use products and replacing with reusable ones in the workplace. Overall there was a real appetite to make changes, but often these changes could not be implemented due to the nature of the work e.g. healthcare. It was also recognised that the savings would be minimal as alternatives often cost more to purchase or are more problematic to use</li> <li>From the survey it was decided to focus on promoting reusable cups.</li> <li>Several sessions have taken place with Corporate and Senior Management Teams, but the project was put on hold due to COVID.</li> <li>The pandemic has resulted in a shift away from reusable to single use so there will be an emphasis on re-promoting reusable options including reusable face coverings.</li> <li>Internal recycling systems were also reviewed and prior to lockdown a graduate was secured to undertake analysis and survey work and provided a report of recommendations.</li> <li>Our current working/office arrangements have meant that this project has been put on hold, again to be reviewed when there is a return to office working.</li> <li>The Scottish Government has also launched a public consultation on introducing market restrictions on single-use</li> </ul> |

| No.                          | Action  | Timescale   | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment  |
|------------------------------|---|-------------|----------|----------------|---|
|                              |   |             |          |                | plastic items in Scotland and an appropriate response will be prepared.   |
| <b>Actions added in 2019</b> |   |             |          |                |   |
| 99                           | Eating Well, Living Well (Food Share Network) | Medium-Term | High     | Y              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project 'Eating well, Living Well' was allocated £50,000 of recurring funding through the Council Revenue budget. The Community Food Fund was provided to scope out the establishment of a social enterprise model to assist with the re-distribution of quality surplus food around Perth &amp; Kinross.</li> <li>Research was carried out in 2019 to explore the potential to establish a Food Share Network to redistribute surplus food from food businesses to communities experiencing food insecurity. Extensive research was carried out to understand both the community demand for surplus food and the potential suppliers of the surplus food.</li> <li>Eight Focus Groups were run with community members in 7 areas across Perth and Kinross who were experiencing food insecurity. These groups explored how a Food Share Network would best support their individual communities. These groups explored opinions on various food share mechanisms including food banks, community cafés, community feasts, fridges and larders, pre-prepared meals including 'meals to go' and recipe bags, cooking classes, food share apps, and surplus food supermarkets.</li> <li>A final report was completed in March 2020 with recommendations for</li> </ul> |

| No. | Action | Timescale | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment  |
|-----|--------|-----------|----------|----------------|---|
|     |        |           |          |                | <p>developing a Food Share Network (see Appendix 2 for the Executive Summary).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a result of the lockdown in March 2020 and the welfare response required, the formation of the Network was organically accelerated.</li> <li>The Food Hub established by the Council supplied community food organisations with food and essentials supplies and funding was received from the Scottish Government through the Food Fund to support this.</li> <li>During COVID we have established relationships with key food suppliers, and this includes working with Transform in Dundee who operate the Fareshare model and they provided significant supplies of food supplies and redistributed surplus as part of the food aid response.</li> <li>Ongoing engagement with the community Food Organisations took place including virtual sessions and a facilitated workshop in July to explore the next steps for the Food Share Network.</li> <li>Next steps include setting up a governance structure for the Food Share Network, a supplier's workshop to map ongoing food supply, establishing a permanent food hub in Perth, in conjunction with Transform (Fareshare), recruiting a Community Food Co-ordinator to support the Network and to administer the PKC Community Food Fund.</li> <li>The work of the Food Share Network will now be reported under the</li> </ul> |

| No. | Action   | Timescale   | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment   |
|-----|--|-------------|----------|----------------|--|
|     |  |             |          |                | Equality, Empowerment and Fairness Workstream.   |
| 100 | Investigate the procurement vehicle for Residual Waste Treatment | Short-term  | High     | Partial        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council requires a long-term solution for residual waste once the current contract expires in 2022.</li> <li>Options for the correct procurement vehicle and for working in collaboration with other local authorities has been explored and a procurement strategy developed.</li> <li>The strategy concluded that either the Scottish Materials Brokerage Scheme or a Joint Procurement with other local authorities are the most feasible solutions and should be explored in more detail.</li> <li>Originally it was anticipated that by finalising the preferred procurement option would allow us to begin contract and tender development in early 2020 with the intention to go to market in Autumn 2020</li> <li>Planning for this paused during COVID and is now being progressed again with Scottish Government, Scotland Excel and relevant local authorities and the procurement timeline adjusted.</li> </ul> |
| 101 | Asset Management Review of Waste & Recycling Infrastructure      | Medium-term | Medium   | N              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An asset management review is being carried out which will consider Household Waste Recycling Centres, Transfer Station and Depots.</li> <li>The aim of the review is to develop a long-term strategic plan for ensuring that the infrastructure is fit for purpose, maximises performance, meets statutory requirements and provides cost effective</li> </ul>   |

| No.                          | Action   | Timescale   | Priority | Achieved Y / N | Progress / Comment   |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|----------|----------------|--|
|                              |  |             |          |                | <p>network management to provide the public with the best possible service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report will be brought to a future Committee with the findings and recommendations.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Actions added in 2020</b> |  |             |          |                |  |
| 102                          | Roll-out of recycling provision in Perth City Centre | Short-term  | Low      | N              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll-out of further opportunities for recycling in the city centre and investigate feasibility of food waste recycling collection points.</li> </ul>  |
| 103                          | Develop further reuse and repair opportunities       | Medium-term | Low      | N              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support reuse and repair organisations to develop further reuse and repair opportunities focussing on increasing diversion of furniture, textiles (school uniform), waste electrical and electronic (WEEE) items and bikes.</li> <li>• Support opportunities for repair including development of repair cafes and online events/workshops.</li> </ul> |

# Food Share Network

## Executive Summary



**Nicki Souter**  
ASSOCIATES

## Introduction

Zero Waste Perth is a consortium made up of Perth & Kinross Council, Beautiful Perth and EcoTechnic Perth College UHI funded until March 2020 by Zero Waste Scotland's Zero Waste Town Development Fund. This project is delivering a range of food waste prevention, re-use and repair, recycling, resource efficiency and circular economy activities to make North Perth Scotland's first Zero Waste City.

In 2019 as part of the project Zero Waste Perth commissioned Nicki Souter Associates to explore the potential to establish a Food Share Network to redistribute surplus food from food businesses to communities experiencing food insecurity.

Although the remit of the Zero Waste Perth project was initially limited to Wards 11 and 12, the Food Share Network element of the project was expanded to include communities across the Perth & Kinross Council area.



## Research Activities

To develop the Food Share Network extensive research was carried out to understand both the community demand for surplus food and the potential suppliers of the surplus food.

### Community Demand

- A desktop exercise to identify the range of existing surplus food share mechanisms operating in Scotland, the UK and worldwide.
- Identification of the key communities who would benefit from a Food Share Network across Perth and Kinross based on ACORN classifications 4 and 5 and identified as people who were facing food insecurity issues.
- Identification of existing community food share projects and activities in Perth and Kinross.

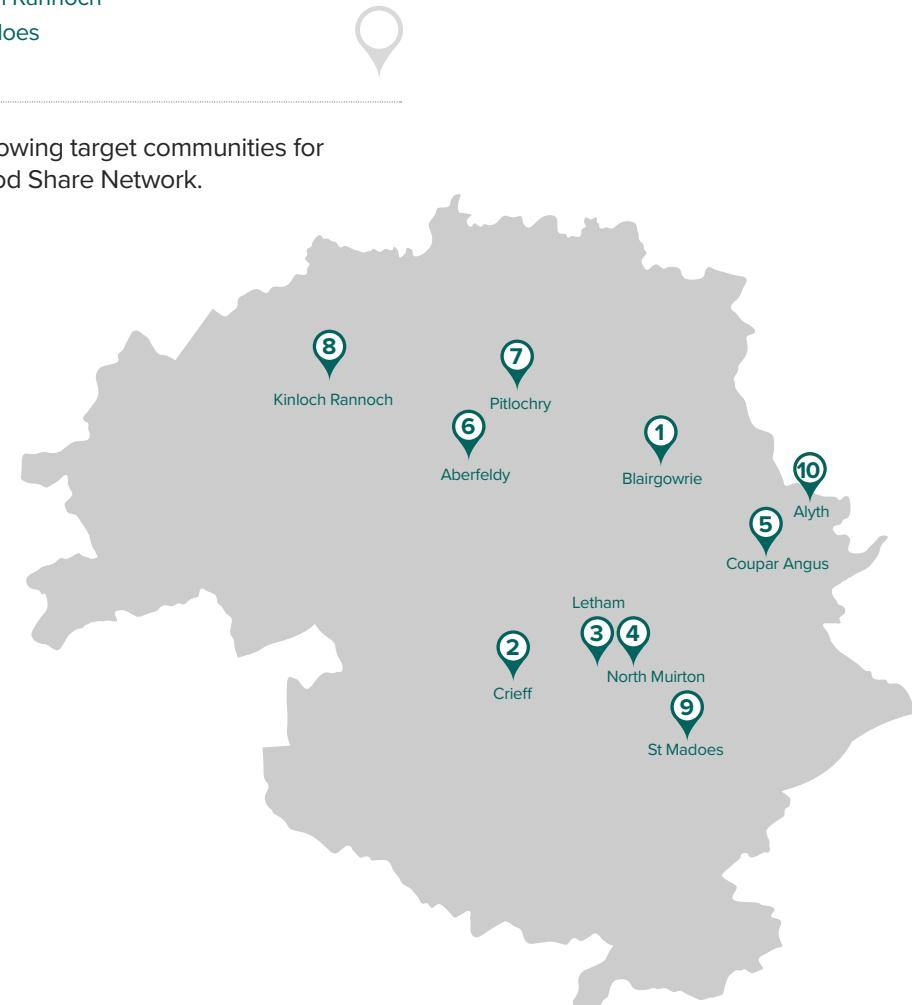
• Interviews with key stakeholders including community workers, community link workers, local social enterprises, and community groups and organisations took place in ten communities across Perth and Kinross. These were used to more fully understand how each community could benefit from the Network, and to learn about the existing food share activities taking place.

- Eight Focus Groups were run with community members in 7 areas across Perth and Kinross who were experiencing food insecurity. These groups explored how a Food Share Network would best support their individual communities. These groups explored opinions on various food share mechanisms including food banks, community cafés, community feasts, fridges and larders, pre-prepared meals including 'meals to go' and recipe bags, cooking classes, food share apps, and surplus food supermarkets.
- Visits to exemplar food sharing projects out-with Perth and Kinross.

### Key

- 1 Blairgowrie
- 2 Crieff
- 3 Letham
- 4 North Muirton
- 5 Coupar Angus
- 6 Aberfeldy
- 7 Pitlochry
- 8 Kinloch Rannoch
- 9 St Madoes
- 10 Alyth

Map showing target communities for The Food Share Network.



## **Surplus Food Supply**

Interviews were carried out with potential surplus food suppliers including redistribution organisations, wholesalers, supermarkets, producers and retailers. These were used to identify the range, types and quantities of surplus food available, the re-distribution mechanisms, existing community partnerships and the willingness to be part of the Food Share Network.

## **Funding**

25 local, regional and national funding sources for capital, revenue and core costs were identified. These could be used as part of an integrated funding strategy to support communities across Perth and Kinross to run sustainable projects as part of the Food Share Network.

In addition, Perth & Kinross Council disburse grants through two recurring annual funds; the Community Food Fund (£50,000), and Food Insecurity in Holiday Periods Fund (£50,000), with the potential to merge these into a single Community Food Fund.



## Recommendations

### Community Demand

There is a significant community demand for a Food Share Network to help tackle food insecurity. This network should seek to support and further develop existing community food share activities and projects, and help communities to set up new projects across Perth and Kinross.

### Surplus Food Supply

There are a range of existing re-distribution organisations, producers and retailers who are already redistributing surplus food to communities at both the local and national level, with the potential to increase this supply to support the development of the Food Share Network.

### The Perth and Kinross Food Share Network

The Food Share Network should be community led, and supported by Perth & Kinross Council as part of the Perth and Kinross Offer. This 'Offer' is a new way of working to ensure that public services are shaped, designed and delivered with colleagues, citizens, communities, partners and stakeholders where 'Everybody's Voice has an equal weight'.

The Perth & Kinross Council Offer to support the Food Share Network could be:

- Recruitment of a Community Food Co-ordinator
- Administration of the Community Food Fund
- Assistance with the implementation of the Funding Strategy
- Support with community funding applications
- Community Asset Transfer support
- Food safety and hygiene advice and regulation support
- Support for established and new community organisations to develop food share projects





## The Food Share Network Model

Community cafés, fridges and larders all provide a more social community focused environment, and offer a more dignified solution to food insecurity which can help to overcome stigma often associated with more traditional food sharing mechanisms, such as food banks.

Community cafés were the preferred method identified by communities across Perth and Kinross to help to address local food insecurity issues. These community spaces could provide access to affordable fresh, chilled and frozen good quality surplus food provided loose, pre-prepared for consumption in the café, or pre-prepared ‘meals to go’ or in recipe bags to be eaten and/or cooked at home. Food could be purchased at a reduced price or on a pay-as-you-feel basis.

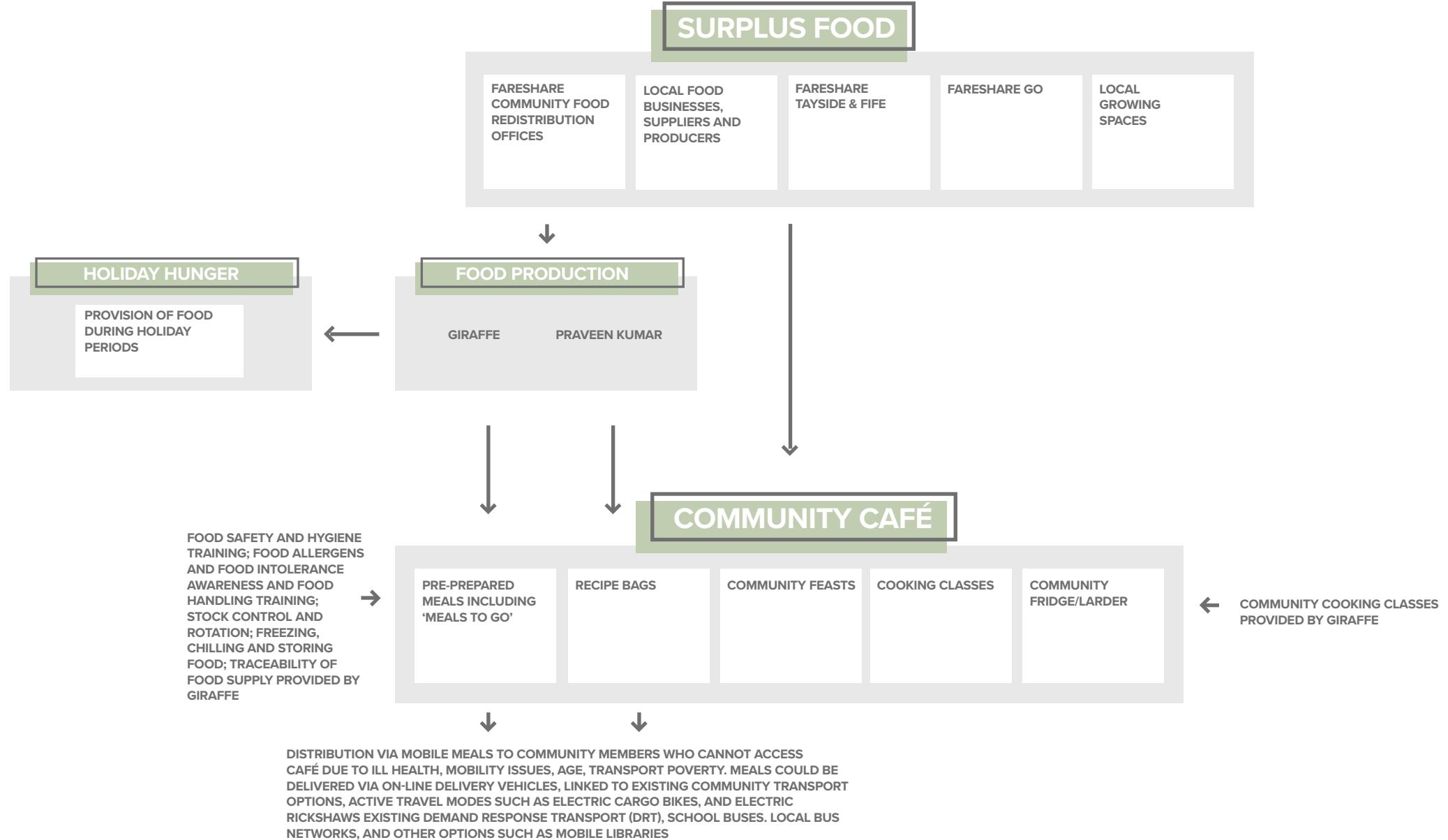
These cafés could include community fridges and/or larders which could provide local ‘food bank’ functions but in a more dignified and socially inclusive way. The cafés could also be used to support other food sharing activities including community cooking classes, community feasts, and supporting holiday hunger activities.

