

Community Growing in Dundee: Shaping our Food Growing Strategy



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Dundee
City Council

Environment

**CHANGING
FOR THE FUTURE**

Community Growing...

- reduces emissions and improves resilience by growing food locally
- connects with nature: improved mental health and biodiversity
- provides healthy, nutritious food
- gives access to green space – exercise
- helps socialisation and resilience in communities
- contributes to holistic healthiness – individual and society



And.....

- Better health and wellbeing.
- Reduce food insecurity.
- Local greening; low food miles.
- Engender pride in communities.
- Social integration.
- Inspire understanding.
- Rejuvenate the environment.
- Provide healthy, free food.
- Inspire creativity.
- Provoke positive interactions.



Strategies and Policies

Main Driver:

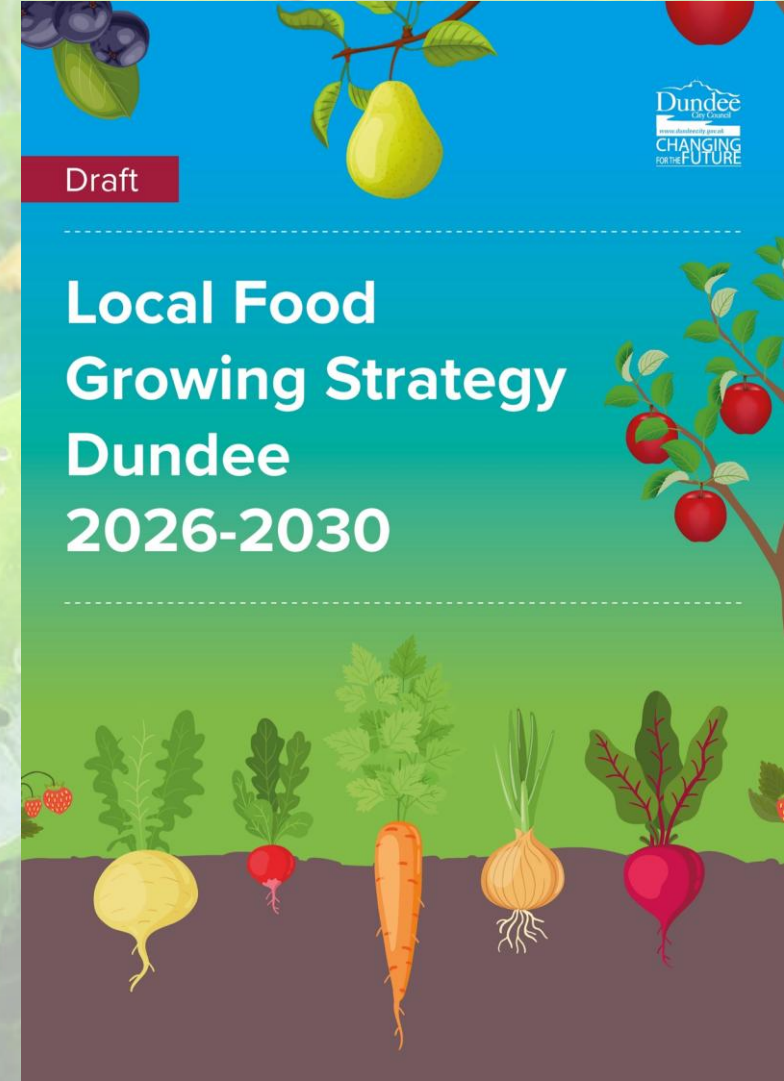
- Part 9, [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#), among other requirements, places a duty on every local authority to publish a [Local Food Growing Strategy](#) produced in 2020 and updated August 2026.

Supported by:

- Climate Action Plan
- Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency 2019
- Glasgow Declaration on Food and Climate 2021

Will support:

- Local Good Food Nation Plan due by 1st April 2028



Allotments

- Tradition of provision of allotments
- 14 Allotment sites:
 - 4 directly managed (79 plots)
 - 7 leased (430)
 - 3 private (126)
- 635 allotment plots in total
- Over 500 on Council waiting list alone

