

sow and grow everywhere



executive summary part 1 - analysis:

why it matters:

everywhere:

Local food growing is significant when considered in a global context. Food production and transportation are generators of climate change. The current pattern of production is unsustainable and world food supply is under threat from rising oil prices and the effects of global warming.

here:

The study area contains one third of the total population of Scotland (1.75 million). Life expectancy for the Glasgow Metropolitan Region is well below the UK average and five of the eight regional local authorities demonstrate male life expectancy figures below the Scottish average.

why such poor health?:

Uniquely, the study area has one of the world's earliest urbanised industrial populations and the form of its urban development is different from that of other industrial cities in the UK. It is thought that these factors have discouraged engagement with growing and that this has had a detrimental impact on the health of the population.

benefits of community food growing:

Beyond the production of food, community food growing provides opportunities for people to engage in physical exercise, raises awareness of diet related health and wellbeing issues and provides a stimulating platform for building social capital.

statutory context:

Community food growing is supported at a policy level within the UK, Scotland and at a local authority level. There is notably a legal duty for councils to 'make provision for allotments in response to established local demand'.

current community growing activity:

findings of research & consultation:

Key findings include:

- there is an absence of shared knowledge or information on projects and organisations active in food growing and a lack of joint working between them
- policy supports the principle of food growing initiatives at a UK, Scottish Government and local authority level - there is however a gap at several stages between policy and action
- there is little current activity on the ground, with only about 25-30 active groups operating within a population of 1.75 million
- there is piecemeal support to overcome common barriers
- there is limited infrastructure to link larger agencies and smaller voluntary groups
- funding is hard to access, over-prescriptive and difficult to sustain beyond initial capital input

unmet demand:

analysis of unmet demand for allotments:

Key findings include:

- the study area has an under provision of allotment sites when compared to the Scottish average
- waiting lists are extremely long for most sites, (7 to 33 year waiting lists have been quoted)
- there is little evidence of expansion of provision within the region
- such factors discourage people from applying for allotments space therefore the current level of demand is likely to be substantially understated



executive summary part 1 - analysis:

the land resource:

analysis of unused and underused land:

The Glasgow Metropolitan Region has a high level of derelict and vacant land (4,566 hectares in total (2007 Derelict and Vacant Land Survey figures)). Four of the five local authorities in Scotland with the highest proportion of derelict land relative to administrative area are within the study area.

In addition to 'formally recognised' derelict and vacant land - there is a large volume of 'underused' land in the region. This occurs in many of the social housing areas and peripheral estates in the region - as left over spaces with no defined role or function (the 'green desert').

Derelict, vacant & underused land is a major environmental blight on the Glasgow Metropolitan Region but represents a major opportunity in terms of increasing access and activity in urban community level food growing.

The sites are frequently close and accessible to residential neighbourhoods: the 2007 Derelict and Vacant Land Survey highlights that 59.1% of Glasgow City's population lives within 500m of a derelict site.

The sites are also concentrated in the most deprived neighbourhoods: in Glasgow City: 46% of all derelict and urban vacant land is within the 15% most deprived datazones.

Key factors including population density and urban structure/typology identify four distinct 'types' of land resource, as follows:

the land resource 'types':

- 1.0 vacant & derelict land in densely populated urban areas:
 - built form typically tenemental and high rise flats
 - limited or no private garden space associated with dwellings
 - given higher population density: the potential 'reach' of a site is significant
- 2.0 underused land (amenity space) in peripheral housing estates ('green desert'):
 - urban typology: typically lower density, but flattened development
 - poorly planned social housing schemes from the mid twentieth century
 - demonstrate a lack of private or communal garden space
 - public open space with: no clear function, no sense of ownership or territory
- 3.0 private garden space associated with suburban housing:
 - land divided into individual private plots
 - large volumes of private garden space are being maintained by public agencies on behalf of owners/residents who are physically unable or not empowered to undertake the tasks themselves
- 4.0 underused public land:
 - land under public ownership/control that has potential to be brought into more active and effective use
 - potentially includes: public parks, existing allotment sites, hospital and educational campuses and school sites

Each of the different forms of 'land resource' have specific issues and opportunities associated with them.



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executive summary part 2 - the strategy:

SAGE: a multi-stranded strategy:

mission: to generate a massive step up in community and local food growing activity in the Glasgow Metropolitan Region.