Fridges could be stocked with any surplus food from the café operations, as well as pre-prepared meals including ‘meals to go’ and recipe bags, and other surplus food items received that require refrigeration.

Larders could provide access to low-cost food staples, such as pasta, rice, potatoes, and when possible, fresh fruit and vegetables. Larders could also provide other items that community members may struggle to afford such as sanitary, dental hygiene and cleaning products.

Different approaches can be used to manage community access to fridges and larders with exemplar mechanisms including adopting a membership based approach using a small annual membership fee and then at any visit members pay a small fee to access ten items weighted by value, or by operating an “open-to-all” approach with a pricing structure for example, any 5 items for £1.

# The Food Share Network Model



## In The Heart of the Community

In addition to helping to alleviate food poverty, cafés could act as Community Hubs which provide welcoming spaces to help alleviate issues of social isolation, and support communities to access other sources of advice and information.

Locating the cafés within the heart of each community, ensuring there are cooking facilities, eating spaces and areas where other activities could take place, and making best use of existing buildings were also identified as being important considerations by communities. The café opening hours will need to reflect the needs of the individual communities and suggestions included afternoons, and early evenings, school holidays, during the winter months, and during the day for elderly residents and for people with young families.

## Community Volunteers

The community cafés could be run using a combination of a café manager and chef (paid positions) and a bank of community volunteers. Community members could be encouraged to become volunteers by engaging them in initial community activities linked to the Food Share Network such as community feasts, café launch events, and community cooking classes.

Volunteers could also be sourced from other local organisations such as Perth College, local churches, PKAVS and the Corbenic Camphill Community, or by linking the volunteering activities to national awards and schemes such as the Saltire Awards, the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, Young Scot and Scouts Scotland.

Companies and local businesses could also be encouraged to send volunteers to support local community cafés. These volunteers could provide business, funding and administration support as well as getting involved in the day to day running of the community cafés.

The social enterprise company Giraffe could provide training to all staff and volunteers involved in the preparation, cooking and serving of food. As well as ensuring that the cafés are managed and run safely and effectively this will help to develop confidence and new skills for the volunteers.

Training should include:

- Food safety and hygiene
- Food allergens and food intolerance awareness
- Food handling; stock control and rotation
- Freezing, chilling and storing food
- Traceability of food supply.

## Meals and Recipe Bags to Go

Surplus food could be used to prepare healthy, hearty and nutritious pre-prepared meals including ‘meals to go’. These could be fresh, chilled or frozen meals for people to take away and re-heat at home, or provided as recipe bags with recipes included for people to cook and prepare at home. These could be sold at the point of sale in cafés, or used to stock the community fridges.

These could be prepared by individual cafés or prepared by the Social Enterprise Giraffe and a local food business owner Praveen Kumar— both have expressed interest in producing these products. Surplus food could be supplied directly to them by a range of local and national sources including the FareShare Community Food Redistribution Office who can provide larger volumes of food if storage facilities are sufficient.

Having the ability to also distribute these meals and recipe bags to community members who might be unable to access the café due to ill health, mobility issues, age, and transport poverty was also identified as being very important. Meals could be delivered using a range of options including on-line delivery vehicles, using existing community transport options including Demand Response Transport (DRT), school buses, local bus networks, mobile libraries, and using active travel modes such as electric cargo bikes and electric rickshaws.



## Cooking Classes

Cooking classes could be run in the community cafés, with sessions for children and adults during school holidays and at weekends.

Classes for children could cover basic food preparation and cooking skills, as well as the importance of eating a healthy, balanced diet. Classes for adults could focus on feeding a family on a budget, cooking healthy meals on a budget and learning how to cook different cuisines.

Communities want to learn how to cook healthy, hearty, simple, affordable meals. Further discussions are taking place with communities to understand the range and types of food they would like to learn how to cook, and how these could best be delivered within the individual communities. Ideas already suggested include pasta dishes, stews, and soups, mince and tatties.

Staff and volunteers from the community cafés could work with Giraffe to develop simple, affordable, healthy recipes and cooking classes that could be taught at the community cafés. Cooking class attendees could be provided with recipe cards and ingredients to allow them to recreate these meals at home to help further build cooking confidence.

Giraffe could also provide cooking classes to local businesses where companies would pay to come and take part to learn how to cook on very limited budgets using surplus food to help build better understanding of the challenges faced by food insecurity. These classes could also be used to canvas for volunteers from the corporate sector.

## Community Feasts

Community cafés could also host community feasts at times of the year when food insecurity affects the most people, for example, during January and school holidays. Members of the community would be invited to help with the preparation of the food, under the guidance and supervision of the café staff and volunteers. Once the food was prepared cafés would be opened to the whole community to enjoy the shared meal.

## The Food Share Network Pilot Projects

It is recommended that two pilot projects are run in one urban and one rural location. This will help to demonstrate the flexibility of the food share network model and the different elements that can be implemented according to specific community needs.

### Pilot Project 1: Letham

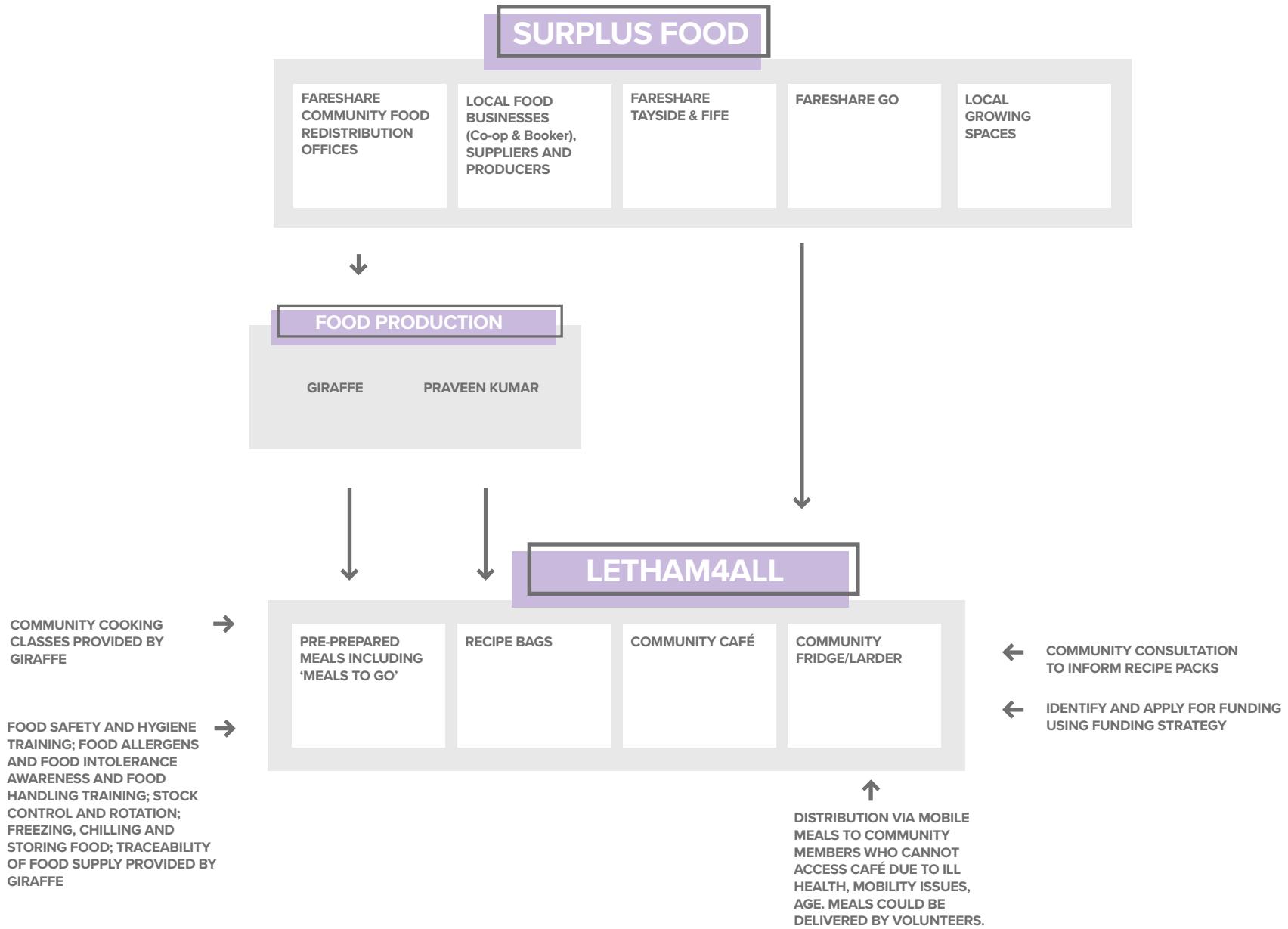
Letham4All is a community group who has taken over the running of the local community centre. They already engage in food share activities including a weekly “blether and a buttery”, a monthly soup and sandwich event, are currently operating a small community larder and have recently bought a community fridge. They have already recruited REHIS trained volunteers to manage the fridge when it arrives.

Zero Waste Perth will assist Letham4All to achieve its short-term goal of setting up a community fridge, with a longer term goal of establishing a community café.

The Food Share Network could provide the following support activities:

1. Giraffe could provide health and safety and food safety training to existing and new staff, and volunteers. This will ensure that all volunteers are qualified to work in the community café and are confident about the handling and preparation of food.
2. Consultation should take place with the community to identify the types of meals they would like to cook and eat. Giraffe can use this information to prepare recipes and source ingredients to run cooking classes to upskill the community to cook their favourite meals.
3. Giraffe and Praveen Kumar can provide a supply of pre-prepared meals including ‘meals to go’, and recipe bags that the community café can sell and serve, and use to stock the community fridge provided by Zero Waste Perth.
4. Although the community group proactively fund raise, they should work with the Council to apply for further funding to help develop the café using the Food Share Network Funding Strategy.





## Pilot Project 2: Kinloch Rannoch

Kinloch Rannoch Primary School hope to implement a grounds development programme called the “Roost at Rannoch”.

This is being developed in four phases:

- **Phase 1** supporting the development of a tree house, vegetable shack, polytunnel, raised beds and general seating areas.
- **Phase 2** comprises the redevelopment of the nursery garden.
- **Phase 3** includes creation of an eco-pod as a main community meeting area – this would include sustainable energy sources including solar panels, wind turbine and an electric car charging point. This would have a kitchen and seating space.
- **Phase 4** is the development of a sensory pathway that links the different areas at the Roost.

To help the school achieve its goal the Food Share Network could help by:

- Support the establishment of the polytunnel.
- Identifying potential funding sources for the eco-pod.

The Food Share Network will support the Kinloch Rannoch Community to:

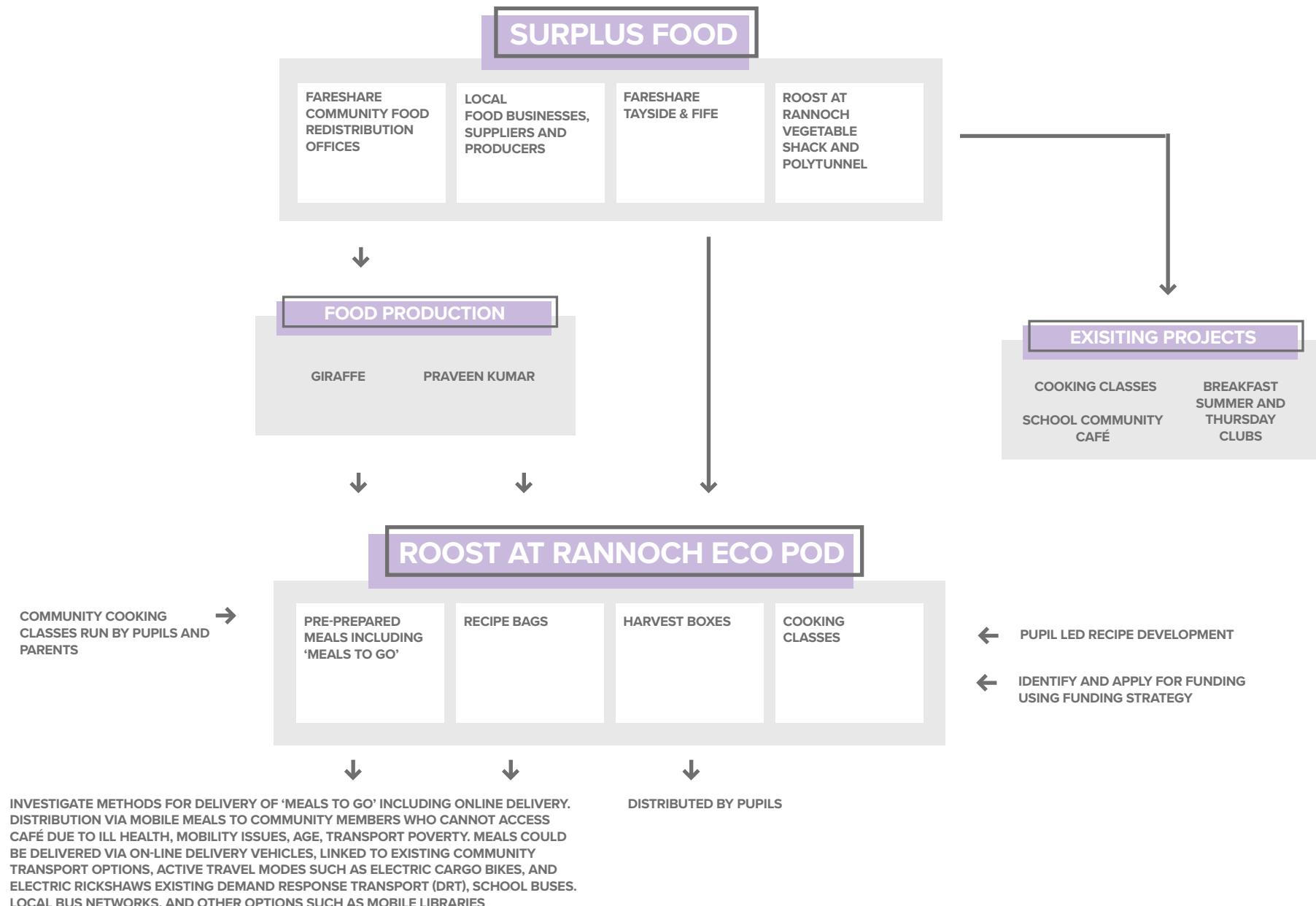
- Carry out further community consultation to develop the Food Share Model.
- Assist with identifying property options within Kinloch Rannoch to accommodate Food Share mechanisms.
- Enabling pupils and community members to make pre-prepared meals, including ‘meals to go’ or recipe bags either at Kinloch Rannoch Primary School, the Community Centre or the Outdoor Centre. Or these could be purchased from Giraffe.

