



Report of the Chair

Poverty Reduction PDC – 28 February 2022

Update on Community Food Growing Policy

Purpose:	To provide an update to the Poverty Reduction PDC on the Community Food Growing Policy.
Report Author:	Joanne Portwood
Finance Officer:	Paul Roach
Legal Officer:	Craig Davies
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar
For Information	

1. Introduction

1.1 A draft Community Food Policy was developed by the Poverty Reduction PDC in 2020. It was informed by a review of similar policies across Wales, particularly the Community Food Growing Policy adopted by Monmouthshire Council. The draft policy was also informed by a workshop for the PDC with Community Growing experts from the Third sector across Swansea and subsequent discussions with the Poverty Reduction PDC.

2. The Community Food Growing Policy

2.1 The aims of the Community Food Growing Policy are to;

- ensure that suitable and underutilised land in its ownership is made available for community food growing,
- promote opportunities for individuals and groups to grow food in local communities for community and social benefit,
- work with its partners and the Third sector to support community food growing,

- ensure that community food growing activities on Council owned land supports and benefits those most vulnerable to food poverty,
- support the development of local food resilience and address food poverty.

3. The implementation of a Community Food Growing Policy

3.1 The implementation of a Community Food Growing Policy will require resources to promote and monitor the policy. The implementation of the policy will require resources to promote the policy, work with individuals and groups either directly, or indirectly by signposting to partners to deal with issues such as land ownership / community asset transfer, lease arrangements, public liability insurance, constituting groups and other legal and procedural arrangements. Other support requirements may include advice in relation to soil testing for land contamination, health and safety considerations, risk assessments and consultation with local residents and partners about the proposed growing space. This list is not exhaustive, but simply to outline the potential breadth and scope of the support required to successfully implement the policy.

3.2 The work required to support the implementation of a Community Food Growing Policy cuts across a number of Council services and teams. Currently there are no dedicated resources to support the implementation of this policy. Therefore, it is recommended that a working group of Officers and Members is established to explore how the Policy could be implemented within existing resources and/or whether additional resource is required to implement the policy.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications.

Background papers: None

Appendices: None