The report puts forward an implementation plan with four parallel strands of activity. These focused strands of activity are necessary to:

- unlock the available unused & underused land resource
- establish the correct match between particular forms of growing activity, land resource and urban setting
- focus development in core areas of community need and demand

strategy aims:

- to enable and support community led growing projects to overcome barriers to change
- to re-engage the urban population with the act of growing and the production of food
- to simplify, localise and express links between: production and consumption of fruit and vegetables, recycling and re-use of materials, composting and compost use
- to act as a catalyst for social interaction and social change
- to engage people in a more active and healthy lifestyle
- to re-animate the lost spaces in the urban fabric, bringing human presence and activity to currently dead spaces

the four strands of the strategy:

strategy strand 1:
bring vacant & derelict land in densely populated urban areas into use for growing as an interim landuse

strategy strand 2:
bring underused land (amenity space) in peripheral estates & social housing areas into use at scales up to market garden growing

strategy strand 3:
bring underused private garden space in suburban or outlying areas into use for growing

strategy strand 4:
bring underused public land into active use for growing (focused on school sites throughout the area)



executive summary part 2 - the strategy:

strategy strand 1:

bring vacant and derelict land in densely populated urban areas into use for growing as an interim landuse:

the urban setting and sites:

Available sites tend to be limited.

Typically previously developed sites requiring the importation of growing medium.

the opportunity:

Potential for a large number of people to become involved in each scheme.

Highly visible temporary land-use with designed elements being removable if sites are intended for redevelopment in the medium to long-term.



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executive summary part 2 - the strategy:

strategy strand 2:

bring underused land (amenity space) in peripheral estates and social housing areas ('green desert') into use at scales up to market garden growing:

the urban setting and sites:

Large areas of land that could be brought into more active use relatively easily.

Often at the fringes of the urban area and border abandoned or underused farmland which could also be brought into use for growing.

the opportunity:

The provision of growing spaces on estates throughout the region could be transformative.

Smaller schemes as well as larger can be identified.

The market garden scale of growing offers the potential for the development of social enterprise opportunities in training and employment as well as selling produce.



executive summary part 2 - the strategy:

strategy strand 3:

bring under used private garden space in suburban or outlying areas into use for growing:

the setting and sites:

Typical urban/suburban housing layouts: single dwellings with associated private garden space.

There are expansive areas of this urban/landscape typology within the Glasgow Metropolitan Region.

the opportunity:

To connect people who want growing space with those who are unable to, or not interested in looking after their gardens or land through a managed database.

On a UK wide level this approach is being pursued through the Landshare Initiative developed by Channel 4. (www.landshare.channel4.com).



strategy strand 4:

bring under used public land into active use for growing:

the setting and sites:

Land under public ownership/control that has potential to be brought into more active and effective use.

This could include: public parks, existing allotment sites and school sites.

the opportunity:

Better use of the existing land resource to deliver growing space.

School sites in particular are seen as having great potential. Such sites can engage young people and families and are distributed through all neighbourhoods. This would require a redefinition of part of the school grounds as a shared school / local community facility, to overcome a number of problems common to other 'landscape focused' school projects.



The study identifies geographic action areas for the different strategy strands across the Glasgow Metropolitan Region.

The study includes a preliminary scoping of sites in core urban areas within Glasgow City. This exercise aims to demonstrate the scoping process required for the wider study area.