These pre-prepared meals and recipe bags could be used to supply and expand existing food share activities happening in the community which includes:

- Harvest boxes,
  - Weekly cooking classes,
  - Breakfast club,
  - Summer clubs,
  - School community café to be run once a month between 4 - 6,
  - Thursday club at the Community Centre.
- 
- Investigating whether Fareshare would deliver to Kinloch Rannoch.

- Sourcing other local suppliers of surplus food.
- Enabling surplus food and meals to be distributed to community members who are unable to access the cafés etc. due to ill health, mobility issues, age, and transport poverty.
- Investigate methods for delivery of pre-prepared ‘meals to go’ including online delivery. Exploring whether meals could be delivered using a range of options including on-line delivery vehicles, using existing community transport options, active travel modes such as electric cargo bikes, and electric rickshaws, existing Demand Response Transport (DRT), school buses, local bus networks, and other options such as mobile libraries.





# The Food Share Network – Supporting Activities

## How to Guide

It is recommended that a ‘How To’ guide is produced that provides step by step guidance for community groups or organisations that wish to set up food sharing mechanisms.

This would include the following information:

- Sources of funding to allow the establishment of a food sharing venue.
- Staff and volunteer resources required to ensure the enterprise is run effectively.
- Health and safety requirements that must be adhered to when handling food, including a focus on allergens, food intolerances, food handling, stock control and rotation, freezing, chilling, storing and the traceability of food supply.

- Signposting to existing resources that explain how to set up and run community food share mechanisms.
- Contact details of exemplar food sharing projects that can be approached for advice and guidance.
- How to source surplus food, including contact details of community organisations who are able to provide pre-prepared meals including ‘meals to go’ and recipe bags.
- How to recruit, and sources of training, for volunteers.

## Brand Development

It is recommended that a strong, easily identifiable and inspiring brand should be developed for the Food Share Network that can be used on all collateral including the café buildings, the pre-prepared meals packaging, menus, guidance documents and all promotional materials.

This will help to build confidence in the network, establish it as a source of high quality, affordable food, provide food-related support as well as destigmatising the use of surplus food.

## Governance Structure

A governance structure for the Food Share Network should be developed to include representatives from:

- Perth & Kinross Council.
- Surplus food suppliers such as Fareshare and individual retailers, suppliers and producers.
- Community network members such as Letham4All, Giraffe, Forward Coupar Angus and Kinloch Rannoch Primary School.





**Nicki Souter**  
ASSOCIATES



## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

### Environment & Infrastructure Committee

28 October 2020

#### VISITOR MANAGEMENT IN RURAL AREAS

##### Report by Executive Director (Housing & Environment) (Report No. 20/199)

This report highlights multi-agency actions taken during 2020 to respond to the unprecedented increases in visitors (especially informal camping and motor homes) in rural areas of Perth & Kinross, as a result of COVID-19 related travel restrictions. The report also sets out proposals to prepare for the future challenges and opportunities presented by increases in visitor numbers.

#### 1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Perth and Kinross has some of the most beautiful scenery in Scotland, which is very accessible, and attracts many visitors to our area. We warmly welcome visitors who act responsibly and respect their local surroundings, recognising that visitors to the area support our vital tourism economy.
- 1.2 In 2020, the number of visitors to many of our rural areas rose dramatically, through day visits to scenic areas, as well as increased informal camping and motorhome users. This increase was due to Covid-related foreign travel restrictions, people wanting to get away from home after weeks of lockdown, and lack of availability of traditional visitor accommodation. This created pressures due to the unprecedented volume of these visitors, but also the anti-social behaviour of a very small proportion - the term '**dirty camping**' is being increasingly used to apply to these irresponsible activities.
- 1.3 The term "dirty camping" should be differentiated from the more established term "wild camping", which relates to lightweight 'backpacking' by people who make use of the "right to roam" access rights under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, to camp out in virtually any unenclosed land, rather than in designated campsites. Traditionally, wild camping has been carried out by people with an affinity for the countryside, and who act responsibly to leave no trace behind them. One of the issues this year has been the unprecedented number of visitors, who would not usually undertake this activity, and are either unaware of, or not inclined to pursue, responsible camping practices. 'Dirty Camping' is often undertaken close to roads, with large tents, equipment and supplies brought by car. Although this could be claimed to be activities within access rights set out in the Act, this is not within the spirit of lightweight non-vehicle based 'wild camping'.
- 1.4 There is a difficult balance between ensuring visitors have open access to the countryside, to meet the aspirations of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#), and implementing some of the restrictions advocated by residents and communities, to curb the inappropriate behaviour of a minority of inconsiderate visitors.

- 1.5 In seeking to restrict certain behaviours, we also need to ensure the positive message that Perth & Kinross is a great place to visit, and responsible visitors are warmly welcomed, is not overshadowed by messaging about the controls that may need to be put in place.
- 1.6 This report reflects on how the Council worked very closely with local communities, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and other partners, to tackle the challenges presented by the increased volume of visitors and the inconsiderate actions of a minority. The report also sets out the proposed steps to prepare for future challenges next year and beyond – assuming substantial restrictions on international travel will continue, and there is a continued increase in people travelling to our rural areas for recreation and overnight stays. With foreign travel uncertain along with changing travel corridors, consumers' increased interest in day trips within Scotland and staycations are likely to continue. This is highlighted in a recent report by 56degreeinsight showing that Scotland remains the most likely destination for Scottish holidaymakers during 2021.
- 1.7 The main concerns expressed by communities and residents, and witnessed by our officers and partners, during 2020 were:
  - substantial increase in vehicular traffic overloading popular destinations
  - inappropriate parking on roads preventing access for residents, farmers and emergency vehicles
  - littering and fly-tipping
  - damage (to fields and trees)
  - human waste not disposed of appropriately
  - unattended campfires
  - other anti-social behaviour through alcohol consumption
- 1.8 Appendix 1 shows images of some of these challenges.

## **2. MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGE IN 2020**

- 2.1 Appendix 2 gives a summary of the multi-agency activity so far, working with communities. It highlights, via a community bulletin, the measures that were taken to mitigate the negative impact of increased visitor numbers, and how public services and communities worked together to tackle challenges such as dirty camping.
- 2.2 The approach taken was preventative in nature and designed to work with local communities and visitors. Each weekend community volunteers with around 10-14 Council and partners' staff, offered advice and encouraged positive behaviours amongst people camping in our rural areas. They worked closely with Police Scotland officers, also deployed on duty in rural areas. Activities included:
  - providing advice on safe camping and fires, and where necessary persuading people to move on for example, if they were camped in a field with livestock
  - handing out leaflets on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code

- establishing 'Clearways' in response to community concerns, to limit parking in heavily used hotspot areas, and providing education and enforcement for drivers
- reporting intelligence to Police Scotland on inappropriate/illegal behaviour
- handing out bags for rubbish
- carrying out significant number of additional waste collections in these areas
- establishing a multi-agency working group which met weekly, to review the previous week's activity, tasking actions for the next week's patrols, and managing communications messages to visitors and communities

2.3 The agencies involved were:

- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue
- Forestry and Land Scotland
- Loch Rannoch Conservation Association
- Council Services:
  - Community Greenspace
  - Parking Services
  - Safer Communities Wardens
  - Waste Services

2.4 Council officers also worked closely with both the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and Cairngorm National Parks Authorities, on their joint approaches to tackling these challenges, in areas of the National Parks which are located in Perth & Kinross. Lomond & the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) also held weekly multi-agency meetings and additional community liaison meetings were arranged in St Fillans, at which the Council were represented. These meetings are continuing until after the October school holidays and will subsequently be taking a more strategic role, in preparation for the 2021 season.

2.5 Wherever possible, staff sought to feedback to communities and elected members to make it clear their concerns were being listened to and taken seriously. This approach also helped to develop good working relationships with local communities and landowners and helps form a basis for future shared discussions on joint solutions, detailed in sections 5.2 and 5.3 below.

2.6 This multi-agency approach was welcomed by local communities and commented on favourably by both local and national elected representatives, as an example of good practice. It is, however, clear that providing service coverage to such a wide geographical area is challenging, even with the level of staff resource deployed during 2020. A lessons-learned process is being carried out to review the resources and targeting activity for the 2021 season.

### **3. NATIONAL SITUATION**

3.1 The pressures arising from increased visitor numbers, and dirty camping, were not confined to Perth & Kinross. These issues were reflected across

multiple rural areas in Scotland as well as being reported nationally, while also being raised at the Scottish Parliament.

- 3.2 On 14 September 2020, Cabinet Secretary Fergus Ewing, and Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland chaired a meeting to discuss how to “future proof” visitor demand. There was a recognition that Scotland needs to do more, and has to share collective responsibility to find and deliver solutions to visitor management.
- 3.3 The meeting was convened to discuss what could be achieved collectively across all agencies Scottish Government, VisitScotland, Cairngorm National Park Authority, Loch Lomond National Park Authority, Local Authorities, Naturescot and Forestry and Land Scotland etc. A Visitor Management Response Group is to be set up. That group is to have a “short life” span and come forward with proposals and action points by the end of 2020.
- 3.4 Within Perth and Kinross and in other areas, communities, residents and elected representatives, frustrated with the behaviour of some visitors, have suggested that local camping byelaws, and/or alcohol bans, should be implemented to control antisocial behaviour.
- 3.5 The procedures for establishing camping byelaws and alcohol bans are set out in national legislation, and are not simple or quick solutions. Based on the legislative process, and the experience of others in introducing such controls, these measures could take years, and require significant officer capacity, and evidence of strong community support, to implement. Further analysis is contained in Appendix 3.
- 3.6 A national legislative approach may be more effective than local byelaws in ensuring consistent standards are set for visitor management across the whole of Scotland. This would avoid duplication of effort between all rural local authorities and the National Parks Authorities. It would also ensure a clear and consistent approach across Scotland which would be understood by visitors, communities as well as the agencies and organisations involved in visitor management. It also avoids pushing the problem from one area to another, as some individuals may choose to camp in the areas with lower standards of control.

#### **4. RURAL TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

- 4.1 The Scottish Government's [Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund \(RTIF\)](#) supports collaborative projects which focus on improving the visitor experience in rural parts of Scotland that have faced pressure on their visitor infrastructure, or where there have been negative impacts on local communities due to increases in visitor numbers. RTIF aims to address anticipated future ‘pinch points’ as a result of growth initiatives such as route development, major events, film and TV production as well as the continued growth in the motorhome sector.
- 4.2 RTIF awards are available from £75,000 up to a maximum of £375,000, with RTIF providing support up to 70% of approved project activity. Applicants

must provide a minimum of 30% for projects. The match funding can be in-kind support and in the form of labour or land value. Only Local Authorities or a National Park Authority can apply to the fund.

- 4.3 The deadline for submission of applications for the current round (round three) of the RTIF was extended from 10 July 2020 to Wednesday 14 October 2020. All projects must have submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) and received approval for the EOI, before they submitted a full Stage 2 application on 14 October 2020. Projects should also have applied for planning permission by that date.
- 4.4 Council officers have been working closely with partners and have previously submitted three Expressions of Interest to the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund, which were all approved to move to full stage application. Officers have been working in collaboration with the various partners towards the deadline and have now submitted two applications detailed below. Awards announcements are expected by 4 December 2020.
- 4.5 The two projects submitted are:

#### **River Tay Way, Aberfeldy Car Park**

New toilet block & shower block, waste disposal points for camper vans, River Tay Way information point

- Application led by Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust
- Project Cost: £340,737
- Match Funding: based on land value of £100,0000
- Planning application submitted and has received planning consent

#### **Loch Leven Heritage Trail**

New toilet block, including changing places toilet and accessible toilet, increased car parking including disabled parking, vehicle charging points

- Application led by RSPB Loch Leven
- Project costs £447,445
- Match funding coming from RSPB £128,952
- Planning application submitted 15 September 2020. No outcome yet.

- 4.6 If successful, these RTIF facilities will not be operated by the Council, but by the lead partner. If these arrangements are unsuccessful in future, and there is a community expectation that the Council takes on the operation of these facilities, this would be subject to a Council decision on the budget required to support that operation.
- 4.7 The third project is led by Loch Rannoch Conservation Association (LRCA) to support a package of measures including two toilet blocks, one at Carie and one at Kilchonan Car Park, with waste disposal points and recycling points.
- 4.8 Although council officers have been working extensively with the LRCA, some elements of the project were incomplete at the point of the RTIF deadline. These include the need to demonstrate 30% match funding; evidence of ongoing maintenance funding plan; landowner permissions and community engagement.

4.9 Therefore, unfortunately, the Council was not in a position to submit a bid for this project in this current round of RTIF funding. Officers will continue to support Loch Rannoch Conservation Association as they develop this project, with a view to it being submitted for a subsequent round of RTIF funding.

## 5. PROPOSALS

5.1 In anticipation of increased visitors to our rural areas next year, the following sets out our proposed multi-agency approach, on the basis of three main elements:

- **Information** – supporting visitors to adopt positive behaviours
- **Enforcement** – working in partnership with other bodies – taking enforcement action only when absolutely necessary
- **Infrastructure** – supporting the development of visitor facilities

5.2 Section 2 of this report has demonstrated the partnership approach that has already taken place with local communities. This approach is aligned with the Perth and Kinross Offer, which establishes a new direction for the Council to transform the way we work with our communities, citizens, partners, businesses, employees and other stakeholders, to ensure that public services can be co-created and delivered sustainably to achieve better outcomes for the people of Perth & Kinross. The proposals in this report builds on the Offer approach.