1960



Now

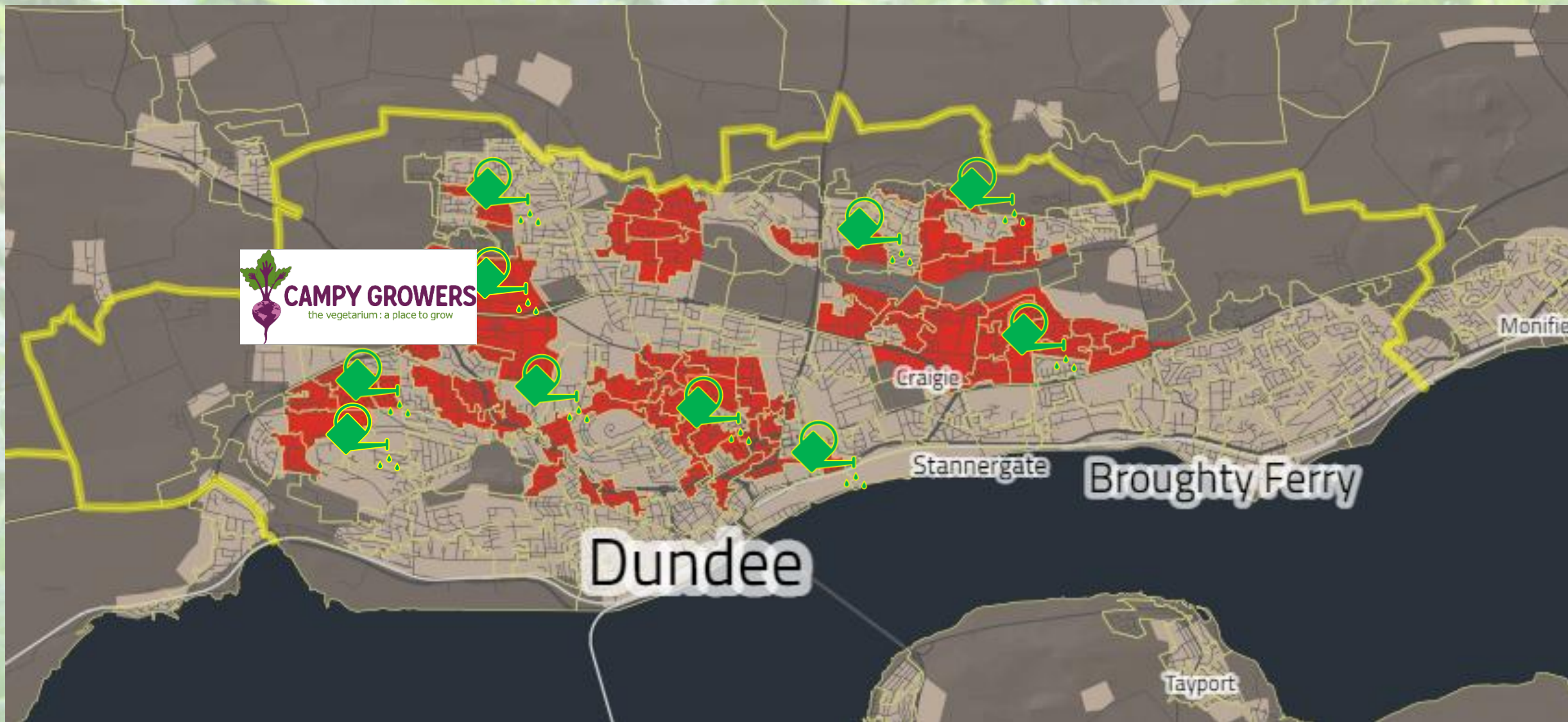


Support for community growing

- Community Allotments Officer post created 2015.
- £170k Spend-to-Save budget.
- Established several community gardens across the city until 2018.
- Supported an emerging community growing network.
- New growing spaces targeted to the more deprived areas of Dundee.



Focussing effort





the **MAXwell** - Community Centre and Garden

- Garden established in 2014.
- Growing in an ultra-urban environment with local schools.
- Multicultural cooking and food distribution.
- Funded to support Growing Network (est. 2022) – bimonthly meetings and mutual support.
- Community growing projects across Dundee now connected and thriving and independent of the Council.



[The MAXwell Centre](#) | [Community centre in Dundee](#) | [Scotland](#)

[Home](#) | [Grow Dundee](#)

Dundee City Council's Climate Fund

- £772,000 Dundee Climate Fund (2022 – 2026)
- Participatory budgeting
- Supported the expansion of the city's community growing network
- 12 community growing projects with just under £400,000



[Climate Fund](#)

Camperdown Growing Hub

- Creation of major new community growing initiative on 4ha ex-council plant nursery site in Camperdown Park
- Feasibility study commissioned by partners, particularly Council and Maxwell Centre
- £1million of Scottish Government funding and £200,000 from DCC enabled construction of the Hub and refurbishment of 2 polytunnels
- Establishment of Campy Growers alongside emerging physical construction.
- Opened in 2023



The Campy Growers

- Registered SCIO for 3 years
- Community-based charity with purposes focused on food production, biodiversity and life-long education.
- Huge project to lever cultural shift to local food growing.
- Working on productivity, biodiversity, soil restoration etc.
- Emphasis on education, ecological systems and sustainability.
- Funding from Big Lottery Communities Fund and DCC's Climate Choices.
- Community Allotment Officer based at Hub



Challenges

- Allotment provision and waiting lists
- Tight administrative boundary
- Funding
- Support





Thank you, any questions?

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