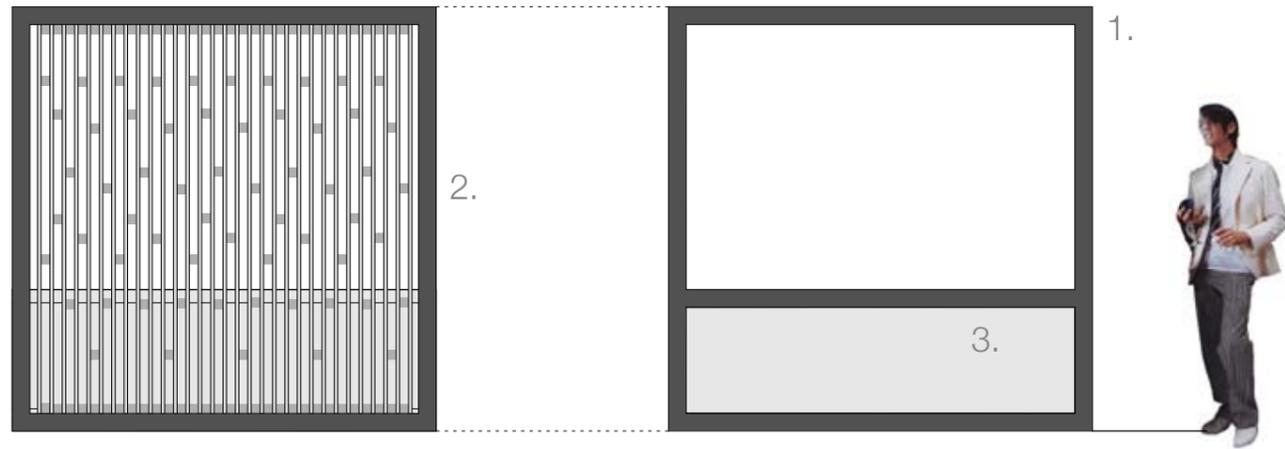
The study includes outline designs for the modular system for 'temporary' sites, which are applicable region wide.

The study includes exemplar projects to illustrate each of the strategy strands, which are applicable region wide.

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executive summary part 3 - the modular system:

perimeter raised planter:

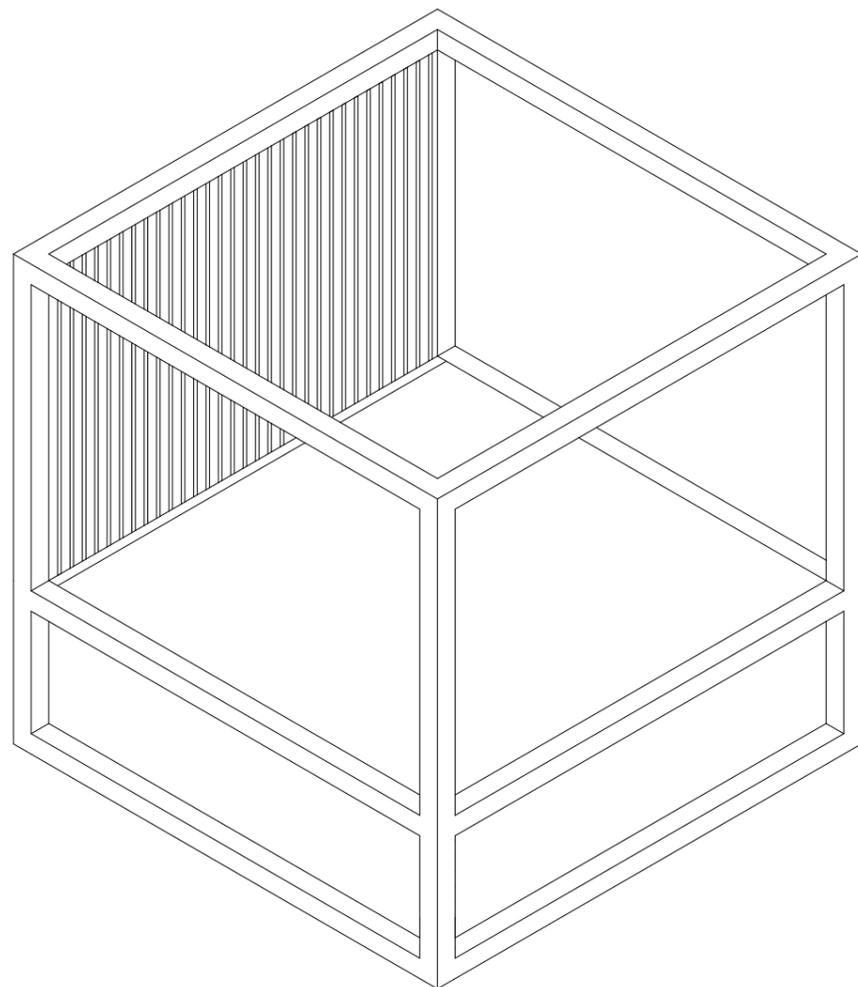


1. pressure treated and painted timber outer frame: preferably reclaimed timber or from local Scottish source. Painted finish (black) water based wood stain (Ecos organic paints - or similar). Joints to be 2 or 3 way notched/lapped timber joints.