5.3 Managing the increased visitor numbers is a complex challenge, and communities, landowners and residents are well placed to identify solutions and take action, often supported by council officers and other partners. For example, community representatives worked alongside council staff and partners to carry out weekend patrols over the summer; council staff and community groups have worked together in cleaning up badly littered areas; at least one landowner has already established additional car parking at a 'hotspot' area ; and officers are also working with other landowners over potential physical improvements in other areas, to improve car parking and other facilities. The joint working with community groups over RTIF, detailed in section 4, is another example of our joint working with communities.

5.4 Following a review of communities` and officers' experience from the 2020 season, the main 'hotspot' areas for future priority action are:

- Clunie Loch
- Foss Road
- Rannoch
- Schiehallion
- St Fillans & south Loch Earn
- Kenmore and Loch Tay

### Information

5.5 It is proposed that our successful partnership and multi-agency approach working with communities and landowners, to encourage positive behaviours

amongst visitors, will be continued over the visitor season in 2021. The proposed priorities for information include:

- developing an overall communications strategy including key messaging around responsible disposal of litter, raising awareness to visitors of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and signposting to local visitor facilities available including camping, parking and toilets.
- an engagement and communities plan including local communities, stakeholders and national Government
- clear site signage and on-site education e.g. speaking to individual campers to encourage positive behaviour.
- undertake a trial project with community partners to tackle human toilet waste modelled on best practice developed by Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park.
- information for visitors, both online and in the local area, with details of facilities such as toilet waste disposal points, publicly available toilets and authorised parking areas.

### **Enforcement**

- 5.6 As highlighted in section 2.2, the approach taken to date with visitors has been more preventative in nature, with enforcement only as a last resort. For 2021, the multi-agency group is developing a shared enforcement manual outlining the powers and responsibilities of each partner, to ensure a more robust approach is taken to enforcement, if the circumstances require this.

### **Infrastructure**

- 5.7 There is a need to work at a strategic level with local and national partners to ensure a coordinated approach is taken to visitor management, across Perth and Kinross, and Scotland as a whole. The objective would be to welcome responsible visitors to the area, and support them with sufficient infrastructure to ensure their visit is a positive experience, both for them and the communities they are visiting. A coordination of approach and resources would ensure the maximum efficiency, effectiveness and consistency and would include:
- encouraging businesses & landowners to look at a range of alternative temporary or permanent camping offers – low key overnight parking, overnight parking with waste disposal, temporary tent areas with toilets
  - looking at fast track approvals processes and any funding opportunities
  - developing a coordinated communications strategy
  - considering a camping ‘comfort scheme’ and extension of the Council’s Community Environmental Challenge Fund
  - promoting Perth and Kinross and Scotland as a welcoming destination
  - monitoring success of interventions and adapt as appropriate
  - implementing any longer-term infrastructure proposals
- 5.8 In Perth & Kinross, based on community feedback, and observation of officers on duty over the summer, the proposed priority issues for infrastructure are:

- parking
- toilet provision
- litter
- waste water and toilet waste disposal points for camper vans and motorhomes

5.9 To develop future infrastructure opportunities effectively will take:

- additional staff capacity to develop proposals. This will be achieved through re-prioritising work , to free staff resources to this activity
- community engagement and involvement in solutions
- a mapping exercise to identify what facilities are currently available, so that new initiatives are not started in locations where existing facilities may already be suitable. This will ensure any funding is targeted at areas of greatest need
- funding for infrastructure – the aim is to maximise external funding sources. Any Council funding for infrastructure would have to be approved via the capital budget process.

5.10 To date, responding to both the wider challenges of COVID19, and also dealing with the response to the surge in visitors, meant that officer capacity to work with communities and landowners to develop infrastructure solutions has been limited over the summer.

5.11 In recognition of this, the Council and Police Scotland (through the Police Scotland Communities Fund) are seeking to pool financial resources to create a temporary co-ordinator's post, with the following objectives:

- work with communities and landowners to develop 'very-local', low-cost, short-term solutions – parking, toilets and litter
- identify external funding opportunities, including the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund, and Community Environmental Challenge Fund (see 5.12 below)
- develop community-led projects and support them in bidding for funding which is not available to the Council.
- work with colleagues in the Council and partners to support the development of these projects. This includes working with the Council's Communities Team, which has extensive local knowledge of community organisations that may be interested in helping
- further developing the partnership approach to mitigating the impact of dirty camping and co-ordinating the operational response.
- develop a network of local activists to support the statutory and voluntary partnerships in engaging with visitors

5.12 To support smaller scale local infrastructure improvements, it is proposed to extend the Council's popular [Community Environmental Challenge Fund](#) (Report No. 20/132) to encourage landowners, supported by communities, to put in a range of basic facilities. The Fund is aimed at community groups leading and delivering projects,which would make a significant difference to

their local environment and be widely supported within the community. Up to £100,000 of funding has been made available annually since 2011/12.

- 5.13 CECF funding could include new or extended hardstanding areas for parking at the key hotspots, for example at the start of popular walks; or other support such as additional bins or basic campervan parking areas. Using the CECF gives communities access to smaller scale funding (£2,500-£10,000). This complements the RTIF (see section 4) which is more suitable for larger scale projects (£75,000 or higher)
- 5.14 At this early stage, there is no detail on potential financial implications on the Council for infrastructure requirements. We would seek to maximise external funding for infrastructure costs, to reduce direct costs to the Council. Any proposals that require either capital or ongoing revenue funding from the Council will be reported to Council or Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for approval.

## 6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to agree:

- a) the proposed approach to dealing with future increased visitor challenges as detailed in this report.
- b) to prioritise activity to the geographical areas and facilities as detailed in section 5.4 and 5.8 of this report.
- c) to extend the funding criteria for the Council's Community Environmental Challenge Fund to include works to improve visitor facilities, as detailed in sections 5.12-5.13 of the report.

### Author

| Name             | Designation                   | Contact Details  |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|
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| Suzanne Cumiskey | Project Officer               |  |

### Approved

| Name           | Designation                                | Date            |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| Barbara Renton | Executive Director (Housing & Environment) | 19 October 2020 |

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You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

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## ANNEX

### 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

| <b>Strategic Implications</b>                       | <b>Yes / None</b> |
|---|-------------------|
| Community Plan                                      | Yes               |
| Corporate Plan                                      | Yes               |
| <b>Resource Implications</b>                        |                   |
| Financial   | None              |
| Workforce   | None              |
| Asset Management (land, property, IST)              | None              |
| <b>Assessments</b>                                  |                   |
| Equality Impact Assessment                          | None              |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment                  | None              |
| Sustainability (community, economic, environmental) | None              |
| Legal and Governance                                | Yes               |
| Risk  | Yes               |
| <b>Consultation</b>                                 |                   |
| Internal  | Yes               |
| External  | Yes               |
| <b>Communication</b>                                |                   |
| Communications Plan                                 | Yes               |

#### 1. Strategic Implications

##### Community Plan and Corporate Plan

- 1.1 This report contributes to (iii) and (iv) of the following strategic priorities:
- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
  - (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
  - (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
  - (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
  - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

#### 2. Resource Implications

##### Financial

- 2.1 At this stage there are no financial implications. Any future financial considerations will be submitted to Council or Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for approval.

##### Workforce

- 2.2 There are no workforce implications.

##### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no direct asset management implications for the Council from the proposals in this report.

### **3. Assessments**

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

(i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

#### Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

#### Risk

3.3 The risks for this activity have been considered by a multi agency working group which has been dealing with this issue over the summer. The main risk relates to being unprepared for a potential increase in visitors, wild camping and dirty camping over Summer 2021.

### **4. Consultation**

#### Internal

4.1 The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted in preparation of this report.

#### External

4.2 Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### **5. Communication**

5.1 The report contains proposals to engage with communities over future shared actions, as well as a communications plan for promoting positive behaviours amongst visitors to our area.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

2.1 None.

## **3. APPENDICES**

3.1 Appendix 1 - Examples of Dirty Camping

3.2 Appendix 2 – Information Bulletin for Local Communities July 2020

3.3 Appendix 3 – Wild Camping and Alcohol Byelaws Briefing Note



## Appendix 1 Examples of Problem Areas

Parking At Schiehallion



Abandoned Campsite – Foss





Abandoned Camp Rannoch



## Parking at Foss



Abandoned Camp – Tummel



## Appendix 2

### **Information Bulletin for Local Communities – updated 16/7/20 Working Together to Tackle Irresponsible Camping**

Perth and Kinross has some of the most beautiful scenery in Scotland, which attracts many visitors to our area. We warmly welcome visitors who act responsibly and respect their local surroundings.

The number of visitors is expected to increase this year due to Covid-related foreign travel restrictions, people wanting to get away after weeks of lockdown, and pressures on availability of traditional visitor accommodation.

Therefore there is a likely increase in informal camping and campervans, in our area, and our communities are already telling us this is happening. This creates pressures due to the volume of these visitors, but also the anti-social behaviour of a small proportion - the term '**dirty camping**' is being increasingly used to apply to these irresponsible activities.

This bulletin highlights to local communities the measures that are being/have been taken to mitigate the negative impact of these activities, and makes suggestions on how we can work together to tackle dirty camping.

#### **1. Identification of hot spot areas**

The Council's Safer Communities team has set up links with local communities to report problem issues to the team.

A multi- agency group has been set up, and meets on a weekly basis, consisting of Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Perth and Kinross Council staff.

Through the community information, and feedback from staff attending on site, we are able to build a picture, and monitor the main issues and the most affected areas. Main problems to date are:

- Littering and fly-tipping
- Damage (to fields and trees)
- Human waste not disposed properly
- Inappropriate parking on roads preventing access for residents and emergency vehicles
- Unattended campfires
- Other anti-social behaviour through alcohol consumption

The main hot spot areas identified to date are:

- Loch Tummel
- Loch Tay
- Calvine
- Struan
- Glenlyon

- Clunie Loch
- Kenmore
- St Fillans

Community information and ‘on the ground’ feedback from staff patrolling these sites will continue to provide intelligence to inform our future actions.

If communities have further information to assist, they are asked to contact the Council’s Safer Communities Team on [SCT@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:SCT@pkc.gov.uk).

## **2. Coordinated visits to hot spots/ patrols**

We are co-ordinating joint visits, over busy periods such as weekends, by:

- Scottish Fire and Rescue staff
- Countryside Rangers
- Community Wardens

This will be in addition to Police activity in these areas.

These visits will be targeted at hot spot areas, to encourage campers to act responsibly and safely and to offer guidance on activities such as fires, litter disposal and parking as well as being ‘eyes and ears’ to report any serious issues to Police colleagues. These public services will maintain contact with each other, to share information on priorities and concerns.

Anyone concerned about crowds of people gathering in beauty spots should contact Police Scotland on 101 in the first instance or dial 999 in an emergency.

## **3. Clearways to manage parking**

New Covid 19 Regulations have introduced a ‘fast track’ approach to establishing temporary traffic orders, including banning parking (creating ‘Clearways’) on sensitive roadways (eg narrow roads next to lochs or rivers). Clearways have been introduced at Stanley Linn, and we are looking at introducing similar arrangements at Clunie Loch and Loch Tummel.

Non-compliance by motorists with these clearways will be dealt with by the Council using penalty charge notices. Police have the power to remove vehicles which are causing an obstruction.

If communities are aware of other potential areas suitable for clearways, please contact [traffic@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:traffic@pkc.gov.uk).

## **4. Installation of signs**

A trial project is underway to install signage around Clunie Loch, with messages to promote responsible camping.

If communities believe this type of signage would help in their area, they are asked to contact the Safer Communities Team on [SCT@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:SCT@pkc.gov.uk).

## **5. Fly-tipping support**

If fly-tipping on local land is a problem, the Council has established a Fly Tipping Fund for landowners and communities, to help clean up these areas – more information is available [here](#)

## **6. Litter**

If excess litter or bags at the side of the road are a problem, we can organise additional wheeled bin points to collect the litter. Please contact <https://my.pkc.gov.uk/MyServices>. We will arrange regular collections from these points.

We can also help communities organise local litter picks, with support such as litter pickers and black bags. We will arrange to uplift the waste that the community collects as well. To arrange this please contact [wasteawareness@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:wasteawareness@pkc.gov.uk)

## **7. Communications Campaign**

As part of celebrating our beautiful area, and welcoming considerable visitors, we will establish a communications campaign to promote responsible camping, and respecting the area, including advice on good practice. There are many sources of such advice including [CAMP](#) (Campervan/ Motor Home Association) and the National Parks Authorities.

We are also developing a Frequently Asked Questions, which will be posted on the Council website.

Promotion channels under consideration include social media, Council website, signage, information to campervan hire businesses and local shops.

The initial draft key messages for the campaign are:

- Perth and Kinross is one of the most beautiful areas in Scotland, and that's why so many people visit us
- We warmly welcome responsible visitors
- It's important that we all play our part in keeping Perth and Kinross beautiful – visitors, communities, public services
- The actions of irresponsible visitors put people and our environment at risk, and could be breaking the law

## **8. Public Toilets**

All Council run public toilets have been opened.

## **9. Learning from others**

We will keep up to date with developments, best practice and emerging guidance from the Scottish Government, the National Parks Authorities, professional bodies and other Councils.

## **10. Working with local communities**

We recognise that several community groups in affected areas have been proactive in responding to the challenges that irresponsible camping can present.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with these communities to explore what each of us could do to contribute to tackling these challenges. Other bodies have a role to play, including local landowners, business groups, Countryside Trusts and Community Councils.

We would like to bring these parties together to develop an understanding of what we are doing now, and what we could do together.

We invite Elected Members and community groups to identify these parties that would be interested in being involved in this type of gathering, please contact Briony Glover on [bglover@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:bglover@pkc.gov.uk) with contact details.

Keith McNamara  
Depute Director  
Housing & Environment  
Perth and Kinross Council  
16/7/20

## Appendix 3

### **Wild Camping and Alcohol Byelaws Briefing Note**

#### **Introduction**

Following recent concerns regarding problems arising from increased informal camping in rural areas of Perth & Kinross, there has been discussion over the use of camping byelaws, or alcohol bylaws, as mechanisms to control some of the undesirable behaviours associated with these activities. The following briefing gives an update on the practicalities and challenges of applying these measures.

#### **Wild Camping Byelaws**

##### **Background**

The following information is based on the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park (LLTNP) Camping Management Byelaws 2017. This applies from 1 March to 30 September each calendar year to designated management zones. This covers approximately 11 lochs, generally from shore to at least 100m away from the loch. Only designated areas covered, not all around each loch.

