Growing Awareness
Planning Food Cities

Putting planning policies in place
Gillian Morgan - Sustain
Spatial Vision for a Sustainable Food City
Food is a Spatial Planning Issue

What does a Sustainable Food City look like?

• Access to healthy food eg
  • protection of local shops,
  • encouragement of food markets,
  • location of hot food take-aways
• Space for community gardens and food growing in major housing developments
• Edible planting and species of biodiversity value in landscaping schemes
• Agricultural land in the urban fringe and Green Belt is in productive use
National Planning Framework

What is a Healthy Community?

For active healthy lifestyles
• green open space and safe places for food growing.

Planning Practice Guidance for England 2014
Local Authority Planning Role

Local Plan Making Role
• Local Plan Making
• Neighbourhood and Area Planning
• Publishing Planning Guidance

Decision Taking Role
• Development Management
Community Food Growing Contributes to Local Strategic Objectives

- Sustainability
- Climate Change
- Green Infrastructure
- Health
- Economy
- Regeneration
- Design and Amenity
Policy Making

Policy 46 (adopted 2017)

Local food growing

1. The use of land and buildings as new allotments, orchards and for local food growing spaces and production will be supported, including the temporary use of vacant or derelict land or buildings and the use of amenity greenspace on housing estates and other open space areas, where this does not conflict with other policy objectives or land use priorities.

2. The incorporation of community gardens, allotments, orchards and innovative spaces for growing food, including green roofs, will be encouraged and supported in new developments where possible and appropriate, particularly where there is demand for food growing space in the vicinity of the application site.

3. The inclusion of productive trees and plants in landscaping schemes will be encouraged where appropriate.

http://ow.ly/JarZ30bsTsc
Planning for Health

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Case Studies of New Development Space for Food Growing
Brighton Planning Context

Brighton and Hove Planning Advice Note 06, Food Growing and Development, 2011:

• “Recognise, safeguard, and encourage the role of allotments & garden plots within developments”

• **Goal:** allotment provision of at least 0.23 ha per 1000 residents, maximum 15 minutes walk

• **Benefits:** “improving the physical and mental health of residents, increasing bio-diversity in cities, reducing carbon emissions associated with long distance food distribution, and greening the urban landscape”
One Brighton

• 172 apartment mixed-use development Completed 2010
• set out to be one of the greenest and most sustainable urban communities in Europe
• Rooftop **mini-allotments** & balconies with integrated planters suitable for growing food, ‘**edible landscaping**’
Leeds Planning Context

• Core Strategy 2014
• Aire Valley Area Action Plan 2016/7

• make it easier for people to lead healthy lifestyles, with better access to fresh food shopping, the ability to grow their own food locally, and participate in recreational activities.
Saxton Gardens

Before

After
Site Plan

Grow Your Own

sustain
the alliance for better food and farming
Waltham Forest Planning Context

Waltham Forest Local Plan - Core Strategy, 2012

• Policy CS5 – Enhancing Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity
  
  Ensuring the adequate provision and efficient use of allotments and other spaces on which to grow food and plants

• 8.20 – “Allotments, community gardens, and urban farms are a useful resource for delivering a range of benefits including providing a healthy and sustainable food resource and fostering opportunities for gentle exercise.”

Development Management Policies, 2013

• Policy DM12 “The Council will expect development proposals to contribute to the supply, quality and accessibility of private and communal spaces on which to grow food and flowers”
Walthamstow Stadium

• East London, borough of Waltham Forest
• Demolition of greyhound racing track besides historic sign
• 294 new homes of mixed form and tenure
• Community facilities including nursery, café, sports centre, and new pocket allotments
Key Messages

• **Sustainable Food Cities**
  Think: what do you want your place to look like?

• **Developers**
  Improve social & environmental attractiveness of development

• **Councils**
  Planning for a sustainable food system meets many strategic objectives
Resources

Support for Councils

Planning Sustainable Cities and Community Food Growing

A guide to using planning policy to meet strategic objectives through community food growing

https://www.sustainweb.org/publications/planning_sustainable_cities/

Support for Communities

Sustain’s Planning Food Cities Toolkit

https://www.sustainweb.org/planning/