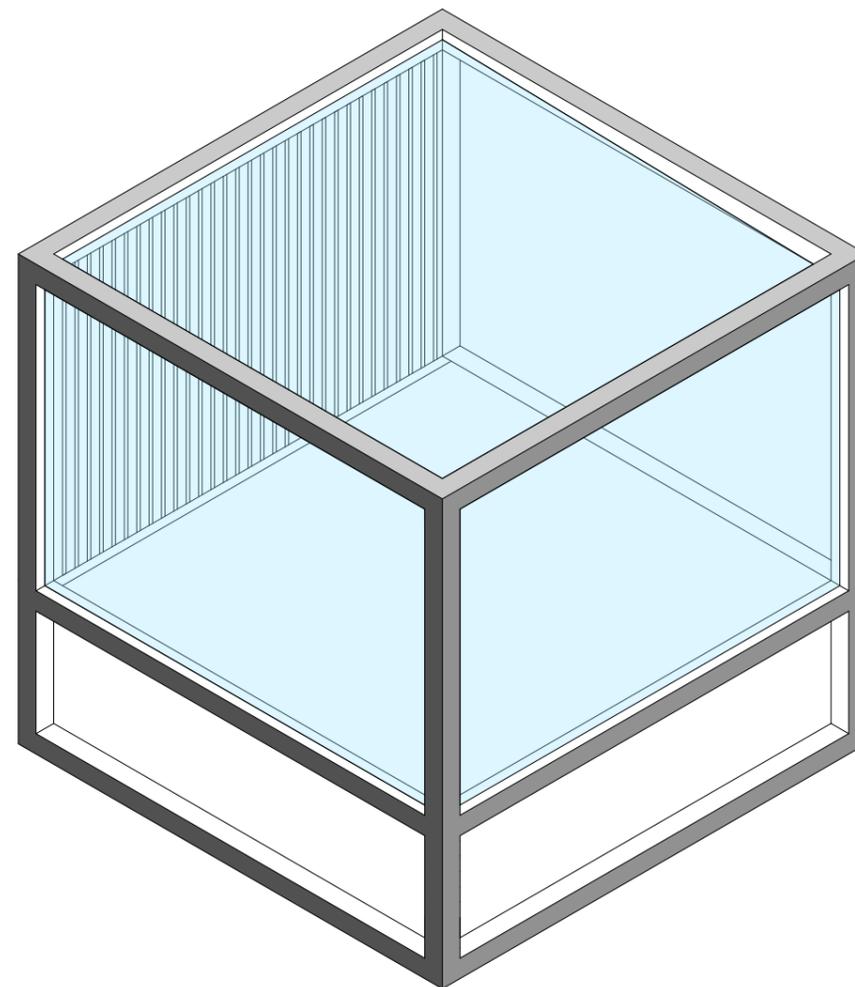
2. reclaimed pallet wood infill to 1 side: reclaimed pallet boards secured at junctions with spacer blocks (also from dis-assembled pallets) - to form vertical screen spacing of boards and positioning of spacer blocks to avoid forming easy hand/foot holds. Screen fixed within outer frame.

3. textile 'bag' hung in frame filled with growing medium: 'growing bags' bespoke local manufacture. Growing medium (for prototypes in advance of longer term supply chain): bulk volume 50% imported topsoil (local & approved source), 50% composted green waste (local & approved source) - plus ameliorants.

4. 'green house' version: twin wall clear plastic sheeting (re-cycled plastic?) secured within outer frame incorporating hinged openings for access/ventilation etc.