##### **Offences**

- (a) set up, use or occupy a tent, wigwam or bivouac at any time, or (b) set up, use or occupy overnight (7pm to 7am) any other form of shelter within a management zone unless authorised to do so by the authority (in areas provided)
- Any person to sleep overnight in a stationary vehicle within a management zone unless authorised to do so by the Authority (in areas provided for this purpose)
- No person shall without lawful authority (a) light or cause a fire within a management zone causing damage or likely to cause damage, or (b) collect or use wood from within a management zone that causes damage or is likely to cause damage
- Failure to provide correct full name, date and place of birth, address and the registration of any vehicle to an officer of the LLTNP authority or a police officer who has reasonable grounds for believing that such a person has committed an offence under the byelaws
- Obstructing an officer of the authority

##### **Issues, Possible Costs and Timescales**

- Byelaws do not apply to any landowner, tenant or connect person authorised by the relevant landowner or tenant using land within a management zone for any of the activities listed in the byelaws
- Byelaws conflict with the right of responsible access including wild camping under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
- Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority were required to ensure 300 camping and other spaces were provided with toilet, refuse and human waste facilities provided in some places

- Facilities maintained long term by the provider – landowner or LLTNP and all monitored by LLTNP. LLTNP authorise the use of the informal areas and facilities, and monitor them to make sure still suitable for use
- Issue of displacement – to prevent activities in one area can displace the activities and the problems to another area
- Camping management byelaws should be seen as a last resort, in officers' view. Breach of byelaws amounts to a crime. The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, S.201 also states **byelaws should not be made where there is other legislation covering the purpose of the byelaws**
- Extensive initial resources required by LLTNP to carry out initial assessment of problem, alternative solutions considered, interventions, use of existing legislation, and monitoring. Then embarked on drafting of byelaws, liaison with Scottish Government (SG), identifying land for informal facilities and negotiating with landowners over provision of alternative campsites. LLTNP did this to satisfy themselves/the legislation, but also to ultimately satisfy the Scottish Government (SG) to secure confirmation of the byelaws. Since byelaws create offences, it is understandable that a rigorous process is required to justify byelaws, before they are confirmed by the SG.
- Byelaws were based on evidence ingathered over a prolonged period including rubbish, antisocial behaviour, human waste, litter, camping, and sheer weight of numbers. This is what LLTNP did to satisfy themselves and the SG. Also, in legal terms, **anecdotal evidence is generally not enough to justify actions - a proper evidence base to justify byelaws was looked at.**
- LLTNP required a significant number of rangers to carry out site visits on a regular basis with photographic evidence taken. PKC does not have any allocated resources for this task
- LLTNP increased rangers from 30 to 50 to enforce byelaws each March to September. Almost all full time operating from 8am to sun down.
- Police Officer seconded to LLTNP with salary and overtime paid to Police Scotland. Vehicle bought and maintained for police officer
- In 2019 PKC estimated for initial scoping work for Byelaws would require a PR8 officer at £45K/year with added legal costs
- Significant capital costs required. Informal managed sites vary.
- Some informal managed sites are provided by landowners. They collect litter and waste. Monitored by LLTNP
- Planning permission may be required for informal managed sites
- Public liability insurance needed
- Not all informal managed sites have litter and waste disposal facilities therefore can continue to have on-going problems
- Income received does not cover on-going costs
- Enforcement carried out mainly by LLTNP but also by police
- Fixed penalty notices not possible. Can report for prosecution only.
- Local Procurator Fiscal must be willing to enforce
- Corroboration of offences required – i.e. two witnesses each time. Appropriate standard of evidence must be met if Procurator Fiscal is to prosecute
- Procedure previously adopted for byelaws in PKC (set by Council in 2006) includes (i) refer to Member Officer Working Group for clearance to

proceed, if so; (ii) Delegated to Executive Director and working group formed; (iii) Report to Committee for approval to proceed and then; (iv) to full Council to agree byelaws including areas and agree to embark on formal public advertising process required.

- Advertised for at least one month. Any person aggrieved may object to the Scottish Ministers
- LLTNP had objections from the Ramblers and the Mountaineering Council for Scotland.
- Where objections, Scottish Ministers may hold a local inquiry in front of a sheriff, if necessary
- If byelaws are then confirmed by the Scottish Ministers, further public advert required and byelaws come into effect at least one month after date of confirmation
- Signs must be put up in the designated area and maintained
- Byelaws should be reviewed at least every 10 years
- It took LLTNP 3 years to implement byelaws when already had a lot of existing evidence and some infrastructure. Would take PKC significantly longer, possibly in excess of 5 years
- LLTNP were required to undertake a 3 yearly review and undertake an annual report

## Alcohol Byelaws

### Offences

- Any person who consumes alcohol in a designated public place commits an offence
- Excludes licensed premises and occasional licences
- Also excluded is 31 December at 6pm until 1 January 6am

### Issues, Possible Costs and Timescales

- Applies to all persons in an area, no exceptions
- Prevents consumption of alcohol in designated public places, whether actually causing a nuisance or not
- Scottish Ministers prepared to consider byelaws covering population centres or specific geographical areas, especially **where there is a history of alcohol-related disorder**
- Scottish Ministers state that **random and isolated incidents of problem behaviour may be tackled in other ways by the police and courts**. If the problem behaviour is random and isolated or is not properly evidenced, that will likely affect the prospects of the Scottish Ministers confirming the byelaws.
- Area to be covered must be described with sufficient certainty, to be clear on the location covered by the byelaw
- Should not seek to solve other issues dealt with under other legislation such as littering and irresponsible parking, or address other issues such as wild camping issues
- Per Scottish Government Circular LJ/02/2014, Byelaws must have written agreement of local Procurator Fiscal and Police.

- Must be an enforcing authority with sufficient officers to enforce. Police Scotland enforce the existing alcohol byelaws. Police can issue fixed penalty notices as an alternative to prosecution
- Most alcohol byelaws in Scotland cover population centres such as cities, rather than rural areas
- Stirling Council does have byelaws covering several lochs, however, that was done in tandem with the camping management byelaws of LLTNP, not on their own. Police stats of reported crimes going back several years were required to evidence disorder
- If that evidence is insufficient to justify alcohol byelaws, on-going monitoring by officers and possibly the Police would likely be required over a continuous period. May require monitoring over more than 1 year
- Time to create byelaws likely to be in excess of 2 – 2 ½ years where 1 year monitoring required and would extend significantly if more monitoring required and local inquiry necessary
- As above, the previously agreed procedure for byelaws was: (i) refer to Member Officer Working Group for clearance to proceed, if so; (ii) Delegated to Executive Director and working group formed; (iii) Report to Committee for approval to proceed and then; (iv) to full Council to agree byelaws including areas and agree to embark on formal public advertising process required.
- Advertised for at least one month. Any person aggrieved may object to the Scottish Ministers
- If objections, Scottish Ministers may hold a local inquiry in front of a sheriff, if necessary
- If byelaws are then confirmed by the Scottish Ministers, further public advert required and byelaws come into effect at least one month after date of confirmation
- Signs must be put up in the designated area and maintained
- Byelaws should be reviewed every 10 years

Briefing complied by Colin Elliot, Solicitor, Perth and Kinross Council

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****Environment and Infrastructure Committee****28 October 2020****NORTH INCH GOLF COURSE ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20****Report by Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (Report No. 20/200)**

This report brings forward the North Inch Golf Course Annual Report 2019/20, based on the previously approved Business Plan.

**1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 In March 2016, the Environment Committee approved the North Inch Golf Course – Business Plan (Report No.16/141 refers). The Business Plan was developed in order to deliver an improving service that reflects the demands of its users while providing Best Value.
- 1.2 The Business Plan focuses on ensuring that the golf course remains both affordable, accessible and enjoyable to play, while adding further value through season tickets. It also emphasises the need to gain new customers and sets out an action plan for both promoting and developing the course, reducing the operating deficit and aspiring to achieve full cost recovery based on the following core areas:
  - golf course maintenance
  - attracting and retaining season ticket holders
  - visitor golfers
  - partnerships and outreach
  - creating new golfers – ladies, gents & juniors
- 1.3 For each of these core areas, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were developed to determine whether the objectives are on track. These are reported on and highlighted within Appendix 1.
- 1.4 Dundee City Council closed Camperdown Golf Course from 1 April 2020 due to reduced usage and increased subsidy. This has left Dundee with a single public golf course at Caird Park. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (R&A), golf's worldwide governing body, sees municipal golf as key to their strategy of growing the game. The R&A is about to conclude a deal to purchase Lethamhill Golf Course from Glasgow City Council, which had been earmarked for potential closure. They plan to transform the course into a community golf centre and create a blueprint for how golf can be offered in many appealing ways, to be enjoyed by men, women, young people and families of all ages and backgrounds. This mirrors the ethos already developed through our business plan for the North Inch Golf Course with affordability and inclusivity at its core. We have doubled our membership numbers, are close to trebling our visitor numbers and have increased our

junior golfers more than 10 fold. This has all been achieved whilst continuing year on year to reduce the level of subsidy required to run the course. The business plan has been delivered in a highly efficient manner - the condition of the course is vastly improved, player satisfaction is high and objectives continue to be achieved. With the Perth and Kinross Offer very much reflecting our approach, our regular volunteer sessions to undertake maintenance tasks around the course have been well received and we are working with our User Group to fundraise for investment in the course.

- 1.5 Scottish Golf have developed a new Scottish Golf Strategy for 2019-2022 and modernisation programme. This includes significant growth in revenue generating investment to deliver in five key areas by 2022. The following paragraphs outline the work undertaken by the Council to address these areas.
- 1.6 The Scottish Golf Mission is intended to deliver:
  - **Stronger clubs at the heart of their community.**
    - Upgrading the golf starters box at North Inch has been considered for some time, but due to budget constraints this has not been possible to date. An alternative starter's facility option of operating the golf course from Perth Artisan Clubhouse during April/May 2019 was trialled, but following consultation with stakeholders and local elected members, it was agreed not to pursue this.
    - At the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee held on 27 November 2019 (Report No. 19/340 refers), it was agreed that £117,000 of the VAT refund from historic golf fees be earmarked in reserves for future investment in the North Inch Golf Course. This investment will be made in the provision of a brand new starter's facility on the footprint of the existing starter's box.
    - Investment is being made in a modern timber clad metal modular building that also offers space for golfers to meet before and after play, when current physical restrictions allow. Many golf sessions are run each year for everyone from young children and their families to the older golfer and having a new, larger building will provide accessible toilet facilities and social space for members and visiting players.
    - The proposal of siting the new building on North Inch was approved by the Perth Common Good Committee in December 2019 (Report No. 19/371)
  - **Growth in participation leading to a growth in membership.**
    - North Inch Golf Course has grown its junior season ticket holders from only 5, to 72 and now boasts one of Perthshire's largest junior sections. Weekly coaching sessions are held for young golfers, along with Easter and Summer golf camps. Multiple categories of season tickets have been introduced to attract the under-represented 19 to 29 year-old players, helping transition them from junior golfers to full season ticket holders. Over a 5 year period, our overall season ticket holder numbers have increased from 175 to 355 (203%).

- **To develop winning golfers at all levels of the game.**
    - Introductory golf lessons continued as part of a 'Get into Golf' season ticket. These sessions are open to both gents and ladies to encourage the entire family to participate in golf.
  - **To lead and influence positive change within the game.**
    - For the past 4½ years, the North Inch Golf Course has been involved in running the 'Golf Memories' group', along with the Council's equalities team and in conjunction with Alzheimer Scotland. These sessions continued to run for 44 weeks of the year.
  - **Scotland playing a leading role in the development of golf**
    - North Inch Golf Course continues to be a member of 'Golf Perthshire' joint marketing group of Perthshire Golf Clubs, accommodation providers and visitor attractions. It markets Perthshire as the world's most 'family friendly' golf destination offering free green fee tickets to any junior golfers playing with a paying adult. The North Inch also offers free golf club hire to both adults and juniors.
    - As part of the Solheim Cup, which was played at Gleneagles in September 2019, North Inch Golf Course ran a series of women, girls and family golf taster sessions. These were extremely well received with every session being fully booked. This resulted in over 300 people taking part in golf coaching activities at North Inch. Many of the participants have continued to play golf and have become regular players and members at North Inch and other Perth and Kinross clubs.
- 1.7 The 'in house' maintenance operation introduced has increased capacity allowing for a wider scope of works to be carried out. Remedial and improvement works are now able to be undertaken 'in house' along with opportunities to share resources, such as specialised maintenance equipment, with other local golf clubs.
- 1.8 The busy summer months of 2019 were far wetter than those of 2018. Despite the poor weather, the number of visitor rounds played, closely matched 2018/19 (3652 in 2019/20 vs 3748 in 2018/19), and overall revenue grew from £113,995 to £120,474. This was down to the continued improvement of the golf course condition, which has boosted the reputation of the course, both locally and further afield.
- 1.9 The significant reduction in the annual subsidy required by the golf course has continued with the level of £167,518 in 2014/15 reducing to £73,358 in 2019/20. This is ahead of the business plan projected subsidy of £80,000 and enabled further investment in some maintenance equipment for the golf course.
- 1.10 In setting the Revenue Budget in February 2018 (Report No.18/47 refers), the Council agreed to remove the North Inch Golf Course subsidy in financial year 2020/21, moving to full cost recovery. Given the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on income, this may be required to be re-examined as part of the budget process for 21/22.

- 1.11 In late March 2020, when the UK went into lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the golf course was required to shut abruptly on 23 March. The impact of this and measures taken to mitigate them will be reported in the 2020/21 North Inch Golf Course Report, in November 2021.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 This annual report for 2019/20 highlights a favourable performance against the Key Performance Indicators in the business plan, including season ticket holder levels, visitor rounds and actual income against the financial projections. It is, therefore, proposed that the current management arrangements for the golf course are fully supported and endorsed to ensure this excellent performance is maintained. As this has been guided for four years by the current business plan, it is proposed to update and extend this for a further 5 years, to reflect the current performance, provide clear direction and targets and maximise the opportunities through the Perth & Kinross Offer.

## **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The implementation of the 6 year North Inch Golf Course Business Plan has seen increased levels of income, activities and positive reviews of the North Inch Golf Course. This is in line with projections within the Business Plan at this stage.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) notes the North Inch Golf Course Annual Report 2019/20.
  - (ii) requests that the Executive Director (Housing and Environment) brings the realigned and extended business plan and performance report to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee in November 2021.

### **Authors**

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|----------------|---|---|
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| Jenny Williams | Senior Greenspace Officer (Communities) | 01738 475000  |

### **Approved**

| Name           | Designation                                  | Date            |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| Barbara Renton | Executive Director (Housing and Environment) | 19 October 2020 |

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

| <b>Strategic Implications</b>                       | <b>Yes / None</b> |
|---|-------------------|
| Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement           | <b>Yes</b>        |
| Corporate Plan                                      | <b>Yes</b>        |
| <b>Resource Implications</b>                        |                   |
| Financial   | <b>None</b>       |
| Workforce   | <b>None</b>       |
| Asset Management (land, property, IST)              | <b>None</b>       |
| <b>Assessments</b>                                  |                   |
| Equality Impact Assessment                          | <b>Yes</b>        |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment                  | <b>None</b>       |
| Sustainability (community, economic, environmental) | <b>Yes</b>        |
| Legal and Governance                                | <b>None</b>       |
| Risk  | <b>Yes</b>        |
| <b>Consultation</b>                                 |                   |
| Internal  | <b>Yes</b>        |
| External  | <b>Yes</b>        |
| <b>Communication</b>                                |                   |
| Communications Plan                                 | <b>Yes</b>        |

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:
- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
  - (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
  - (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
  - (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
  - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

- 1.2 This report relates to (i) to (v) above by providing a well maintained, accessible and affordable golf facility. Promoting a family centred, healthy lifestyle in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.3 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities:
- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
  - (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
  - (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
  - (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
  - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

- 1.4 This report relates to (i) to (v) above by providing a well maintained, accessible and affordable golf facility. Promoting a family centred, healthy lifestyle in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

## **2. Resource Implications**

### Financial

- 2.1 There are no resource implications arising from the report outwith the existing budget for the North Inch Golf Course.