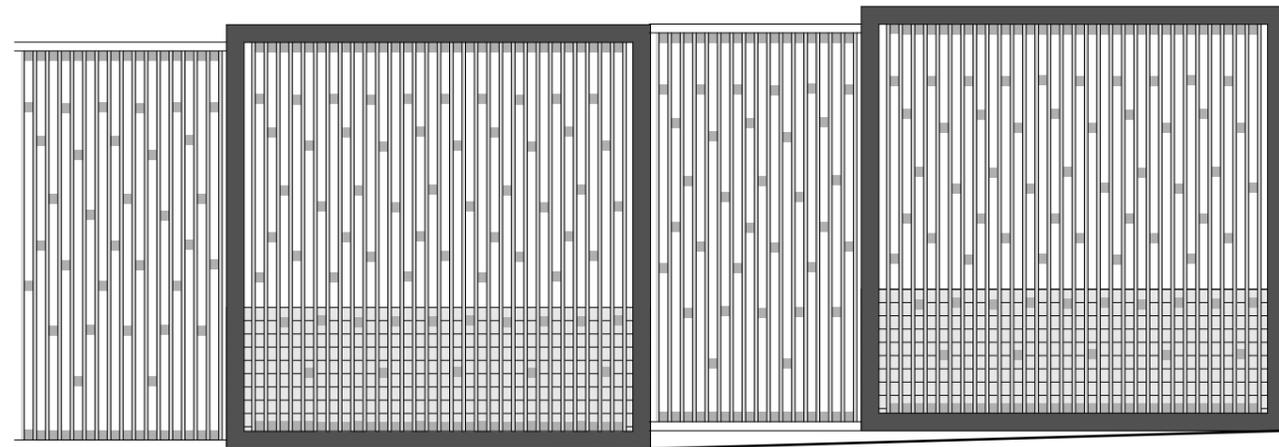
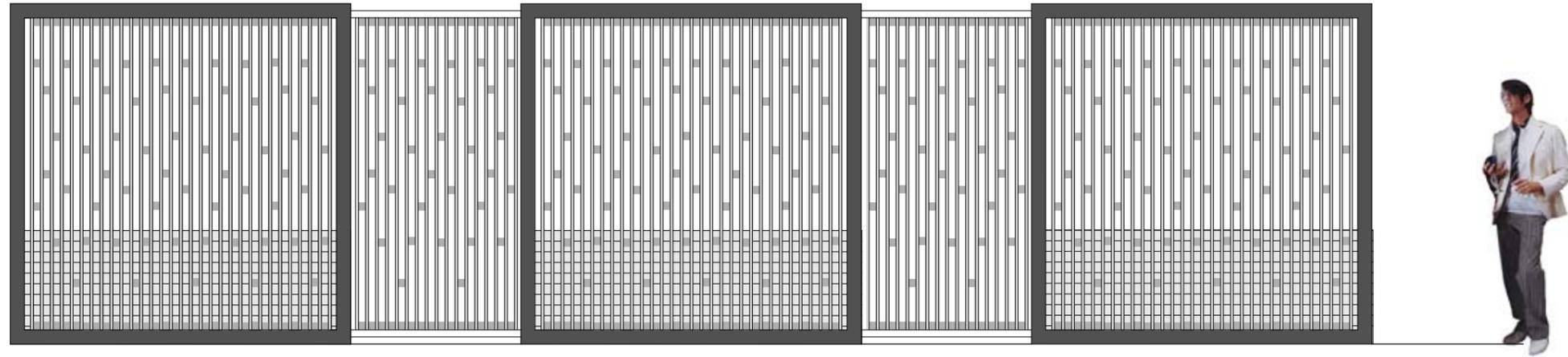


4.