### Workforce

- 2.2 There are no workforce implications arising from the report.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 Upgrade of the starters facility on the North Inch will provide an efficient and cost effective replacement to the existing inadequate and obsolete facility.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups.
- 3.2 Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allow the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.3 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in the North Inch Golf Course Annual Report 2018/19 was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- Assessed as relevant for the purposes of EqIA, with a positive impact, that retention of the North Inch Golf Course supports less mobile golfers, due to the Course's relatively short distance and flat topography.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.4 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

### Sustainability

- 3.5 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.
- 3.6 The proposals have been assessed in terms of the requirements to manage the Council's Greenspace assets in a sustainable long-term way.

### Legal and Governance

- 3.7 The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted on the content of this report.

### Risk

- 3.8 The business plan will be subject to influences from the wider golf market.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

### Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Legal and Governance and the Head of Finance have been consulted on the content of this report.

### External

- 4.2 The North Inch Golf Course User group have been consulted through regular meetings where updates are provided on usage numbers, income figures, course condition, volunteer activities and new starter's facility. They are supportive of the management and development arrangements for the golf course.

## **5. COMMUNICATION**

- 5.1 The Annual Report will be communicated to the North Inch Golf Clubs and Users.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 2.1 The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report; (list papers concerned).
  - Report to the Environment Committee in March 2016 entitled North Inch Golf Course – Business Plan (Report Number 16/141)

- Report to the Environment, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee in November 2017 entitled North Inch Golf Course Annual Report 2016-17 (Report Number 17/368)
- Report to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee in November 2018 entitled North Inch Golf Course Annual Report 2017-18 (Report Number 18/369)

### **3. APPENDICES**

3.1 Appendix 1: North Inch Golf Course Performance Summary Report 2019/20.

# 2019/20 Performance Summary Report



**Total Income £120,474** **5.5%**

£113,995 in 2018/19 & £82,454 in 2017/18

## User Satisfaction

**5% over target**



85% of Users are happy with the golf course condition against target of 80%

## Volunteer Days

**35% over target**



54 volunteer days against a target of 40

## Visitor Rounds Played

**7% under target**



3652 visitor rounds of golf played against target of 3947.

## New Golfers

**900% over target**



300 people introduced to golf against a target of 30

Secured funding for a new golf starters box from HMRC VAT refund on historic golf fees. Due to be installed ready for start of 2021 season.





**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****Environment and Infrastructure Committee****28 October 2020****FREE FESTIVE PARKING 2020****Report by Head of Business and Resources (Report No. 20/201)**

This report recommends that the Free Festive Parking initiative operates on each weekend in December, within Council owned car parks, from Saturday 5 December until Saturday 26 December 2020 inclusive. This is to support local business during the Christmas period, as the Covid -19 pandemic continues.

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 On and off street parking charges apply 6 days a week, Monday to Saturday, 8am to 6pm across the Council area. Sunday parking is free of charge.
- 1.2 A free festive parking offering has been in place since 2012/13, initially as a "Free After 2pm" campaign.
- 1.3 Following a review of the impact of the Free After 2pm programme in 2016/17, feedback from the Perth Traders Association (PTA) was that, while a discounted parking scheme was welcome, the economic benefit of the Free after 2 scheme was difficult to quantify and was fairly limited. It was also perceived as a difficult offer to promote.
- 1.4 The PTA asked the Council to consider changing the Free after 2pm scheme to a Free Saturday Scheme during December 2017, for all Council operated car parks in Perth and Kinross. The primary reason for this was that changing trading patterns show that December is no longer the prime trading month for Christmas. In addition, patterns are changing so that Saturday is no longer necessarily the key trading day. Therefore, additional support to boost trade on Saturdays in December was requested.
- 1.5 This request for free Saturday parking during December 2017 was approved by the Council's Environment, Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee on 8 November 2017 (Report No.17/370 refers). The offer was repeated in December 2018 (Report No 18/365 refers) and again in 2019 (Report No 19/312 refers).
- 1.6 Feedback on the Free Festive Parking scheme in 2018 was requested from city centre businesses as well as businesses across Perthshire and Kinross-shire. 17 responses were received from businesses (13 within Perth and 4 outwith) ranging from St John's Shopping Centre to smaller independent retailers.

1.7 A summary of the responses is provided below:

- 86% of businesses felt that the promotion encouraged people to stay longer
- 82% felt it was well advertised
- 83% said customers had mentioned using the free parking
- 80% felt it had a positive impact on their business
- 67% felt it brought additional footfall to their businesses
- 100% would be in favour of a similar promotion

1.8 Parking income from off street parking during November and December was as follows:

| Year    | November (£) | December (£) |
|---------|--------------|--------------|
| 2013/14 | 131,196      | 141,452      |
| 2014/15 | 131,914      | 146,204      |
| 2015/16 | 139,968      | 136,049      |
| 2016/17 | 110,335      | 108,776      |
| 2017/18 | 146,074      | 116,522      |
| 2018/19 | 141,259      | 107,879      |
| 2019/20 | 143,768      | 109,936      |

1.9 Feedback via social media has been overwhelmingly positive with a large number of comments welcoming the Council's support for businesses.

1.10 Feedback from other digital marketing with the Courier, STV and Smooth FM also showed good levels of engagement.

1.11 Key learning from previous promotions was related to taking all steps possible, through communication and engagement, to make it clear what the parking offer is, and which locations are included and excluded. To aid motorists, all parking meters in the free car parks will again be shrouded each weekend in December 2020. **Appendix 1 details the participating car parks.**

1.12 The pandemic continues to impact significantly on public transport in terms of patronage and alleviation measures and this looks likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

1.13 Given officer commitment to the Covid 19 response and Scottish Government guidance regarding the use of public transport, no work has progressed on options for incentivising public transport during the 2020 festive period. The current Scottish Government guidance (as of 7 October 2020) is that public transport use should be minimised as much as possible, such as for education and work, where work cannot be done from home. Stagecoach East Scotland have advised that they will not be offering a 2020 incentivised public transport offer similar to the one which they operated in December 2019, due to the challenges they face as a result of the ongoing pandemic.

## **2. PROPOSAL**

- 2.1 The specific proposal for 2020 is free parking on each weekend in December from Saturday 5 December to Saturday 26 December 2020 in all Council operated car parks across the whole Perth and Kinross area. (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 It is proposed to use media and advertising to promote the offer, with an initial press release following Committee approval.
- 2.3 Based on current income levels from the car parks concerned, the cost of operating a “Free on Weekends” promotion in December 2020 in terms of lost income is estimated at approximately £15,000. The shortfall in income will be added to the overall Parking Account shortfall for the financial year and funded initially from the Parking Reserve. The Council is awaiting an update from the United Kingdom and Scottish Governments regarding the Loss of Income fund as a potential contribution to the overall Parking Account shortfall.

## **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The offer of free festive parking has been, in general, well received by residents, visitors and businesses over the last 8 years. It has provided a tangible demonstration of the Council’s commitment to supporting retailers and the local economy during the festive season. This year, it will also support businesses dealing with the trading environment arising from the Covid -19 pandemic.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to offer free parking on each weekend in December from Saturday 5 December until Saturday 26 December 2020 inclusive in all Council operated car parks across the whole Perth and Kinross area. (Appendix 1).

### **Author**

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### **Approved**

| Name           | Designation                                | Date            |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| Barbara Renton | Executive Director (Housing & Environment) | 19 October 2020 |

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

| <b>Strategic Implications</b>                              |             |
|--|-------------|
| Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement /Perth City Plan | <b>Yes</b>  |
| Corporate Plan   | <b>Yes</b>  |
| <b>Resource Implications</b>                               |             |
| Financial  | <b>Yes</b>  |
| Workforce  | <b>None</b> |
| Asset Management (land, property, IST)                     | <b>None</b> |
| <b>Assessments</b>   |             |
| Equality Impact Assessment                                 | <b>None</b> |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment                         | <b>None</b> |
| Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)        | <b>None</b> |
| Legal and Governance                                       | <b>None</b> |
| Risk   | <b>None</b> |
| <b>Consultation</b>  |             |
| Internal   | <b>None</b> |
| External   | <b>None</b> |
| <b>Communication</b>                                       |             |
| Communications Plan  | <b>Yes</b>  |

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan

- 1.1 The activities contribute to the Community Plan's strategic objectives of 'Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy', and a 'Safe Welcoming Environment' and the outcomes of 'a thriving, expanding economy' and 'employment opportunities for all'.

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2018/2022 sets out five strategic objectives:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

- 1.3 This report relates to Objective No (iii) 'Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy' and the outcome of 'Thriving, expanding economy' by encouraging and supporting retail businesses.

## **2. Resource Implications**

### Financial

- 2.1 Based on current income levels from the car parks concerned, the cost of operating a “Free on Weekends” promotion in December 2020 in terms of lost income is estimated at approximately £15,000. The shortfall in income will be added to the overall Parking Account shortfall for the financial year and funded initially from the Parking Reserve. The Council is awaiting an update from the United Kingdom and Scottish Governments regarding the Loss of Income fund as a potential contribution to the overall Parking Account shortfall.

### Workforce

- 2.2 There are no workforce implications as a result of this report.

### Asset Management

- 2.3 There are no asset management implications arising as a result of this report.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.
- 3.2 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. No further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

### Sustainability

- 3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions. The

activities in this report will contribute towards sustainable economic development in Perth and Kinross.

Legal and Governance

- 3.5 The consideration of the report is in line with the Council's Scheme of Administration and specifically the role of the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee in developing measures to support and promote economic activity and to plan key infrastructure. Legal Services has been consulted on these proposals.

Risk

- 3.6 Risks and the controls required to mitigate any risks will be reported through the Council's risk management process.

**4. Consultation**

Internal

- 4.1 Heads of Finance and Legal and Governance.

External

- 4.2 Perth Traders Association.

**5. Communication**

- 5.1 Communication will be undertaken by the Council and businesses.

**2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 2.1 None.

**3. APPENDICES**

- 3.1 Appendix 1 – List of car parks included in the scheme.

**Participating Car Parks****APPENDIX 1**

Library East Car Park, Perth  
Library West Car Park, Perth  
Milne Street North Car Park, Perth  
Milne Street South Car Park, Perth  
West Mill Street Car Park, Perth  
Mill Wynd Car Park, Perth  
Mill Street East Car Park, Perth  
Speygate Car Park, Perth  
Canal Street Car Park, Perth  
Charles Street Car Park, Perth  
Leonard Street Car Park, Perth  
Scott Street Car Park, Perth  
Victoria Street Car Park, Perth  
Back Wynd Car Park, Perth  
Norrie Miller Car Park, Perth  
Riverside Turning Head Car Park, Perth  
James Square Car Park, Crieff  
The Croft / Ericht Lane Car Park, Blairgowrie  
Croft Lane / South Side Car Park, Blairgowrie  
Leslie Street Car Park, Blairgowrie  
Atholl Street Car Park, Dunkeld  
Tay Terrace Car Park, Dunkeld  
Ferry Road Car Park, Pitlochry  
Rie-Achan Car Park, Pitlochry  
Atholl Road Car Park, Pitlochry  
Thimblerow Car Park, Perth  
South Inch Car Park, Perth  
Canal Street Multi Storey Car Park, Perth

The following ON STREET car parking spaces are SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED

Cherry Lane/Union Street, Perth  
Black Watch Gardens, Perth  
Victoria Street, Perth



**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****Environment and Infrastructure Committee****28 October 2020****COMMUNITY GREENSPACE – WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES – DELIVERING THE PERTH & KINROSS OFFER****Report by Head of Environmental and Consumer Services (Report No. 20/202)**

This report provides an update on the previous Community Greenspace 'Working with Communities' report to the Environment & Infrastructure Committee on 5 September 2018. It is an exemplar of the Council's commitment to deliver the Perth & Kinross Offer by engaging, equipping and empowering local communities to make the best of their public greenspaces.

**1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 The 1,600 public parks and open spaces managed by Perth and Kinross Council contribute significantly to the quality of life and well-being of residents throughout the area. They provide the opportunity for everyone to enjoy healthier lifestyles, are a barometer of the quality and character of an area and should be a source of civic pride.
- 1.2 Community partnership working is at the core of the ethos behind the Perth & Kinross Offer. It is also essential in ensuring greenspaces are fit for the purposes people want to use them. Communities feel a joint sense of ownership and benefit from them and this applies whether they are larger parks of 'regional' significance, such as MacRosty Park in Crieff and the North and South Inches in Perth, or smaller local amenity areas, green path corridors and play areas.
- 1.3 Partnership working opportunities drive the work undertaken by the Community Greenspace team and is actively sought whether it is for the improvement, maintenance or use of greenspaces. This is achieved as 'part of the day job' through:
  - 48 'Bloom' environmental groups participating in the Take A Pride In Perth and Kinross Campaign
  - 17 Paths Groups
  - 19 "Friends of Greenspaces groups"
  - 8 community allotment associations, and
  - local sports clubs.

- 1.4 The Bloom groups are the longest and largest of these partnerships with over 450 committee members and hundreds of volunteers in virtually every settlement in Perth & Kinross. Annually, they deliver over 20,000 hours of voluntary work to make our towns and villages places to be proud of. It continues to be a cross generational social activity too, which is positive for the physical and mental health and well-being of the individuals and communities involved.
- 1.5 In 2019, Beautiful Perth, in partnership with the Council, secured the very prestigious 'Champion of Champions' crown for Perth in the national Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom awards, making the city the best in the UK. The coveted Parks and Greenspaces Award for the Riverside Park Heather Collection in Perth was also secured, and Bridge of Earn, first time entrants, were awarded Best Large Village in the UK, with a special award for their amazing work with young people. This is a true exemplar of the Perth and Kinross Offer where the community and Council work in partnership to achieve joint excellence. The strength of the Perth submission to the competition showed the breadth of work with our volunteers and council teams, not only with Greenspace but importantly with Operations, Waste, Street Lighting, Parking Services, Flooding and Community Payback all having their part to play in Perth's success.
- 1.6 This is an excellent example of a range of Council services working collaboratively with the community to achieve a common goal and sharing the success together.
- 1.7 Community Greenspace have also been proactive for a number of years in providing opportunities for people with special needs to get opportunities to benefit from social and restorative outdoor activities. People with physical and mental health challenges are involved in regular supervised work in a number of our parks and open spaces, which is rewarding for them and helps with the up keep of these areas.
- 1.8 In the last 2 years, the following has been achieved:
  - **Perth Lade** – the site management plan was approved at the 22 January 2020 E&I Committee (Report No. 20/08 refers) and provides a comprehensive and ambitious upgrade plan based around what communities told us they wanted. Delivery will be completely dependent on partnership working.
  - **Crieff to Comrie Off Road Path** – working closely with the Crieff Community Trust, detailed designs and landowner agreements have been progressed and external grant funding is being actively sought to realise this project on the ground. To date £68,000 of external funding has been secured for this project.

- **St Fillans Community Trust** themed play area project was completed and officially opened in June 2019. The community successfully fundraised for this project through LEADER and PKC Community Environment Challenge Fund, together with a contribution from Community Greenspace.
- **Management Plans** for Kinnoull Hill, Perth, The Knock, Crieff and Birks of Aberfeldy have been developed, working closely with local community groups and are close to being finalised before being adopted. Partnership working has been key and The Knock and Kinnoull Hill project have both secured £98,000 each of external funding to help deliver these plans.
- **MacRosty Park** all ability play area project designed by Community Greenspace and funded by Friends of MacRosty Park was completed Easter 2019.
- **Path Group Development** continues to thrive with the volunteer path group network continuing to grow. In February 2020. 50 delegates shared experiences and best practice at the Path Group Networking day hosted and organised by Community Greenspace.
- **Take A Pride in Perth and Kinross Association** has continued to deliver projects in close partnership with the Council – ranging from community gardens, to public art and an historic fountain restoration.
- **Community involvement to celebrate Solheim Cup** in 2019. We worked closely with our communities to encourage them to give a warm welcome to visitors to this large sporting event. The Solheim Community Fund encouraged communities to apply for funding for Solheim Cup related projects and to create a lasting legacy for their community – 17 such projects were delivered.
- **Appendix 1** incorporates a number of case studies to demonstrate the breadth of ways in which Community Greenspace work in partnership with our communities to jointly maintain and improve our open spaces.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

2.1 Although COVID-19 put unprecedented restrictions on society as a whole, it demonstrated that the popularity and need for well managed greenspaces has never been more important. The footfall in greenspaces has seen a significant increase and their value for physical and mental well-being has never been greater. Communities have also demonstrated a massive enthusiasm for volunteering during the pandemic and opportunities to sustain this going forward, are a key part of realising the Perth & Kinross Offer. All current greenspace groups have had to restrict their activities during lockdown. They have been very keen to keep going even with limited site activities, within government guidelines, and preparations for initiatives and projects will develop as restrictions ease. The Bloom competitions were suspended nationally this year and the impact on the appearance of settlements has been significant, but the enthusiasm is undimmed and preparations are underway to make up for lost time in 2021. The following community partnership projects and initiatives will be included in this:

- Accessible play parks – we will continue to work with communities to maximise the availability of play parks suitable for all abilities. New accessible equipment will be installed at North Inch Play area in Spring 2021 as a joint project with local community group Maisie Moo. Installation of this was delayed due to pandemic.
- Premier Park enhancement and upgrade – we have been working closely with the Auchterarder Community Sports Association to develop major improvements to the public park and final designs are being progressed.
- Friends of Cemeteries – Community Greenspace is working to develop a network of volunteers building on our experience with a large number of greenspace volunteers through the bloom and paths groups networks. A number of community groups already have a keen interest in their local graveyards. We will work with them to develop this and support them with advice, training, tools and insurance.

## **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Partnership working between communities, the third sector and the Council has never been stronger. Building on this, as part of the Perth & Kinross Offer, will be essential. The strong foundations of the greenspace groups already active in Perth and Kinross are a great asset for the area on which to build upon.

- 3.2 The Community Greenspace service is well placed to continue and develop the models of partnership working to deliver the Perth & Kinross Offer. Community confidence thrives through having attractive, accessible and safe environments that residents, visitors and business can enjoy and be proud. A blend of the Council's municipal grounds maintenance, enhanced and improved through partnership to meet community priorities, is a tested recipe for success. This is reflected in social well-being, healthier lifestyles and strong, vibrant communities with a positive relationship with the Council.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the Committee:
- i. notes the progress made in the last 18 months
  - ii. endorses the continuation and development of the successful greenspace partnership models to deliver the Perth & Kinross Offer.

**Author**

| Name           | Designation                                  | Contact Details  |
|----------------|--|--|
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| Jenny Williams | Senior Greenspace<br>Officer (Communities)   |  |

**Approved**

| Name           | Designation                                | Date            |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| Barbara Renton | Executive Director (Housing & Environment) | 19 October 2020 |

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You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

| <b>Strategic Implications</b>                       | <b>Yes / None</b> |
|---|-------------------|
| Community Plan                                      | Yes               |
| Corporate Plan                                      | Yes               |
| <b>Resource Implications</b>                        |                   |
| Financial   | None              |
| Workforce   | None              |
| Asset Management (land, property, IST)              | Yes               |
| <b>Assessments</b>                                  |                   |
| Equality Impact Assessment                          | Yes               |
| Strategic Environmental Assessment                  | None              |
| Sustainability (community, economic, environmental) | None              |
| Legal and Governance                                | Yes               |
| Risk  | Yes               |
| <b>Consultation</b>                                 |                   |
| Internal  | Yes               |
| External  | Yes               |
| <b>Communication</b>                                |                   |
| Communications Plan                                 | Yes               |

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan

- 1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/ Corporate Plan in terms of the following priorities:
- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
  - (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
  - (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
  - (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
  - (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

- 2.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. It focuses on cost avoidance by being aimed at small community greenspace sites to reduce maintenance operations and create capacity for future site adoptions.

#### Workforce

- 2.2 There are no workforce implications arising directly from this report.  
Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 The proposals have been assessed in terms of the requirements to manage the Council's Greenspace assets in a sustainable long term way. This will allow the areas of more importance to communities and the overall environmental quality of Perth and Kinross to be maintained to the best possible standard.
- 2.4 There are reputational risks to the Council of reducing maintenance in areas of public open space for which the Council has responsibility. The approach in this report will allow officers to continue to communicate with communities to ensure grounds maintenance resources are prioritised to areas of greatest community benefit.

### **3. Assessments**

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. The proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
    - (i) Assessed as not relevant.

Strategic Environmental Assessment
  - 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.
  - 3.3 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.
- Sustainability
- 3.4 Through this approach the creation of small scale community gardens, allotments, orchards etc. will be considered in order to reduce the Grounds Maintenance asset stock in order to reduce maintenance operations and create capacity for future site adoptions.
  - 3.5 This will include engaging, equipping and empowering local communities to participate in activities such as paths work and grounds maintenance.
- Legal and Governance
- 3.6 Strong governance arrangements for partnership working have been developed over many years and continue to adapt to respond to community needs and aspirations where required.

Risk

3.7 Please see key risks below:

| Risk Description  | Impact Scale<br>(1 to 5) | Likelihood Scale<br>(1 to 5) | Action Plan to Mitigate Risk  |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Risk of Council reputation in reduction of grounds maintenance operations   | 2                        | 4                            | <p>Establish &amp; maintain open dialogue with communities, user groups and media throughout the process to ensure that the reasons for the project are explained and understood.</p> <p>Ensure a fair distribution of projects across communities.</p>   |
| Risk of inequality of provision within and between communities  | 2                        | 2                            | <p>Work with local elected members and communities to ensure a fair distribution of projects across communities.</p> <p>Unplanned reduction in resource should be avoided as there is a risk of increasing inequality.</p>  |
| Risk that communities are not engaged, equipped or empowered locally to participate in activities such as paths work and grounds maintenance. | 1                        | 2                            | <p>Provision of adequate staff time to engage with communities.</p> <p>This will allow officers to continue to communicate effectively with communities to ensure grounds maintenance resources are prioritised to areas of greatest community benefit.</p> <p>This will build on the strong network of Bloom Groups and other community groups, many of whom have accessed the Community Environment challenge fund and other external funding sources to manage, enhance and maintain public open spaces.</p> |

#### **4. Consultation**

##### Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

##### External

- 4.2 This report reflects on the high levels of community engagement and partnership working being fully embedded in the core business of the Community Greenspace Team and partner bodies and advocates for the continuation and development of this approach.

#### **5. Communication**

- 5.1 In the course of our on going work encouraging and supporting our communities to have pride of place in their local greenspaces we will keep stakeholders informed of maintainance activities on their greenspaces.

#### **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 2.1 Report to Environment Committee entitled Community Greenspace Working with Communities on 11 January 2017 (Report No 17/3).
- 2.2 Report to Environment & Infrastructure Committee entitled Community Greenspace Working with Communities on 5 September 2018 (Report No 18/268).

#### **3. APPENDICES**

- 3.1 Appendix 1 – new case studies





## COMMUNITY GREENSPACE CASE STUDIES

Below are a number of case studies to demonstrate the breadth of ways in which Community Greenspace work in partnership with the communities we serve to jointly maintain and improve our open spaces.

### Wellbeing (page 2)

- Woodland Activity Sessions – Dementia Friendly
- Green Routes to Wellbeing – Crieff

### Take A Pride in Perth and Kinross (page 4)

- Take A Pride in Perth and Kinross Association projects
- Beautiful Perth – Champion of Champions

### Woodland Parks (page 7)

- Partnership working with the Kinnoull Hill Park Group

### Perth and Kinross Path Groups (page 8)

- Crieff Paths Group – drain clearing at Lady Mary's Walk
- Blairgowrie and Rattray Access Network (BRAN)

### Path Auditors (page 10)

- Highland Perthshire Path Auditors

### Youth volunteers (page 11)

- Police Scotland Volunteers in Greenspaces
- Junior Ranger programme – Pitlochry High

### North Inch Golf Course (page 13)

- Golf course volunteers

### Other greenspace groups (page 14)

- Wisecraft working at Larghan Park
- Viewlands Reservoir

### Corporate volunteers (page 15)

- SSE in action at the Den of Alyth

## Wellbeing

**Community Greenspace have also been proactive for a number of years in providing opportunities for people with special needs to get opportunities to benefit from the social and restorative outdoor activities. People with physical and mental health challenges are involved in regular supervised work in a number of our parks and opens spaces which is rewarding for them and helps with the up keep of these areas.**

### **Wellbeing case study 1: Woodland Activity Sessions – Dementia Friendly**

An outreach project that promotes health and well-being through mentally stimulating and meaningful activity on a premier greenspace site. The 'Woodland Activity Sessions' provide a safe, nurturing environment to encourage continued enjoyment of nature and the outdoors for individuals diagnosed with dementia.

Woodland Activity Sessions are designed for people with early-stage dementia who are able to attend safely on their own or who are accompanied by someone to support them who want to take part in an innovative, exciting and fun programme of woodland activities. The sessions are made up of individuals with a diagnosis of dementia and their carer's. They take part in different activities ranging from woodland walks, creating habitats, bush craft, environmental art and learning tree and bird identification. During the 10 week programme the group meet at Kinnoull Hill, at the Shed by Jubilee Car Park. This facility is ideal for the sessions as it has an indoor facility with toilets and a kitchen; it allows us to continue with the sessions regardless of the traditional Scottish weather. The participants only needed to have sturdy footwear and a waterproof jacket to take part, remembering to bring their pack lunch to enjoy during the social lunch.

Through delivering this project we are:

- **Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives** by promoting an outreach activity that improves health and well-being using one of Perth's premier greenspace sites.
- **Providing opportunities and support people to live active and independent lives** through mentally stimulating and meaningful activities that help people to have a healthier lifestyle and mental well-being.
- **Reducing social isolation** by encouraging participation in physical activity and providing opportunities for greater means of communication between likeminded individuals and communities.

The 'Woodland Activity Sessions' were extremely rewarding for the dementia clients, their carers' and PKC staff. The activities were meaningful with a sense of purpose. The social element provided social inclusion and appeared to reduce their anxiety levels according to their carers', which was a huge positive for the carers too. The benefits of being able to discuss subjects which they had in common and common interests was also seen as benefit, forging long term friendships and bonds. Through weekly discussions it was evident that carers were unaware of other individuals in the same position as them which made them feel isolated and frustrated; from attending the sessions with their spouses (the individuals with dementia) they unintentionally developed a support network and long term friendship.





## Wellbeing Case Study 2:

### Green Routes to Wellbeing, Crieff

The Green Routes to Wellbeing Group in Crieff are a local voluntary group who take part in horticultural, biodiversity and greenspace improvement works in and around the Crieff area. The group has been active since 2012, originally in partnership with the NHS, with the goal of improving the mental and physical wellbeing through outdoor activities and volunteering.

The group has focussed largely on MacRosty Park, Lady Mary's Walk and the Knock of Crieff; tackling tasks that tie in with management plans, aid the general maintenance of our sites and enhance biodiversity and amenity value. The volunteers learn about their local environment, gain valuable experience, and learn new skills from the Greenspace Ranger (and other volunteers!).

Recent tasks that the group have tackled already in 2020 include the creation of tree pits to protect vulnerable trees from grass-cutting equipment, thinning and cutting back of vegetation/shrub beds, cutting back of overgrown Rhododendrons, and planting pollinator-friendly wildflowers. In the summer of 2019 eight people received the John Muir Discovery Award through their volunteering, with some volunteers now working towards the next level of the Award. Within the last year 16 volunteers have taken part in different Green Routes activities, totalling well over 350 hours of work within Council Greenspaces. Several of the volunteers have since joined other volunteering groups such as the Crieff Paths Group and the Green Routes group in Perth.



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### **Take A Pride in Perth and Kinross groups:**

The Community Greenspace team has also had several notable successes in partnership with working with our communities including Take A Pride in Perth and Kinross Association project delivery. In addition to the ongoing success and major contribution of the 48 “in bloom” groups to their communities across Perth and Kinross, the groups and their unique “umbrella” charity association continue to deliver projects in partnership with the council. The council plays a key role in advising on required permissions and connecting with the appropriate service areas within the council e.g. flooding and structures, street lighting, roads team, planning dept etc. Some examples of such projects are noted here:

- Crieff Hairy Coos sculpture installation and replanting in Burrell Square. £30,000 raised and project completed October 2018



- Aberfeldy Lower Birks community garden. £74,000 raised and garden officially opened October 2018 combined with their phase 2 Reflections Garden.



- Kinnesswood Benarty View project. £33,000 raised, hard landscaping completed January 2019, planting followed in Spring 2019

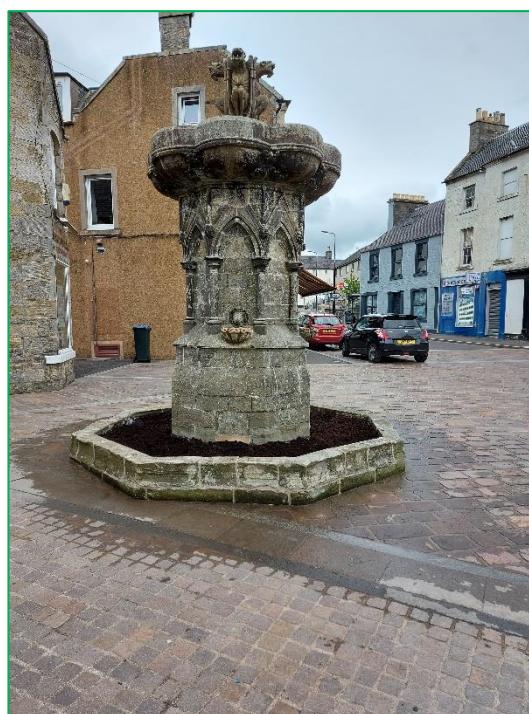
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- Auchterarder Garrie's Corner project. £66,000 raised, hard landscaping and planting completed September 2019. Interpretation panel – the final piece of the jigsaw installed Spring 2020



- Kinross Crosswell Fountain restoration project. £19,750 project completed Spring 2020



- Coming soon .... Pitlochry Wildlife Garden, Blairgowrie Coronation Corner and Alyth Burnside improvements

## **Beautiful Perth 2019 – Champion of Champions**

Celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, registered charity and PKC Community Greenspace partner Beautiful Perth (formerly Perth in Bloom) has been awarded the prestigious Royal Horticultural Society's " Champion of Champions " accolade, in recognition of its contribution in helping make Perth a " great place to live, work and visit. The city's Riverside Heather Collection was also awarded the UK's best park and public space for another consecutive year in an unprecedented decision taken by the Royal Horticultural Society's judging panel. National and local press coverage of the award results and Perth's great successes featured in national press, including The Times

Underpinned by the three " pillars " of horticultural excellence, environmental responsibility and community participation, July's judging tour was described as " expertly put together " and encompassed a broad reach of community members and partners, such as Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Perth and District Beekeepers, Kincarrathie House and Paint Pots nursery, to name a few exceeding the expectations of " community participation ". PKC personnel also contributed to the successes each explaining their specialist roles. Such efforts and collaborative working continue to provide a healthy motivation for Beautiful Perth to further develop projects and enhance the offering in Perth and Kinross. An example of this is the group levering funds to further invest in the Riverside Heather Collection, striving for a National Heather Collection - the only one of its kind in the UK, and a unique selling point for Perth.