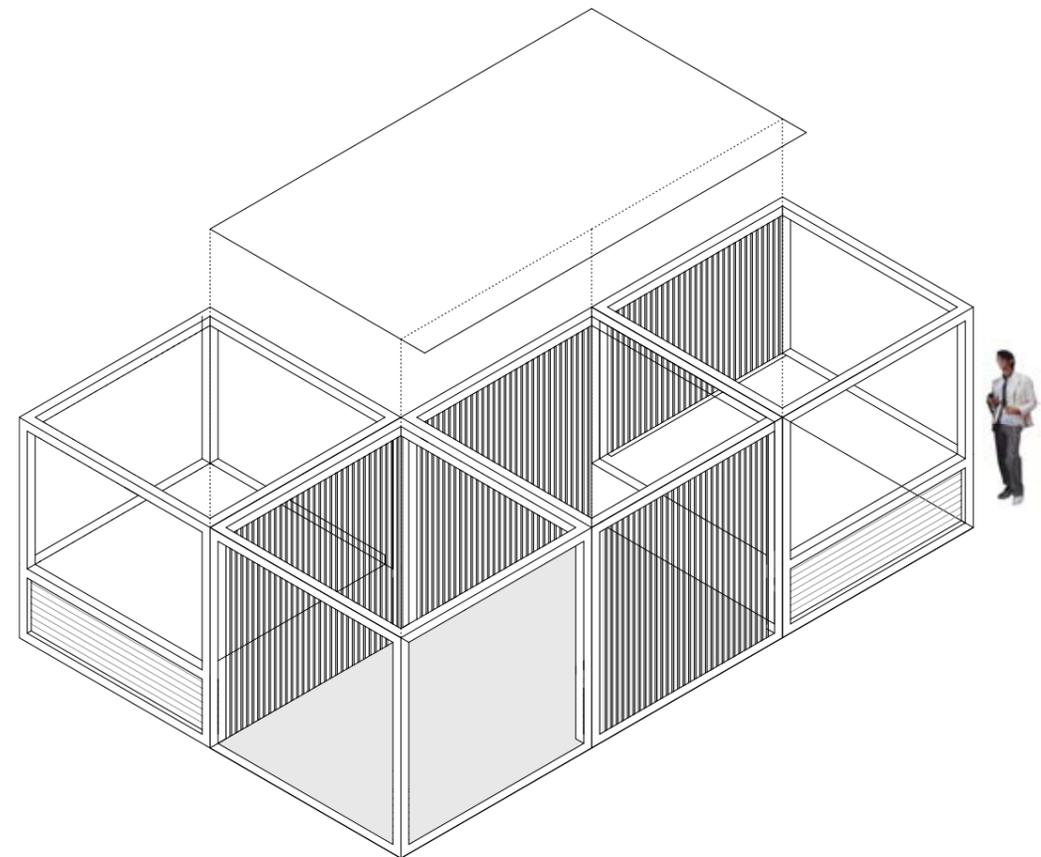


executive summary part 3 - the modular system:

perimeter raised planter: site perimeter elevation



1:30



shelter:

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executive summary part 4 - delivery:

SAGE: delivery:

2 scales of organisational structure

The strategy must operate in a co-ordinated fashion at both a regional and local level to overcome barriers to delivery on the ground.

It must be driven and supported at a community level and the necessary support infrastructure and supply chain established on a local authority and regional level.

It is proposed that there are two 'structures' established on a regional level:

- the strategic co-ordination agency
- the regionwide hub

the strategic co-ordination agency:

The role of the strategic co-ordination agency is:

- to establish & manage partnerships with all national, regional & local authority level organisations
- to co-ordinate region wide project delivery and the necessary associated supply chain

the regional hub/support mechanism:

This is envisaged as a support mechanism that will act as a direct point of contact for groups active or interested in community food growing.

It will build on the experience gathered from monitoring the success of the first five years of project implementation. There is potential to link with the 'Glasgow Community Food Network' which is currently being established by Community Food and Health (Scotland).

two stages of delivery:

SAGE should deliver a spread of inspiring and successful fully funded projects across the region and establish the necessary support framework to enable groups in the future to develop and deliver their own projects.

The delivery of the strategy is considered in 2 stages:

1. implementation phase: year 1 - 5
2. community led projects: year 5 onwards

The regionwide hub will become the focus for community-led development after the initial 5 year implementation phase, providing the support and information necessary to enable groups to realise their own plans.

the delivery agent:

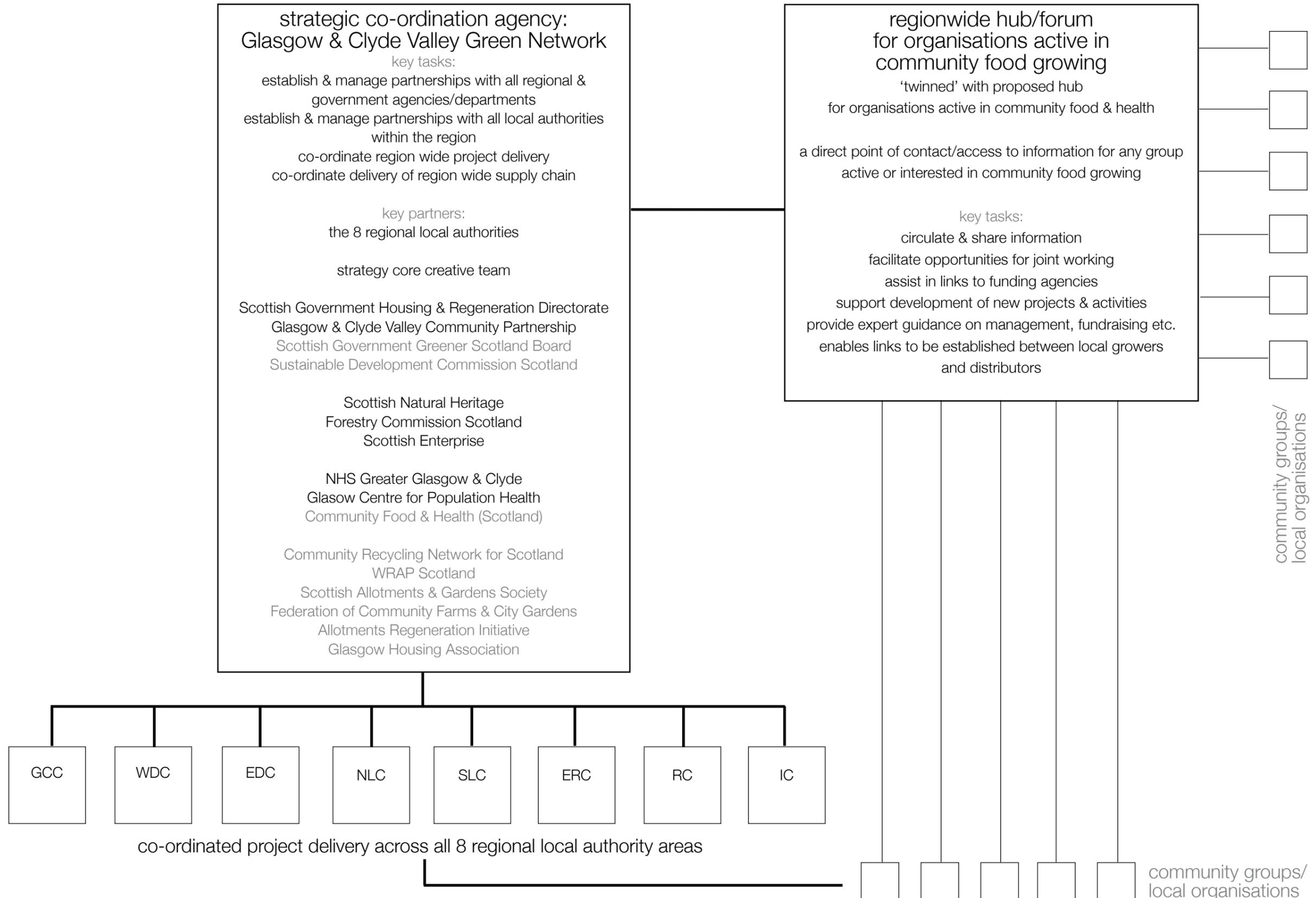
Working in collaboration with the strategic co-ordination agency, the delivery agent is the 'common thread' driving different schemes forward to implementation.

This role demands continuity of input over the implementation phase with a remit to:

- establish relationships with key local stakeholders
- guarantee active local community involvement
- develop local supply chain (for materials & support)
- deliver SAGE projects on site (including detailed scoping, feasibility, legal matters, site design and managing implementation)
- ensure sustainable support for established projects
- capture learning and feed back to regional structures and hub

executive summary part 4 - delivery:

regional organisational structure:



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executive summary part 4 - delivery:

timescale/targets for delivery:

For the initial implementation phase of 5 years, the following targets for project delivery are proposed:

2009-2010	5 demonstration projects delivered
2010-2011	20 early action projects delivered
2011-2014	ongoing project delivery: to a possible total of 150 further projects

As an aspiration it is proposed that by 2014 a total of 175 active projects of all possible scales will have been delivered. This represents the equivalent of 1 growing project for every 10,000 people in the Glasgow Metropolitan Region.

If each project directly engages 1000 people during its lifespan - the SAGE programme has the potential to positively impact on the lives and lifestyles of 10% of the population of the Glasgow Metropolitan Region.

Glasgow Harvest:

As a powerful early action to raise public awareness and celebrate SAGE, it is proposed that an annual event is established in George Square, to generate interest in the initiative and encourage wider involvement.

The event is to act as a focus and large scale celebration of urban growing as it expands across the whole region.

It is envisaged that SAGE schemes are physically represented along with a great open-air meal sharing home grown produce and imaginative displays and unusual fruit and vegetable competitions.