## Woodland Parks

### Partnership Working with the Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park Group

The Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park Group was established in 2001. The Group represents a wide range of users of the Park, from horse riders to orienteering groups, to walkers and cyclists.

The Group has been invaluable the Community Greenspace in the development of the Management Plan over the last two years and more recently by contributing to and leading on funding applications to support the implementation phase.

The Group contributes to the management of the hill through volunteer action and by reporting issues such as antisocial behaviour and fallen trees. A facebook page administered by the group provides a useful forum to notify the woodland park users about events which may affect them, to help resolve issues between different user groups and to promote the Woodland Park more widely. It has over 500 followers.

In late 2018 members of the KHUG expressed an interest in managing the orchards on the Barnhill side of Kinnoull Hill. In early 2019 volunteers attended a training session of pruning fruit trees and with support from Community Greenspace Rangers the KHUG and the Riverside Explorer Scouts brought the orchards back to life. 2020 will see a further 7 trees being planted by the group with a view to officially registering the orchard.



## Perth and Kinross Path Groups

### Drain clearing at Lady Mary's Walk, Crieff



Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 was the first task of the year for the Crieff Paths Group, who were delighted to be joined by a few new members. Armed with a full arsenal of spades, rakes, drainage rods and more, we tackled several of the drainage ditches and culverts along one of Crieff's most popular paths; Lady Mary's Walk.

Months (& years!) of leaf litter build-up and vegetation growth had filled in ditches and blocked off culverts. These require occasional maintenance so that water can run off freely without damaging or flooding the path.

Lady Mary's Walk runs alongside the River Earn and the old dismantled railway. Some of the old railway drainage run offs are still in place, of which one had been overflowing and had started to affect the path. We managed to clear this out and could see immediately that the water was flowing correctly into the ditch and through the culvert into the Earn.

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## **Perth and Kinross Paths groups**

### **Blairgowrie & Rattray Access Network**

Community Greenspace work with local groups to maintain, improve and promote our shared open spaces for all to enjoy.

In recent years, Community Greenspace has actively encouraged the establishment of such paths groups by providing hands on support through our greenspace rangers and coordinators.

Our Path Group Development project promotes effective communication between paths groups and the Council; coordinated through the greenspace rangers who assist groups with planning tasks, lending tools, providing insurance, training and financial support (including grant aid through Community Environment Challenge Fund) and facilitating negotiations with landowners.

By working closely with our local paths groups, we can better prioritise our paths and greenspaces, allowing us to make greater use of our own resources.

One such group which is very active is Blairgowrie and Rattray Access Network who maintain the key paths around Blairgowrie. The group have over 40 volunteers signed up who tackle a range of tasks out on the path network. The tasks include keeping the grass cut on the 10 mile River Erict Path, cutting back overhanging vegetation, maintaining wooden steps and improving surfaced paths through re-surfacing and leaf blowing.

Recently the group have also lent their hand to improvement projects across the path network. Through fundraising and donations, a path improvement programme at the Cuttleburn was carried out by BRAN volunteers working to build steps and regrade a muddy section of path. This vastly improved the linking core path creating a better link to the upper part of the town. In late 2019 the group employed a drystone dyker to create a cairn and viewpoint at the top of the Knockie Path. This created a feature on one of the main paths the group look after while upskilling BRAN members in drystone walling.

In February we hosted BRAN and other path groups at our path group networking event. This event was a great success and introduced over 40 volunteers to practical training on powertools plus a presentation on how Community Greenspace support groups . The event was co-hosted by Pitlochry path group who lead a guided walk and talk to look at community path projects in Blackspout Wood.

BRAN continue to grow and generate enthusiasm amongst the community. In 2019 BRAN generated £14477 in-kind income through 1763 volunteer hours. This is a testament to the enthusiasm of the group and support which is offered from Community Greenspace.



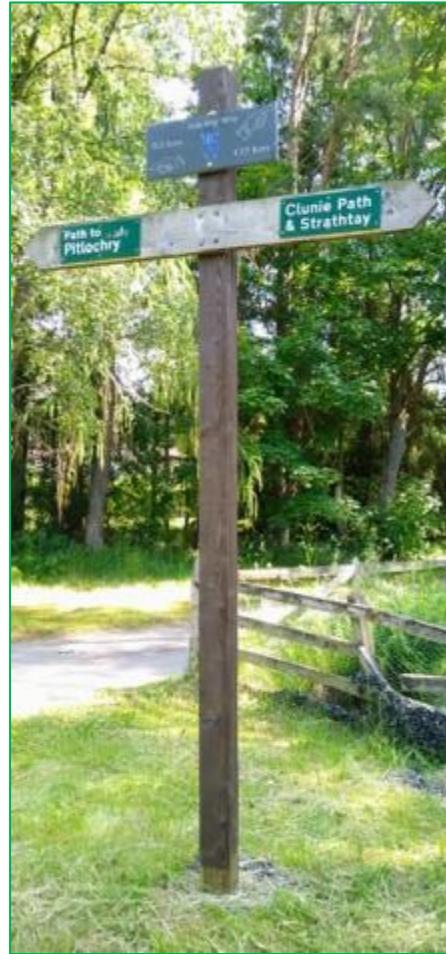
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## Path Auditors

Path groups in Highland Perthshire have always been encouraged to audit their paths. Every group does it differently but each method works!

During lockdown people were encouraged to take daily exercise once a day and that message should not be lost as we come out of lockdown. During these daily walks the Pitlochry Path group sent the Community Greenspace Ranger photos of access, signage, and vegetation issues. This has enabled remote decisions to be made on what further action was required and how the issue could be resolved.

One such example is that of a snapped fingerpost on the Clunie path and Strath Tay Way (also part of the Rob Roy Way). During Phase 1 a household volunteer from the Pitlochry Path group was able to replace the fingerpost. This was achievable by having a small stock of replacement posts available for path groups, and by the volunteer using their own tools. A hand made Rob Roy Way logo was created as the original had disappeared. As lockdown and travel restrictions have eased this route has now been properly way-marked.



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## Youth Volunteers:

Study 1: working with Police Scotland Youth Volunteers

### **Partner Recognition Award Presented to PKC Community Greenspace (February 2020)**

The Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) are groups of up to 24 young people based across Scotland. Supported by adult volunteers and led by a police constable, the PSYV volunteer at community and national events across Scotland.

The PSYV programme aims to strengthen the relationship with the police and young people, breaking down barriers and promoting positive role models.

In addition, each year when the clocks go back, PSYV takes the opportunity to deliver a national housebreaking campaign which focuses on providing residents information on how to keep their property safe and secure during the darker nights. The PSYV groups involvement in such initiatives results in tens of thousands of leaflets being delivered and distributed across Scotland in a short time frame and ultimately assists in the prevention of crime. In 2019, the local group of volunteers distributed 2000 leaflets to households in Perth.

Over the past 18 months, Community Greenspace have had the privilege of working with their locally based PSYV, under the supervision of PC Euan Mitchell. Activity sessions have included clearing, weeding ,mulching and bulb planting at Beatrix Potter's Garden, Birnam, tidying, planting and mulching at the War Memorial in Comrie, assisting with litter picks in preparation of the RHS Britain In Bloom judging, and bark spreading at Mac Rosty Park, Crieff.

Across Perth and Kinross, the volunteers contributed to over 6 000 hours of volunteering effort in 2019, and raised over £2K for the SCAA charity. Their partners and events supported included the 80's Rewind Festival, Paws at the Palace, Auchterarder Run event, Perth's Santa Run and the Solheim Cup, to name but a few.

The culmination of the efforts of these inspiring individuals was recognised at their Annual Awards Ceremony and Passing Out Parade held at the North Inch Community Campus on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2020 where Provost Dennis Melloy presented the Awards and inspected the Parade. The event was also attended by Murdo Fraser MSP and local Councillors.

Community Greenspace officers were thrilled to receive the PSYV Partnership Recognition trophy, voted by the volunteers themselves as a testament to their enjoyable and fruitful partnership with Community Greenspace.



## Youth Volunteers Study 2:

### Junior Rangers

The Junior Ranger programme at Pitlochry High is the most successful junior ranger programme in the Cairngorms National Park. This is due to the partnership ethos within the School, PKC Community Greenspace Rangers, The National Trust for Scotland, Atholl Estates Ranger Service and Highland Perthshire Community Land Trust and the Cairngorms National Park.

The Cairngorms National Park Authority provides the financial support for equipment, PPE, fuel and the administrative support for the Junior Ranger programme. The school provide the transport, and staff to support the pupils on the programme. The programme is delivered by a partnership of ranger services. Perth and Kinross Council Community Greenspace Ranger Service uses this programme to achieve Forest Plan Target, programmed management task, working with Bloom and other community groups. The participants therefore gain a true experience of the varied work the Greenspace Team works and delivers on.

This project is run efficiently as the workload and delivery is shared between the partners. This reduces the workload for teaching staff and the pressure on individual ranger services. The work undertaken by pupils contributes to each Ranger Service remit and workload. The pupils all learn new transferable skills from public speaking, bush craft hand tool use. Through the programme they gain they gain a deeper understanding of the rural environment of Highland Perthshire and get to explore wild places which they might not otherwise see.

Through this programme we are delivering on;

**Our children will be cared for and supported to learn in nurturing environments** – by providing pupils with the opportunity to gain rural skills and explore wild places around Highland Perthshire - supported throughout by rangers from the partner organisations. The follow-on programme allows disadvantaged pupil and those with carer responsibilities to join in due to the variety of timings of as recommended by the Fairer Futures report.

**Protecting our outstanding area and supporting community projects**– by providing opportunities bringing together rangers, local community groups and pupil participants to address a number of environmental concerns and issues.



## **Working with communities at North Inch Golf Course:**

Our golf course volunteers meet regularly throughout the year to assist our green keeping team with works around the golf course. Their work can be varied and will include tasks like bunker edging and raking, lopping tree branches and clearing areas of scrub. A number of our volunteers have also been trained to use grass strimmer's and they help keep a check on many areas of the golf course where ride on mowers cannot access.

A new golf starters box is to be installed at North Inch Golf course in 2020. We are working closely with the North Inch Golf Course User Group, in respect to the design, layout and functionality of this building. The User Group are planning fundraising events throughout the year to help assist with the kit out of the building's interior. They are also investigating funding opportunities to further enhance the golf course and its facilities.



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### Other greenspace groups:

#### Looking after Larghan Park Meadow with Wisecraft:



Volunteers from Wisecraft in Blairgowrie recently helped give the Wildflower Meadow in Larghan park its Autumn makeover. The meadow is an important feature in the park, creating great habitat for pollinators throughout the summer months.

Now Autumn is upon us the meadow is cut and raked to help spread the seed while the cuttings are lifted by keen volunteers. Lifting cuttings helps our wildflowers thrive by removing the nutrients from the soil.

It is hoped the work will contribute towards the John Muir Award which the group are hoping to complete in due course.



### **Looking after Viewlands Reservoir:**

Viewlands Reservoir Park is a park located just 1.5 miles from Perth. The area was the site of a covered reservoir in the 1880's providing drinking water to the city before it was decommissioned in 1970 and is now maintained as community greenspace enjoying an elevated position with beautiful views across the city. There are 2 secondary and 2 primary schools with walking distance and the surrounding area is predominantly residential. Due to its location Viewlands is well used both by dog walkers and pedestrians and the twice daily passage of pupils to and from school. Viewlands has formed the starting point for several new initiatives focusing on creating links between various user groups and PKC.

In September 2019 a group of patients from Murray Royal hospital began volunteering on a variety of tasks as part of a supported programme of activities aimed at improving mental health under the 'Green Routes to Wellbeing' in partnership with the NHS. The group were introduced to the site and encouraged to identify and prioritise tasks which would improve the site for both park users and biodiversity. To this end they have contributed over 240 hours of works including; building and installing a bug hotel and bird boxes, removing invasive species and clearing overgrown paths, litter picking, tree planting and path works.

Viewlands lies on the boundary with Perth Royal Infirmary and Cornhill Palliative Care Unit; potentially offering patients who would not normally be able to access local greenspace a chance to contribute by working collaboratively with the volunteers from Murray Royal (MR). A 4-week programme involving 8 patients and their families was run from the Palliative Care Unit where patients gleaned wildflower seeds from plants harvested in the park to be planted by the (MR) group in identified areas in the spring. Bird boxes were made by MR then decorated by Cornhill and ceramic tiles were made and decorated by Cornhill and installed by MR. the location of all pieces, bird boxes and flowering areas was mapped so patients' families can visit the park and see the work of loved ones.

Further groups include Perth and Kinross Council 'DOO Day' saw the planting of over 100 native trees by PKC staff volunteering in the park creating a lasting asset to the parks' biodiversity. Perth High School students are completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award caring for the environment section over 6 weeks in the park. April 2020 will see the launch of a Viewlands Task group encouraging residents to take park in monthly conservation activities aimed at improving the amenity of the park for users now and into the future.



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## Corporate volunteers working with Community Greenspace

### SSE in action at the Den O Alyth



Community Greenspace work with communities to manage a variety of sites across the area including the Den O Alyth which is known for its native woodland, red sandstone geology and its freshwater ecology.

Recently staff from SSE Renewables as part of their corporate volunteer programme helped to conserve the den by working towards the aims of the management plan. Staff spent the morning working with the rangers to remove Beech Tree saplings from an area of native woodland using tree popping tools and bowsaws. Beech are not native to the area and out compete native stock so staff were given the opportunity to take the trees home to replant. In the afternoon footpaths were cleared of leaves and mud making a huge difference to the paths which crisscross site. As an extra challenge the team also removed a tractor tyre which had been fly-tipped.



This is the second time SSE have helped us at the Den O Alyth. The help is invaluable and allows the many objectives of the management plan to be achieved. The team from SSE worked hard and enjoyed the challenges of doing something different.